



LAFD Color Guard brings in the flags to open the event.



LAFD helicopters fly over at the end of the program in the "missing man formation" in honor of those members who have died in the service to the City.



Uniformed LAFD members observe the ceremony.



LAFD Chaplain Danny Leon speaks about the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by our Firefighters in the line of duty. Danny is an Apparatus Operator for the Department. He is also a brick mason, and he and his father and son did much of the brickwork in the Fallen Firefighters Memorial.



Marlene Peterman and her son, Firefighter Douglas Peterman, pay tribute to her late husband, Capt. Raymond Peterman.



Jessica Urquiza gives a beautiful speech about her father, Firefighter Ralph Urquiza, who passed away in 2009. Jessica plans to graduate from high school and go on to nursing school.



A paver pays tribute to Firefighter Urquiza, who passed away in 2009.



A family member pays tribute with a red rose at the Memorial Wall.



The Memorial Flame. The inscription on the limestone arch of the memorial monument reminds us to never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by the 263 LAFD members who are identified on the Wall of Honor.



A red rose placed on the Wall of Honor is in remembrance of one of the LAFD members listed on the wall.



Story by Gedina Bergstrom, Club Counselor, and Frank Borden and Ted Aquaro, LAFD Historical Society; Photos by Gedina Bergstrom

On Oct. 13, many people gathered at the LAFD Historical Society in Hollywood to honor those Firefighters that we have lost. It was a super hot, sunny day, and there wasn't a dry eye when Jessica Urquiza spoke about the loss of her father and how she has had to grow up over the past three years.

The 126-year history of the LAFD 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 there is.

The Fallen Firefighters 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 at an incident or as a result of a duty-related cause.

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 LAFD 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



Chief Brian Cummings (second-generation LAFD) speaks about the job of the Firefighters and the dangers involved in their work.



LAFD Chaplain Mark Wolfe.



From left: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member; Chief Brian Cummings; Commissioner Geneathia Hudley-Hayes; and Commissioner Steven R. Fazio.



The LAFD Fallen Firefighters Memorial: Three of the five life-size bronze statues depict "Man Down."

LAFD

Remembering the Fallen Firefighters

LAFD Historical Society hosts annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony.

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 is one you can view 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.



Commissioner Geneathia Hudley-Hayes speaks about how much the members of the LAFD mean to her and how she has enjoyed her job for eight years.



Master of Ceremonies Capt. Steve Owens did an outstanding job. He recently retired from FS 76.



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa speaks from the podium at his last LAFD Memorial as mayor.



LAFD Bagpiper Retired Firefighter/Paramedic John Keys.



Retired Capt. Jim Finn, LAFD Historical Society President, reads the names of those LAFD members who passed away during the last year.



The Wall of Honor contains 263 names of LAFD members who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



LAFD aerial ladder trucks with crossed ladders and the American Flag welcome guests to the ceremony.



Host Capt. Steve Owens and Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, exchange warm greetings.



Faith First sings the National Anthem.



An LAFD Explorer Post 27 lineup of Fire Cadets awaits the opening of the ceremony. These young people assisted the LAFD Historical Society volunteers in setting up for the program.