

LAFD

# Memorial Grand Opening

LAFD Museum opens and dedicates its Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

*Story and photos courtesy Frank Borden, Director of Operations, LAFD Historical Society*

The LAFD Historical Society cut the ribbon and dedicated its Fallen Firefighter Memorial and held an open house Aug. 17.

The LAFD Fallen Firefighters Memorial has 254 names of members of the LAFD who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Open House coincided with the Ribbon Cutting to invite the public in to see the Museum and Memorial. This event gave everyone an opportunity to see what has been accomplished since the Museum was opened in 2001. The Memorial has been under construction for four

years and so far has cost \$2.3 million, raised mainly through individual donations.

The 122-plus year history of the Los Angeles Fire Department has been one of the most inspiring and courageous on record. Yet, in the long history of the department, there has not been a place to remember and memorialize those members of the department who gave their lives so that others might live. Now, for the first time, there is.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial is situated in the heart of Hollywood, just outside Old Fire Station 27 on Cahuenga Boulevard. The dramatic plaza is home to a memorial wall, listing the names of every known department member who died while on active duty.



The Memorial wall and statues. This is known as the "Wall of Honor," containing 254 names of LAFD members who gave their life in the line of duty since 1885.

In front of this wall, a series of bronze statues, each one carefully representing an LA firefighter is on display. The concept for these statues was designed by Los Angeles Fire Capt. Duane Golden.

The statues represent a fire company during an incident in the City. Two firefighters are involved in fire attack, while a fallen member is being attended to by another member. The Captain, responsible for his crew and the fire, is making a command decision relative to attacking the flames, while also providing care for the downed firefighter. Of special note, the firefighters are not wearing protective face pieces (as they normally would) so that you can see their faces and expressions.

The display can be viewed for an extended period of time. Its message seems to change, depending on the angle and point of view you take. From any angle, the teamwork, spirit, and family nature of the fire service is presented. These remarkable life-sized statues were developed and created in Minnesota for the Memorial Plaza by Honors for Excellence.

Please support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Los Angeles. Purchase a memorial paver and dedicate it to a family member, a friend, or a firefighter from anywhere around the world. The paver will be permanently placed in the memorial plaza in front of Fire Station 27 for all visitors to see and admire.

Check the website at: [www.lafdmuseum.org](http://www.lafdmuseum.org) for information on donating and upcoming events.



Wishire the Fire Dog performs a "Stop Drop and Roll" for his handler, LA City Firefighter Ryan Penrod.



The entrance to Memorial Plaza and Museum. The Museum and Memorial are at 1355 N. Cahuenga Blvd. in Hollywood.



Cutting the ribbon and opening the LAFD Fallen Firefighter Memorial was Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, assisted by Councilmen Eric Garcetti and Dennis Zine. To Councilman LaBonge's right is Liz Bamattre, LAFDHS Memorial Committee member and wife of former Fire Chief Bill Bamattre.

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