

## **Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation to Pay Tribute to Nine Firefighters Who Died in Line of Duty**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ottawa, Ontario** -- Nine Canadian firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty will be honoured at the Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony this fall.

The list includes pilot Robert Woodhead, from Stoney Creek, Ontario, who drowned in the Fraser River in 2009 after his helicopter crashed while fighting forest fires in British Columbia.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) will pay tribute to these firefighters in the ceremony which takes place on September 12, 2010 at 11 a.m. on Parliament Hill. This year's list includes firefighters who died on the job as well as those who succumbed to work-related illnesses.

The honourees include: Fire Prevention Officer George Randolph Musgrave, 47, (Vancouver, BC); Corporal Gerald Patrick Hagan, 44, (DND, CFB Edmonton); Richard Gietz, 63, (Ottawa, Ontario); Training Officer Paul Jackson, 56, (King City, ON); Captain Patrick L. Glendinning, 57, (Surrey, BC); Firefighter Philip Strang, 64, (Keswick Valley, NB); Pilot Robert Christopher Woodhead, 53, (Stoney Creek, ON); Station Chief Robert W. Thibert, 54, (Chatham-Kent, ON); and CFPO Rex Ernest Heath, 61, (Pickering, ON).

"These brave firefighters gave their lives in service to their country," said Captain Robert Kirkpatrick, a Mississauga-based firefighter and President of the CFFF. "It is a stark reminder that firefighting continues to be a hazardous profession."

Each year, hundreds of firefighters from across Canada come to the ceremony to pay tribute to their fallen comrades. The CFFF provides transportation subsidies and accommodations for members of their families to attend the annual event where they will receive the commemorative helmet and the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Medallion on behalf of the entire Canadian Fire Service.

The Calgary Fire Department, under the direction of Chief Bruce Burrell, will serve as the honorary host for this year's ceremony. The Calgary Fire Department is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **Monument Design Unveiled**

The CFFF will also reveal the winning design for the Canadian Firefighters Memorial during the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Weekend. Last year, Heritage Canada announced a \$2.5 million contribution for the monument which will be constructed on a site across from the Canadian War Museum at LeBreton Flats in Ottawa. The monument will be officially dedicated to the over 1000 firefighters including those whose line of duty deaths are remembered at the ceremony in 2010.

The CFFF, which has raised an additional \$1.2 million, continues to fundraise to complete the memorial.

## **The Aim of the CFFF**

The aim of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation is to honour all firefighters and it is all-inclusive. The CFFF pays tribute to firefighters who are volunteer/part-time, paid/full-time, industrial, military, urban, rural, wildland, Aboriginal, airport and marine. The Foundation's directors include members from all areas of the Canadian Fire Service as well as representatives from the business community who volunteer their time for its operation.

The public is welcome to attend the ceremony and support the fallen firefighters' families, as well as donate to the construction of the national monument.

For more information, please visit the Foundation website at [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca).

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## Backgrounder

The number of firefighters who have died in the line of duty in Canada now stands at more than 1000. The list includes: 441 from Ontario; 222 from Quebec; 125 from British Columbia; 66 from Manitoba; 63 from Alberta; 37 from Nova Scotia; 32 from New Brunswick; 12 from Saskatchewan; seven from Newfoundland; four from PEI; three from the Northwest Territories; and two from the Yukon. (For a complete list of fallen firefighters, by name, date and province, please visit the CFFF website at [www.cfff.ca](http://www.cfff.ca))

## List of The Fallen 2010

**Name:** Firefighter George Randolph Musgrave  
**Department:** Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services  
**Status:** Full-time Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** October 17, 2005  
**Cause of Death:** Work related illness

**Name:** Corporal Gerald Patrick Hagan  
**Department:** DND Fire Service, CFB Edmonton  
**Status:** Military Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** August 18, 2006  
**Cause of Death:** Work related illness

**Name:** Lieutenant Richard Gietz  
**Department:** Ottawa Fire Services  
**Status:** Volunteer Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** December 29, 2007  
**Cause of Death:** Work related illness

**Name:** Firefighter Paul Jackson  
**Department:** King Fire & Emergency Services  
**Status:** Volunteer Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** June 9, 2008  
**Cause of Death:** Heart attack returning from a response

**Name:** Captain Patrick Glendinning  
**Department:** Surrey Fire Service  
**Status:** Full-time Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** November 14, 2008  
**Cause of Death:** Work related illness

**Name:** Firefighter Philip Strang  
**Department:** Keswick Valley Fire Department  
**Status:** Volunteer Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** May 14, 2009  
**Cause of Death:** Heart attack at scene of a response

**Name:** Pilot Robert Christopher Woodhead, Stoney Creek, ON  
**Department:** BC Forest Service (Elbow River Helicopters)  
**Status:** Wildland Pilot  
**Date of Death:** August 14, 2009  
**Cause of Death:** Helicopter crash into the Fraser River while fighting a wildland fire near Lillooet, BC

**Name:** Station Chief Robert W. Thibert  
**Department:** Chatham-Kent Fire & Emergency Services  
**Status:** Volunteer Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** December 3, 2009  
**Cause of Death:** Heart attack while managing a response

**Name:** Chief Fire Prevention Officer Rex Heath  
**Department:** Pickering Fire Service  
**Status:** Volunteer Firefighter  
**Date of Death:** December 26, 2009  
**Cause of Death:** Work related illness