

# NEWS RELEASE

CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT

Unit Chief  
John Owens



Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT ANNOUNCES CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR WENDY WATKINS

**San Luis Obispo, CA** – The CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit announces the Celebration of Life honoring the life and service of CAL FIRE firefighter **Wendy Watkins**. Wendy passed away at home in Paso Robles on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, after a long battle with job-related cancer. Wendy's passing is a profound loss to the San Luis Obispo Unit, CAL FIRE, and to all who had the privilege of knowing and serving alongside her.

A Celebration of Life will be held in northern San Luis Obispo County to honor Wendy. At the family's request, the celebration will be open to the public and first responders. All department company officers attending are asked to wear Class A uniforms. Class B uniforms with a tie are acceptable if arriving on fire apparatus or for firefighters without a Class A.

### Celebration of Life Details:

**Date:** April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** Santa Margarita Ranch, 9000 Yerba Buena Ave, Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Wendy will be remembered for her courage, dedication to service, and positive impact on her fellow firefighters and the community. Her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched throughout her career.

We would like to thank our fire service community for their ongoing support and kindness during this difficult time.

Please RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/wendy-watkins>

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