

The Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial

Shortly after funds were appropriated for the new Florida State Fire College, Fire Chief John Wright, now retired from the DeLand Fire Department, proposed that a memorial be erected at the Fire College dedicated to those Florida firefighters who had made the supreme sacrifice. Within two years, over fifty thousand dollars had been collected from donors who came from all walks of life, including career and volunteer firefighters of every rank, civilians, and fire service organizations. Virtually every firefighter in Florida contributed to the memorial.

Artist Don Murray of Gainesville, Florida, whose father was a firefighter, was commissioned to create the statue that has become the focal point of the *Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial*. The life size bronze statue of a firefighter does not depict the type of heroic pose we often see, but is instead modeled in a pose that is in keeping with the purpose and meaning of the memorial, that being a "Firefighter at Rest". The base of the memorial was designed by Fire College staff, and was constructed by them with assistance from professional masons.

The *Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial* was dedicated on January 11, 1992, and occupies a place of honor at the center of the Florida State Fire College campus. The Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services and the staff of the FSFC maintain the memorial in perpetuity.

While visiting the memorial, please remember that this small piece of earth is dedicated to the memory of those who have given their lives so that others might live.

-This is truly hallowed ground-