

Monthly Message from the Chief

February 2011

The Executive Office continues to work with the Administration and the Legislature to ensure they have all the information needed to make informed decisions on matters affecting the Department's budget. I will keep you updated on the budget and its impact on the Department as it works its way through the Legislature in the coming weeks.



I would like to use the rest of my February message to highlight a very significant and historical milestone in our Department's history. I am pleased to announce that Bryan Zollner, former Staff Chief of Northern Operations, will have his name placed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. on May 15, 2011. Bryan, who died in the line of duty on April 12, 2007, will be the first CAL FIRE peace officer to have his name placed on the wall next to more than 19,000 other peace officers from around the country.

Bryan's name will also be added to the National Fallen Fire Fighter's Memorial in Emmetsburg, Maryland on October 14. The 2011 memorial will be especially significant since it also commemorates the 10 year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I'm sure it's no coincidence that CDF Firefighter's members were identified for leadership roles in this year's event given its additional significance to our nation and to our profession.

I would like to recognize retired Director Del Walters, Battalion Chief Mike Ramirez and Battalion Chief Bart Chambers for spearheading the considerable effort it took to make this happen.

Those of us who knew and worked with Bryan understood his work ethic, inspiration and true leadership abilities. Bryan was not alone. CAL FIRE is filled with great leaders, both past and present, who have the ability to touch the lives of those around them and inspire us to grow both personally and professionally.

I recently became aware of the actions of one of our engine companies that responded to a medical emergency involving an elderly woman during a winter storm. After providing medical assistance, the engine personnel shoveled the heavy snow from her walkway and stacked a supply of firewood to keep her family warm during the power outage. Whether we are supervising an engine company, administering a program or commanding an emergency incident, we each have an opportunity to be the inspiration and set the example.

Although we continue to face difficult fiscal times, our value to the citizens of California is clearly visible through the leadership we demonstrate and the caring and professional manner in which we serve.

Ken Pimlott, Chief
Acting Director