MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOR FIVE FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS WHO DIED LAST YEAR IN THE LINE OF DUTY

CONTACT:
Nina Banister
(850) 413-2842

OCALA--The 2005 annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service will be held Saturday, October 15, 2005, at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala. Five firefighters who died in the line of duty last year will be recognized for their bravery and dedication to serving the public.

The fallen firefighters to be honored are Edward Peters, 40, from the Florida Division of Forestry, Tallahassee; David Mackie, 35, Orange City Fire Department, Orange City; Benjamin Lang, 22, Polk County Fire Department, Bartow; Robert Heighton, 40, South Walton Fire District, Santa Rosa Beach; and Randy Henderson, 42, USDA Forest Service, Bienville Ranger District, Forest, MS, Osceola National Forest.

The deaths of these five firefighters along with 126 others who have given their lives “will not be forgotten and will not be in vain,” said Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Tom Gallagher. “I speak for all Floridians when I say that we are extremely grateful to these men and women for answering the call to serve and to their families for their support of them.”

The above-mentioned firefighter’s names will be added to the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial at the State Fire College. This memorial includes firefighters who died as far back as 1885. These firefighters’ names will also be added to the Wall of Fallen Firefighters that was unveiled earlier this year. The Wall of Honor is located on the Plaza Level of the Capitol Building outside of the outer doors of State Fire Marshal Tom Gallagher’s office.

The memorial service is hosted by the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Service Organizations and concludes Fire Prevention Week, which began last Sunday.

Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service
8:30 a.m., Saturday, October 15, 2005
Florida State Fire College
11655 N.W. Gainesville Rd.
Ocala