

Remarks of Peter Carozza, Chairman  
Fire Prevention and Control Commission  
State of Connecticut

Thank you and good afternoon  
It is heartwarming to see so many of you here today

On behalf of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control our state fire administrator and the entire staff here at the Connecticut State Fire Academy we welcome each and every one of you here today

Our Commissioner, Dora Schriro, elected officials and our family and friends who came here today to pay your respects and to celebrate and commemorate your loved ones at this year's memorial service.

We hope that this monument and this ceremony give you a sense of pride for what your loved ones meant to all of us and to their community and state.

I must start by thanking our staff here at the Fire Academy for the outstanding work they do all year long to maintain this sacred place and who have done so much to make this day a meaningful, memorable experience for our families.

Although no monument no wall of honor can bring your loved one back to us, what this beautiful memorial and today's ceremony can do is help us place the service and sacrifice of our brothers and sisters for most in our hearts.

This monument will bear the names of your loved ones for eternity..... there are so many names engraved here aligned in rows over many periods of time so many names that you don't know but every name tells a story ... every name represents a personal journey, a triumph and sadly a tragic ending.

Today we add the names of four of our members  
Francis Dwyer, Enfield Fire Department, Fredrick Letsch, Fairfield Fire Department, Kevin Bell, Hartford Fire Department and Edward Baschin, Baltic Fire Department

We know nothing said today can fill the void left behind when one of yours one of ours fails not to return home.

All we hope is that our words and the presence of your loved ones firefighting family make it clear to you that we are left with a hole in our hearts that remains open we miss them tremendously and we know that you miss them more.

We will keep reminding you and our elected officials that your loved ones --career or volunteer did the hardest job imaginable and they did it well. They came to the aid of strangers no questions asked they protected their communities they comforted those in need they fought the flames and exposed themselves to occupational disease, defended the lives of those who could not defend themselves and they led people to safety who had no way out all at their own personal risk

If there is one thing the firefighting family does well it is making sure that the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten.. If there is one thing our family does well it is celebrating the lives of our fallen.

So today we gather here to celebrate their service we celebrate their sacrifice and their duty

God bless all of you and may God bless our fire fighters, our veterans and the members of our armed forces who are on the front lines each and every day

Thank you