

# ERIE COUNTY FIRE SERVICES “WALL OF HONOR”

## Erie County Fire Services “Wall of Honor”

revised 8/2025

**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, N.Y.

**History:** By resolution passed by the Erie County on the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session 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.

**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.

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

**Administration:** The Erie County Legislature authorized the Erie County Fire Advisory Board to receive and review nominations of career and volunteer firefighters in Erie County for inclusion on the “Wall of Honor” and so grant their induction and placement on the “Wall of Honor”.

**Description:** The “Wall of Honor” is made up of individual black plates boarded in silver, raised off the wall, and emblazoned 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 on the “Wall of Honor”
- The Honorees surname is arranged vertically in all capital letters, with the first letter of the person’s surname just below the horizontal Honoree’s first name
- The Honoree’s fire agency shall be placed below the Honoree’s surname.
- 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 Honoree lost their Life in the Line of Duty.

**Book of Honor:** A “Book of Honor” containing nomination letters for those memorialized on the “Wall of Honor” shall be prominently positioned at the “Wall of Honor” for public viewing.

The public is encouraged to use this Book to learn of the commitment, accomplishments, and dedication, of those here honored.

**“Wall of Honor” Sub-committee:** The Erie County Fire Advisory Board, in accordance with its revised By-Laws dated April 2006, section – Committees: shall establish a standing 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 of letters of nomination for placement on the “Wall of Honor”
- 2 – Communicate with the nominating agency to satisfy questions regarding the “Wall of Honor”.
- 3 – Report findings to the Fire Advisory Board and make recommendations for full Fire Advisory action approving or disapproving each nominee’s inclusion on the “Wall of Honor”

**Nomination:** A letter of nomination must be submitted to the Erie County Fire Advisory Board nominating a current or past member of the service in Erie County New York. This letter of nomination must be on the nominating agency’s stationary and must include details in support of their nomination. (see Selection Criteria)  
Nomination letters must be received by the Erie County Advisory Board no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> of the nomination cycle. The nomination cycle begins on November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and ends on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

- 1 – The nomination must include an agency contact and the nominee’s family, contact information, on a document, separate from the letter of nomination.
- 2 – The nomination process and selection criteria shall be published and posted in appropriate venues and shared via available means, i.e., Erie County Emergency Services website, and annual correspondence to fire service agencies in Erie County.
- 3 – There shall be a limit of two (2) nominations per fire agency per nomination period.

**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 County Fire Instructors.

**Exception #2:** There shall be no limit of fire agency nominations per period where a nominee or nominees have suffered a Line of Duty Death and or have suffered catastrophic injury in the Line of Duty. Catastrophic Injury shall be defined as described in the Federal Public Safety Benefit Law.

**Nomination Note:** All nominations must be sent via U.S. Mail addressed to the Erie County Fire Advisory Board

**Nomination Process:** The Erie County Fire Advisory Board shall establish a “Wall of Honor” subcommittee, responsible for receiving and reviewing letter of nomination for compliance with the Selection Criteria.

**Selection Criteria:**

- All letters of “Wall of Honor” nomination for must be sent hard copy on the nominating agency’s 8x11 inch letterhead stationery. (see Nomination Process Exception #1), written in the third person, and addressed to the Erie County Fire Advisory Board
- 1 – Letters of nomination shall be forwarded to the “Wall of Honor Sub-Committee for action.
  - 2 – The “Wall of Honor” Sub-committee shall notify the nominating agency’s designated representative of receipt of the letter (s) of nomination and have placed the letter or letters under review.
  - 4 – Should a letter of nomination fail to support the nominee’s placement on the “Wall of Honor” an ongoing dialogue between the ‘Wall of Honor” Sub-Committee and the agency’s representative is permissible. This dialog is intended to identify issues of failure to satisfy “Wall of Honor” selection criteria and if appropriate provide support for the creation of a successful nomination letter.
  - 5 – Nominee is or has been a member of a career or volunteer fire department/company in Erie County New York.
  - 6 – The nominee’s fire-related activities and achievements must have extended beyond their own department/company into the community. Community being, Village, Town, City, County, State, and/or on the National level.
  - 7 – The nominee has demonstrated a significant positive community impact through fire suppression and prevention, as well as firefighter education activities.
  - 8 – Firefighters who lose their lives or suffer catastrophic injury resulting from a Line of Duty Injury are automatically qualified for placement on the Erie County Firefighter “Wall of Honor”.

**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 firefighters supporting the welfare and quality of life experienced in Erie County New York.

**Nomination Letter Content:**

- a) Full legal name of the nominee
- b) Nickname of the nominee, if inclusion is relevant to familiarization with the nominee
- c) Years of service to the nominating agency
- d) Additional fire service agencies where the nominee has served
- e) Supporting documentation for submitting this nomination. This may include a description of the nominee’s contributions, impact, and positive influence the nominee has made on emergency fire services and public safety
- f) A history of outstanding dramatic fire service experiences, or a single dramatic event may support a successful letter of nomination
- g) High-resolution photo of the nominee in uniform or professional dress attire
- h) 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 is unveiled and the letter of nomination is read. A proclamation signed by the Erie County Executive, recognizing the nominee's inclusion on the "Wall of Honor" and exceptional service to the 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 facility.

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., Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) magazine, New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (NYSAFC) "Sizeup" magazine.

**Notification of a Declined Nomination:**

In the event of a "Wall of Honor" sub-committee finds that an agency's nomination material does not meet "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 sub-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 conclusions. The Fire Advisory Board will consider the "Wall of Honor" sub-committee's recommendation and notify the nominating agency in writing that, as submitted, the nomination material 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 the "Wall of Honor". A copy of the 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.