



South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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South Carolina Fire Academy

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**April 10, 2023**

**State Chiefs to Honor S.C. Fallen Firefighters**

The S.C. State Association of Fire Chiefs, and other members of the state's fire service, will honor three firefighters, Wednesday, April 12, 2023, who died in 2020 and 2021 while serving their communities. Also being remembered is a firefighter who died in 1956.

The 11 a.m. ceremony will be held at the S.C. Fallen Firefighters Memorial, which is housed on the grounds of the S.C. Fire Academy, 141 Monticello Trail in Columbia.

The line of duty deaths are:

**Firefighter Joseph Kenneth "Ken" Barr, Anderson County Fire Department, Powdersville Station 7**

Firefighter Ken Barr, 83, died in the line of duty Dec. 25, 2020. He was with the Powdersville Fire Department for 56 years beginning in 1964 as a charter member and was selected in 2012 as the Anderson County Firefighter of the Year.

**Lieutenant Gary Lynn Burris, II, City of Gaffney Fire Department**

Lt. Burris, 50, died in the line of duty Aug. 31, 2021. A member of the Gaffney City Fire Department with nearly 19 years of service, he was also a former chief and life member with the Grover Rural Volunteer Fire Department in North Carolina, and a fire instructor at Cleveland Community College.

**Chief John Revere Hodge, Inman Community Fire Department**

Chief Hodge, 57, died in the line of duty Oct. 1, 2021. He was the chief of the Inman Community Fire Department for two years. He joined the department when it first opened in 1980, when he was 17 years old, and served for 40 years. He also served part time with North Spartanburg Fire District and City of Inman Fire Department.

**Dr. James Wesley Sease, Ehrhardt Fire Department**

Dr. Sease, 34, died March 26, 1956, in the line of duty shortly after driving a fire truck to the scene of a fire. Upon arrival, he collapsed to the ground and died. He was also a pharmacist and World War II veteran.