

2011 FESTIVAL OF TRIBUTE & HONOR

An exciting event is planned for September 2011 in Minneapolis to honor Firefighters, Law Enforcement, Emergency Services, all branches of the Armed Forces and Veterans. The event is sponsored by the New Hope Community Services of America, Inc., www.nhcsa-mn.org. It is the idea of founder Frank Tagliano. As Secretary of the MN State Volunteer Firefighters Assn., I was invited to serve as liaison to the volunteer fire service community to get the message out about the event.

The first meeting of the Executive Planning Committee took place in mid July. Representatives were on hand to give input from their field of service to learn of the plans and how each will assist to make this a very successful event. Meetings will continue bi-monthly till the event.

After introductions, we were given the planned itinerary for the 2011 Festival of Tribute & Honor. It will take place over three days, Friday, September 16th to Sunday, September 18th. Friday will start out with Opening Ceremonies in the State Capitol Rotunda followed by a pre game show at the Twins game at Target Field that evening.

Saturday will be the Parade of Tribute & Honor featuring marching bands, fire trucks, emergency vehicles and members of each of the military and emergency services. The parade is expected to have more than 125,000 people viewing the event. That evening will be a private concert for qualifying members. Sunday concludes the event with a Memorial Service.

Planning for this event has been going on for sometime now and I am proud to represent the volunteer fire service on the Committee. From what I have learned to date, this will be a spectacular event that will truly be an honor to all members of the military and emergency services. The date coincides with 9-11 and recognition of POW's and MIA.

We will be looking to have a large contingent of antique fire trucks and personnel in the parade and I will keep everyone informed on this. Much of the cost of this event will be donated from corporations and other donations. It is anticipated to still cost more than \$200,000 for the event. To offset some of the cost the Vikings have offered a sizeable donation in exchange for New Hope Community Services of America, Inc. operating a concession stand at each Vikings home game. We need your help as volunteers to work in the concession stand.

Members working the stand will be given free admission to the game, a food and drink voucher and allowed to watch to final quarter of the game. The concession stands shut down at the end of the third quarter. There will be between 15 and 20 people working each game. You can expect to work 3-4 hours with breaks. I would hope we could get at least 5 firefighters interested in volunteering at each game.

You can check the schedule of games and determine which game you would like to volunteer for and then supply me with your name, the name of your department and contact phone number. For those interested in volunteering or wishing more details contact me at 612-598-6369 or msvfasec@msvfa.org.

Keep the date open for September 16-18, 2011 and plan to participate or attend one of the events at the Festival of Tribute & Honor.

Dave Ganfield
Secretary MSVFA
msvfasec@msvfa.org

