



Firefighting is an inherently dangerous calling. It is said that when a firefighter becomes a firefighter they have already committed their greatest act of courage – everything that comes after is in the line of duty. Every day firefighters risk their lives as they place themselves between harm and those who are in danger. Since 1910, eighteen (18) firefighters have lost their lives protecting the citizens of Anne Arundel County. We learn from these tragedies and we promise never to forget the sacrifice that our fellow firefighters have made.

Annually, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department celebrates the lives of our fallen heroes. The event is held on the third Saturday in October and is open to the public. All are welcome as we fulfill our promise to never forget. For more information about the Memorial Service, contact the Office of Public Information.

## *ROLL OF HONOR*

### *March 6, 1910 Firefighter William H. Brown*

Water Witch Hook and Ladder Co. Annapolis

Firefighter Brown fell from a ladder while fighting a fire at Market space and Fleet Street in Annapolis. His injuries were thought to be minor. Firefighter Brown died later that night at his residence from massive swelling of the brain.

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*July 11, 1932 Chief James E. Barton*

Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Department

The apparatus Chief Barton was responding to a reported house fire on overturned. The driver was attempting to avoid a road scraper and overturned in the soft dirt on Tick Neck Road.

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*February 19, 1950 Firefighter Joseph L. Wright Jr.*

Jessup Volunteer Fire Department

Firefighter Wright was riding on the tailboard of the apparatus while responding to a call. The driver lost control of the vehicle causing it to run off the road and overturn. Firefighter Wright died from massive head injuries.

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*January 23, 1956 Firefighter Ralph A. Evick*

Herald Harbor Volunteer Fire Department

While on duty at the fire house, Firefighter Evick suffered a fatal heart attack. He was found in the station by Baltimore gas and Electric Employees. At the time of his death Firefighter Evick was the hired driver of the Herald harbor Volunteer Fire Department. He was a long time member and past Chief.

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*July 13, 1958 Firefighter Alexander C. Johnson*

Rescue Hose Company, Annapolis

While fighting a fire on Shaw Street in Annapolis, Firefighter Johnson collapsed and later died at the hospital as a result of heart failure. At the time of his death Firefighter Johnson was also a Firefighter for the Naval Academy. Firefighter Johnson was also a Veteran of WWII.

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*June 19, 1964 Firefighter Lawrence J. Corcoran*

Glen Burnie Volunteer Fire Department

While transporting a patient to South Baltimore General Hospital, Firefighter Corcoran, who was driving the ambulance, lost control of the vehicle as it slid on the wet roadway. The ambulance struck a sign post, Corcoran died from his injuries.

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*September 7, 1964 Firefighter John W. Schwallenberg*

Rescue Hose Company Annapolis

Firefighter Schwallenberg died from smoke inhalation while fighting a warehouse fire at Virginia Avenue and Chinquapin Round Road. Reports indicate that he was wearing his breathing apparatus. It is unclear what happened, or how long he was inside the building. Firefighter Schwallenberg died the day before his 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

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*March 28, 1966 Firefighter Carl M. Stinchcomb*

Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department

Firefighter Stinchcomb fell from the apparatus that he was riding on after fighting a brush fire on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He never regained consciousness and died of pneumonia and staph infection. Fire Fighter Stinchcomb suffered his fall on Olan Drive- The same street that he lived on!

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*March 8, 1969 Firefighter Douglas E. Whitehead*

Maryland City Volunteer Fire Department

Engine 27 responded to Prince Georges County for a dwelling fire. Firefighter Whitehead tripped over a supply line while hooking up to a fire hydrant. He was transported to the hospital, where he was treated for an ankle injury and chest pain. He was released and later died at his residence. The cause of death was listed as a ruptured aorta. Firefighter Whitehead helped organize the Maryland City Fire Department. Firefighter Whitehead was a Veteran of the United States Navy, serving in WWII.

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*April 9, 1970 Firefighter John F. Balcer*

Anne Arundel County Fire Department

While responding to a Dwelling fire, the apparatus that Firefighter Balcer was riding on overturned as the driver was turning onto Hog Neck Road. Fire Fighter Balcer was riding in the rear of the apparatus and was flung underneath as it overturned. Firefighter Balcer was the first career Firefighter killed in the line of duty in Anne Arundel County. Firefighter Balcer was a Veteran of the United States Army serving on active duty and the reserves.

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*January 22, 1976 Assistant Chief Waters F. Tucker*

Galesville Volunteer Fire Department

Assistant Chief Tucker suffered a massive heart attack while coupling hoses, in preparation to fight a boat fire at Woodfields Fish and Oyster Company in Galesville. Assistant Chief Tucker was a long time member and past Chief at Galesville.

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*December 26, 1976 Firefighter George F. Driggers*

Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department

While fighting a row house fire in Brooklyn Park, Firefighter Driggers was caught in a Flashover. He suffered severe burns and died at the scene. He was found during overhaul inside the residence. Fire fighter Driggers was only 16 years old at the time of his death.

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*December 27, 1976 Firefighter Patrick A. Bauer*

Anne Arundel County Fire Department

While fighting a row house fire in Brooklyn Park in the early morning of December 26<sup>th</sup>, Firefighter Bauer was caught in a Flashover. He suffered severe burns and died at the hospital the following day. Fire fighter Bauer was normally assigned to day work, but was working on Christmas Day so that a fellow Firefighter could spend Christmas with his family!

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*May 1, 1986 Chief Edwin E. Raynor*

Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Raynor suffered a massive heart attack while fighting a brush fire in Pasadena on April 1, 1986. He was transported to the hospital where he remained until his death. Chief Raynor was a well known and respected instructor at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute and a Veteran of the United States Army serving in World War II.

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*January 11, 1987 Firefighter Howard N. Phelps*

Anne Arundel County Fire Department

While on duty at the firehouse, Firefighter Phelps suffered a fatal heart attack. He was found in the radio room by his co workers. Firefighter Phelps was also a lifelong member of the Odenton Volunteer Fire Department.

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*October 29, 1988 Firefighter James P. Weeks*

Anne Arundel County Fire Department

Firefighter Weeks suffered a seizure and collapsed after participating in daily physical training at the Anne Arundel Community College. He later died at the hospital of heart failure.

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*April 24, 1993 Firefighter William W. Overman*

Herald Harbor Volunteer Fire Department

Firefighter Overman suffered a fatal heart attack while on scene of his first call as a Firefighter. Firefighter Overman was sitting on the tailboard of the Engine when he collapsed. Firefighter Overman was a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam.

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*November 12, 1996 Firefighter William R. Chambers, Jr.*

Anne Arundel County Fire Department

Firefighter Chambers suffered a fatal heart attack while on the scene of a medical call. Firefighter Chambers was a Veteran of the United States Army, serving in Vietnam.