

CAMPUS Firewatch

January 7, 2009

Dear Governor:

In the 2007-2008 academic year, 18 college students lost their lives in fires in North Carolina, Illinois, Kansas, two fires in Pennsylvania, two fires in New York and two fires in Wisconsin. As parents who have lost children in campus-related fires, we know the heartbreak that these parents are enduring. What makes this even more tragic is that so many, if not all, of these fire deaths are 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.

Across the country, students are going off to college during September and moving into residence halls, fraternities, sororities, and off-campus housing. It is a critical time for young people who are living away from home, many for the very first time. It is also an important time for these students to be educated about fire safety. Since January 2000, at least 129 people have died in campus-related fires, with over 83% of them occurring in off-campus housing. Education and awareness are vital to helping stop this tragic loss of life.

Since 2005, states across the nation have been issuing proclamations designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month in order to help raise this awareness and encourage schools to provide fire prevention and safety education among this vulnerable demographic. In addition, the United States Senate and House of Representatives also issue resolutions. Last year, 34 governors signed proclamations, the highest number since the campaign first started

We would like to ask you to participate this year, alongside your state fire marshal, by issuing a proclamation designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Our goal is to have every single state, commonwealth and territory taking part and to encourage schools throughout the country to hold programs during September.

Please join with us this September and make it a priority to promote campus fire safety awareness, and support our efforts in providing safe housing for our young people who are our nation's future. If you should need any additional information, please contact Campus Firewatch at 413-323-6002 or ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

Thank you for your support.

F. Andrew Grooms

Andy Grooms
P.O. Box 2990
Ruidoso, New Mexico 88355
Father of Stephen Andrew Grooms
October 16, 1981 - October 28, 2001
Catawba College
Salisbury, North Carolina

Rich and Darlene Heiden

Rich and Darlene Heiden
2311 Green Haze Avenue
Racine, WI 53406
Parents of Brian Heiden
January 26, 1984 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Donna Passantino Henson

Donna Henson
6534 Summit
Kansas City, MO 64113
Mother of Dominic Passantino
April 12, 1980 - May 8, 1999
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Lettie Latiolais

Lettie Latiolais
103 Joliet Street
New Iberia, Louisiana 70563
Mother of Kurt J. Latiolais, II
June 22, 1981 - October 18, 2003
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Gail L. Minger

Gail Minger
14 Lanman Rd.
Niceville, Fl. 32578
Mother of Michael Minger
June 24, 1979 - September 8, 1998
Murray State University, Kentucky
Murray, Kentucky

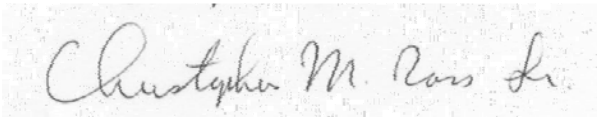
Kathleen Osborn Moritz

James Osborn

Kathleen Moritz
2920 W 101 Place
Evergreen Park, IL 60805
James Osborn
10213 East Desert Cove Ave.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Parents of Tanner "TJ" Osborn
September 22, 1982 - June 7, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

Pamela Pilkington

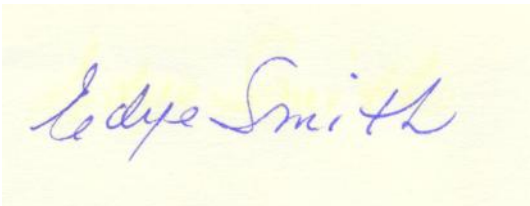
Pam Pilkington
PO Box 70
Grifton, NC 28530
Mother of Cody Pilkington
November 14, 1985 - October 7, 2005
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina



Christopher M Ross Sr.
1651 Riverdale Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Father of Christopher M Ross Jr.
July 6, 1985- June 7, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

Linda and Gary Schlittler

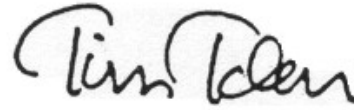
Linda and Gary Schlittler
1046 Treeline Court
Manchester, MO 63021
Parents of Brian Schlittler
April 22, 1981 – November 29, 2006
University of Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri



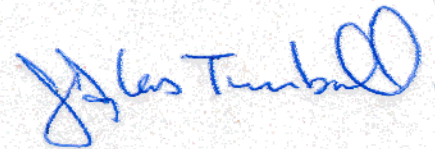
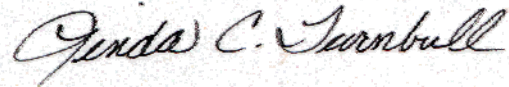
Edye Smith
4503 Wetherill Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20816
Mother of Stephen Smith
June 21, 1982 – April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Margaret and Jim Speckien

Margaret and Jim Speckien
321 Woodridge Dr.
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Parents of Amanda Speckien
May 5, 1984 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Tim and Patty Talen
2686 Pickett Street
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53703
Parents of Peter Joseph Talen
August 24, 1984 - November 18, 2007
University of Wisconsin UWLAX
LaCrosse, Wisconsin



Doug and Linda Turnbull
983 Woodcreek Drive
Milford, OH 45150
Parents of Julie Turnbull
May 8, 1983 - April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Bonnie C. Woodruff

Bonnie Woodruff
3513 Chaucer Place
Raleigh, NC 27609
Mother of Benjamin Woodruff
April 27, 1976 - May 12, 1996
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Kimberly A. Wencil

Kimberly Wencil
532 12th Street NE
Owatonna, MN 55060
Mother of Elizabeth Wencil
September 12, 1983 – September 20,
2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

***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 recent student-related housing fires in South Carolina, North Carolina, Wisconsin, New York, and Pennsylvania 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 129 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas over 80 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 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;

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 the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.