

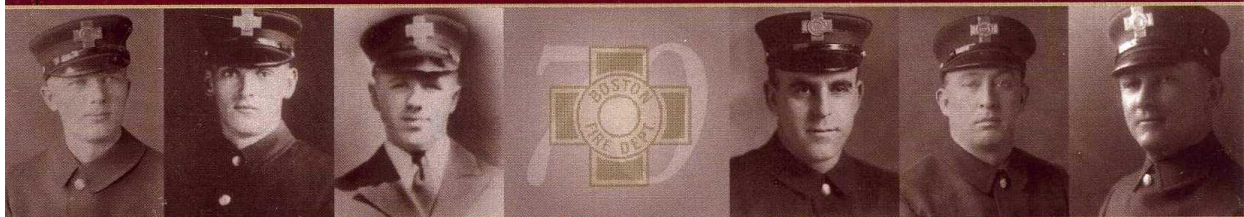
The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
and the Boston Fire Department

present a

MEMORIAL, DEDICATION, AND RECEPTION

in Recognition of the

**70th Anniversary of the Luongo Fire
at Maverick Square, East Boston**



Thursday, November 15, 2012

PROGRAM

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Memorial Unveiling

20 Maverick Square

Arrival and Presentation of Colors

Boston Fire Department Honor Guard and
Boston Gaelic Fire Brigade Pipes and Drums

National Anthem

Boston Fire Department Acapella Quartet

Presiding and Welcome

Jack Cradock, President, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

Testimonial

Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Testimonial

Roderick Fraser, Commissioner, Boston Fire Department

Testimonial

City Councilor Sal LaMattina

Testimonial

Ted Gerber, President, Boston Fire Historical Society

Testimonial

Sally Glora, State Auditor and relative of Hoseman Francis J. Degan

Reading of the Roll

Rich Paris, President, Boston Firefighters Local 718

Unveiling of the Memorial

Family members of Hoseman Degan and Ladderman McGuire

Amazing Grace

Boston Gaelic Fire Brigade Pipes and Drums

Closing Remarks

Jack Cradock, President, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

Benediction

Father Daniel J. Mahoney, Chief Chaplain, Boston Fire Department

Closing

Boston Fire Department Pipe and Drum Corps

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Reception

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center,
20 Maverick Square, fourth floor



THE FIRE THAT REVEALED THE HEART OF EAST BOSTON

In the early hours of Sunday Morning, November 15, 1942, a fire erupted at the rear of the Luongo Restaurant in the Old Armory Building in Maverick Square, East Boston.



The fire alarm sounded at 2:26 am. Within minutes, the East Boston fire companies responded from their station a few blocks away. But the fire spread rapidly and a second alarm was sounded at 3:04 am. Just 20 minutes later, a third alarm went out.



Firefighters rescued residents and combatted the raging flames. By 4:15 am, the fire was finally under control. Just when it seemed that a tragedy had been averted, the exterior wall on the Henry Street side of the Old Armory Building bulged and collapsed, trapping firefighters inside and felling 40 firefighters standing on Henry Street. Ladder 8 was buried in debris as an explosion blew six firemen across the road.

Chaos ensued. Fourth and fifth alarms were sounded to help in the desperate rescue effort and to fight the fire, which had strengthened after the wall collapse.

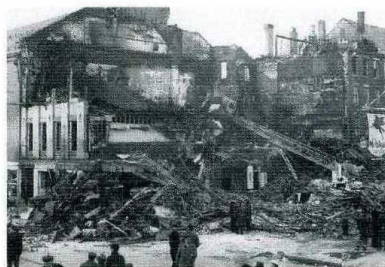


Ambulances, doctors, firefighters, police, and rescue workers including the Coast Guard rushed to the scene. Firefighters who had escaped the collapse, and even those who were severely injured, made frantic efforts to save their brothers. In the hours that followed, these firefighters displayed heroism and bravery unequalled in the history of the Boston Fire Department. Were it not for their selflessness, the tragic loss of life would have been even more devastating.

Six firefighters were killed, all of whom were on the second floor working with hose lines:

Hoseman John F. Foley, Engine Company 3
Hoseman Edward F. Macomber, Engine Company 12
Hoseman Peter F. McMorrow, Engine Company 50
Hoseman Francis J. Degan, Engine Company 3
Ladderman Daniel E. McGuire, Ladder Company 2
Hoseman Malachi F. Reddington, Engine Company 33

East Boston awoke to a disaster area on Henry Street and the heart-wrenching loss of six firefighters. Many survivors were so severely injured that they never served again. As the community reeled, 13 days later the Coconut Grove fire in Boston pushed East Boston's tragedy from the headlines, leaving the neighborhood to grieve on its own.



Those who lived in East Boston at that time, and those who lost relatives and friends, will never forget the devastation of November 15. We remember, and we honor the fallen firefighters who revealed to our nation the very heart of East Boston.



A heartfelt thank you to the many people and organizations that contributed to today's event and the creation of this monument.

