



ARIZONA FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 10, 2025

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM (Arizona Time)

Location: Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona Office, 61 E. Columbus Ave., Phoenix, AZ / via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Arizona Fallen Firefighters Memorial Committee was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chair Dan Freiberg. A quorum was present.

Present: Dan Freiberg (Chair), David Breeckner, Thomas Torres, Gordy Cunningham joined, Timothy Tait, Mike Colletto, and Chief Jake Rhoades.

Also present: Crystal McCracken, Administrative Assistant. Ben Norris Attorney General's Office/legal advisor.

2. Welcoming Remarks

Chair Freiberg opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Ben Norris announced his retirement effective at the end of 2025.

4. Review of Statutory Authorities Responsibilities

Ben Norris summarized the Committee's duties under A.R.S. §41-1861 through 1863 and under A.R.S. §41-1808, including setting memorial standards, determining eligibility for inclusion, maintaining the memorial, and conducting the annual ceremony. The Committee is required to meet biannually in January and May, with additional meetings permitted.

The Committee discussed inconsistencies regarding when names are added to the wall. Members proposed adopting a fiscal year cycle (July 1–June 30) to determine eligibility for the following January ceremony. Ben Norris confirmed this is authorized under A.R.S. §41-1862(A)(1)–(2). Chair Freiberg directed that development of a standards and timeline policy be added to the next agenda.

David Breeckner suggested scheduling a third meeting each year between June and January to finalize eligibility. The Committee agreed this would aid in logistics and family communications.

The Committee discussed improving public access. David Breeckner volunteered to contact the Arizona State Library to correct the broken link to AZFirefighterMemorial.com. Crystal McCracken confirmed that the current website remains active and compliant.

5. Tuition Waiver Scholarship Review

The Committee reviewed the tuition waiver application for Hudson Yule, son of Scottsdale Firefighter Corey Yule, for attendance at Arizona State University in Fall 2026.



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Motion: To approve the tuition waiver for Hudson Yule.

Motion by: Gordy Cunningham

Seconded by: Mike Colletto

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Review of Proposed Memorial Names

The Committee reviewed the proposed list of names for the 2025 Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial. The following were approved for addition to the Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial and for recognition at the ceremony currently set for January 11, 2026.

-Ron Bird

Mesa Fire Department – Date of Death: August 1, 1990

Recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial (Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2025 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Charles Inman

Mesa Fire Department – Date of Death: December 17, 1996

Recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial (Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2025 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Pat Brown

Mesa Fire Department – Date of Death: August 21, 2007

Recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial (Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2025 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Steven K. Keffer

Adventure Medics – Date of Death: August 8, 2023

Recognized by the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Don E. Williams

Phoenix Fire Department – Date of Death: September 24, 2024

Recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial (Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2025 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Shane J. Gage

Copper Canyon Fire and Medical District – Date of Death: September 27, 2024

Recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial (Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2025 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Scott Leatham

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue – Date of Death: December 19, 2024

Recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial



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(Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2025 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in May 2025.

-Anthony Mock

Phoenix Fire Department – Date of Death: January 22, 2025

To be recognized by the International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial (Colorado Springs, Colorado) in September 2026 and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial (Emmitsburg, Maryland) in September 2026.

Motion: To approve all firefighter names listed on the posted agenda as a group.

Motion by: David Breeckner

Seconded by: Jake Rhoades

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Gordy Cunningham presented additional names identified after the agenda was posted. Ben Norris advised that the Committee could not take action on those names until properly noticed in accordance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to schedule an additional meeting on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 1:00 PM. The notice and agenda will be posted by Thursday, November 13, 2025, to ensure compliance with the 24-hour posting requirement.

7. Discussion of Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2025, at 1:00 PM to approve additional names and discuss the development of standards and timeline policy.

8. Call to the Public

No members of the public were present or requested to speak.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Freiberg declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Date Approved: November 14, 2025