

South Milwaukee Fire Department

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow





1893 - 2018



When a man
becomes a
fireman his
greatest act of
bravery has
been
accomplished.
What he does
after that is
all in the line
of work.

*- Chief of Department
Edward Croker,
FDNY*



The beginning . . .

		March 2, 1892	March 21, 1893	May 8, 1893	June 8, 1893	June 26, 1893	July 22, 1893	October 6, 1893	December, 1893	1894
1736		Village of South Milwaukee Incorporated (Pop. 517)	Village Clerk, Frank Boyle, advertises for first chemical fire engine		Committee formed to organize a fire department		Fire at Malleable Iron Works (Site of BE)		SMFD moved to new City Hall location on 10 th Avenue	
First volunteer fire company formed in Philadelphia – co-founded by Benjamin Franklin	Fire at Lakeview Club House (Site of old water tower)	Fire at Admant Paint Company 10 th Avenue (Site of BE)		Newly organized fire department conducts first meeting – 11 th & Madison		T.A. Murphy chosen as Chief of newly formed hose company		Firefighters rec'd notification of fires by a large bell mounted atop the firehouse		

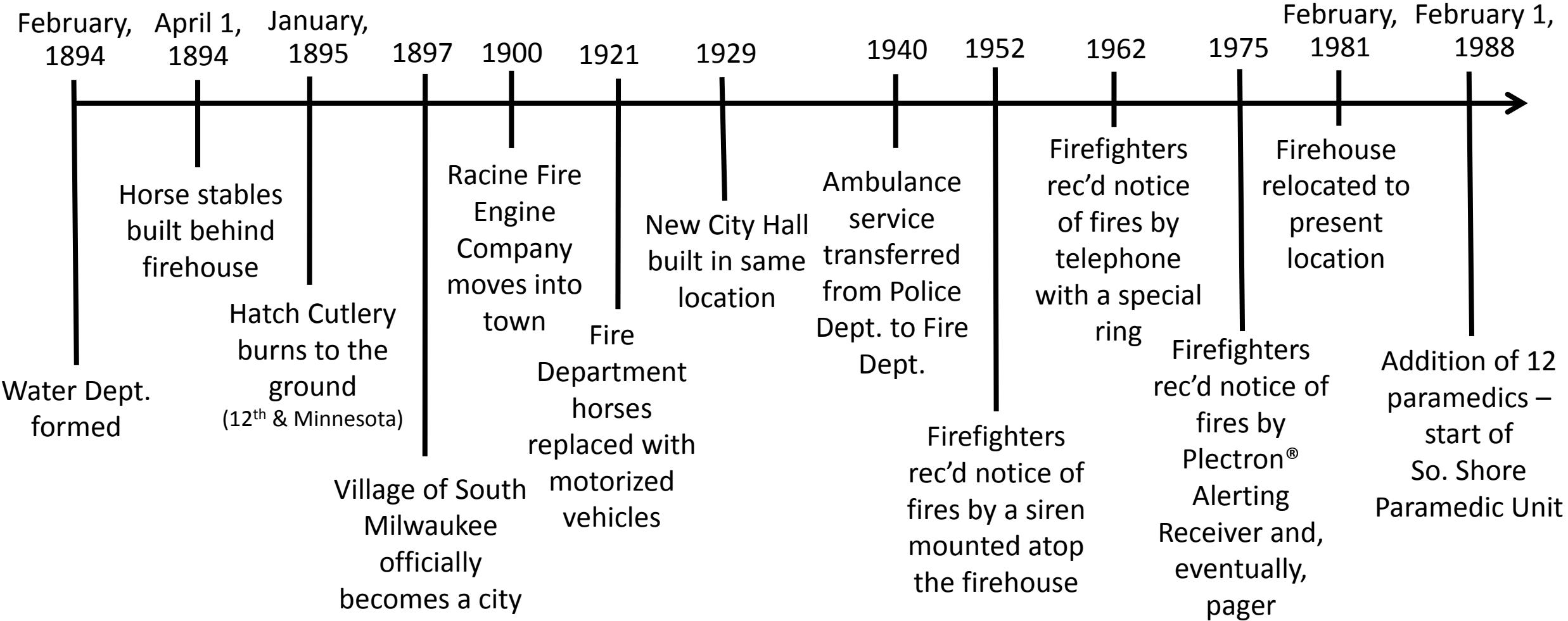
The Bell . . .



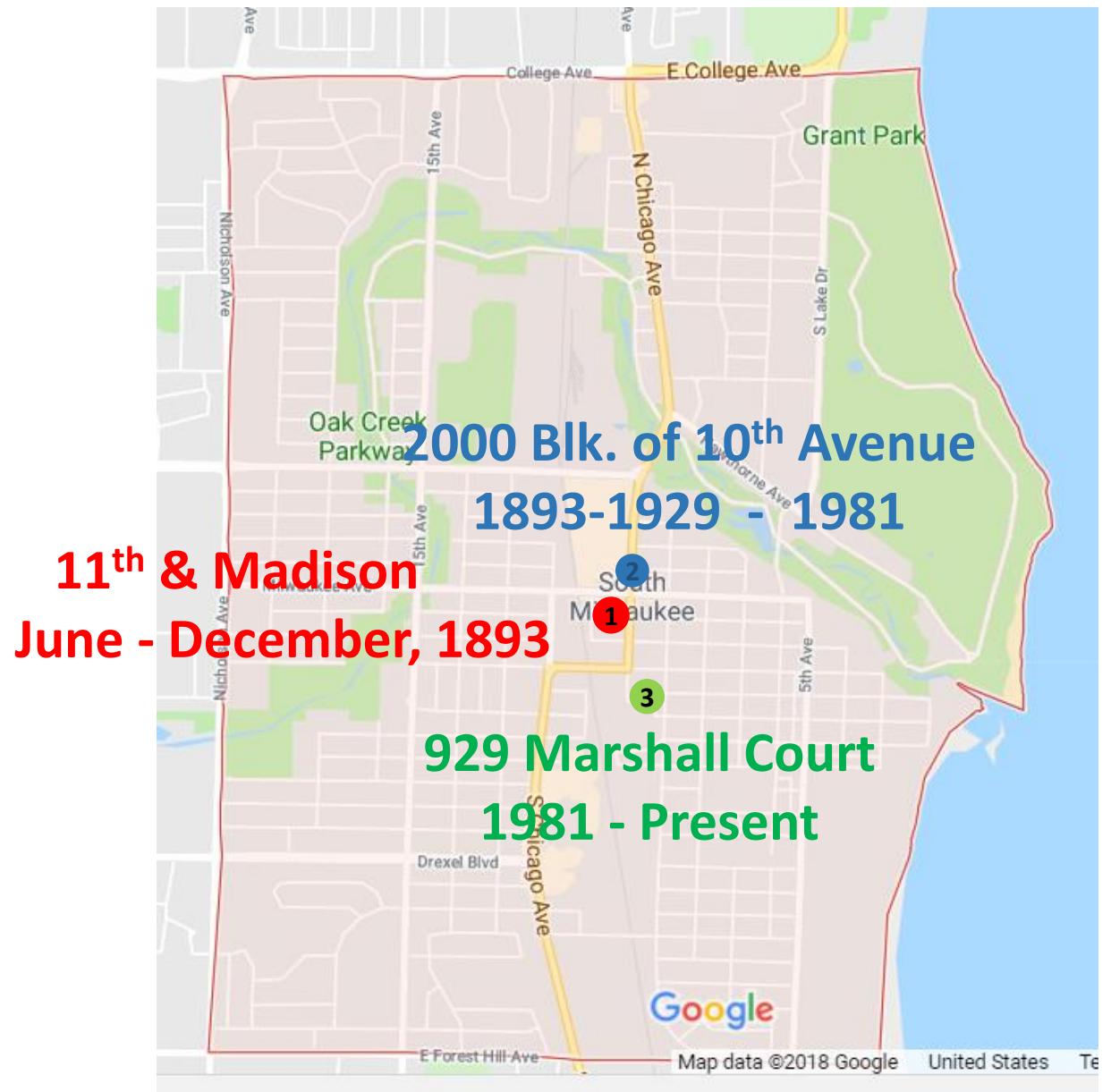
The bell was cast in 1894 by the Centennial Bell Foundry in Milwaukee. The foundry was owned by Scottish immigrant, Gardiner Campbell, who came to the US in 1850. The Centennial Bell Foundry was well known in the U.S. and beyond and was also responsible for casting the 11-ton bell in Milwaukee's City Hall, as well. After his death in 1892, his sons, George and Henry, ran the family business.



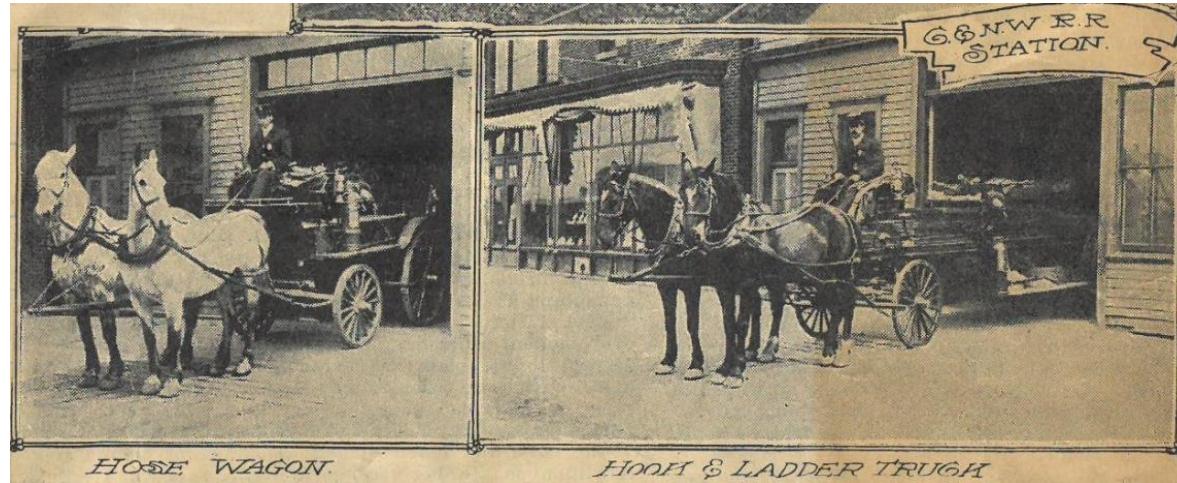
Milestones. . .



The firehouse



The firehouse . . . then



1893-1929



The firehouse . . . then



1893-1929



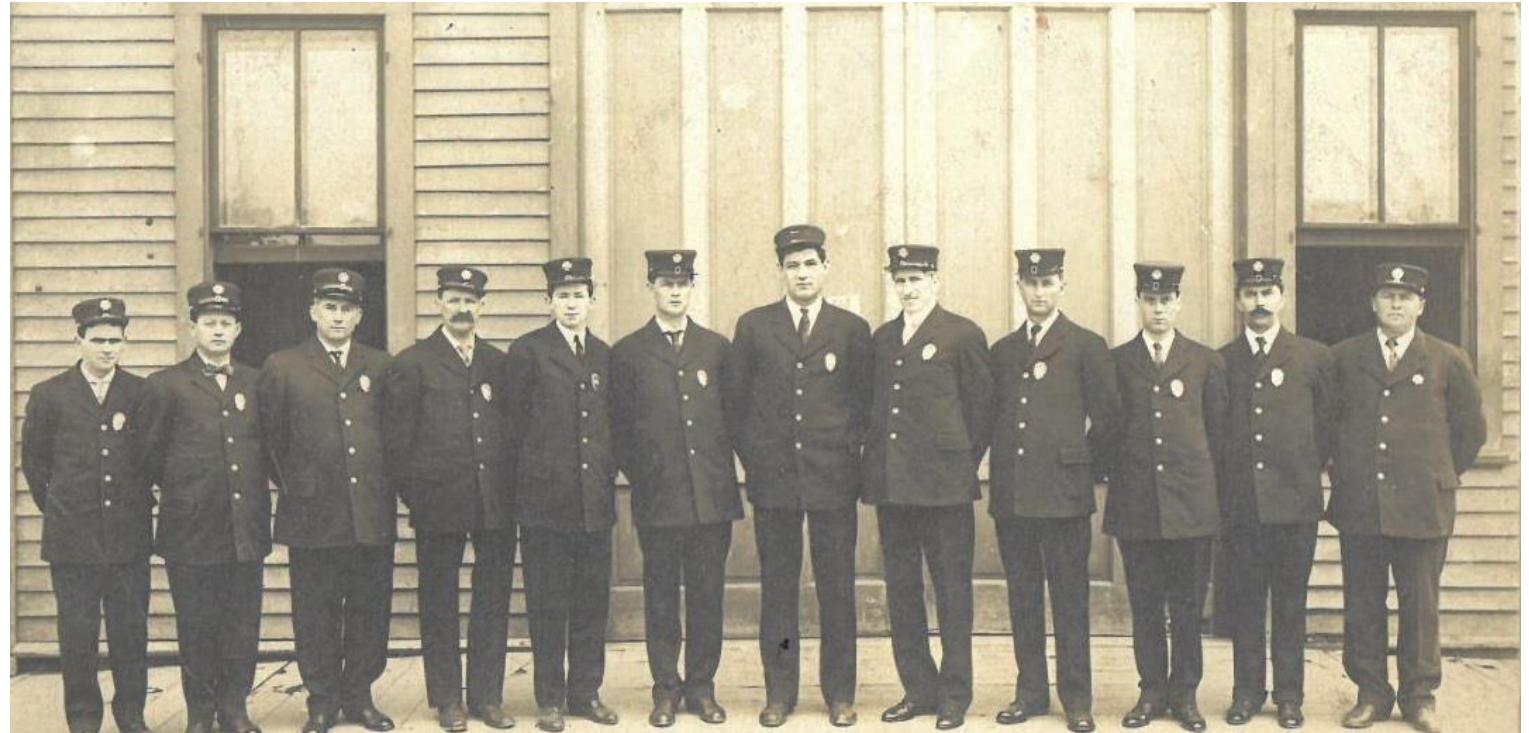
The equipment . . . then



Hook & Ladder Truck, No. 1. South Milwaukee Fire Dept.



The firefighters . . . then



The firehouse . . .

1929 – 1981
(post 1958)



The firehouse . . .

1929 – 1981
(post 1958)



The firehouse . . .

The Gamewell "Joker" Stand



The equipment . . .



The equipment . . .



Racine, Wisconsin



Cordova, Alabama

The equipment . . .



1955 American-LaFrance 100' Aerial Ladder Truck

The firefighters . . .



September, 1957

The firehouse . . .



The firehouse . . .



1929 – 1981
(post 1977)

The firehouse . . .



February 5, 1993

The firehouse . . .



February 5, 1993

The firehouse . . .



February 5, 1993

The firehouse . . .



The equipment . . .



The equipment . . .



1970 Cadillac

The equipment . . .



Circa: 1993

The equipment . . .



1968 American LaFrance
Acquired from Hoffman-
Estates (IL) in 1976



1983 Pierce

And now . . .



Equipment . . . now



2014 Dodge-Osage
(2009 Ford-Med Tech)
(2016 Dodge-Osage)

2003 Pierce
(2007 Pierce)

1995 Pierce

Equipment . . . now



Equipment . . . now



Firefighters . . . now



2016



South Milwaukee Fire Chiefs



1. T.A. Murphy	1893-1902
2. Roland Pritchard	1902-1904
3. George Lorig	1905-1908
4. Peter K. Bahl	1909-1910
5. John Gramza	1911, 1917-1920
6. William Zarback	1912-1916
7. Fred Hetzer	1921-1922
8. John O'Connell	1923-1938
9. Raymond Gee	1939-1959
10. Max Dinkelman	1960-1974
11. Russell Wendt	1975-1988
12. Donald Egner	1989-1995
13. Richard Omernik	1995-2003
14. Jay Behling	2004-2011
15. Joseph Knitter	2012-Present

Call volume over the past 50 years

YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
1965	225	605	830
1970	312	798	1110
1975	360	734	1094
1980	352	1105	1457
1985	327	945	1272
1987*	206	981	1187
1990	267	2566*	2833
1995	345	2638	2983
2000	437	3189	3626
2005*	305	2278	2583
2010	521	2464	2985
2015	409	2638	3047
2017	481	2707	3188

Milestones. . .
Med-10
February 1st, 1988



Milestones. . .
The Bell





The IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial has completed the Web Site for which many have asked. Please pay close attention to the address (www.iaff-ffm.com) Note that separating the iaff and ffm is a dash - not a slash /.

We have included all the necessary information for your arrangements to attend the Memorial Observance September 14-16, 2000. There's even a Registration Form and something new, a Dinner Menu! We will be having a sit-down dinner this year so please make certain to choose your entree and include it in the space provided on the Registration Form.

You will also find historical information about the memorial; a list of the current Board of Directors; several attractive pictures of the Memorial, and even a Gift Shop for those of you who like to collect "T" shirts or posters. We encourage you to "double click" on any of the pictures within the Gift Shop to get an enlarged view of the items in which you might be interested.

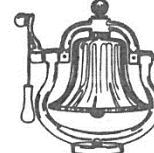
If you need additional information regarding the Gift Shop, please feel free to call 719-632-2313; leave a message and we will answer your call the next day. Or, you may call the office during our operating hours of Monday-Friday, 9-4 by calling 719-442-2014.

All-Wright-T's, owned and operated by Ron Wright, Founder and Director of Operations of the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial, operates the Gift Shop. All proceeds benefit the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. All-Wright-T's guarantees your satisfaction and as we expand, we will offer additional merchandise.

Dave Novotny, a Colorado Springs Fire Fighter, designed our Web Site and we are quite proud of the job he has done. Then with David's coaching and technical support, Office Manager Terry Murphy, spent a great deal of time creating the Upcoming Events and Current Tribute sections.

We hope you find all the necessary information. However, should you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to call our office between 9-4 Monday-Friday at 719-442-2014.

Dear Brothers & Sisters We Need Your Help



After the 1999 ceremony, many of you commented that you could not hear the bell.

During past Observances the Memorial has had to rely on a visiting Local to bring their fire bell to use while we are calling the names of our fallen heroes.

So . . . we're asking for your help. We would like to find two locals that would each be willing to donate a bell to the Memorial.

Upon receiving these bells we would have the Locals name and number engraved on a gold plate and mount this on the base of the bell.

After finding a home with the Memorial, we would closely guard and preserve these bells for all future ceremonies.

We would greatly appreciate your support in this matter!



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Manuel Navarro, Chief

August 14, 2000

Thomas Reid, Vice President
Local 1633, IAFF
929 Marshall Court
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172

Dear Mr. Reid:

Thank you for your donation of the bell from a 1975 American LaFrance Ladder Truck to the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial located in Colorado Springs. The bell you donated will become a permanent part of the annual memorial observance to call each name in last-alarm as the flags of honor are presented to the families of firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

My participation in this solemn event always proves to be a poignant experience as there are currently three names of firefighters that I worked with being honored for their courage and sacrifice. It will now have even more meaning knowing that the bell that is such an integral part of the ceremony was donated by your local, with the permission and assistance of Chief Omernik of the City of South Milwaukee Fire Department, after having been in service in South Milwaukee from 1975 to 1995.

I encourage you and your members to attend a Memorial Observance if at all possible. It is a very moving and meaningful observance, and I know the friends and family members of the men and women whose names appear on the wall appreciate the attendance of fire fighters throughout the nation.

Sincerely,



Manuel Navarro
Fire Chief

c: Chief Omernik, South Milwaukee Fire Department
Ron Wright, IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial



Fire Administration, 31 South Weber Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
719-385-5950 FAX 719-578-6027



A Brief History

Your Memorial Yesterday and Today...

Each September, the IAFF conducts a solemn ceremonial service at the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to honor the sacrifice made by professional fire fighters and paramedics who have given their lives in the line of duty during the previous year.

The IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial is a permanent tribute to IAFF members who make the ultimate sacrifice. The Memorial recognizes and honors professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel who are killed in the line of duty and provides emotional support to the surviving spouses and children of those members.

In 1989, the IAFF erected the first of two granite walls on this site, where the names of fallen IAFF members were etched as a silent tribute to their dedication above and beyond the call of duty. As the Wall of Honor filled to near capacity with names of fallen heroes, a second wall was erected just a few steps from the original wall. In a ceremony fraught with irony, this new memorial wall was dedicated on September 15, 2001, four days after terrorist attacks claimed 347 of our FDNY brothers.

In 2015, the Memorial was rebuilt to recognize the thousands who died since the founding of the IAFF on February 28, 1918, and to ensure those who fall in the line of duty in the future are properly honored.

The centerpiece of the Memorial is the original bronze sculpture of a fire fighter descending a ladder while cradling an infant in one arm. Towering 20 feet above the Memorial, "Somewhere, Everyday" epitomizes the courage and bravery displayed daily by IAFF members across North America.

The granite walls are a lasting tribute to those brave men and women so that they are always remembered, never forgotten. As part of the Memorial rebuild, the paved circular walkway was constructed to incorporate the original granite walls, laid within its foundation, as part of a "Family Band" to capture the history and preserve the memory of the early years of the Memorial and those it continues to honor.

Etched on the new walls are 3,830 historical line-of-duty deaths from February 28, 1918 to December 31, 1975, bringing the total names on these walls to 7,352.

The IAFF registered with the state of Colorado as a nonprofit corporation in 1988 and received a park license for Memorial Park.





Pictured is the 1975 American LaFrance Bell that was donated to the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial through the City of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the South Milwaukee IAFF Local 1633 to call in "Last Alarm" for all IAFF fire fighters killed in the line-of-duty. This bell was dedicated in September 2000. It was retired in September 2015 after it was used in the memorial's recommissioning ceremony. It rang for every IAFF member killed in the line-of-duty from 1918-2015.

The Last Alarm – INSIDE THE IAFF BELL CEREMONY

The men and women of today's fire service are confronted with a more dangerous work environment than ever before. We are forced to continually change our strategies and tactics to accomplish our tasks.

Our methods may change, but our goals remain the same as they were in the past — to save lives and to protect property, sometimes at a terrible cost. This is what we do, this is our chosen profession, and this is the tradition of the fire fighter.

The fire service of today is ever changing, but is steeped in traditions 200 years old. One such tradition is the sounding of a bell.

In the past, as fire fighters began their tour of duty, it was the bell that signaled the beginning of that day's shift. Throughout the day and night, each alarm was sounded by a bell, which summoned these brave souls to fight fires and to place their lives in jeopardy for the good of their fellow citizen. And when the

fire was out and the alarm had come to an end, it was the bell that signaled to all the completion of that call. When a fire fighter had died in the line of duty, paying the supreme sacrifice, it was the mournful toll of the bell that solemnly announced a comrade's passing.

Today, we use this tradition as a symbol that reflects honor and respect on those who have given so much and who have served so well. To symbolize the devotion that these brave souls dedicated to their duty, a special signal of three rings, three times each, represents the end of our brothers' and sisters' duties and that they will be returning to quarters.

And so, to those who have selflessly given their lives for the good of their fellow men and women, their tasks completed, their duties well done, to our fallen brothers and sisters, their Last Alarm, they are going home.



During its time at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Park in Colorado Springs, the bell would toll for 2,162 fallen firefighters, including the 343 that died in the attack on the World Trade Centers in New York City.

It would serve this solemn, but prestigious, purpose until the Memorial Park was redesigned in 2015 and the bell was, once again, retired.



We do what most others can't . . .



Rescue Boats



Confined Space Rescue



Bariatric Patient Movement



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at our website @**

www.smfdwi.org