



HEARTS 4 HEROES USA

Founded by First Responders for First Responders!

Retired Firefighter Dan Salois

Daniel “Dan” Salois dedicated more than four decades to public service, building a career that has spanned the fire service, emergency medicine, peer support, and now hospital chaplaincy. Over 43 years, his work has been guided not only by responding to emergencies, but by caring for the people experiencing them—including the first responders standing beside him.

Dan began his fire service career in 1981, shortly after graduating from high school, as a volunteer firefighter in a small Massachusetts town. He earned his EMT certification in 1983 and became a paramedic in 1991. During those early years, he continued volunteering with his hometown public safety agencies while simultaneously working for a private ambulance service.

In 1995, Dan was hired as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Plainville Fire Department in Massachusetts. He later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant before relocating to California in 2004.

After arriving in California, Dan worked on a 911 emergency response ambulance in the Stockton area before joining the Roseville Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic in 2005. Roseville would become his professional home for the final 20 years of his fire service career.

In November 2024, after 43 years of public service, Dan retired from the fire service. His connection to the work, however, did not end with retirement. He continues to maintain relationships with both the Roseville Fire Department and Hearts 4 Heroes USA as a volunteer.

A Commitment to Peer Support

Dan’s involvement in peer support began long before he moved to California. While serving in Massachusetts, he participated in peer support efforts surrounding several major incidents in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, giving him an early understanding of how deeply critical incidents can affect the first responders who answer the call.

That understanding would eventually become deeply personal.

Following the loss of his son, Dan pursued higher education at William Jessup University and Fuller Seminary. His experiences with grief, public service, and peer support ultimately helped lead him toward another way of caring for others: hospital chaplaincy.

Today, Dan serves as a hospital chaplain several days a week, continuing a lifetime of service in a different capacity. The role allows him to bring decades of emergency-service experience together

with his education and personal understanding of loss to provide support and presence to people during some of life's most difficult moments.

Dan & Blaze

During his time with the Roseville Fire Department, Dan became the department's first comfort canine handler within its Peer Support Program, partnering with Blaze, a Goldendoodle and the second dog placed through the Hearts 4 Heroes USA Paw Platoon Placement Program.

For three years, Dan and Blaze served both the Roseville Fire Department and the surrounding community.

Their partnership brought another dimension to peer support. Blaze offered a calming presence and a natural source of connection during moments when conversation alone was not always enough. Together, Dan and Blaze demonstrated how a therapy dog could become an important part of supporting the people behind the uniform.

Although Dan is now retired and no longer serves as Blaze's handler, his relationship with Hearts 4 Heroes USA continues. His years with Blaze remain part of a much larger career devoted to helping others through emergencies, critical incidents, grief, and recovery.

A Life of Service

From a young volunteer firefighter in Massachusetts to a Firefighter/Paramedic in California, a peer supporter, Paw Platoon handler, and now a hospital chaplain, Dan's path has continually brought him back to the same purpose: being there for people when they need someone most.

Dan and his wife of eight years share a large blended family that she has, in his words, woven together seamlessly. Their family includes two adult children on the East Coast, three adult children in California, a son in heaven, a daughter in Portland, Oregon, and three grandchildren they happily spoil.