



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ceremony Marks 20th Year for Emergency Services Memorial

FAYETTEVILLE – Emergency services personnel from across the county gathered today with family, friends and community members to honor fallen firefighters and EMS workers who sacrificed their lives serving the residents of Cumberland County and Fort Bragg.

The 20th annual Cumberland County Emergency Services Memorial Service was held at the red brick Emergency Services Memorial on the campus of Fayetteville Technical Community College. The memorial ceremony is held on the second Saturday in October annually by the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association, Cumberland County Emergency Services and the Fayetteville Fire Department.

“There are no words to match their sacrifice; therefore, it is important for all of us to gather together to remember our hometown heroes. Let us remember not that they died, but why they died: protecting our citizens of Cumberland County, Fort Bragg and the City of Fayetteville,” said Pearce’s Mill Fire Department Chief Ronnie Marley, vice president of the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs’ Association.

Kenny Tatum, the Fire Chiefs’ Association chaplain and Assistant Fire Chief for the Vander Fire Department, cited the Bible verse Matthew 22:39, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“That’s why we do what we do. We truly love our neighbors. It’s a great passage for all emergency services personnel. Every day you get on that unit and respond; you are laying your life on the line for somebody,” Tatum said.

Cumberland County District Attorney Billy West, the guest speaker, commented on the unique aspects faced by emergency services personnel in the field.

“Firefighters and EMS workers, at a moment’s notice, may need to make a split-second decision, which in many cases could mean life or death for the person they are trying to save, or it could mean life or death for them,” West said. “That makes it a very unique field and a very important field.”

Two wreaths were laid at the memorial this year. One wreath was in honor of the 11 men listed on the memorial who died in the line of duty since 1929: Joseph E. Boles, Paul I. Boyer III, William I. Capps, Frank R. Echevarria, Luther P. Horne, Ferrell D. Hood, Jesse M. Jones, Steve E. Russell Jr., David C. Sharp II, Jesse U. Shockley Jr. and John C. Tyner.

The other wreath honored active duty fire and EMS personnel who died while not in the line of duty during the last year: Bryant Drake Anderson (Fort Bragg Fire Dept.); Misty Lee Hummel (Fort Bragg EMS); Phil Taranto (Westarea Fire Dept.) and Dirk Michael Vanderah (Fort Bragg EMS).

Anyone who wishes to purchase a brick or have a brick placed on the memorial walkway can go to www.cfcanc.com/memorial to place an order or contact Fayetteville Fire Battalion Chief David Richtmeyer at drichtmeyer@ci.fay.nc.us or at 910-433-1342.

For more information about the memorial and the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association, go to www.cfcanc.com/memorial.

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