

ALERT: Special Notice for Rochester ½, 5K & Kids Race

Dear Athletes,

As many know, our events especially this one cannot be done without the efforts and support of our First Responders. We at Fleet Feet & YellowJacket Racing, rely heavily on all the departments to ensure the safety of all athletes on the course. They are integral to your success in getting to the finish line.

This past week, the Rochester Fire Department lost one of their own unexpectedly. Elvis Reyes, a Rochester Fire Fighter dedicated 20 years of his life serving the community, and passed that love of service to his two sons who are also RFD Fire Fighters.

As part of the RFD support for this event, they always executed the display of the American Flag, posted about one mile into the Half Marathon course, where two ladder trucks flanked across from each other with the huge flag in between the vehicles. This has always been a moving part of the course that sends chills to many as they embark on their 13.1 journey. Given the circumstances and understandably so, RFD will not be able to execute this. However, there is the power of the brotherhood and sisterhood of our First Responders.

We quickly moved into action making calls and wanted to make this happen plus an opportunity for the community, if you choose, to show support and honor the RFD, all fire fighters, first responders, the Reyes Family and the commitment of Fire Fighter, Elvis Reyes, to serving Rochester and beyond. Fire Fighters show up when called, if you choose, perhaps so can we.

As such, The St Paul Fire Department in Irondequoit is bringing one of the ladder trucks, Webster Fire Department is bringing one of their ladder trucks, the flag is coming from Henrietta Fire Department. They will be doing this to honor their fallen brother and to support you so you can still have this experience. This is the power of the brotherhood and sisterhood of our First Responders.

So where do athletes come in (if you choose).

1. We will have a box at the drop bag table at the start if you'd like to honor Fire Fighter, Elvis Reyes, his family and the Rochester Fire Department with a sympathy card, thank you for your service card or any other memento. We will ensure this gets to the right place.
2. We will have a box at a table at the Finish Line Food Tent if you'd like to honor Fire Fighter, Elvis Reyes, his family and the Rochester Fire Department with a sympathy card, thank you for your service card or any other memento.
3. Half Marathoners, if you'd like to pay respects a different way, bring flowers to the start and carry them as you start; and drop them at the flag area by the Fire Trucks with the flag within the first mile as you begin. We understand some of you are racing for time so we have the other two options as well should you not want to do flowers. Also the flag is not on the 5K course, so we have the other options.

We appreciate you reading this note. As you can imagine, the loss of life is always unbelievably challenging. In this case, this loss permeates through so many groups as they are still trying to do their jobs in saving lives and providing safety to us. We also recognize this is a bold note to send, but we also appreciate what First Responders do for us each and every day. Thank you for reading! See you in the morning

Regards,

Boots & Ellen, Owners, Fleet Feet & YellowJacket Racing