



Luongo Fire Memorial

In the chilly gray of November 15, 2012, a crowd of more than 200 people gathered in Maverick Square, East Boston, under the colorful backdrop of a two-story tall American flag held by two of Boston's most modern ladder trucks.

The crowd had gathered to pay their respects to six firefighters who died fighting the Luongo restaurant fire in Maverick Square seventy years earlier, and to witness the unveiling of a new memorial commemorating the firefighters' sacrifice.

At the ceremony, Boston Fire Department firefighters, family members of the fallen firefighters, officials, and members of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center spoke of how heartening it was to see so many individuals—most of who hadn't yet been born when the fire occurred—come out to pay tribute to these men. Speakers touched on the importance of remembering heroes who had gone before as well as those who serve the public today. As the names of the fallen were read in roll, a bell was rung once for each man, signifying his last alarm.



The speaking program was followed by the formal unveiling of the new monument, erected by the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center as part of its Maverick Square clinic project. Family members and other officials drew back the black and purple cloth revealing the new monument. Family members then laid white roses across the beautiful memorial.

This new monument replaces a previously set into the sidewalk at the site of the fire. Designed by a group of architects, firemen, policemen, historians, community members, and the health center, the new monument features a granite pillar capped by individual bronze plaques with the firemen's pictures and names. At the top of the monument sits a bronze fireman's hat representative of the ones that the fallen firemen had worn fighting the Luongo fire in 1942. The original plaque has been cleaned and restored and will be mounted at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's 20 Maverick Square clinic.