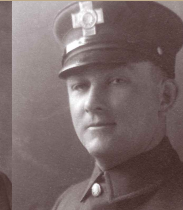
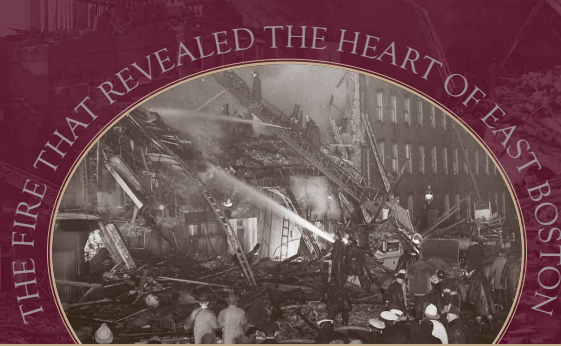




East Boston
Neighborhood
Health Center



Please Join the

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and the Boston Fire Department

for a Memorial, Dedication, and Reception in Recognition of the

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

Thursday, November 15, 2012
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, 20 Maverick Square

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, 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. McMorro, 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.