

CAMPUS Firewatch

December 28, 2017

Dear Governor:

For 14 years, Governors across the nation have been signing proclamations recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Since 2005, there have been 395 proclamations signed as well as resolutions in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. And these efforts at raising the awareness about college fire safety are working.

For the first time since records started being kept in 2000, there were no fire deaths nationwide in the 2015-2016 academic year, a tremendous achievement, and only two people died last academic year, a significant decrease. We believe this is because of the strong efforts that states, schools and communities are doing to making students and their parents more aware of fire safety and how to prevent and survive a fire.

Each of us signing this letter knows what it is like to have lost a loved one while they are away at college. This was a time in their lives of growth, learning and exploration, but it came to a tragic end from a fire that, so often, is preventable and avoidable. What students learn through fire safety education is not just to keep them safe for the time they are in college – they are literally lessons for life. As this letter is being written, at least 172 people have died in college-related fires across the nation since January 2000, with 87% of them occurring in off-campus housing. Education and awareness are vital to helping stop this tragic loss of life.

We would like to ask for your help in raising awareness by again signing a proclamation designating September 2018 as Campus Fire Safety Month. Together, we can make sure that there are even fewer fire deaths in the coming year.

Please join with us this September to promote campus fire safety awareness and support our efforts in providing safe housing for our young people, our nation's future. If you should need any additional information, please contact Ed Comeau from Campus Firewatch at 413-296-1982 or ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.


Thank you for your support!

Jeff Block

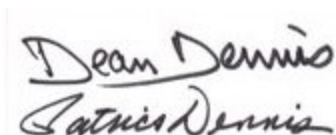
Jeff Block
Woodbridge, Connecticut
Father of Eva Block
July 9, 1990-January 21, 2012
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, New York



Barrett Cohen
Maineville, Ohio
Brother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio



Donna Cohen
Sarasota, Florida
Mother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio



Dean and Patricia Dennis
Cincinnati, Ohio
Parents of Andrea Dennis
September 21, 1982 – April 13, 2003
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
(Ohio State University fire April 13, 2003)

Bob Fitzsimons

Maryanne Fitzsimons

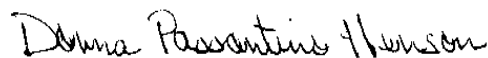
Bob Fitzsimons
Maryanne Fitzsimons
Commack, NY
Parents of Kerry Rose Fitzsimons
January 21, 2012
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, New York



Andy Grooms
Ruidoso, New Mexico
Father of Stephen Andrew Grooms
October 16, 1981 - October 28, 2001
Catawba College
Salisbury, North Carolina

Rich and Darlene Heiden

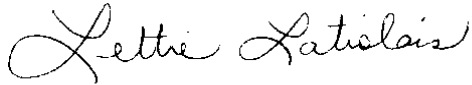
Rich and Darlene Heiden
Racine, Wisconsin
Parents of Brian Heiden
January 26, 1984 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota



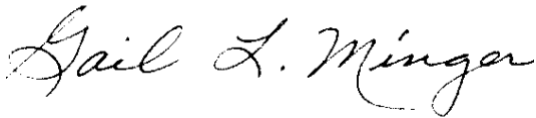
Donna Henson
Leawood, Kansas
Mother of Dominic Passantino
April 12, 1980 - May 8, 1999
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Pamela Johnson

Pamela Johnson
Grifton, North Carolina
Mother of Cody Pilkington
November 14, 1985 - October 7, 2005
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina



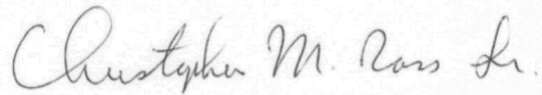
Lettie Latiolais
New Iberia, Louisiana
Mother of Kurt J. Latiolais, II
June 22, 1981 - October 18, 2003
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Gail Minger
Seneca, South Carolina
Mother of Michael Minger
June 24, 1979 - September 18, 1998
Murray State University, Kentucky
Murray, Kentucky



Kathleen Moritz
Evergreen Park, Illinois
James Osborn
Scottsdale, Arizona
Parents of Tanner "TJ" Osborn
September 22, 1982 - June 7, 2005
Chicago, Illinois



Christopher M Ross Sr.
Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Father of Christopher M Ross Jr.
July 6, 1985- June 7, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

Linda and Gary Schlittler

Linda and Gary Schlittler
Manchester, Missouri
Parents of Brian Schlittler
April 22, 1981 – November 29, 2006
University of Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri

Edeye Smith

Edeye Smith
Bethesda, Maryland
Mother of Stephen Smith
June 21, 1982 – April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Jim Speckien

Jim Speckien
Vadnais Heights, Minnesota
Parent of Amanda Speckien
May 5, 1984 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Patricia Talen

Tim Talen

Tim and Patty Talen
Plymouth, Wisconsin
Parents of Peter Joseph Talen
August 24, 1984 - November 18, 2007
University of Wisconsin UWLAX
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Linda C. Turnbull

Doug Turnbull

Doug and Linda Turnbull
Milford, Ohio
Parents of Julie Turnbull
May 8, 1983 - April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Kimberly A. Wencil

Kimberly Wencil
Owatonna, Minnesota
Mother of Elizabeth Wencil
September 12, 1983 – September 20,
2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bonnie C. Woodruff

Leon F. Woodruff, Jr.

Bonnie and Leon Woodruff
Raleigh, North Carolina
Parents of Benjamin Woodruff
April 27, 1976 - May 12, 1996
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Campus Fire Safety Month
Proclamation***

Proclamation

To express the support of the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas student-related housing fires in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Washington, DC, and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation;

Whereas since January 2000, at least 172 people, including students, parents, and children have died in college-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants;

Whereas many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms;

Whereas it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career;

Whereas it is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

Whereas by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced: Now, therefore, be it

***Campus Fire Safety Month
Proclamation***

Resolved, That the Governor—

- (1) supports the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month;
- (2) encourages schools and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and
- (3) encourages schools and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.