

The Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza

WHO WAS DAVID CAMPBELL

The David Campbell Memorial (DCM) was envisioned in 1911 after Fire Chief David Campbell died in the Union Oil fire at the corner of SW Water Avenue and Salmon Street.

Chief Campbell's death rocked the community. Ideas immediately began to circulate about how to memorialize his sacrifice. Some wanted a beneficiary fund to aid firefighters suffering health issues, some a physical memorial in his honor.

The physical memorial became the plan. Funds were donated by citizens of Portland and a piece of property was donated.

The David Campbell Memorial and Medal Fund would be created in 1913 to manage the project.

Fire Chief David Campbell



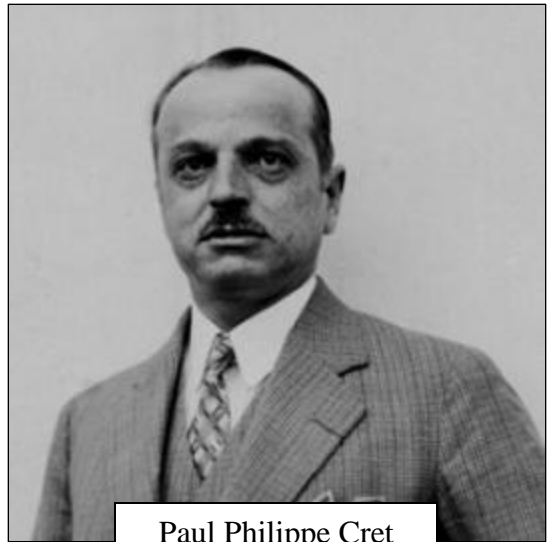
The Union Oil Company Fire



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

A local architect and former student of internationally renowned architect Paul Cret (pronounced Cray) suggested Cret as the person to design what would become the David Campbell Memorial.

Paul Philippe Cret was an influential architect and instructor who, through his built work and his teaching, left an indelible mark on American architecture culture of the twentieth century. Cret is generally acknowledged as one of the most prominent architects of his era - the first three decades of the twentieth century. He gained recognition as the designer of many renowned buildings, memorials, and bridges, a number of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a professor at the University of Pennsylvania for 34 years, Paul Cret educated generations of American architects in the principles of Beaux-Arts architecture. Cret's involvement, coupled with the 1918 donation of the plot of land by Katherine A. Daly, allowed the project to move forward.



Paul Philippe Cret

Artistic Description

Cret would include many notable features in his design, making the DCM not just a tribute to Fallen Fire Chief David Campbell, but also an architectural gift to the citizens of Portland.

The centerpiece of the entire composition is a five-foot tall bas-relief sculpture, completed in 1927 by Utah-born sculptor Avard Fairbanks.

Situated just below the bronze centerpiece is a limestone fountain, a large bowl carved with an aegicranium at the front and scrolls on the sides where it meets the rear wall. A central bronze spout was designed to empty into the vessel,

The back wall of the pool is carved with frosted rustication, and there is a course of vertically applied strips of terra cotta around the perimeter of the pool along the water-level line, glazed blue-green to enhance the color of the water. The front edge of the oval-shaped pool is a stone ledge that curves outward and meets the walls of the structure on either side with a carved lion's-head term.



Bas-Relief of David Campbell

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED

At either side of the convex staircase is a limestone pedestal, each with dadoes featuring carved grotesque humanoid faces with ram's horns growing from their heads. Each pedestal supports a cylindrical bronze lantern with stylized Classical ornament including bay-leaf garlands and pendant strings of bellflowers. The bronze lanterns are an exact match of Item



Fountain Bowl

Number 441 found in a mid-1920s catalog of Smyser-Royer, a Pennsylvania lighting fixture company.

At the rear of the monument and included in the nominated property is a towering Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) planted in 1928 by the Portland Firefighters Association. The tree is historically important because of its association with the entity that erected the monument. In addition, it was clearly an original component of Cret's overall site plan for the monument, as he designed the limestone perimeter wall to enclose the tree in the acute south-facing corner. The City of Portland acknowledged the tree's historic value by designating it a Portland Heritage Tree in 1994, although it was removed from the Heritage Tree List in 2011.

After 17 years of planning and building, the DCM was finally dedicated on the 17th anniversary of the death of Chief Campbell. While Portland Firefighters had paid homage to Chief Campbell every year since his death, they had done so at his grave site in Riverview Cemetery. The DCM now became the place for the annual remembrance of Chief Campbell's sacrifice.



Bronze Lantern

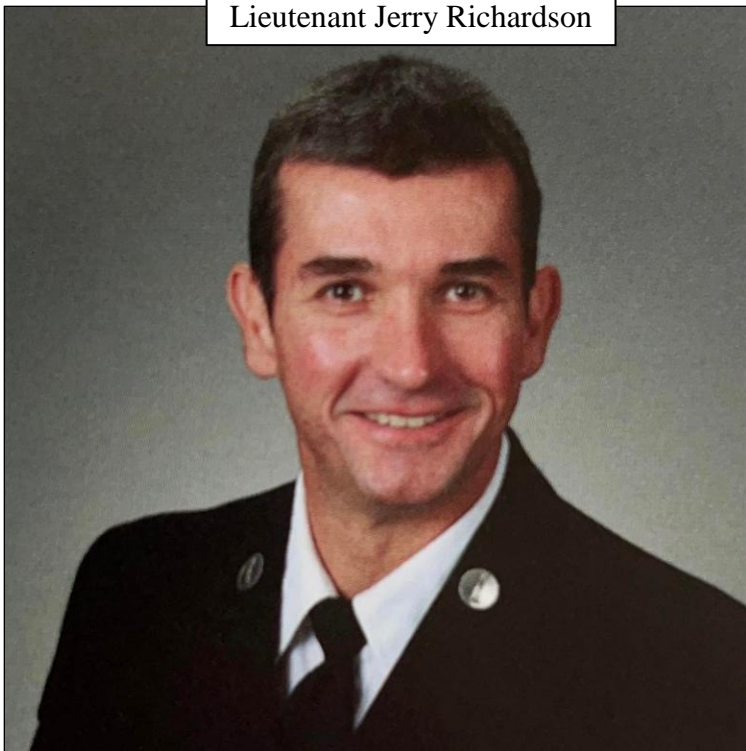
PORTLAND'S FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Chief Campbell was neither the first or last Portland Firefighter to die in service to the community. James Reed would perish in 1881 when his heart failed as he and his crew of Protection Engine Company #4 hauled their hand pump fire engine up a steep incline. Reed is considered to be the first firefighter in Oregon history to die in the line of duty.

By the time of Chief Campbell's death, 5 other Portland Firefighters had died in service, yet no memorial to their lives had been erected or envisioned. In the 17 years necessary to complete the DCM, 12 more Portland Firefighters would die in service. By the end of the 1930s, 20 Portland Firefighters would earn the distinction of dying in the line of duty.

Sadly, no memorial existed for any member other than Chief Campbell. After the completion of the DCM, a plan to use the DCM as a place to recognize all line of duty deaths was created. The floor of the DCM, directly in front of the fountain was used to affix plaques with the names of the fallen. A central plaque stating, "In memory of members of the Portland Fire Department who gave their lives in the performance of their duty." Today, that plaque, and those with 36 of the 75 names, rests under a layer of rainwater and urban grime. The floor of the DCM has settled over the past 95 years and no longer drains rainwater properly. The renovation of the DCM could solve this problem.

Lieutenant Jerry Richardson



Portland's Fallen Firefighters are not a thing of the past. On November 19, 2021, Lieutenant Jerry Richardson died of occupational cancer, the leading cause of death among firefighters across the United States. Only recently has legislation allowed cancer deaths to be recognized as line of duty. Why? Because they didn't happen at a fire scene.

Of the 75 Fallen Firefighters of Portland, 19 died at an emergency scene. 5 would perish traveling to or from the emergency scene, 2 during training exercises, and 5 during fire department maintenance activities. A staggering 44 members, nearly 60%, died of health related causes. This list is lead by heart related causes

and cancer. The actual number might be much greater but medical science is only now connecting firefighter cancer and heart disease to the job.

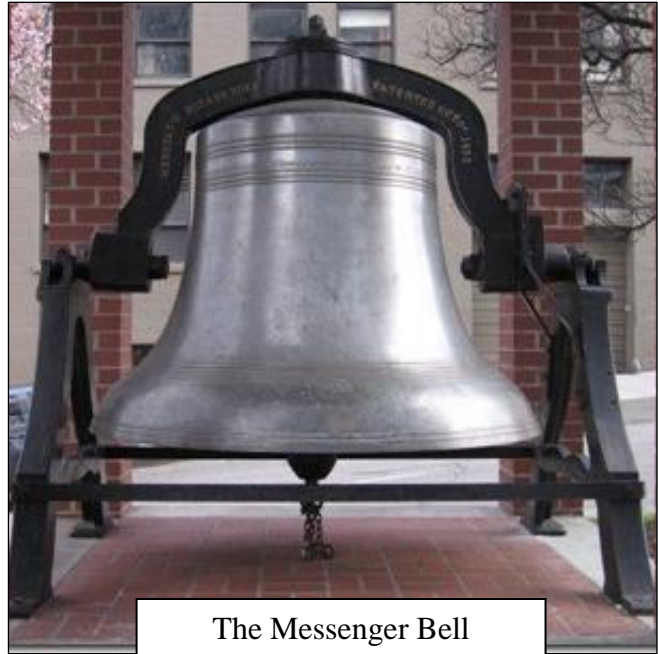
For a full summary of Portland's 75 Fallen Firefighters, please proceed to the final eight pages of this document.

ADDITIONS TO THE DAVID CAMPBELL MEMORIAL

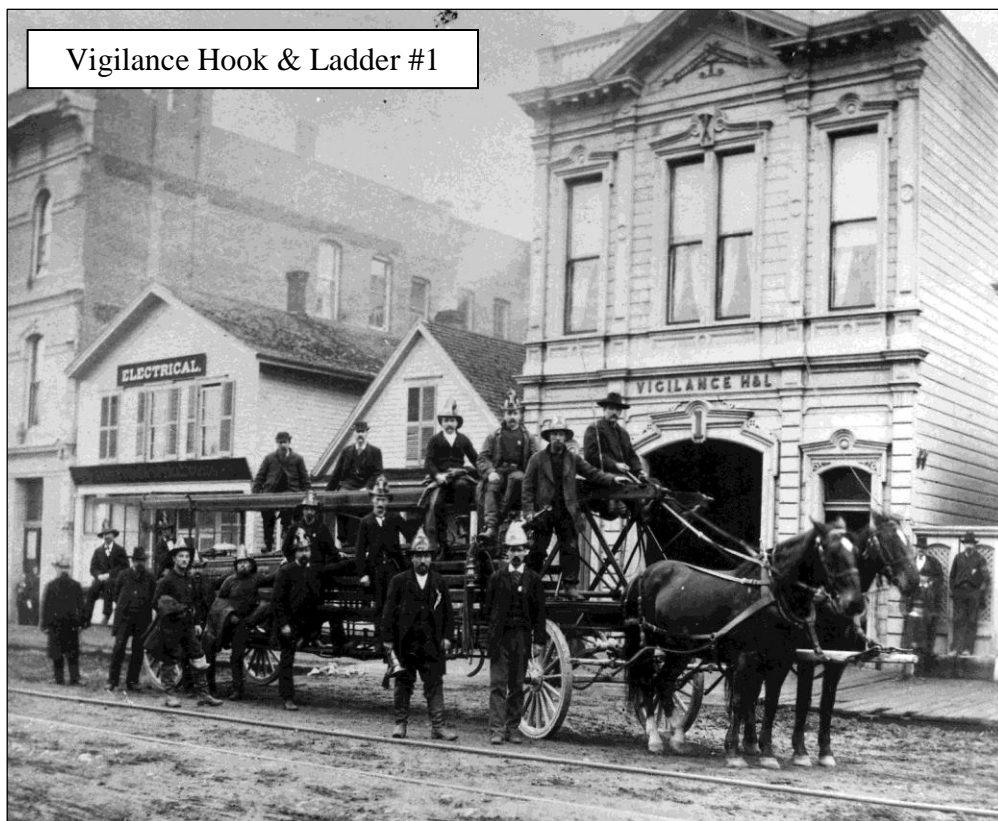
Over the decades, the DCM would find changes to both the DCM itself and the property around it. Some of this was good, some not so good.

In 1963, the City of Portland realigned SW 18th Street. Prior to this, the DCM was surrounded by a sidewalk that abutted the curb line, making it the only feature inside the triangle formed by SW 18th, 19th, and Alder. With the realignment, a section of property to the east, now known as "Portland Firefighter Park," was added to the triangle. This was intended to bring additional community use to the site. The park was created by the Junior Chamber of Commerce with that purpose in mind. Since that time, the Messenger Bell has been added to the site, sharing the story of the Conflagration of August 2, 1873 during which 22 city blocks were demolished, destroying much of what was then the city of Portland.

The Messenger Bell was purchased in response to poor alerting of fire companies during the incipient stage of the fire, allowing it to grow out of control before a full fire department response could be made. Today the 150 year old artifact reminds us of our vulnerability to fire and the need for vigilance toward fire safety in Portland. Portland Fire & Rescue has proudly held vigil over Portland's safety and welfare since the first fire company began service on August 2, 1853.



The Messenger Bell



Vigilance Hook & Ladder #1

THE UNKINDNESS OF TIME

Time has not been the friend of the DCM. When built, it utilized stone and other materials that were ill-suited for the climate in the Pacific Northwest. This was first realized as early as 1929 when the limestone began to crumble due to rainwater seeping into the porous stone and freezing. The steps and benches were especially damaged and would be replaced sometime between 1948 and 1960. About the same time, a stucco coating was applied to parts of the limestone, without success. In 1975, a synthetic coating was applied to the DCM, but it too failed to effectively protect the monument. The responsibility of care may have grown too much for the David Campbell Memorial Association. Up until 1990, they had been the designated caretaker of the site. They would sign over responsibility to the City of Portland that year. Confusion of care continued for the next two decades. In 2010, a city resolution would assign responsibility to the Portland Bureau of Transportation because the triangle of property had come to be considered right-of-way to the surrounding streets.

Today, the entire site is in need of care, restoration, and interpretation. Can it rise from the toll time has taken on it?



David Campbell Memorial - 1931



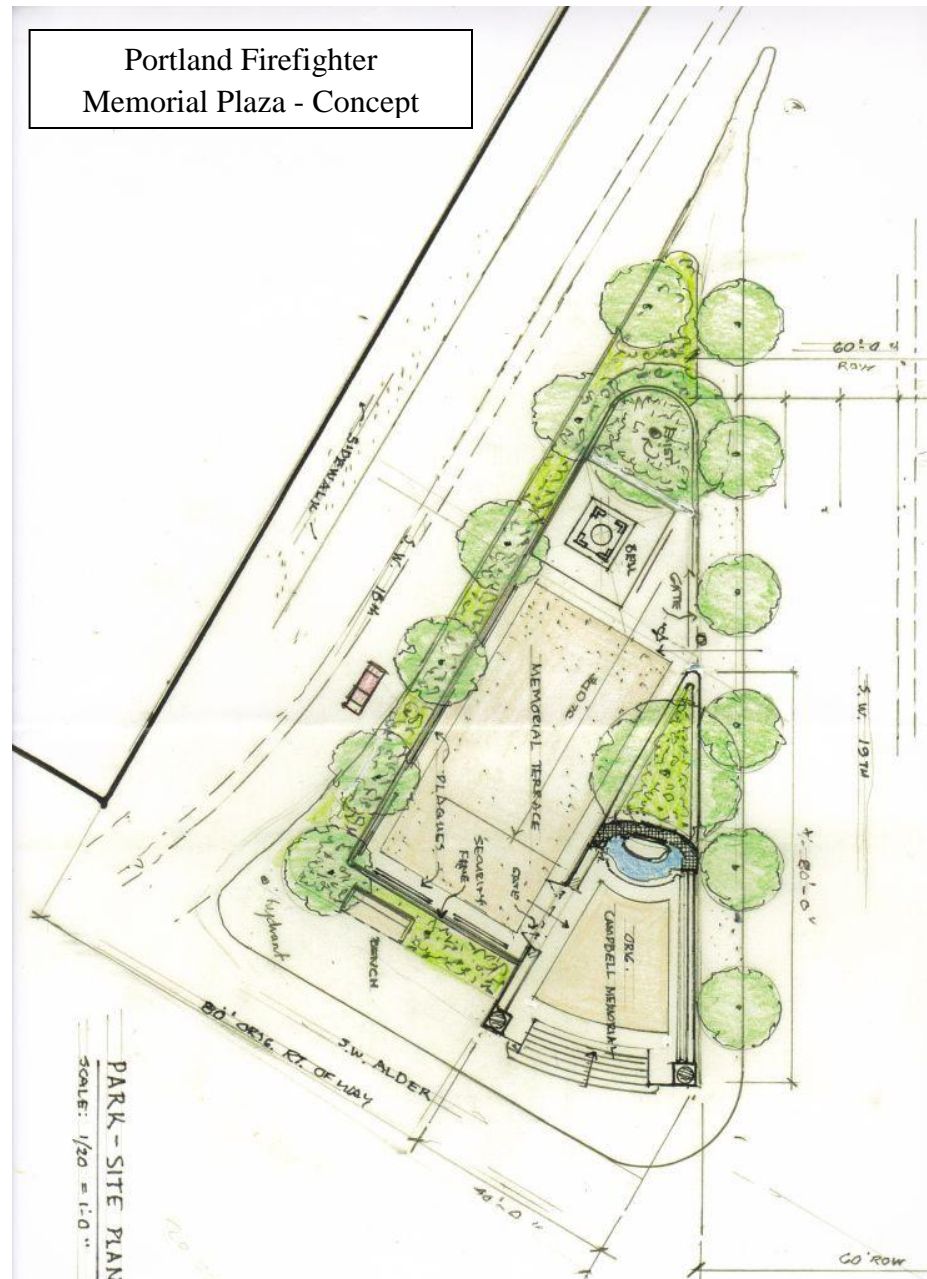
David Campbell Memorial - Today



THE PORTLAND FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL PLAZA

The need for a proper Fallen Firefighter Memorial became recognized as an issue of need in the past 20 years. The realization that Portland Firefighters have died, and will die, is a reality that cannot be ignored. The sacrifice of these members is important because each story shares the vulnerability a firefighter faces in their daily work. It also represents a teachable moment for citizens, sharing what they can do to live a life with less reliance on emergency services.

In considering the need for a Fallen Firefighter Memorial, the idea of combining a Fallen Firefighter Memorial Wall at the site of the David Campbell Memorial was born. This would better utilize Portland Firefighter Park and provide a place of remembrance for all of Portland's Fallen Firefighters. It could also provide proper interpretation of the DCM.



This is an ambitious project that can be completed in two phases. Phase One would build the Firefighter Memorial Wall on the east side of the triangle. This would include the names of Portland's 75 Fallen Firefighters and include interpretive panels about:

- Portland's Fallen Firefighters
- David Campbell, and the David Campbell Memorial that honors him.
- Paul Cret and his architectural heritage gift to the city of Portland.
- The story of the Conflagration of 1873 and the lessons resulting from it (Messenger Bell).

- The Swamp White Oak tree located behind the fountain head, which was planted in 1928 by the newly formed Portland Firefighter's Association. It would become a designated a "Portland Heritage Tree" in 1994.

The space created would not exist for the sole use of Portland Firefighters. This project would create a space that could be used and embraced by the residential and business community in the vicinity, and across Portland. In fact, active use by the community would discourage problematic use.

Additionally, this plan **creates ADA accessibility** to the entire site, something that does not currently exist. It also **increases the urban tree canopy**, which has suffered in recent decades across Portland's downtown community.

Phase Two would provide a long needed renovation and repair of the 95 year old DCM. Several key issues are in need of attention, including:

- The restoration of the limestone stonework. This will include removing old coatings and repairing and regrouting the stone.
- Leveling the floor of the DCM to allow for proper drainage of water.
- Refreshing of the electrical and water utilities serving the lanterns and fountain.
- Create an entrance from the Memorial Plaza into the DCM with appropriate ADA considerations, opening the experience to every Portlander.

Completing Phase One, a new Memorial Plaza to the east of the DCM, the entire site will show more appeal and vitality which will assist the completion of Phase Two, the renovation of the DCM.



BUILDING THE PORTLAND FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL PLAZA

This project is unique. The property is literally a wide spot in the road. It is right-of-way to the roadway of SW 18th Avenue, 19th Avenue, and Alder Street. The property owner is the Portland Bureau of Transportation. How does a non-profit organization, managed by an all-volunteer board, manage to convince a city government that they need to do the right thing when issues facing the city are as demanding as any time in history? In a word, advocacy. The voice of the community must be heard. Over the past two years, the David Campbell Memorial Association has gathered advocates from the immediate community, greater Portland, the region, and the nation. Those include:

- City Commissioners
- The Portland Firefighters Association
- The Portland Retired Firefighters & Widows Association
- The Stadium District Business Association
- The Goose Hollow Neighborhood Association
- The Goose Hollow Foothills League
- The Civic Condos Homeowners Association
- The Portland Timbers/Thorns
- The Oregon Historical Society
- The architectural heritage community
- The Oregon State Firefighters Council
- The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- The families of Portland's Fallen Firefighters
- And many others

Meaningful Endorsements have come from many, but a few communications stand out. These were sent to City Council members during the 2022 Fall Budget Monitoring Process.

From Scott Schaffer - President - Goose Hollow Foothills League

I wish that what I felt for this little triangular area of our neighborhood could be a more permanent part of life here. A total of 500 apartment units have been built within blocks of this Memorial Plaza, and another 1,100 will be completed in the next three years. It is an embarrassment, as a city, that we cannot maintain this space, as it is an important part of the long history of our neighborhood.

The David Campbell Memorial Association now has fully realized plans to re-imagine this heritage site as a place of tribute, remembrance, and education for Portland Firefighters and the citizens of Portland, serving as a place for neighbors and the community to gather. The Goose Hollow Foothills League Board recently voted unanimously to support this effort and to advocate to the city for its funding and implementation. We feel strongly about reclaiming this part of our neighborhood and sincerely wish that you feel the same. Please provide your support for this important project.

From Chief Ron Siarnicki - Executive Director - National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Foundation

Firefighters in Portland, and throughout this great nation, daily place their lives in danger to protect their communities. It is only appropriate that their families and co-workers have a Memorial Plaza where they can pay tribute and honor their sacrifice. Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for your continued success and safety.

From Randy Leonard - Retired Portland Firefighter - Former Portland City Commissioner

In these trying times, nothing brings our community together more than honoring those that are willing to give their all in defending our residents' lives. Consistent with that, and for as long as I can remember, the Auditor's Annual Community Survey has consistently ranked Portland Fire & Rescue as the most popular service the city provides. Although Portlanders may be divided on many issues, honoring fallen Portland Firefighters is not one of them. Commemorating Firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice should not be considered a financial burden but, rather, an honor. You are able to thank generations of past, present and future firefighters for their vigilant stand against all disasters that may befall our beloved city by supporting the effort to fund the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza. Thank you for your consideration.

WE NEED support to raise the \$1.5 million dollars necessary to realize this project. Additionally, we hope to establish a maintenance endowment to ensure financial issues are never a reason for limited care of this city asset.

Portland Firefighters were the first to dig deep into their pockets and donate \$103,000. In 2017, the City of Portland contributed \$100,000 and in 2023, the City of Portland will contribute another

\$250,000. This is significant given the human service and public safety demands facing Portland today. Additionally, nearly \$30,000 in private donations have also been tendered.



Fire Chief David Campbell

The Portland

Firefighter Memorial Plaza intends to be a special place with a special story. Please help us meet this challenge and bring our history to life.

MEET PORTLAND'S 75 FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

January -During the month of January, Portland Fire has lost four members.

In 1934, **Firefighter Frank Kearney** died when Portland Fire Engine 21 and Squad 1 collided at the intersection of SW 4th and Pine. Frank died at the scene and 9 other firefighters were seriously injured. Frank was 37 years of age when he died.

In 1935, **Firefighter Harry Gardner** was overcome with smoke at a fire at 2305 NE 51st Avenue. He and his crew were advancing a line into the house fire. The fire was caused by an overheated stove causing \$850 in damage to the home. Harry left behind a wife and three children.

1965 recorded **Firefighter Robert Edner** of Engine 6 as dying from a stroke. The Pension Board would determine this to be service connected. Robert was 64 years of age at the time of his death.

In 1984, Training **Lieutenant Tommy Tucker** would succumb to Cancer. The Pension Board would deem his cancer to be connected to his service. Tommy was 49 years of age when he died. He is buried in Willamette National Cemetery for his military service.

February - During the month of February, 6 Portland Firefighters have been lost.

In 1890, **Firefighter Fred Wagner** was working on Truck 2. When testing a new steam powered fire engine, control of a hose nozzle was lost. The errant nozzle struck Fred in the head, killing him. He was 37 years of age when he died.

Firefighter Fred Rittenour died in 1923 while working at Station 19. He was performing station maintenance when he fell from the hose tower to his death. Fred was 44 years old at the time of his fall.

In 1971, **Captain Jack Stephens** was working at Engine 2. He and his crew responded to a false alarm at 329 SW Woods Street. After returning to the station, he went to bed for the night. He never woke up. He was found dead of a heart attack the following morning. He would have turned 45 years old the following week.

Firefighter John Devaney Jr. was working at Engine 15 in 1977 when he and the crew were dispatched to 4000 SW Shattuck Road for a shed fire. During the firefight, John suffered a heart attack. He was hospitalized and survived for two days before he died. He was 56 years old.

In 1995, **Firefighter Robert Hebisen** would lose his life in what the Pension Board would identify as a stress-related incident. It was deemed connected to his service. Robert was 43 years of age at the time of his death.

In 2002, **Firefighter/Paramedic James Woodward** would succumb to pancreatic cancer that the Pension Board determined to be connected to his service. James was 47 years old at the time he died.

March - The month of March finds 7 Portland Firefighters who have died in service to the city.

In 1896, **Firefighter Tom Grenfell** sustained an injury while responding with his crew on Engine 2. They were pulling a fire engine up a steep grade to a house fire during which time his appendix burst. He was admitted to the hospital. During the course of surgery to address the problem, he died. Tom was survived by his wife and three children.

In 1916, **Emil Gustafson**, who was assigned to the **Fire Alarm Telegraph** section, was servicing the system atop a telegraph pole at NW 26th and Nicolai Street. He inadvertently came in contact with a 10,000 volt electrical wire. Emil would be transported to the hospital but die a few hours later. He was survived by his wife and three children.

Battalion Chief William Heath died of a heart attack in 1935. He was the Battalion Chief overseeing District 1. He and his crews had fought a fire at the Hotel Lindquist at 1122 SW 2nd Avenue earlier in the day. After returning, he retired for the night and died in his sleep, being found the following morning.

In 1937, **Firefighter Frank Platt** was performing the morning service checks on Engine 10. While he was behind the fire engine, the driver, servicing the inside of the cab, inadvertently stepped on the starter switch, which crushed Frank between the fire engine and the back wall of the fire station. Frank was 58 years old at the time he died.

In 1947, **Battalion Chief Marion Stark** was found dead of a heart attack the morning following his work shift at Station 8. He was 63 years old at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife.

In 1969, **Captain Louis Merchant**, who was the Captain of Fireboat 1, died of heart failure. His death was determined to be connected to his service. Louis was 56 years of age at the time of his death.

In 1970, **Firefighter Randy Hammer** of Truck 3 was involved in a vehicle collision that was determined to be connected to his service with Portland Fire. Randy was 26 years old at the time of his death.

April - The month of April has seen six Portland Firefighters die in service to the community.

In 1926, **Firefighter William Wilbur** and his crew of Engine 18 were dispatched to a house fire at 848 NE Clackamas Street. During overhaul of the fire scene, William began to feel dizzy and sat down to rest. Five minutes later, his heart failed and he died at the scene. The fire only caused \$200 damage. William was 43 years old at the time he died.

In 1933, **Lieutenant Clement Kemmer** was playing handball at Station 8 as part of his physical fitness program. He collapsed during play and while the first aid squad was dispatched to assist, he died at the Station. Clement was 42 years old.

Captain Daniel Shaw was directing his crew in 1949 at a house fire at 432 NE Russell Street. While helping crewmates raise a ladder, Daniel collapsed and fell to the ground. His crew tried to resuscitate

him unsuccessfully. The cause of the fire was a cigarette left burning on a sofa. Daniel was survived by his wife and three children.

In 1960, **Firefighter John Drain** would receive a service connected determination for his death on April 12. The cause was not stated. John was assigned to Fireboat #3. John was 59 years of age at his time of death.

In 1972, **Firefighter Aldro Stuck** of Engine 7 would succumb to colon cancer that was determined to be connected to his service. Aldro was survived by a wife and son. His son would go on to become a Portland Firefighter.

In 1993, **Firefighter Jeff Tuggle**, with only 9 years of service, fell victim to cancer that was determined to be connected to his service. Jeff left behind a wife and two young children. Jeff was 33 years old when he died.

May - May would find four Portland Firefighters losing their lives in service.

In 1928, **Firefighter Charles Ryan** and **Firefighter William McCreery** would both die in a single incident. Both men were assigned to Truck 3. During a training session with ladders, both men climbed to the top of a ladder and were connected together by a hose belt. The hose belt broke and both men fell to their death near SW Chapman (18th Avenue) and Taylor Street. Charles was 29 years old and William was 38 years old. Both left a wife and children behind.

In 1987, **Firefighter Willis Hubener** of Engine 17 would die of heart failure that the pension board determined to be service connected. Willis was 37 at the time of his death.

In 1988, **Firefighter Richard Bradley** of Engine 10 would die of heart failure. The pension board determined that his death was service connected. He would be interred at Willamette National Cemetery for his military service.

June - The month of June logged nine members who died in service to the community.

In 1911, **Fire Chief David Campbell** would die in the Union Oil fire at the corner of SE Water Avenue and Salmon Street. Chief Campbell had warned his crews to evacuate the building, which they did. Before David could exit, the building collapsed and killed him. David was 47 years old at the time of his death and had already served Portland Fire for 31 years, 18 as Chief.

Firefighter William Higdon had only been with Portland Fire for 3 years. He was assigned as driver of Hose 6 (horse drawn). Upon return from a fire at 518 NW 25th Street, William was thrown from the hose cart. He was crushed by the wheel of the cart. He was taken to Good Sam Hospital but died soon after arrival. William was 37 years old at the time of his death.

In 1921, **Lieutenant Karl Gunster** and his crew of Engine 22 responded to the May Apartment fire at SW 14th and Taylor. Karl entered the third floor to help locate trapped occupants. He was overcome by smoke. Another firefighter found him and carried him from the building but he could not be saved.

Karl was 41 years of age at the time he died. In his memory, a fireboat would be christened in his name.

In 1922, **Firefighter James Baldwin** and his crew of Truck 1 responded to a fire at 387 Yamhill Street. After extinguishment, several inches of water had accumulated in the basement. As James descended the stairs to the basement for overhaul, he came in contact with a live electrical wire and was electrocuted. James was 38 years old at the time he died. The fire was caused by two boys playing with matches.

In 1923, **Lieutenant Adolph Wefel** and his crew of Engine 13 were completing the extinguishment of a house fire at N Benton Avenue and Clackamas Street when a brick chimney, weakened by the effects of the fire, toppled and landed on Adolph. Even with his protective gear, he sustained fatal injuries. Adolph was 38 years of age at the time.

In 1933, **Lieutenant Gustave Stephan**, Portland Fire's Theater Inspector, feeling ill, stopped at 68 NE Stanton Street between inspections. He sat down to rest and died of a heart attack at that location. Gustave had served Portland Fire for 44 years at the time he died. He was survived by a wife and son.

In 1940 **Captain Carl Markstron** and **Firefighter Ernest Bills** were dispatched from Station 4 to a working fire at the Portland Furniture Company at 5331 SW Macadam Avenue. The building was well involved with fire and smoke. Carl and Ernest took a hose line into the building with Henry Susbauer. While they were wearing the new technology of canister masks to filter out the toxins in smoke, the depleted oxygen levels would cause both Carl and Ernest to pass out. They were found by other firefighters and pulled from the building, but could not be resuscitated. They would both die at the scene. Carl was 42 years of age and Ernest 43 at the time they died. Both left families behind.

In 2007, **Lieutenant (Senior Inspector) George Godson** left his shift at Station 22 to return home for his two days off. On the morning of his second day off, when he should have been awakening for his next tour of duty, he was found dead in his home. The cause was heart failure that the pension board determined was connected to his service. George left behind a wife, four sons, and a daughter.

July - In July, ten members of Portland Fire have died in service.

In 1928, **Fire Alarm Telegraph Electrician Harry Josephson** was servicing the fire alarm telegraph lines on a pole at SE 51st and Hawthorne. He lost his balance and fell 25 feet from the pole to the street below, fracturing his skull. He died at the scene. Harry was 29 years old when he died.

In 1930, **Captain Richard Laisner** and his crew of Engine 31 were overhauling a house fire at 6135 SE 37th Avenue. Richard told his crew he needed a drink of water and entered the house to get one. When he didn't return, a crewmate went inside and found him slumped over in a chair. He died of a heart attack. Richard was 45 years of age when he died.

In 1934, **Firefighter Harry Morrow** and Engine 23 responded to a vehicle collision at SE 17th and Division Street. During the response, Harry suffered a heart attack and could not be resuscitated. He would die at the scene. He was 48 years old at his time of death.

In 1946, **Captain William Inglesby** would suffer a heart attack while on duty at Station 33. The pension board would determine this to be connected to his service. He would leave behind a wife and three children.

In 1963, **Firefighter Frank Benedict** of Engine 21 would suffer heart failure that the pension board would determine to be connected to his service. Frank was 36 years old when he died.

In 1965, **Firefighter James Hamilton** of Truck 10 died of heart failure that the pension board determined to be connected to his service. James was 49 years old when he died.

In 1971, **Lieutenant Donald Turner** of Engine 22 would die of heart failure on July 5th. The pension board would determine his death to be service connected. Donald was 48 years old at the time he died.

In 2001, **Firefighter Paul Kahn** of Engine 13 would die of heart failure that the pension board would determine was connected to his service. Paul was 54 years old at his time of death.

In 2003, **Captain Jeffrey Calvi** of Engine 13 was under a doctor's care (assigned by the pension board). He would subsequently die of a reaction to prescribed medications. His death was determined to be connected to his service. Jeffrey was 44 years old at his time of death.

In 2013, **Firefighter Keith Kosky** would die of cancer. His cancer was determined to be connected to his service. Keith was survived by his wife. He was interred at Willamette National Cemetery for his military service. Keith was 56 at his time of death.

August - In August, four Portland Firefighters have died in service to the citizens of Portland.

In 1881, **Firefighter James Reed** of Protection Engine Company #4 died of an apparent heart attack while helping his crew pull a hand-pulled fire engine up a steep hill. He was hospitalized and would die five days later. He is the first known firefighter line of duty death in the state of Oregon.

In 1891, **Firefighter Tom O'Keefe** was riding on Hose Company #1. As it exited the fire station and turned a corner at 16th and B Street, Tom fell from the Hose Wagon and was crushed beneath the wheels. Tom had been with Portland Fire for 7 years.

In 1919, **Firefighter Francis McCormick** was with his crew of Truck 1 at a fire at the foot of SW Lincoln Street, the Northwest Box Factory. Francis and his crewmates took a line onto a nearby railroad trestle to allow for an elevated angle from which to spray water onto the fire. The trestle itself would catch fire and as firefighters worked to evacuate the position, Francis fell 30 feet to the ground below, hitting his head. He was transported to Good Sam Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

In 1960, **Captain John Metcalfe** and his crew of Engine 7 were responding to a mattress fire in Ladds Addition. As the engine rounded the corner of SE 12th Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard, they would collide with a bus from the Rose City Transit Company. John and four other firefighters were thrown from the apparatus. All were transported to Good Sam Hospital where John was pronounced dead. He was survived by his wife and son.

September - Only one Portland Firefighter has been lost in the month of September.

In 1971, **Firefighter Roy Bray** of Engine 21 died of pneumonia caused by cancer that the pension board determined was connected to his service. Roy would leave behind a wife and son. His son would go on to become a Portland Firefighter. Roy was 35 years of age when he died.

October - October has seen nine Portland Firefighter die in service.

In 1892, **Firefighter John Hewston** was fighting a fire with his Engine 4 crew at the Kamm Block when he was knocked from his ladder by a falling timber. He fractured his skull and died at the scene. He was survived by his wife and two children.

Lieutenant Oscar Lehman and his crew of Engine 1 were responding to a fire at SW 10th and Montgomery Street. As Engine 1 approached the intersection of SW 4th and Jefferson, Engine 22 was also approaching from a different direction. The two fire apparatus collided. Oscar was killed in the collision and another firefighter seriously injured. Oscar was 35 years of age at his time of death and survived by his wife of only three weeks.

In 1922, **Firefighter Oscar Gabriel** was with his crew of Engine 12 at a fourth alarm fire at Washington High School. After 45 minutes, crews were ordered to clear away from the building. Before Oscar could do so, a wall began to fall and overtook him, crushing him to death. Oscar was 41 years old at his time of death. The cause of the fire...arson.

In 1932, **Firefighter Henry Krimbel** responded to a working fire with his crew from Truck 2. A room in the Councilor Apartments had been ignited by a cigarette left burning on a couch. Truck 2 was assigned to ventilate the roof. As Henry and his crewmates worked to remove a skylight over a stairwell, the loosened skylight vented smoke and heat. Henry lost his balance and fell through to the stair landing below. He was seriously injured and evacuated by his crew. Henry would recover, but with lasting injury. Over two years later, after returning to work, Henry would succumb to kidney problems attributed to his injuries in the fall. Henry was survived by his wife and son.

In 1943, **Captain Owen Peterson** of Engine 5 died of a ruptured appendix and peritonitis that the pension board determined was connected to his service. Owen was 44 years of age at the time of his death.

In 1945, **Captain Joseph Allerton** was commanding the Fireboat Laudenklos at a fire at the Oregon Shipyards. The following day, he reported being too sick to report for duty. 33 days later he would die of bronchial pneumonia. The pension board determined his death to be connected to his service. Joseph was 55 years old when he died.

In 1945, **Captain Elmo St. Clair Bradford** and his crew at Engine 15 were dispatched to a fire at SW Hoffman Road and Broadway. While fighting the fire, Elmo suffered a heart attack and died at the scene. Elmo had served with Portland Fire for 32 years.

In 1966, **Lieutenant Virgil Spencer** and his crew of Engine 5 were dispatched to the BP Johns Furniture Factory. The firefighting efforts stirred up dust that resulted in a dust explosion. Virgil and

his crew were on a catwalk at the time of the dust explosion. He fell about 40 feet to the floor below and was seriously burned. He died at the scene. Virgil was 41 years old at the time of his death. Virgil would have a fireboat commissioned in his name in 1972.

In 1974, **Battalion Chief Jefferson Morris** would die of lung cancer that was determined by the pension board to be connected to his service. Jefferson was the public information officer and a very charismatic and popular fire safety educator in Portland. Affectionately known as "Fireman Jeff," Jefferson was the face of Portland Fire for most of his career. A non-profit organization dedicated to fire prevention, education, and fire heritage was created in his honor.

November - Six Portland Firefighters have lost their lives in service in the month of November.

In 1948, **Firefighter Alfred Berg** and his crew of Engine 33 were dispatched to 8950 N. Bradford Street. While fighting the fire, Alfred suffered a heart attack at the scene. Efforts were made to revive him but to no avail. Alfred was survived by a wife and two daughters.

In 1963, **Lieutenant Benjamin Steele** of Engine 21 suffered a heart attack that the pension board determined was connected to his service. Benjamin was 44 years of age at the time of his death.

In 1975, **Firefighter Melvin Sethmann** of Fireboat 2 died of heart failure that was determined by the pension board to be connected to his service. Melvin was 52 years of age at the time of his death.

In 1990, **Firefighter Lonnie Zimmerman** would die from pneumonia brought on by complications from AIDS, which he contracted on the job. This made his death a service connected event. Lonnie was serving at Engine 27 at the conclusion of his life. Lonnie was 48 at the time of his death.

In 1996, **Firefighter/Paramedic Richard "The Bagger" Harder** would die of heart failure that was determined to be connected to his service with Portland Fire. Richard was assigned to Rescue 41 at the time of his death. Richard was 44 years of age at the time he died.

In 2021, **Lieutenant/Paramedic Jerry Richardson** would succumb to a three year battle with Mesothelioma, which he contracted on the job. Jerry served 22 years with Portland Fire and also served a military career. Jerry was survived by his wife and two children.

December - December shows nine members of Portland Fire losing their lives in service.

In 1929, **Firefighter Walter McBride** was sleeping in the dormitory of Station 9. He went to bed complaining of a headache. The following morning, he failed to report to roll call and was found dead in his bunk. It was determined he died of a heart attack. Walter was 49 years of age at the time he died.

In 1939, **Firefighter Harry Howard** died of an apparent heart attack while on duty at Station 36. The pension board determined this to be connected to his service. Harry was 46 years of age at the time of his death.

In 1940, **Captain Peter Kumpf** was working at Station 23 when a heart problem prompted his crew to send him to the hospital. He died a few hours later. His heart attack was determined to be service connected by the pension board. Peter was survived by his wife and daughter.

In 1946, **Captain Gregory Warner** and his crew of Engine 6 had responded to a fire. Upon return, Gregory suffered a heart attack at the fire station. He was hospitalized and would die in the hospital 7 days later. He was survived by his wife. Gregory was 48 years old at the time of his death.

In 1957, **Firefighter Victor Brown** of Engine 14 would die of acute pneumonia and generalized arteriosclerosis. The pension board would determine this to be a line of duty death. Victor was 58 years old at the time of his death.

In 1979, **Captain Charles Weberg** of Engine 17 would die of lung and liver cancer. The pension board determined both to be connected to Charles' service. Charles was 55 years old at the time of his death.

In 1987, **Firefighter Thomas Tyner** of Truck 6 died of heart failure attributed by the pension board to be due to his service with Portland Fire. Thomas was 55 years of age at his time of death.

In 1991, **Firefighter Gerald Quinby** of Truck 4 died of heart failure that was determined to be service connected by the pension board. Gerald was 38 years old at the time of his death.

In 2004, **Lieutenant Steven Higley** of Truck 3 died of cancer. Steven's death was attributed by the pension board to be connected to his service. Steven was survived by his wife and child. Steven was 42 years old at the time of his death.

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