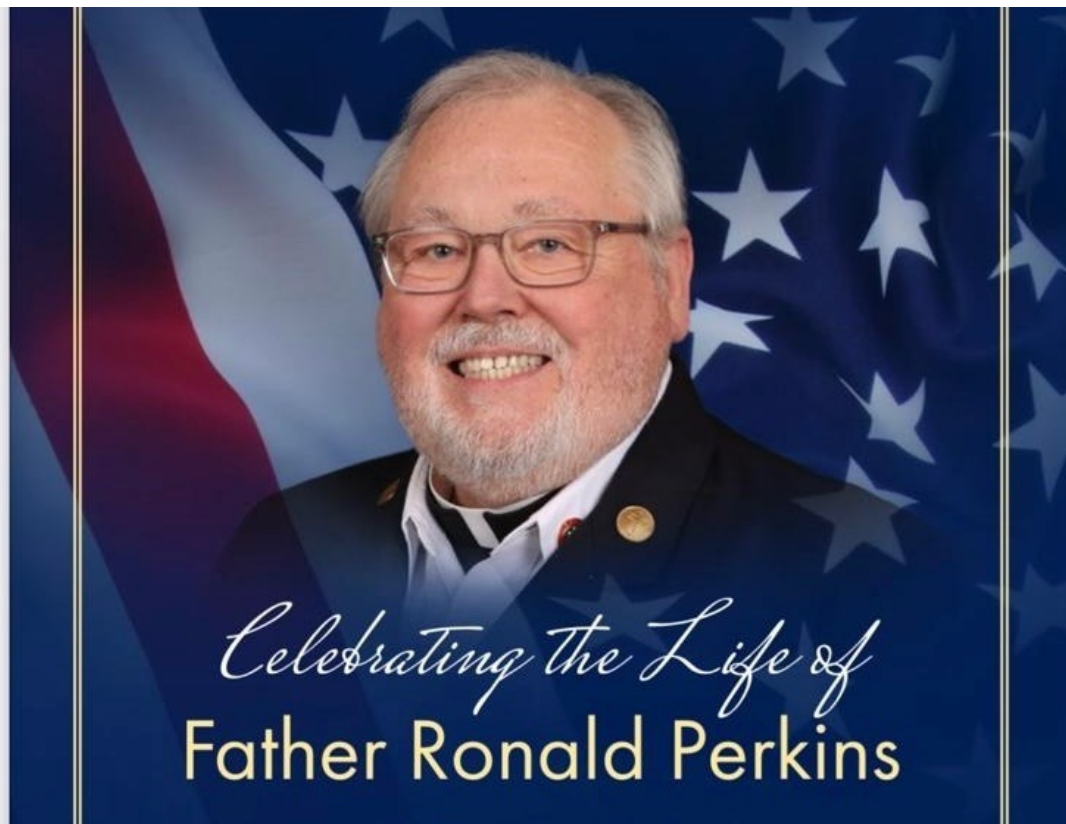


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Monthly Newsletter

August 2025



Father Ronald G. Perkins passed away on Sunday, June 22, 2025, while in Alaska on vacation. He is survived by his wife, Karen Unger; his son, Matthew Unger, and daughter-in-law, Courtney Turley Unger; as well as grandchildren Essi (14) and Ezra (11). His loving family also included his brothers, Sherman (Nancy), Mike (Donna), Patrick (Candy), Kevin; and his sister, Tina (Patrick Dunn), and sister-in-law, Debbie (Roy Gonzales) and brother-in-law, David Durkop (Robin). In addition, he has many nieces and nephews.

Ron was originally from Oneida, New York. He had an early interest in medicine, working in a physician's office from the age of 7, as well as being a young ambulance attendant – he delivered his first baby at 14.

While in High School and throughout nursing school Fr. Ron worked as an EMT-A on ambulances and in Emergency Departments. After graduating from Marcy State Hospital School of Nursing in 1972, he served as a US Navy Nurse Corps Officer specializing in pre-hospital and hospital-based emergency medical services. Initially stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, he was transferred to the Island of Guam. While there, he helped establish several emergency programs, and was the medical evacuation coordinator for the evacuation of Saigon during the Viet Nam conflict.

Following his military service, Father Ron held positions in nursing and hospital administration where he was responsible for trauma and emergency services in hospitals of up to 500 beds in Kentucky, Texas and Louisiana. He also worked as a hospital administrator and health care executive in California, Texas and Tennessee before helping found and become an executive with a technology company.

Father Ron was ordained an Orthodox Catholic Deacon in 2009 and to the priesthood in 2011. In 2016, Fr. Perkins formed a non-profit organization, Public Safety Chaplaincy, Inc. to provide consulting and management services to public safety departments, working closely with police and fire departments. Father Ron was a deeply respected chaplain for the Coral Springs-Parkland fire department, and was honored as the 2021 Chaplain of the year by the Federation of Fire Chaplains.

Through Public Safety Chaplaincy, Inc Father Ron served the following departments and agencies: Coral Springs Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue, Tamarac Fire Rescue, Pompano Beach Fire Rescue, Broward Health Medical Center and the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County. Chaplain Ron also assisted other departments whenever there was a need for chaplaincy services.

A video tribute to Father Perkins can be found by [clicking here](#).

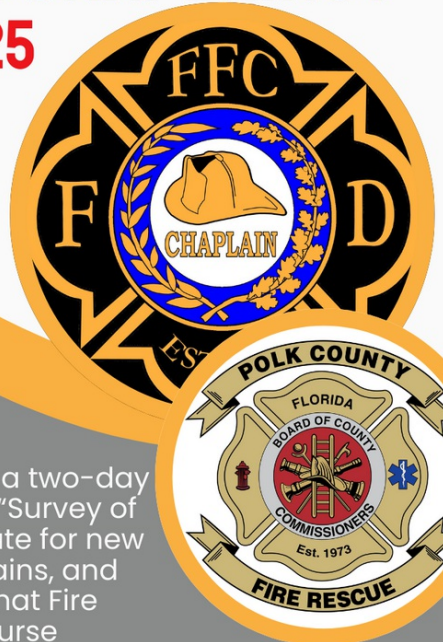
ESSENTIALS OF FIRE CHAPLAINCY

AUGUST 19TH AND 20TH, 2025

8:00-5:00

POLK COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

Polk County Fire Rescue
Training Facility
2740 Clower Lane
Bartow, FL 33830



- Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy is a two-day course designed to serve as a "Survey of Fire Chaplaincy". It is appropriate for new Chaplains, experienced Chaplains, and those who just want to learn what Fire Chaplaincy is all about. The course includes classes in ministry to Firefighters, Ministry to People in Crisis, Managing Stress, Fire Department Funerals, Fire Chaplain Operations, and many others.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Chaplaincy Foundations
- Ministry to Firefighters, Ministry to people in Crisis
- FD Funerals
- Fire Department Chaplain Operations
- Helping Firefighters manage stress & more!



REGISTER NOW

[HTTPS://FFCC.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/EVENT-6175652](https://ffcc.wildapricot.org/event-6175652)

\$250

LEAD INSTRUCTOR:
CHAPLAIN MILTON SMITH

📞 727-798-5718



HOSTED BY
 **BAYSIDE**
community church
WEST BRADENTON CAMPUS

FIRST RESPONDERS FAMILY NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH / 6:30PM-8:30PM

6609 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, FL 34209

Join us for a night honoring both active and
retired first responders and their families!

**REGISTER
NOW**



CATERED MEAL
(Provided by Pee Wee Canteen)

FREE CHILDCARE
Birth - 5th grade | Must register on a first come basis

COMEDIAN TIM BOYD
GUEST SPEAKER: JOE LACOGNATA



More than BBQ

"We believe there is nothing more American than BBQ. And nobody more American than the brave men and women who have sworn to protect and serve Our Communities and Our Country. We do what we do for the love of our soldiers, firefighters, police officers, first responders—all our loved ones in service."

This is how the founders of Mission BBQ speak about what they do. One way they show love to firefighters is by giving back.

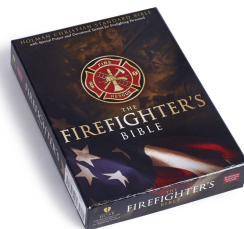
Through 9/11, when you purchase a Hometown Heroes cup, a portion of the proceeds are given to our nonprofit, Fire Rescue Support. Their mission helps us fulfill our mission of supporting fire rescue personnel before, during, and after the call.





“Your family doesn’t need to know what you did, but they will always want to know how you’re doing.”

While communication is a key feature in any relationship, it is critical in the life of a fire rescue family. With the additional stresses of the job, it is imperative that firefighters and their families keep the lines of communication open. The biggest issue that families face is that fire rescue personnel tend to withhold the challenges they face from their families in an effort to keep them safe. The biggest issue firefighters face is knowing how much to share of what they experience with their family. Whatever balance you find, the goal must be to stay connected with your family.



[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.



Each month, in an effort to continue to promote the conversation about critical incident stress management, we'll discuss a topic relative to crisis intervention. This will be helpful as a refresher to those who have already been trained, as well as something to create interest among those who have not.

Caring for All of You

As a CISM provider, I have the great privilege of caring for fire rescue personnel. They are a dedicated group of people who are committed to providing care and compassion when others experience the worst day of their lives.

The care I provide comes in many forms. Physically, I provide cold water and snacks when crews are battling fires. Emotionally, I provide a listening ear as crews make sense of what they experience. Mentally, I provide tools to help with stress management.

But there is an additional way that I provide care for fire rescue personnel – I provide care for them spiritually.

The work we do in CISM is not void of spirituality because this is part of who we are. For me to provide care for all of you, I must provide care for your soul. For this reason, I invite you to hear from Cheyane Caldwell, a Los Angeles firefighter who was severely injured in a fire in 2007.

[Click here](#) to see a video about his story.



Upcoming CISM Training

September 23-25, 2025

Palm Bay, FL

November 4-6, 2025

Kissimmee, FL

December 9-11, 2025

Homestead, 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 July

7/1 - Firefighter Lee M. Kraus - St. Louis, MO

7/4 - Chief James G. Sitek - Binghamton, NY

7/14 - Firefighter-Safety Officer Amie S. Lee - Van Dyne, WI

7/15 - Firefighter/Operator Jonathan Ashworth - DeRidder, LA

7/17 - Assistant Chief Jason McGlone - East Branch, NY

7/22 - Firefighter/Paramedic Jairus Hodge - Port St. Lucie, FL

7/26 - Captain Nicholas "Nick" Van Dam - Murdo, SD

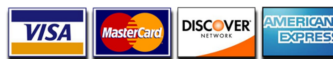
7/27 - Firefighter Raymond "Ray" A. Moreau - Plainville, CT

50 firefighters have died in the line of duty in 2025



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
SUPPORT INC**



Support your favorite local charity every time you shop.

Donate your change by automatically rounding up your orders to the nearest dollar at checkout.

Round Up at Walmart

You can help Fire Rescue Support every time you shop at Walmart. Choose our organization and round up your purchase.



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Forward

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