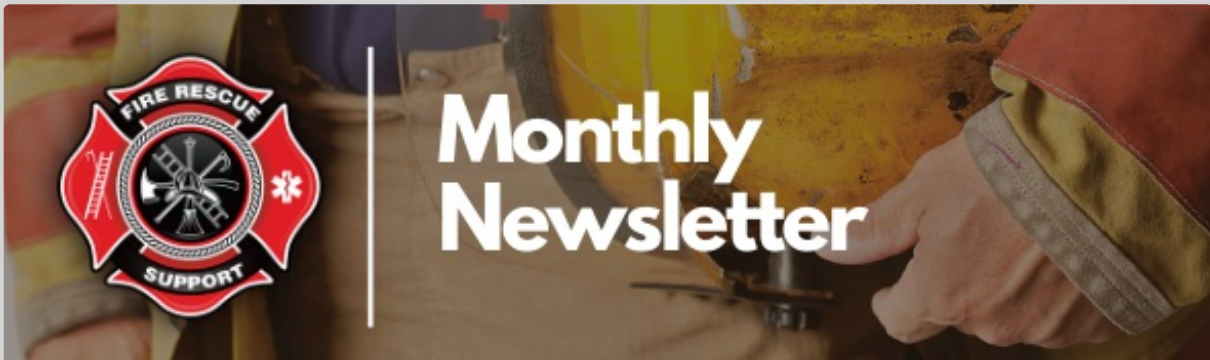


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May 2024



Conference in Review

The first ever Florida Fire Chaplains Conference was held at the Florida State Fire College April 15-17. Forty chaplains from across the state gathered for a time of training and networking. Guest speakers provided insight on a range of topics from the chaplains place on a fire ground to self-care. A highlight of the conference was touring the E-One and Hale Pump facilities in Ocala.

--Chaplain Joe LaCognata





National Day of Prayer

In Psalm 31:2 we read these words of David, “Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.”

David was not some run-of-the-mill Hebrew. He was a man after God’s own heart. He was the shepherd boy who killed a lion with his bare hands. He was a Type A, risk-taking, problem-solving guy. He would have looked good in bunker gear or a tactical vest.

And when this man needed somewhere to turn, he turned to God. So, join me for a word of prayer as together we turn to Him.

“Father, today we indeed ask You to turn toward us and join us. We ask You to be ever present in this place where I pause to pray for those who serve us every day as firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, law enforcement officers, and telecommunicators.

I pray You would rescue you from every trap and protect them from deadly disease. Cover them with Your feathers; shelter them with Your wings. I am thankful that Your faithful promises are their armor and protection. Because of Your presence, they do not need to be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. They will not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday.

Father, we are grateful for this day, a day that You have made. A day when those that are close to my heart are remembered before You. I thank You for those who have committed their lives to serving others; those who live out the truth that, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

I ask that You give them, as you gave Moses, leadership beyond their capacity; as You gave David, skill beyond their proficiency; and as You gave Solomon, wisdom beyond their ability.

Father, today I pray for those whose lives are marked by service and sacrifice; individuals who represent the very best of our community. We are grateful for their commitment to and compassion for those they serve.

But I know that this service comes with a cost. So, I pray that you would keep them safe. Safe from the dangers they face; dangers that can harm their bodies. Safe from the stress they carry; stress that can harm their minds. Safe from the trauma they see; trauma that can harm their souls. Be their refuge and fortress – a place they can retreat to for safety and security.

And now, Lord, I pray that You would bless and keep our first responders; that You would make Your face shine upon them and be gracious to them; and that You would turn Your face toward them and give them peace.

In Jesus' Name. Amen!"



How Do I Know This Will Work?

My wife Kim and I have been on the parenting journey since 1989. The past years have been filled with many trials and much joy. We have been blessed with 5 children (4 daughters and a son), and now 4 sons-in-law. Over the next several months Kim & I want to answer some questions you may have about strengthening your relationship with your kids. We hope this will help you to Grow Closer and Stay Close!

This month the question we will address is, "How do I know this will work?"

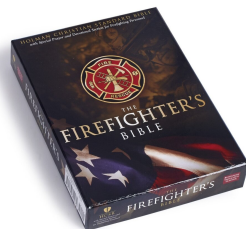
Here's the simple two-word answer to this question - you don't!

Parenting is a full contact sport where it seems like the rules keep changing. In fact, it seems like everything keeps changing. You are changing as a person, and so are your kids. Fortunately, God does not change!

Parenting may be one of the greatest opportunities for you to truly live by faith. It takes faith and trust to follow after God's plan for your family. That's why after raising five children and nearly 40 years of marriage we continue to lean hard into these verses...

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”



Click image for more information

Faith in the Fire

Chaplain Joe LaCognata shares about some of the unique challenges faced while trying to live out faith in the fire service.



Upcoming CISM Training

May 21-23, 2024
Daytona Beach, FL

July 9-11, 2024
Brooksville, FL

September 3-5, 2024
Jacksonville, FL

October 1-3, 2024
West Melbourne, FL

Contact us to host training at your agency

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



Stress Management Information

Click the logo for information on how to better manage your stress.



In Remembrance

The following firefighters died in the line of duty during the month of April

4/7 - John "Billy" W. Bunardzys - Rostraver Township, PA

4/8 - Richard Givan - Ekron, KY

4/12 - Heath J. O'Shea - Jacksonville, FL

4/16 - John Norris Raisler - Mile City, MT

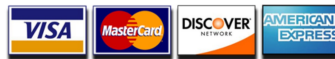
4/27 - Leland Alexander - Milledgeville, TN

24 firefighters have died in the line of duty in 2024



Our Vision

Imagine an organization committed to one task – supporting fire rescue personnel. From their work in the field to their lives at home, picture an organization working to equip these first responders to be more successful on the job and in life. Envision an organization that extends the support of those serving in fire rescue by offering care and comfort to the people they serve. Finally, picture an organization that would impact emergency services workers all across the country. That organization is Fire Rescue Support – supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.



Donate Today

As a non-profit organization, Fire Rescue Support operates thanks to the generosity of individuals, churches and other organizations. You can give online by clicking the PayPal logo.



**FIRE RESCUE
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Support your favorite local charity every time you shop.

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