



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Sapien, Jr.

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 18, 2019

Approved

Date

9-18-19

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: FIRE CAPTAIN RICHARD “RICK” WARDALL (RETIRED) TO BE HONORED AT 2019 CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Fire Captain Richard “Rick” Wardall succumbed to cancer on July 10, 2015 at the age of 64. Captain Wardall served the residents of the City of San José with honor and distinction for nearly 30 years. He was diagnosed with cancer shortly after his retirement from the San José Fire Department in 2011. Captain Wardall’s cancer was presumed to arise from his employment as a firefighter.

Captain Wardall began his public safety service as a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff and later joined the San José Fire Department in 1981. He was known for how much he shared of himself, his sense of humor, genuine smile, and amazing engineering and problem-solving skills. In college he built his own submarine and later would build his home from the ground up.

Throughout his battle with cancer, Captain Wardall and wife Maria graciously welcomed the support of San José Fire Department members who visited, shared memories and laughter, and expressed love and appreciation for Rick. His many contributions to the Department endure through the many who he mentored and befriended.

On September 28, 2019 Captain Wardall will be honored among 33 other California Firefighters who also died in the line of duty. The 34 names will be added to the California Firefighters Memorial Wall located on the grounds of the California State Capitol in Sacramento. Additional information about the California Firefighters Memorial can be found at:
<https://www.cafirefoundation.org/programs/california-firefighters-memorial/>.

/s/

ROBERT SAPIEN, JR.
Fire Chief, San José Fire Department

For questions, please contact Robert Sapien, Jr., Fire Chief, at (408) 794-6952.