

A NOTE FROM MY B.U.D.*

THE WALK OF HONOR®

By Kevin Gerarden



We recently received a couple of inquiries about “buying a brick” at the National Fallen Firefighters’ Memorial Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In case there are some of you who have not heard, the National Fire Academy (NFA) campus is home to this monument to our nation’s fallen firefighters, and includes the Walk of Honor®, featuring bricks dedicated in memory of the fallen, or in recognition of our colleagues in the fire service. Inscriptions on the bricks are submitted by each donor, and the bricks are installed twice each year by park staff.

The inquiries were made by individuals who knew, as perhaps even more of you have not heard, that a portion of one section of the Walk was established by our Society as a means of supporting the mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), while recognizing leaders in Wisconsin’s fire service training community. Bricks in this section have recognized State Training Directors, Society Presidents, and recipients of our Instructor of the Year award; however, bricks are not limited to these categories.

In recent years, fiscal circumstances have compelled us to scale back the frequency of our support for the NFFF, but by no means does it prevent any of our members, individually or in concert, from causing bricks to be added to our section. One possible example for consideration is the placement of a logo brick bearing our updated logo and name. Another instance may be pooled contributions by members of the NFA classes we host at our Annual Conference, in the name of the course instructor.

Details about the NFFF Walk of Honor® may be accessed online at:
<https://www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighters/memorial-park/walk-honor/>

In this most unusual year, marked by all manner of upheaval and strife, it may speak well of us if we can demonstrate our ability to remember, in permanent ways, those who have gone before us in bravery and service. Please consider what part you may be able to play in this endeavor, and do not be afraid to share your thoughts in this or in our other arenas.

Thanks!

Kevin G.

*A Note From My B.U.D. (Big Ugly Desk) threatens to be a quarterly feature for the newsletter of the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors. All opinions expressed are those of the author, who would be grateful for any feedback and discussion.