



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Media Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 5, 2013

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## **Bells Will Ring in Lakeland for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters***

Lakeland – For the third year, the entire country is invited to come together as one community to honor the memory of those firefighters who died in the line of duty and reassure their loved ones that their firefighter will not be forgotten by participating in the *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters* remembrance.

The Lakeland Fire Department will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), other fire departments, and community groups from coast to coast in this poignant tribute as part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. The moment of remembrance will occur on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 10:00 AM at all Lakeland fire stations and at participating locations throughout the Lakeland area. This day also marks the beginning of Fire Prevention Week.

“It is with great sadness that we ring these bells for fellow firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty. It allows us to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice they have made for their communities. It is my hope and desire to never have to ring a bell again because of a firefighter perishing while serving.” said Lakeland Fire Chief Gary Ballard.

“The ringing of bells has a powerful meaning to firefighters. Not only do bells signal the beginning or end of a call, they also were used to notify department members that one of their own had died while serving the community.” explained Chief Ronald Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF.

Hundreds of fire departments, places of worship and other groups participated in *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters* over the past two years.

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[WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD](http://WWW.LAKELANDGOV.NET/LFD)

Fire Chief Gary Ballard

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