

# CITY OF ATLANTA

## FIRE – RESCUE DEPARTMENT

### An Accredited Agency

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MAYOR

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**KELVIN J. COCHRAN**  
FIRE CHIEF

July 21, 2009

As many of you know, the Public Safety Memorial Garden, located at Forest Lawn in College Park, was made possible through the efforts of Joe Oreskovich, also known as “Gravedigger.” Dedicated in 1997, the memorial park is currently the final resting-place for over 70 members who have served in one of Georgia’s Public Safety Departments. We are certainly grateful to Joe for making the Memorial Garden a reality, as well as all the support he has provided to our personnel, both through his ministry as well as his television program, the Gravedigger Show.

In his continued effort to honor both Fire and Law Enforcement personnel, Joe has dedicated the evening of September 26, 2009, as a time of fun and celebration for Public Safety members and their families. In addition to paying tribute to those at rest in the Memorial Garden, the evening will include a first class rodeo at Henderson's Event Center, complete with a parade, clowns and lots of family fun.

I have asked Joe to announce this event both at the Metro Fire Chiefs as well as the GMAG meetings during the month of July.

In order for this to be a huge success, I would like to offer the following suggestions:

- Ensure that flyers or posters regarding the event are posted in each fire station.
- Submit nominees from your department (for the hero award) to Joe by email, or mail no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Invite the Police Chief in your jurisdiction and supply him a flyer and or posters for his department.
- Have all honor guards to arrange for a coordinated presentation at the event.
- Families who have loved ones buried in the Public Safety Memorial Garden will be notified by SCI of the event. We want to make sure that these families are well represented, as an honor guard member will place a red rose on each of the 72 graves.
- Identify an individual from your department to attend the event planning meetings.

We are thankful for Joe Oreskovich and his generosity towards our Public Safety members. I am sure that this occasion will be a great success and a fun time for all.

I hope to see you there!  
Sincerely,

Kelvin J. Cochran, Fire Chief