

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRE AND POLICE MEMORIAL PUBLIC DEDICATION CEREMONY

Date: April 17, 2014



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What: Fire and Police Memorial Public Dedication Ceremony

Champaign, IL – In 2007, the Fire and Police Memorial Committee began a campaign to replace the dilapidated Fire and Police Memorial in West Side Park originally constructed in 1913. The memorial site is a tribute to Champaign Fire Fighters and Police Officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The memorial currently honors two police officers, Officer Thomas Dodsworth shot in 1913 and Officer Robert Tatman shot in 1967, and one firefighter, Fireman Edward Hoffman caught in a house fire back draft in 1960.

Since 2007, more than \$100,000 has been raised by the Fire and Police Memorial Committee. In March 2010, the committee completed Phase 1 of the project which included a granite centerpiece with bronze plaques, a flagpole, in-ground lighting, concrete base and brick pavers. More than 200 of the pavers have since been replaced with engraved bricks bearing messages from memorial donors. Phase 2 of the project included the installation of two life-size bronze statues. Phase 2 was completed when the statues were installed March 31, 2014. The dedication ceremony will include remarks from the Fire and Police Memorial Committee and Champaign Mayor Don Gerard. Families of the fallen will be honored by the Champaign Fire and Police Departments and an Honor Guard display will be conducted by Champaign Police Officers.

Who: Fire and Police Memorial Committee
Champaign Police Department
Champaign Fire Department
Mayor Don Gerard, City of Champaign

When: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 6 PM

Where: Fire and Police Memorial, northeast corner of West Side Park