

# A Final Salute to a Hero

## CAL FIRE pays tribute to Chief Bryan Zollner

On April 19, thousands of firefighters from across the state gathered in Redding to honor the life of Bryan Zollner, Northern Region Staff Chief of Operations.

With tears and laughter, family, friends and colleagues came together to remember Zollner.

An April 12 single vehicle traffic accident claimed the life of Chief Zollner, 44, of Redding. He was killed when his vehicle left State Route 44 near Bogard Rest Area, 60 miles East of Redding in Lassen County.

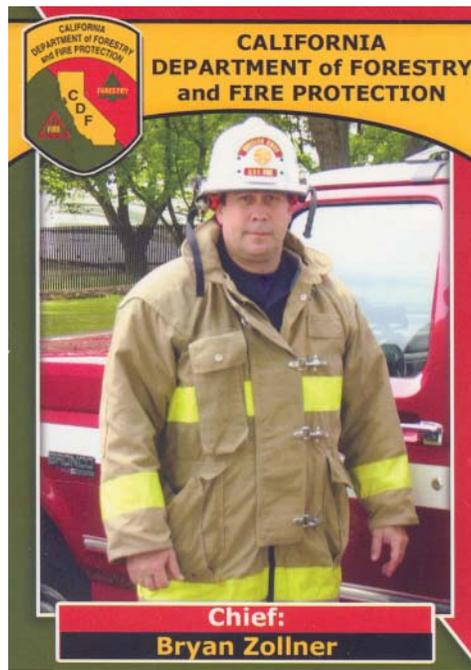
“Each day California firefighters put their lives on the line assisting and protecting our citizens. Chief Zollner gallantly served our state with courage and skill,” said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

“CAL FIRE lost one of its best and brightest leaders,” Chief Ruben Grijalva said. “His passing will affect our organization for a long time to come.”

Chief Zollner was a committed, unselfish and knowledgeable member of the fire community who gave everything he had to make the world safe for others. Zollner donated his home for use as a model in fire prevention materials distributed in the department’s statewide campaign for defensible space. He was greatly respected among firefighters and all who were lucky enough to have known him.

Zollner came from a family with a legacy of firefighting. His father was a fire chief for the city of Oroville; his great grandfather was a firefighter in Detroit. In

1981 Zollner was hired as a seasonal firefighter by the Butte Unit. He worked a year for the Oroville Fire Department before returning to CAL FIRE as a limited term Firefighter II in the Fresno-Kings Unit. In 1985, he returned to the Butte Unit as a limited term



Fire Apparatus Engineer with the Chico Battalion. For one year he worked for the Yuba City Fire Department.

Zollner returned to CAL FIRE in 1986 as a permanent Firefighter II in Santa Clara Unit, received a quick promotion to Fire Apparatus Engineer and went to work at the Ramona Air Attack Base in San Diego. He was promoted three years later to Fire Captain at Bautista Conservation Camp in the Riverside Unit. Zollner worked in the Riverside Unit in various

locations and positions including Battalion Chief and Chief of the Norco Conservation Camp.

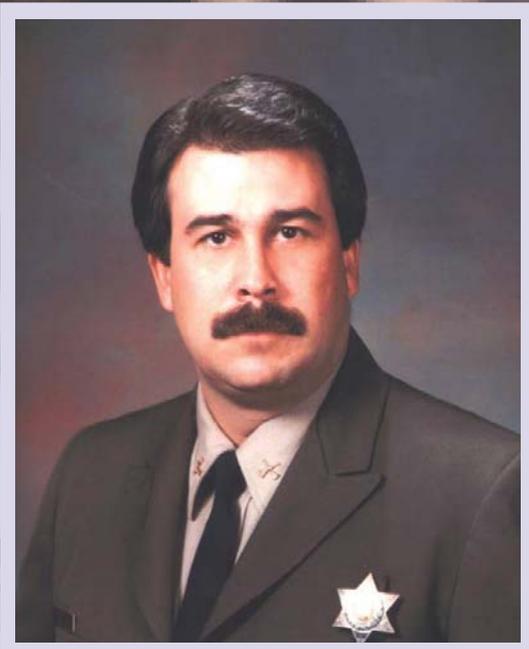
In 2001, Zollner accepted the position of Deputy Chief with the public education office for CAL FIRE in Sacramento. In 2002 he went to Northern Region as Deputy Chief for Conservation Camp coordination and North Ops Operations. In 2005 he was named Assistant Chief Operations in Tehama Glenn Unit. In 2006 he returned to Northern Region as Staff Chief for operations.

Zollner was very active on numerous Incident Command Teams. He was the Incident Commander on Team 3, as well as an Operations Section Chief, and Plans Section Chief.

In 1998 Chief Zollner received the Medal of Valor for an off-duty rescue of a child from a burning structure in Riverside.

Bryan Zollner is survived by his wife Pam; son Ty; daughter Alexia Moore; son-in-law Charles Moore; two grandchildren; sister Tracy Zollner; and parents Bob and Brenda Zollner.





Photos from the April 19 memorial for Bryan Zollner in Redding.  
*Photos by Wes Scultz.*