

2021 Virginia Fallen Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service

Richmond International Raceway
Main Exhibition Hall
Saturday, June 5, 2021 - 12 p.m.



Processional Bagpipes

*Virginia Public Safety Pipes
and Drums*

Presentation of Colors

*Virginia Public Safety
Honor Guard Commander
Toby Martin*

Pledge of Allegiance

*Garrett Dyer
VDFP Acting Executive Director*

National Anthem

Henrico Fire Barbershop Quartet

Invocation

*Chaplain Brian Clingenpeel
Roanoke County Fire & Rescue*

Song Selection

Marquita Whisonant, Henrico Fire

Eulogies

Offered by Departments

Introduction of**Keynote Speaker**

*Brian Moran
Secretary of Public Safety and
Homeland Security*

Keynote Remarks

*Ron Siarnicki
Executive Director, National Fallen
Firefighters Foundation*

Poem

*"Remember the Firefighter"
Tim Cersley, Charlottesville
Fire Department*

Presentation

*State Flags flown above the
Virginia State Capitol will be
presented to the Honoree
Families*

**History and Tolling of
the Bell**

*Virginia Public Safety Honor
Guard*

Song Selection

*Virginia Public Safety Pipes and
Drums*

TAPS

*Firefighter George Boyd
Hampton Fire and Rescue*

Benediction

*Chaplain Brian Clingenpeel
Roanoke County
Fire & Rescue*

Retiring of Colors

*Virginia Public Safety Honor
Guard*

Announcements

*Garrett Dyer
VDFP Acting Executive Director*

Remember the Firefighter 2

Brother when you weep for me
Remember that it was meant to be
Lay me down and when you leave
Remember I'll be at your sleeve

In every dark and choking hall
I'll be there as you slowly crawl
On every roof in driving snow
I'll hold your coat and you will know

In cellars hot with searing heat
At windows where a gate you meet
In closets where young children hide
You know I'll be there at your side

The house from which I now respond
Is overstaffed with heroes gone
Men who answered one last bell
Did the job and did it well

As firemen we understand
That death's a card dealt in our hand
A card we hope we never play
But one we hold there anyway

That card is something we ignore
As we crawl across a weakened floor
For we know that we're the only prayer
For anyone that might be there

So remember as you wipe your tears
The joy I knew throughout the years
As I did the job I loved to do
I pray that thought will see you through

Dennis L. Brent ***Charlottesville Fire*** ***Department***

At the age of 17, Dennis Brent started his fire service career with the Palmyra Fire Company and would continue to serve for 38 years. He held several positions and ultimately chief.

In December of 2000, Dennis' dream came true when he was hired as a firefighter for the city of Charlottesville Fire Department. He faithfully served there for 17 years before retiring because of his health. The Brent Family sincerely thanks the many doctors and nurses of Sentara Martha Jefferson and the University of Virginia Hospitals for the care they gave Dennis during his two-year battle with occupational cancer. The family specifically thanks Dr. Tre Le and staff at the Emily Couric Cancer Center in Charlottesville.

Dennis passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends at his home in Palmyra, Saturday, December 1, 2018. He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Deborah McDonald Brent; his son, Travis Lynn Brent and his wife, Kathryn Rachel, all of Palmyra.



Tommie Lee Collier

Crozet Volunteer Fire Department

Tommie believed that he needed to give back to the community and volunteered for several organizations. He joined the Crozet Volunteer Fire Department on August 25, 1987 and remained a member until his death in 2013.

During his career, he completed Firefighter II qualifications, Hazardous Materials First Responder training, and attended trainings related to live burns, truck equipment operator, and respirator use. Tommie served not only as a firefighter but as the Assistant Carnival Chairman for the local, annual Fourth of July major fundraising event. For several years he did the leg work contacting celebrities and businesses for auction items for the fire department's silent auction.

Tommie was also a junior advisor for the junior firefighters who ranged in age from 13 - 18. He coached the Fire Department Competitive BB Gun Shooting team which focused on gun safety and skills. This team represented the fire department in competitions throughout Virginia. He loved kids and even dressed up as Barney the purple dinosaur for one of the fire department parades. He also loved taking a piece of apparatus to neighboring counties to appear in their parades. During his later years, Tommie worked on the Tuesday night duty crew which was responsible for answering calls, truck maintenance, and completing training offered on those nights. He loved to cook and provided the crew with many delicious meals.

After his passing in 2013, he left behind his wife, Rachel; his mother, Elna Collier; sons, Allen and his wife Jennifer, Ben and his wife Nicole; grandsons, Devin, Corey, and Konner Collier, Daniel Helmes; two granddaughters, Sarah and Gracie Collier; several sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws; a number of cousins; and, nieces and nephews. He is missed every day.



Vivian T. Crawford ***Scruggs Volunteer Fire*** ***and Rescue***

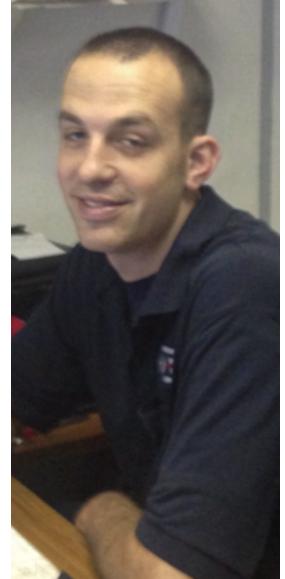
Vivian T. (Slim) Crawford, a Troutville native, had a long career as a volunteer firefighter and helped organize Burnt Chimney Volunteer Fire Department. He later organized Scruggs Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. where he served as chief for 41 years and remained an active member. Crawford was also an Army Reserves Veteran. Outside of fire, he was a charter member and deacon at Westlake Baptist Church.



At the age of 77, Vivian passed away following a short illness on Thursday, May 23, 2019. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Jane; sister, Janet Poindexter; sister-in-law, Nancy Flippo; numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews; friends, and his faithful dog, "Diesel".

John Ross Laronda ***Altavista Fire Company***

John Ross Laronda was a graduate of the American Firefighters Academy and served with Freetown Fire Department in Freetown, Massachusetts from 2010-2013. John was a third-generation manager of his family's automotive business in Freetown, John's Auto Body and Towing until in 2013, when he relocated to Altavista, Virginia. In Altavista, he managed the family-owned Perkin's Twin Tire as the self-proclaimed "Top Man" and quickly found acceptance by the local community. He became a volunteer firefighter for the Altavista Fire Company and rose to the rank of captain. John found an extended family in the Altavista Fire Company and was quick to share his fire and rescue knowledge with his comrades. Even though he liked working in automotive repair, his passion was being a firefighter/EMT, and John had dreams of becoming a full-time firefighter.



John family has felt an outpouring of support from the communities that he served, and it is clear that he had made a lasting impact. He was eager to help others without expectation of praise or compensation. John made people smile, often with his witty personality and small acts of kindness. John enjoyed spending time with family and friends and taking care of his rescue dogs. Just as in life, he continued to help others after death as seven recipients were saved by his donated organs.

John had even left us with words of encouragement that summarize his strong faith with a tattoo he got shortly before his death that read, "God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers." John is an inspiration to many and will be forever in the hearts of his parents, sisters, twin brother, friends, and comrades of the Freetown and Altavista fire departments.

Owen Lee Lewis, Jr.
Rocky Mount Volunteer
Fire Department

Owen Lee Lewis Jr. was a member of the Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department for 16 years. During his 16 years of service, he held the role of 1st Lieutenant and chaplain.

Owen was also an active member of the Blue Ridge Gospel Tabernacle where he served as youth leader for eight years. Owen was also known as a gifted woodworker.



In April 2010, the Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department and local residents rallied together for one of the biggest yard sale fundraisers held at that time, to ultimately raise more than \$15,000 to assist the Lewis family with medical bills. According to a local paper, the Franklin News-Post, the items donated for the yard sale filled all the bays of the fire station.

At the age of 40, Owen made the ultimate sacrifice on Sunday, May 23, 2010, following a battle with cancer. Before his death, Owen was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Town of Rocky Mount for his fire services career.

Rubin O. Lineberry, Jr. ***Dublin Volunteer*** ***Fire Department***

As a child, Rubin O'Neal Lineberry, Jr. had the nickname of "Bo Hammer". He obtained the nickname from being a small child caring around a hammer, building things, and taking things apart. He was the kind of person that could recognize a need or want, and took actions to try and fulfill it at a young age.

In 1981, Rubin joined the Dublin Volunteer Fire Department, where he was a lifetime member. He often spoke about the brotherhood and camaraderie that came from the department. To him, it was a way to be a servant to others and a chance to give back to the community. He would also speak about how the grit and grind that came from fighting a fire before "all this technology."

Rubin also worked at Volvo for 32 years. During his time, he worked on about every inch of the truck, different models, and different areas of production. One of his proudest accomplishments was the fire truck that he and many others spent years designing and creating. He was also a member of the Volvo Fire Brigade.

Rubin was a big motorcycle enthusiast who enjoyed riding in his free time. He was a devoted family man who was always around to lend a helping hand to anyone who asked. He was also devoted to the department, until his health or work got in his way. He formed a brotherhood that will never be forgotten.



Joseph A. Mary ***Richmond Department of Fire & Emergency Services***

As a dedicated public servant, Joe started his service as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Southwest Pennsylvania. Joe then served as a police officer, first in the city of Norfolk and then in the city of Richmond, Virginia.

Joe came to the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services in July of 1988 and retired at the level of Master Firefighter. His 30 year career included many important contributions to the department and its members. He spent five years as the EMS Instructor at the Firefighter Training Academy and served as the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator. In addition, Joe was a committed member of the Richmond Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 995, and served many years as Vice President.

Joe earned his paramedic certification and was employed by the Richmond Ambulance Authority, running calls and serving as a dispatcher for many years on his days off.

After all his years of service Joe and his beloved wife of 34 years, Charlotte, retired to The Villages in Florida. Joe continued his public service by joining the Villages Public Safety Department Community Watch Division and was promoted to their Training Officer where he worked part-time until his untimely death.

There was never any doubt to Joe's family and friends that he loved his career and was honored to serve all those that needed his assistance over the years. Joe served with the utmost respect and just the right spark of humor that all great firefighters have. He would be humbled by the love and distinction being shown to him during this service.



William H. Moore IV ***Amelia County Volunteer*** ***Fire Department***

William (Billy) Moore IV grew up in the small town of Amelia Court House, Virginia. He was always trying to help everyone not matter who they were or the situation. The fire department was a big part of his family. When the tones went off, he was always ready to go on a call no matter the time. He looked up to a lot of the guys at the fire department and had a lot of respect for them. He enjoyed working on projects at the fire house. Billy always wanted to be a firefighter but waited until later in life to become a member.



On June 14, 2018, while Billy was in a training class at the fire house, he suffered a medical emergency before going into cardiac arrest and passing. That night was a nightmare for all the family and the fire department. He received a beautiful funeral from the fire department with the help of the Hanover Fire-EMS.

Billy is survived by one sister, Marie Willet. Billy was married to Loretta Moore and has a son, William H Moore V and two stepchildren, Eric and Heather Anders who he was incredibly proud of; two grandchildren, Dillon Beasley and Emma Anders, all of Amelia; two nieces, Amber Haden and Valerie Brown; great-niece, Wynter Moore, and a great-nephew, Damien Moore.

Billy touched a lot of lives, he loved those around him unconditionally and will be missed by all his family, friends, and fire department.

Kenneth W. Smith ***Madison County Volunteer*** ***Fire Company***

Kenneth Wesley Smith, fondly known as “Wes,” began his work with the County of Madison in September 1994 when he joined the Madison County Fire Department. He soon became involved in all aspects of the fire department from fundraising, clean-up detail, and facility repair to running calls, training, and purchasing apparatuses. Wes was a life member of the Madison County Fire Department. In his 25 years of service, he served as lieutenant for 13 years and captain for 8 years. In 2017, Wes was the recipient of the James O. Clore Award, which is awarded annually by a vote of the members of the fire department to recognize an outstanding member.



Along with his many accomplishments with the Madison County Fire Department, Wes was also a member of the James Madison Building and Code Officials Association, Madison County Football Boosters, Madison County Softball Boosters, Double Top Hunt Club, Fairview Christian Church and Rapidan Baptist Church. One of his greatest accomplishments were his children, Christopher and Bailey. He always pushed them to be their best, do the right thing, and to help those in need.

In September of 2017, Wes received a devastating diagnosis of brain cancer. As he went through surgeries and treatments, it took its toll on his body and mind, but Wes pushed himself daily to serve God, his family, and his community. He continued to work for the County of Madison and to serve the fire department. It was his intention to let everyone know that he would not give up this battle and continued to serve others until his passing on August 25, 2019.

Robert Thomas ***Fieldale Volunteer Fire*** ***Department***

Robert Jacob (Jake) Thomas grew up in Fieldale, Virginia where he became a volunteer firefighter in 1992 at the Fieldale Volunteer Fire Department. He held several positions in the fire department including equipment officer, training officer, and assistant chief. He volunteered until he departed this life. He spent many hours around the fire station doing anything that needed to be done and was always ready to fight a fire of any type.



Jake worked for American of Martinsville from 1996-2012. While at American of Martinsville he led the fire brigade and was a spray booth operator before moving up to boiler operator. He stayed with American of Martinsville until they shut down. When Jake wasn't working or at the fire department he enjoyed spending time with his family, riding his motorcycle and talking on his CB radio.

Jake was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in May of 2016. He started chemo treatments right away at the Blue Ridge Cancer center in Roanoke, VA. After 18 months of treatment Jake gained his wings on September 5, 2017.

Jake is survived by his mother, Ellen; wife of 19 years, Misty Poindexter Thomas; his 4 children, Sara, Skyler, Bentley and Hunter; and three siblings, Teddy Thomas of Stanleytown, VA; Linda Thomas Powers and husband, George of Collinsville, VA; and Susan Thomas Cochran of Reidsville, NC.

Eddie T. Vick
Stony Creek Volunteer
Fire Department/Sussex
County

Eddie Vick dedicated over 36 years of his life to public service, serving as a fire fighter, fire investigator, public safety coordinator, emergency manager and instructor.



He joined the Capron Volunteer Fire Department in 1975. Eddie served as a volunteer firefighter in Capron until 1983 when he joined Stony Creek Volunteer Fire Department. No matter what time of day or night he was ready and willing to serve and help the people of his community. He was voted Fire Fighter of the Year in 1984 and 1986 by his fellow firefighters. He served as fire chief at Stony Creek Volunteer Fire Department from 1987-2002 and Hazmat Coordinator from 1988 -2018. Eddie received a letter of recognition from Governor George Allen for his dedicated efforts to help with the Pathways to Freedom Tour Bus accident in 1997. Eddie's leadership in the emergency operations center spanned multiple disasters, including: Hurricane Floyd in 1999, Hurricane Isabel in 2003, Hurricane Irene in 2011 and the Waverly tornadoes in 2016.

In 2002, he became the first Public Safety Coordinator for Sussex County. He provided exceptional service and faithfully served the County of Sussex until August 2018. Eddie graciously shared his wisdom and experience as a Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Professional Program Instructor for over 10 years.

Eddie was known to many as a little man with a big heart. Eddie was diagnosed with lung cancer that metastasized to his spine in March 2018. His courageous battle ended in September 2018. Eddie is remembered as a devoted man of service to his community. Among his passions, he was also an avid hunter and fisherman with a true love for the outdoors. Eddie also enjoyed the peace he found when riding his motorcycle.

Charles Woods ***Adwolfe Volunteer*** ***Fire Department***



Charles "Dog" Woods joined Adwolfe Volunteer Fire Department in November 1986, as a firefighter. At the time of his passing in September 2020, Charles was the vice president of the department, an EMT, and very passionate about devoting his extra time to his volunteer fire department.

He also served as an EMT for nearly 25 years as a member of the Marion Volunteer Lifesaving Crew.

Charles also did volunteer work with the Marion Little League while his son Zack was playing ball. Later as Zack was involved with Boy Scouts, Charles was a pack leader and also helped Zack with his eagle project. This project was sponsored by the fire department. They installed smoke detectors in homes in the community that needed them.

Charles was the type of person who was never a stranger. Whenever he traveled with his family, he always stopped to help someone in need. He would also visit several fire departments from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to Dade City, Florida. He liked to visit to see if they had any new equipment that may benefit his department when he returned home.

He received the Valor of Honor in December 2019 and didn't feel like he deserved it. He just stated, "It's what he was trained to do." Charles not only worked as a volunteer, he also did great carpentry work including building a Food Lion in Marion and working with Hayes Carpet laying floors for several years. He was more than a volunteer, he was a very devoted father, husband, big brother, and friend to most.

We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for providing special support for this service

Governor Ralph S. Northam, Commonwealth of Virginia
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran
Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Shawn Talmadge
Office of Emergency Medical Services, Virginia Department of Health
2021 Virginia Fallen Firefighters and EMS Memorial Service Planning Committee
A Logo For You
Brian Clingenpeel, Roanoke County Fire & EMS
Bunkie Trinite Trophies
Coleman Brothers Flowers
Springhill Suites-Glen Allen Exhibits, Inc.
George Boyd, Hampton Fire and Rescue
Hanover County CERT Team
Henrico County Fire Department
Henrico County Police Department
Adwolfe Volunteer Fire Department
Altavista Volunteer Fire Company
Amelia County Volunteer Fire Department
Charlottesville Fire Department
Crozet Volunteer Fire Department
Dublin Volunteer Fire Department

Fieldale Volunteer Fire Department
Madison County Volunteer Fire Company
Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department
Scruggs Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Stony Creek Volunteer Fire Department/Sussex County
Henrico Fire Barbershop Quartet
Levy Restaurants
Opus Media Group
Richmond International Raceway Complex
Red Knights Virginia Motorcycle Club
Soundworks
Virginia Capitol Police
Virginia Correctional Enterprises
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Public Safety Honor Guard
Virginia Public Safety Pipes and Drums
Virginia State Police
Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
Virginia Fire Services Board
Virginia Professional Firefighters
Virginia State Firefighters Association

Thanks to all of the fire departments and organizations that provided apparatus.

Special funding for this year's Memorial Service was made possible by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, Virginia Department of Health

Memorial Service hosted by:



VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Virginia 
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Virginia Department of Health