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MEDIA ALERT

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Seven Virginia Firefighters to be Honored at Annual Memorial Service *Special Tribute to K9s in Public Safety*

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA: – The 14th annual Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at the Richmond Raceway Complex Old Dominion Building. Seven firefighters who died in the line of duty or have been recognized by the Virginia Line of Duty Act in the last year will be honored for their bravery and dedicated public service.

The fallen firefighters to be honored are Assistant Chief *Carl Persing* of Dale City Volunteer Fire Department and City of Manassas, Firefighter *Timothy Pigg* of Amherst Volunteer Fire Department, Chief *Posey Dillon* of Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter *William "Danny" Altice* of Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter *William Harold "Hal" Clark* of Atlantic Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Battalion Chief *William Obenchain Jr.* of Roanoke Fire-EMS, and Firefighter *Zygimantas Zalys* of City of Manassas. In addition to honoring recently fallen firefighters, the memorial service will honor the memory of all Virginia firefighters who have given their lives in the service of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A special tribute to K9s who have served the Commonwealth in public safety efforts and have died in the past year is also planned.

Additionally, this year's service will include a keynote address by Dr. Kirby Kiefer, Acting Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, a Virginia Fire Services Honor Guard procession featuring the Saint Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums, a special 9/11 tribute musical performance by the Tussing Elementary School Choir, and a fire apparatus display from fire departments across the state. State flags will be presented to the families of the fallen firefighters.

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This year is also the first time in the history of the memorial service that it will be broadcast live over the internet. Viewers will be able to access a live feed at:

http://www.vbfdtraining.com/vbfd_media_page.html beginning at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, with preliminary information on the firefighters being honored, followed at 12 p.m. by the full service.

A reception, sponsored by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia State Firefighters Association, Virginia Professional Firefighters, and Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association, will be held for fallen firefighter family members and guests immediately following the service. Both the service and the reception are open to the public.

For more information on the Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, contact Mark L. Buff at (804) 249.1965 or visit www.vafire.com.

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