

ERIE COUNTY FIRE SERVICES "WALL OF HONOR"

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Purpose: The Erie County Fire Services "Wall of Honor" is created to serve as public recognition honoring those members of Erie County's fire service who have demonstrated through their dedication, talents and sacrifice, virtues promoting fire service values.

Location: The "Wall of Honor" is located at the Erie County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Training & Operations Center, 3359 Broadway Cheektowaga NY.

History: By resolution passed by the Erie County Legislature dated April 1, 2004 establishing funding for the creation of a "Wall of Honor" honoring those career and volunteer firefighters in Erie County who have sacrificed so much protecting lives and property in Erie County.

The Erie County Legislature authorized the Erie County Fire Advisory to receive and review nominations of career and volunteer firefighters in Erie County for inclusion on the "Wall of Honor" and to grant their induction and placement on the "Wall of Honor".

Funding: Original funding for the "Wall of Honor" was provided by Legislators Charles M. Swanick, Legislator Raymond K. Dusza, Legislator Jeanne Z. Chase, Legislator Timothy M. Wroblewski, Legislator Elise M. Cusack and Legislator Steven McCarville.

Intent: The "Wall of Honor" by Erie County legislative resolution is to be located prominently at the Erie County Emergency Services Training and Operations Center in Cheektowaga, maintained by the Erie County Department of Emergency Services, serving as an appropriate memorial to those courageous individuals who have chosen to protect us all from harm.

Description: The "Wall of Honor" is made up of individual black plates boarded in silver, raised off the wall and emblazed with the United States Flag.

- Each plate is inscribed in "Serif Font" with the names and departments in mixed capital letters, of those firefighters who have been included onto the "Wall of Honor".
- The Honoree's last name arranged vertically in all capital letters with the first letter of the person's last name centered just below the horizontal first name
- The Honoree's fire agency shall be affixed below the last name
- A black band outlined in silver applied at the bottom of the plate with a red strip through the center of the band shall signify that the individual lost their life in the Line of Duty

Book of Honor: A "Book of Honor" containing the nomination letters for those memorialized on the "Wall of Honor" shall be prominently positioned at the "Wall of Honor" for public viewing, in-order for all to learn of the of the commitment, accomplishments, dedication and were appropriate the sacrifice of those here honored.

“Wall of Honor” Committee: The Erie County Fire Advisory Board in accordance with its revised By-Laws dated April 2006, section – Committees: shall establish a standing “Wall of Honor sub-committee for the purpose of reviewing for compliance with “Wall of Honor” admission criteria.

Duties of the “Wall of Honor Sub-committee: The “Wall of Honor” sub-committee shall be responsible for the following:

- 1 – Receive and review letters of nomination for placement on the “Wall of Honor” in accordance with established election criteria
- 2 – Communicate with the nominating agency to satisfy questions regarding the “Wall of Honor” selection criteria and provide advise regarding qualifying requirements and advise as may be appropriate to support a weak or incomplete nomination letter.
- 3 – Report findings to the Fire Advisory Board and make recommendations for full Fire Advisory Board action approving or disapproving each nominee’s inclusion on the “Wall of Honor”.

Nomination Process: A letter of nomination must be submitted to the Erie County Fire Advisory Board nominating a current or past member of the fire service in Erie County. This letter of nomination must be on the nominating agency’s stationary and must include details in support of the nominee’s inclusion/placement on the “Wall of Honor”. (See Selection Criteria) Nomination letters must be received by the Erie County Fire Advisory Board no later than June thirtieth (30th) of the nomination cycle, beginning on November 1st of each year and ending on June 30th of the following year.

Exception #1: On approval of the Erie County Fire Advisory Board, nominations for the Wall of Honor may be submitted on non-agency letterhead where said nomination is submitted by a fire service entity, i.e., New York State and Erie County Fire Instructors.

Nomination NOTE:

- 1 – The nominating agency must provide an agency contact and the nominee or nominee’s family contact information on a document, separate of the letter of nomination.
- 2 – The nomination process and selection criteria shall be published and posted in all appropriate venues and shared via all means available, i.e., Erie County Emergency Services website, annual correspondence to fire service agencies in Erie County, posters designed to promote agency nominations and inclusions in fire agency and community social/informational/educational events.
- 3 – There shall be a limit of two (2) nominations per fire agency per nomination period.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominee is or has been a member of a career or volunteer fire department/company in Erie County NY.
- Nominee has made a major contribution or has achieved significant accomplishments in the delivery of fire department/company services on a local, Erie County, New York State, and or National level.
- Nominee has demonstrated a significant positive community impact through fire suppression/prevention and or firefighter education activities
- Firefighters who lose their lives or are permanently disabled as a direct result of a Line of Duty event (as defined and recognized by the Federal Public Safety Officer Benefit Law) qualify for placement/inclusion on the “Wall of Honor” pending a nominating letter from their agency or group as defined in the **Nomination Process Exception**.

Execution of Inclusion Process: The Erie County Fire Advisory Board shall establish a “Wall of Honor” sub-committee, responsible for receiving and reviewing letters of nomination for compliance with the Selection Criteria.

- Letters of nomination for the “Wall of Honor” shall be on the nominating agency’s 85.x11inch letterhead stationery, (see Exception #1) written in the third person, in portrait format and addressed to the Erie County Fire Advisory Board.
- Letters of nomination shall be presented as correspondence at the next scheduled Fire Advisory Board meeting. These letters of nomination shall then be forwarded to the “Wall of Honor sub-committee for review.
- The “Wall of Honor” sub-committee shall notify the agency’s representative identified in the nomination letter that the subject nomination is under review. In the event the original letter of nomination does not satisfy requirements as stated in the “Wall of Honor” selection criteria, an ongoing dialog between the Wall of Honor” sub-committee and the agency representative is permissible. This dialog is intended to identify issues of failure to satisfy “Wall of Honor” selection criteria and provide appropriate support for the creation of a successful nomination letter if appropriate and compliant with identified selection criteria is attainable.

Note: All successful letters of nomination are displayed at the “Wall of Honor” in-order to proudly demonstrate the outstanding contributions made by Erie County’s fire fighters to the welfare and quality of life experienced in Erie County

Note: Letters of nomination must be received by the Fire Advisory Board within the period beginning November 1st of each year and ending on June 30th of the following year.

Nomination Letter Content:

- Full legal name of the nominee
- Nickname of the nominee if inclusion is relevant to familiarization with the nominee
- Years of service to the nominating agency
- Additional fire service agencies where the nominee has served
- Supporting documentation for submitting this nomination. This may include a description of the nominee’s contributions, impact and or positive influence the nominee has made on emergency fire services and public safety
- A single or a history of outstanding dramatic fire service experiences may support a successful letter of nomination.
- High resolution photo of the nominee in uniform or professional dress attire
- High resolution photo of the nominee’s primary fire agency’s uniform patch/insignia

Induction Ceremony: New additions to the “Wall of Honor” shall be inducted in the month of October each year. The inductee’s agency and family shall be invited to attend a ceremony to be held at the “Wall of Honor” where the inductee’s plaque will be unveiled. A proclamation signed by the Erie County Executive, recognizing the nominee’s inclusion on the “Wall of Honor” and exceptional service to community will also be presented to each inductee.

A copy of the County Executive’s proclamation shall be provided to the nominating agency for display at their facilities.

A news agency release regarding the annual “Wall of Honor” induction shall be created and distributed to the Buffalo News, the inductee’s local community newspaper, The Erie County Volunteer Fire Fighter Newspaper and other appropriate firefighter publications, i.e., Fireman’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY) “Volunteer Firefighter” magazine, New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (NYSAFC) “Sizeup” magazine.

Notification of a Declined Nomination: In the event the Fire Advisory Board “Wall of Honor” sub-committee finds that an agency’s nomination material does not meet the “Wall of Honor” selection criteria. The “Wall of Honor” sub-committee shall notify the Fire Advisory Board in writing that based on material presented the committee does not recommend inclusion of the subject nominee.

Written documentation of the “Wall of Honor” sub-committee’s findings must contain a complete explanation of their findings and conclusion. The Fire Advisory Board will consider the “Wall of Honor” sub-committee’s recommendation and cause the Fire advisory Board to notify the nominating agency in writing that as submitted the nomination material submitted does not meet documented criteria for inclusion on the “Wall of Honor”. This notification shall include a description of absent or inadequate material needed to support further consideration for inclusion on to the “Wall of Honor”. A copy of this notification letter declining placement onto the “Wall of Honor” shall be maintained by the Erie County Division of Fire Safety as a “Wall of Honor” historic record as may be needed for the possibility of future reference.

Reference: Erie County Legislative resolution authorizing a “Wall of Honor” 8th Session of the Erie County Legislature dated April 1, 2004