



# Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

1111 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457 • (860) 685-8000

## SUNDAY: 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

(WINDSOR LOCKS) -- The Connecticut State Firefighters Association (CSFA) Memorial Foundation, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, will honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty in a ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 29.

“Every single day and night firefighters show up for the job, ready to risk their lives to make our communities safer,” said Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins. “The sacrifice made by these fallen heroes symbolizes the essential and vital purpose of our agency – protecting the residents of Connecticut.”

Line of Duty Deaths to be memorialized this year include:

- |                        |                                    |            |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| • Joseph J. Gross, Sr. | North Stonington Fire Department   | 01/01/2024 |
| • James Chevalier      | Long Ridge Fire Company (Stamford) | 09/01/2023 |
| • Anthony DeSimone     | North Haven Fire Department        | 08/24/2023 |
| • Louis L. Peters      | Willimantic Fire Department        | 01/26/1939 |

“It is the responsibility of the CSFA Memorial Foundation to honor the memory of those firefighters who died in the line of duty, and to recognize their ultimate sacrifice, and that of their family,” said Paul Walsh, CSFA Memorial Chairman. “The names of these four heroes will be inscribed on the granite panels surrounding the memorial to ensure they are eternally remembered. This will increase the number of Connecticut Firefighters, career and volunteer, known to have died in the line of duty to 357.”

The public is invited to join Connecticut’s fire service at this year’s memorial event. Light refreshments will be provided. The memorial, located on the grounds of the Connecticut Fire Academy is open 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

**WHO:** Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins

**WHAT:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Firefighters Memorial Service

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 29, 2024, 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Connecticut Fire Academy, 34 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks.

For Immediate Release: September 27, 2024

Contact: Rick Green

[richard.green@ct.gov](mailto:richard.green@ct.gov)

860-539-0159