

» [Bells Across America: FAQ](#) » [Visit: BellsAcrossAmerica.com](#) » [Weekend.FireHero.org](#) » [FireHero.org](#)

# Bells Across AMERICA

FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

*An Event That Honors  
Those Who Made the  
Ultimate Sacrifice*

The sound of a bell holds special significance for firefighters. Historically, the toll of a bell summoned members to the station, signaled the beginning of a shift, notified departments of a call for help, and indicated a call was completed and the unit had returned to the station.

Departments sounded a series of bells when a firefighter died in the line of duty to alert all members that a comrade had made the ultimate sacrifice. This time-honored tradition continues today during the funerals or memorial services for firefighters.

For the second year, bells will ring from coast to coast as a grateful nation pauses on Sunday, October 7, 2012 to honor those firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2011. Fire departments and their places of worship will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) for the Second Annual Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters, part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The moment of remembrance can occur at any time during Memorial Weekend, October 6 & 7. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with their clergy and community leaders to develop an appropriate tribute.

» [Read More: About Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters](#)

#### Previous Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters Events



*For the first time the bells of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel chimed in honor of our fallen heroes on October 16, 2011. Departments and places of worship across the United States tolled bells and remembered firefighters who died in the line of duty.*

- » [2011 List of Departments & Congregations](#)
- » [See the Map of All 2011 Event Participants](#)

#### News and Video from Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters 2011

##### Video

- » [USAF Firefighters Bring Bells Across America to SW Asia](#)
- » [Wisc. Depts. Honor Fallen Heroes](#)
- » [Rothschild Fire Dept. Honors Fallen Firefighters](#)

##### Stories

- » [For whom the bell tolls](#)
- » [Churches Participate in Bells Across America](#)
- » [More Bells Across America & Memorial Weekend Stories](#)

#### Bells Across America 2012

- » [Bells Across America Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- » [How You Can Help: Invite Your Local Clergy to Partipate](#)
- » [Sign Up to Participate: Bells Across America Program Participant Form](#)
- » [2012 List of Departments & Congregations](#)



Distributed by the  
NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

OFFICE OF  
**FIRE PREVENTION  
& CONTROL**

**phone** 518.474.6746  
**fax** 518.474.3240  
**email** [fire@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:fire@dhses.ny.gov)