



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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Secretary White Honors Fallen Firefighters

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State Jesse White honored three Illinois firefighters who died in the line of duty last year during a ceremony marking May 19 as Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial Day.

The ceremony was held in front of the Firefighter Memorial Statue located on the State Capitol grounds. The statue was dedicated one year ago.

"We are here today to honor the courageous firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty," said White. "It is important that we pay tribute to them to let their families and their fellow firefighters know how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

"Last year we lost three heroes," added White. "We will never forget them."

The three Illinois firefighters killed in the line of duty last year were Ralph Loyd, Greenville Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Arthur Tullis, LaGrange Park Fire Department, and Assistant Chief Wayne Luecht, Northbrook Fire Department.

White said the Illinois Firefighter Memorial speaks volumes for Illinoisans' appreciation and respect for firefighters. The statue was built through a fund generated through the sale of Firefighter Memorial specialty license plates.

According to White, the funds generated from this point forward will be dedicated to the upkeep of the Memorial as well as a scholarship fund for the family members of

firefighters killed in the line of duty. The scholarship fund was created through legislation (SB 1241) pushed by White and the Illinois Firefighters Association this year. It was approved by the General Assembly and is awaiting final approval from the Governor.

"These firefighters gave their lives to protect their community," White said. "The very least we can do in return is honor their heroic deeds and help their families. We owe them that much."

