

Heroism

comes from the calling to help somebody, not the need to be somebody...

...These are the words inscribed on Oregon's Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial wall. Chosen, with care, the phrase gently personifies the unselfish courage each fire fighter willingly demonstrated by sacrificing his or her own life, to save the life or property of another.

Constructed and dedicated in 2006, the black granite wall lists the names of 159 fallen Oregon fire fighters from as long ago as 1881. It is adorned with a bronze Maltese Cross, which surrounds a relief of the State of Oregon. Each arm of the Maltese Cross is marked with a word describing the traits of heroism - bravery, courage, honor, sacrifice.

Finally, the monument's base displays the words, "In the line of duty," reminding onlookers of the risk and honor involved with choosing such a noble profession.

Special thanks to:

- ξ Families of the Fallen Heroes*
- ξ Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard*
- ξ Oregon Fire Chiefs Association*
- ξ Oregon Fire Instructors Association*
- ξ Eugene Fire Pipes and Drums*
- ξ Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Pipes and Drums*
- ξ Buglers: Sgt. Robert Dunkle and Sgt. Lang Hinkle*
- ξ Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training*
- ξ Memorial Ceremony Planning Team*

Fire Fighter's Prayer

*When I am called to duty,
God, wherever flames may rage,
give me the strength
to save some life
whatever be its age.*

*Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late,
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert and
hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out.*

*I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me,
to guard my every neighbor
and protect his property.*

*And if according to my fate
I am to lose my life this day,
please bless,
with your protecting hand,
my family this I pray.*

*Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Ceremony
September 18, 2008*

