

Charleston Firefighters Honored

Story and photo by Maj. Scott Bell, S.C. National Guard Historian

Following the tragic deaths of nine City of Charleston firefighters on Monday, June 18, 2007, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford asked the S.C. Army National Guard to prepare State and Federal flags for him to present to the families of each of the firefighters.

Spc. Amanda Pirog and Staff Sgt. Jay Stroud were selected by Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee of the S.C. Army National Guard Honor Guard Team to ensure precisely folded State and Federal flags were prepared for the Governor.

In a ceremony held in the lobby of the S.C. Military Department's T. Eston Marchant building in Columbia on Thursday, June 21 the Soldiers solemnly passed the flags to Senior Agent Jack Proffitt and Special Agent Joey Peebles of S.C. Governor Mark Sanford's security detail.



Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Lee (center) supervises the passing of the State and Federal colors from S.C. Army National Guard Honor Guard members Spc. Amanda Pirog and Staff Sgt. Jay Stroud to Senior Agent Jack Proffitt and Special Agent Joey Peebles of S.C. Governor Mark Sanford's security detail.

The following day, the Governor presented the flags to the families during a memorial service held at the North Charleston Coliseum where more than 10,000 people gathered to honor the nine heroes. In attendance were representatives from over 700 U.S. and Canadian fire departments.