



July 2026 Newsletter

In Memoriam



It is with deep sadness that we share the loss of **Fire Engineer, Neil Schnaible**, a seven-year veteran of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District.

A firefighter-paramedic who was recently promoted to the rank of engineer, Engineer Schnaible dedicated his life to serving and protecting others. He was a devoted husband and father, a valued member of his fire family, and a respected member of the community he proudly served.

We honor Engineer Schnaible's service, his sacrifice and the lasting impact he made on those who knew him. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and the members of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District during this difficult time. ❤️

Final Alarm: May 4, 2026

Celebrating Our 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Behind every scholarship is a story of courage, resilience, and hope. Each of our scholarship recipients has experienced the loss of a parent or spouse who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty as a first responder. We are honored to invest in their future, helping them pursue their educational goals while honoring the legacy of their loved one.

This year, we were privileged to award scholarships to 10 deserving recipients. With their permission, we're pleased to feature two scholarship recipients in this issue, with additional recipient spotlights to be shared in future newsletters. We invite you to join us in celebrating their achievements and honoring the legacy of their loved ones.



Amira De Guzman



Krystle Wurster

"My current educational goal is to pursue a degree in Political Science. The academic pursuit plays a part in my broader academic goals as I am passionate about Political Science and have an increasing interest in pursuing law in the future, and a solid foundation in my education is crucial to making contributions to this field."

"This scholarship is not just a financial aid for me, but also a stepping stone towards achieving my academic goals."

We congratulate Amira on this well-deserved scholarship and wish her every success as she pursues her educational goals.

"I've been inspired to pursue a career in psychology so I may serve my community and provide education-informed grief and trauma counseling for other families experiencing grief and loss. My goals are to complete licensure, specializing in grief and trauma counseling, and to seek working with first-responder organizations, families and communities to foster resilience and connection."

"Receiving this scholarship allows me to focus on coursework, practicum placements, and supervised clinical hours without the added burden of financial strain. The support also positively impacts our family and will potentially help bereaved families for years to come."

We congratulate Krystle on this well-deserved scholarship and wish her every success as she pursues her educational goals.

Our Board of Directors

Our mission is guided by seven dedicated board members who are deeply committed to supporting the families of fallen peace officers and firefighters. Each month, we'll introduce you to one of the leaders making this work possible.

Dirk Manoukian Board Member



Dirk began his career as a Deputy District Attorney in Contra Costa County and has spent more than 35 years serving alongside the first responders who protect our communities. His work has given him a deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by police officers, firefighters, and their families.

After 14 years as a prosecutor and nearly 20 years in private practice, Dirk returned to public service in 2024 to lead the Lake Tahoe branch of the Placer County District Attorney's Office. His experience in both the public and private sectors provides valuable insight into the challenges families and agencies face following a line-of-duty death.

The 2003 murder of Pittsburg Police Inspector Ray Giacomelli inspired Dirk's lifelong commitment to supporting the families of fallen first responders. In 2017, he joined Police and Fire: The Fallen Heroes, where he continues that mission.

Ways to Support Our Mission

Your generosity makes everything we do possible. Every donation helps us honor our fallen heroes by supporting the families they leave behind and funding programs that make a lasting difference. Through your support, we provide scholarships, assist families through our Help for Heroes program, and help equip law enforcement K9s with protective vests.

If you're looking for meaningful ways to give, we offer several convenient and impactful options:

PayPal and Venmo

Make a quick and secure donation online through PayPal or Venmo. These platforms make giving easy, whether you're making a one-time gift or becoming a recurring supporter. Visit thefallenheroes.org/donate.

Vehicle Donations

Have an unused car, truck, motorcycle, or other vehicle? Turn it into support for our mission. We partner with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to handle the pickup and paperwork. Your donation helps fund our programs while potentially providing you with a tax deduction. Visit careasy.org/Police-and-Fire-The-Fallen-Heroes.

Legacy Giving

Create a lasting legacy of hope and service by including The Fallen Heroes in your estate plans. Your planned gift helps ensure future generations of first responder families continue to receive the support they deserve.

Every gift, large or small, helps us provide educational scholarships, support families through our Help for Heroes program, supply life-saving protective vests for law enforcement K9s, and continue standing beside the families of our fallen heroes when they need it most.

Thank you for being part of our mission. We truly couldn't do this without you. ❤️

Stay connected: visit our website and follow us on social media

www.thefallenheroes.org



Police and Fire: The Fallen Heroes is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization - EIN #26-4835405

Police And Fire: The Fallen Heroes
2175 N. California Blvd
Suite 150
Walnut Creek, CA 94596 US

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