

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride to honor SIX Ohio Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths**

On Sunday May 26, 2019, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride (the FFMR) will take place starting at the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial, (the Memorial) in front of the Cleveland Science Center (east of Browns Stadium). As in past years, we will honor and remember Fallen Firefighters/Paramedics. During calendar year 2017 there were Ninety Three (93) Line of Duty deaths , the majority were cardiac or similar health issues. However, vehicle wrecks or roadway safety resulted in Twenty Three (23) Line of Duty deaths, caused by careless drivers not paying attention. Those line of duty deaths could have been prevented if the public were more aware of slowing down and pulling over when they see safety vehicles stopped on the road or highways.

John "KIKS" Kikol, President of the Firefighters Memorial Ride, indicated that the Firefighters Memorial Ride Ceremony at 9:30 AM will be honor and remember the following Six you Ohio Fallen Firefighters/ Paramedics:

**Madison Township-Kunkle FD-Ass't Chief Rodney D Baker - Last Alarm- March 16, 2018**

**Paint Creek FD Greenfield Ohio Firefighter Joseph M Patterson -Last Alarm- June 24, 2018**

**Cleveland Heights FD- Firefighter/Paramedic Mark R Reel- Last Alarm-September 7, 2018**

**Dayton FD- Firefighter/Paramedic Robert A Hetzer Jr-Last Alarm October 26, 2018**

**Liberty Township (Powell) FD–Firefighter/Paramedic- Darrel L Wasmer- Last Alarm November 5, 2018**

**Carroll Township FD-Oak Harbor- Firefighter Daniel J Lucius- Last Alarm November 15, 2018**

Monica Robins of WKYC will be the Master of Ceremonies and will open the 9:30 AM Ceremony with the singing of the National Anthem. Speakers include Cleveland Chief of Fire Angelo Calvillo. An estimated one thousand (1000) motorcycles are expected to stage their motorcycles on Alfred Lerner Way beginning at 8:00 AM until 9:15 AM. Additionally, the FFMR will award five \$1000 scholarships to students of Firefighters/EMS in NE Ohio. The FFMR processional ride will begin at 10:00 AM from downtown Cleveland at the Firefighters Memorial and travel through the following communities and their Fire Houses: Cleveland, Lakewood, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Westlake, Rocky River, Bay Village, and Avon Lake ending at Lake Erie- Harley-Davidson in Avon at approximately 11:30. The detailed route is available on our website [www.firefightersmemorialride.com](http://www.firefightersmemorialride.com).

This is a MEMORIAL ride to honor Ohio's Fallen Firefighters/EMS and will result in various intersections along the route being closed for approximately twenty minutes to allow the procession of motorcycles to wind its way from downtown Cleveland to Rock N Roll City Harley Davidson on the thirty-three-mile ride. The Ceremony and Processional Ride will take place regardless of the weather. Interested motorcyclists can still register at Rock N' Roll City Harley Davidson in Cleveland, this year's FFMR sponsor and destination for food and entertainment.

The public is invited to attend the 9:30 AM Ceremony and support the processional ride along the route. For more information please go to [www.firefightersmemorialride.com](http://www.firefightersmemorialride.com) or contact John "KIKS" Kikol, President of the FFMR at 440-263-8121.