



ARIZONA FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

ARIZONA FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

2:00 PM – 2:28 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 2:05 PM by Chair Dan Freiberg. A quorum was present.

Chair Freiberg welcomed attendees and thanked the Committee for its continued work honoring Arizona's fallen firefighters and supporting the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Present: Dan Freiberg (Chair), Mike Colletto, Thomas Torres, Timothy Tait, Gordon Cunningham, and Chief John Whitney.

Absent: Dr. David Breeckner

Also present: Nathan Whelihan, Assistant Attorney General legal advisor; Crystal McCracken, Administrative Support; Zion Gabriel Groom Miller (remote applicant).

Assistant Attorney General Nathan Whelihan noted that the Committee has two vacant Governor-appointed positions. The Committee currently has seven of its nine authorized positions filled.

2. Welcoming Remarks

Chair Freiberg welcomed everyone in attendance. Committee members introduced themselves both in person and via Zoom.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November 14, 2025 meeting minutes were previously distributed and posted for review.

Motion: To approve the November 14, 2025 meeting minutes as presented

Motion by: Mike Colletto

Seconded by: Thomas Torres

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.



ARIZONA FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

4. Review of Statutory Authorities Responsibilities

Assistant Attorney General Nathan Whelihan provided an overview of the Committee's statutory responsibilities under A.R.S. §§ 41-1861 through 41-1863 and A.R.S. § 15-1808, including responsibilities for maintaining the Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial, conducting the annual memorial ceremony, and administering the tuition waiver program.

Assistant Attorney General Nathan Whelihan noted that Arizona statute provides for the Committee to meet twice each year, in January and May. Chair Freiberg explained that the Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony was previously held in October; however, due to the extreme heat, the ceremony was moved to January. The Committee has since adjusted its meeting schedule and now typically meets in July and October to better accommodate planning for the annual memorial ceremony while continuing to fulfill its statutory responsibilities.

5. Tuition Waiver Scholarship Review

The Committee reviewed the tuition waiver application for Zion Gabriel Groom Miller, stepson of Granite Mountain Hotshot Robert E. Caldwell, for attendance at Northern Arizona University beginning Fall 2026.

Crystal McCracken advised the Committee that the supporting documentation was on file and provided copies of the marriage certificate and birth certificate to Assistant Attorney General Nathan Whelihan for review during the meeting.

Mr. Whelihan reviewed the documentation during the meeting and confirmed that it satisfied the statutory eligibility requirements. The Committee then proceeded with consideration of the tuition waiver application.

During discussion, Committee members asked how long the tuition waiver benefit remains available. Mr. Whelihan explained that the benefit applies for the student's course of study in accordance with the governing statute.

Motion: To approve the tuition waiver for Zion Gabriel Groom Miller.

Motion by: Mike Colletto

Seconded by: Gordon Cunningham

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, the Committee thanked Zion for attending the meeting and for sharing his stepfather, Robert E. Caldwell, with the public service community. Mr. Miller expressed his appreciation to the Committee for its support.



ARIZONA FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

6. Discussion of Future Meeting Dates

The Committee discussed scheduling its next meeting for October 2026. The agenda will include review of firefighters eligible for recognition at the next Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony, as well as discussion of a formal timeline and approval process for adding names to the memorial to ensure consistency from year to year. Crystal McCracken will coordinate scheduling the October meeting and prepare the agenda.

7. Call to the Public

Chair Freiberg made a Call to the Public, but it did not appear that any members of the public were in attendance and no members of the public requested to speak.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Freiberg declared the meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Date Approved: _____