

Fall 2025 Newsletter



2025 Firefighter and EMS Provider of the Year: Congratulations to the 2024 Firefighter of the Year and 2024 EMS Providers of the Year, honored on Tuesday October 7 with an award ceremony at the Fireman's Hall Museum. Fire Commissioner Jeffrey Thompson presented the honors alongside Fireman's Hall Museum Curator Firefighter Brian Anderson and PFDHC President Eugene Janda, with Managing Director Adam Thiel representing the Office of the Mayor to present a city proclamation.



Firefighter Matthew McCrory was chosen for showing exceptional bravery in two separate incidents in West Philly in August and September of 2024. In the first, FF McCrory forced his way into a burning home and found someone unconscious in the kitchen. In the second, despite heavy fire being reported on the home's second floor, FF McCrory ran upstairs to find someone unconscious in a bedroom. Both times, he quickly secured the person and got them outside to safety where they could receive skilled EMS care.



Paramedic Zachary Weinstein and Firefighter/EMT Mitchell Valentin were first recognized during EMS Week in May, but presented with their awards at this ceremony. Last year, the two men were responding to a vehicle collision when gunfire erupted. While leaving the scene to get to safety, they heard someone screaming that he'd been hit. Despite the danger, the two leapt into action to remove that person from the scene so they could provide medical treatment.



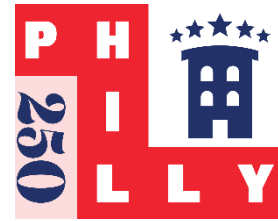
2026 Memberships: Keep an eye out for renewal notices coming soon, or become a member of the museum today [online](#): get discounts to our store and invitations to the sort of special events described here in the newsletter!



Funding for Fireman's Hall is supported by a general operating support grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are grateful to them for their ongoing support.

Fireman's Hall Museum™

52 Weeks of Firsts: Amidst other commemorations of 2026, Philadelphia will be celebrating the city's history of innovation over the past centuries. The Philadelphia Historic District Partners have assembled "52 Weeks of Firsts," from world-changing inventions to beloved traditions, with a new "Saturday First-ival" every week happening in one of more of a dozen neighborhoods across this city. Each First will be kicked off with a "First-ival" ceremony, free public events every Saturday next year from 11am to 1pm. Each event will introduce and celebrate the topic through entertainment and activities, music, giveaways, and pop-ups with Historic Philadelphia's "Once Upon a Nation" storytellers.



Third among this list of firsts, on Saturday January 17, will be the commemoration of the First Volunteer Fire Company in America in 1736, Benjamin Franklin's Union Fire Company. Visit Fireman's Hall Museum to see the hand-painted "#1" statue designed and decorated by Mural Arts to be unveiled outside the museum for the occasion, and celebrate this key moment in the city and the nation's firefighting history, as our own celebration of the Semiquincentennial gets underway inside the museum!



FHM Gift Shop: As the holidays approach, don't forget our online [Gift Shop](#) when shopping for your favorite fire buff! Or, stop in at the museum; there's always something new to be found; we've restocked patches and added a new book! And if you don't know what they might want, watch out for Santa returning to the museum on Saturdays this December!



First Fridays: Out late in Old City? Fireman's Hall Museum remains open until 9:00pm on the first Friday of every month! Look for the open bay doors on 2nd Street!

Research Services: Looking for historical information on a past member of the Philadelphia Fire Department? Museum staff will review department archives for information on those who served for a small [charge](#). We can typically provide dates of service, assignments, and promotions.



Social Media: Keep an eye on the Fireman's Hall [website](#) and follow the museum at [@firemanshall](#) on [Instagram](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) for all the latest news, and subscribe to our [Youtube](#) channel for the Curator's Corner and other updated offerings! Join the museum's [Facebook](#) group to become part of the conversation on ongoing research and to view photos and stories from our archives!

www.firemanshallmuseum.org

pfdhc@firemanshallmuseum.org