

**2018 Virginia Fallen Firefighters and Emergency Medical  
Services Memorial Service  
June 2, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.  
Richmond Raceway Complex – Main Exhibition Hall**

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Each year citizens, emergency response personnel, government officials, and public safety honor guard members gather to celebrate the courage and dedication of Virginia's fire services by honoring those Virginia firefighters who died serving our citizens. This is an annual service that honors firefighters who perished in the line of duty in accordance with the Virginia Line of Duty Death Act (§ 9.1-400).

**This years' service honors four Virginia firefighters:**

- **Roger Dale Johns**
  - Eagle Rock Volunteer Fire Department
  - Date of Death: May 19, 2017
  - Rank: Firefighter
  - Years of Service: 25
  
- **Kevin Lee Frye**
  - Manassas Fire and Rescue Department
  - Date of Death: March 23, 2017
  - Rank: Senior Firefighter
  - Years of Service: 32
  
- **Willard C. "Bill" Meiggs, III**
  - Chesapeake Fire Department
  - Date of Death: April 15, 2016
  - Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic
  - Years of Service: 20
  
- **Darrell C. Hamlett**
  - Lynchburg Fire Department
  - Date of Death: October 4, 2016
  - Rank: Captain
  - Years of Service: 38

## 2018 Virginia Fallen Firefighters Biographies

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### Firefighter Roger Dale Johns Eagle Rock Volunteer Fire Department



Roger Dale Johns passed away on Friday, May 19, 2017 responding to a call much like he did for more than 25 years. He was a giving man; serving his country, community, and the wellbeing of others. Roger was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, a volunteer with the Eagle Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and an organ donor.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles "Lindy" Johns. He is survived by his wife, Missy Johns; mother, Marie Johns of Eagle Rock; daughter, Missy Doss of Blacksburg; sons, Christopher Johns of

Fredericksburg; Cullen Johns of Roanoke; Adam Johns of Fincastle; step-children, Carri, Corey, and Chad Sparks; numerous grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and David Williams of North Canton, OH; brother and sister-in-law, Darryl and Tina Johns of Eagle Rock; and former wife, Amy Sartin of Covington.

In a community where neighbors help neighbors and everyone knows everybody, Roger will be sorely missed by so very many.

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## **Senior Firefighter Kevin Lee Frye Manassas Fire and Rescue Department**

Kevin started with the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department on October 21, 1989 and retired with almost 27 years of service on August 1, 2016. He held the position of Lieutenant, served on the Health & Safety Committee, and was the Department's primary SCBA Technician. Kevin loved his job and proudly served the citizens of Manassas touching many lives throughout his career. Even while battling cancer, Kevin inspired, trained, mentored and lead by example.

Kevin was also a member of the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department from March 21, 1983 to September 22, 1994. He held the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief. He also served as the department Training Officer for several years.

He is survived by his wife Stacy and their two sons, Zachary and Tyler, along with many other family members.

He was an inspiration to us all.

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## Firefighter/Paramedic Willard C. "Bill" Meiggs, III Chesapeake Fire Department



He was a Firefighter/Paramedic and a member of the Chesapeake Hazmat Team serving as a Hazmat Specialist for over 10 years. He was a teacher, a mentor, and a friend to many. After the events of 9/11, Bill along with other members of the Chesapeake Fire Department traveled to New York City to aid in the recovery and cleanup efforts. As a result, Bill was diagnosed with cancer that was linked back to his trip to New York in 2008. When he was unable to ride on the unit any longer, he became the Department's EMS Logistics manager and managed the medical supply inventory for the Department.

We honor Bill by remembering the things that were important to him; his family, his career, his art, but most of his entire loving and giving attitude towards others. Bill always had a smile on his face and always had a kind word for everyone. He always put everyone else's needs before his own. It did not matter how bad he might have been feeling he was always smiling and laughing. He showed us what true courage was, how to smile through the pain, and how important it is to watch out for each other.

Bill is survived by his wife Kathleen, Son David "Sam" Meiggs and his wife Alexandria, his mother Carol Meiggs, and his brother Jon Paul Meiggs.

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## **Captain Darrel C. Hamlett Lynchburg Fire Department**

Darrell was a member of the Lynchburg Fire Department for 20 years. He began his firefighting career at the early age of 16 as a volunteer firefighter. Like many of us, it was during the early years as a volunteer where he began to understand the satisfaction that came from being a public servant. His commitment to community and service is what led him to the Lynchburg Fire Department and ultimately the rank of Captain. As a 20-year veteran, Darrell had both the life experiences and job skills necessary to be a positive role model, friend, and leader to the many people he encountered. This remained evident through his self-performance appraisal that was completed the spring before his untimely passing where he documented his goal for the next three years was, "to continue to guide and provide the leadership to employees working under me to have a positive impact to their own career development and professional goals."



Darrell was known for his commitment to his family along with his steady and consistent work ethic throughout his career no matter where he was assigned or what task he was given. He understood that the assignment did not make the employee; what made an employee was the exposure to strong, knowledgeable colleagues and an environment that was structured and positive with collaboration amongst peers.

Darrell is survived by his wife, Kathy, children, Craig and Lucy, parents, Earnest and Linda, sisters, Debra and Mandy, and brother Rodney.

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