

# REMEMBERING

Gerald W. Allbritton  
Thomas E. Andersen  
Bridgett Nicole Auty  
Bartholomew Blake Bailey  
Kevin Leo Baker  
Jack K. Barker  
George F. Batelli Sr.  
William J. Beard Jr.  
Dallas B. Begg  
Elmer Bell  
Clarence F. Birchmore  
Edna Faye Bishop  
Thomas Earl Brooks

Craig LaBare  
Jonathan M. Lanphear  
Timothy J. Lynch  
Richard A. Majors  
Edmund E. Malinski  
Mark David Mansfield  
David A. Martin  
Derek Duyal Martin  
Jacob B. Martindale  
Roger Glen McMillin  
John K. Mickel  
Robert Bruce Morrison  
Thomas S. Murray

Robert Broussard  
Jeremy Brown  
Randall E. Carpenter  
Garet J. Caulfield

Gerald W. Nadeau  
Kerry G. Neis

Robert S. Nichols Jr.  
Steven M. Olander

Rodney L. Chambers  
Jeffery E. Common  
Harold Coons  
Joseph J. Craft

Ralph Oralls Jr.  
Steven Kent Oustad  
Robert E. Peterson  
Robert Glen Poore  
Sandy Powell

Richard Alan Cusson  
Richard J. Dake  
Michael H. Davis

Daniel Eric Rama  
George J. Rehak  
Louis A. Rickards  
Bernes J. Schutte  
Rick Schwartz  
Dustin "Dusty" Michael  
Schwendeman  
John "Cowboy" Self  
Retha Mae Shirley

Vincent Lyonell Davis  
Heather J. DePaolo-Johnny  
Michael L. DePauw  
Timothy A. DiOrto  
Barry Lee Dockett

Roger M. Dunn  
Joshua Brandon Earley  
Raymond Alvin Ebel  
Jackie Eli Ellington Jr.

Michael G. Elliott  
Robert W. Feeney  
Bruce Steven Fletcher

Allen R. Frye  
Rupert A. Fuller

Joan Spear  
Wayne A. Steen Sr.  
Thomas Gray Stewart III  
Terry W. Stinson

Jack Gazalie  
John E. Ginocchetti

Mitt Stollak  
Ralph Stott Jr.  
Leo L. Swank  
James E. Sylvester  
Kenneth Wayne Taylor

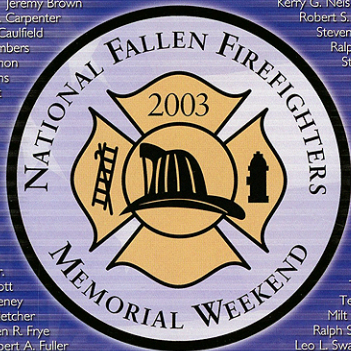
William H. Goodrich Jr.  
Kim Alan Granholm  
Jason Jackson Hampton

William J. Tripp Jr.  
Sekou I. Turner  
David Michael Turney

Chuck Hanners  
James H. Hanson  
Dennis L. Harris  
Earl M. Hemphill  
Paul K. Joliff

Steven Louis Jones  
Shane M. Kelly  
Thomas W. Kickler  
Gordon Knight  
Mike Kruse

Joseph M. Tynan Jr.  
Rex Walter  
Steven R. Wass  
Andrew Waybright  
Adam Lee Weisenberger  
John D. West Sr.  
Travis Lyn Wiens  
Henry J. Wissel  
Alan W. Wyatt  
Zachary M. Zigich



OCTOBER 4TH AND 5TH  
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND



## ALABAMA

**Edna Faye Bishop**, 29, firefighter, Bon Secour Volunteer Fire/Rescue, died April 7, 2002, when the fire truck she was riding in overturned while responding to a grass fire. In her two and a half years with the department, she was certified as a first responder and hazardous materials first responder and completed the training course for state volunteer firefighter certification. Bishop maintained the department's Web site and started an online community for volunteer firefighters around the world to share information, stories, and ideas. She was also active in her local PTA.

*Faye was put here on earth to help people. She went out the best way anyone could: a hero who died doing something to make a difference in all of our lives.*



**Kerry G. Neis**, 31, federal firefighter, Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety, Fire and Emergency Services Division, died December 4, 2002, when a fire truck slipped into gear and struck him during a training drill. He was a member of the National Guard

and served as a firefighter in the U.S. Army for six years. An Eagle Scout, he believed in working hard. As a firefighter, Neis enrolled in correspondence courses and attended seminars and workshops to improve his firefighting skills. Since his death, new training procedures have been implemented, and new safety mechanisms have been installed on the trucks.

*Kerry was a simple, bumble man. He could find humor in almost anything, and every honor he received was earned with hard work, determination, and good, old-fashioned sweat.*



**Robert S. "Bobby" Nichols, Jr.**, 39, lieutenant, Loretto Volunteer Fire Department, Cullman, died February 13, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while performing traffic patrol duties at the site of a water main break. A member of the department for a

year and a half, he attended every emergency training that was offered if he wasn't working.

Nichols worked as an assistant meat market manager at a local grocery store and was a trustee at Ole Time Way Baptist Church in Cullman.

*He loved the fire department.*

## CALIFORNIA

**Robert Broussard**, 59, career firefighter, Sycuan Fire Department, died May 31, 2002, after he collapsed during a mandatory pack test to recertify to fight wildfires with the USDA Forest Service. Broussard served with the department for five years and was a member of its honor guard. He received his department's Merit and Life Saving Medals. He served with the U.S. Marines and was a Vietnam veteran.

*He was a heck of a nice guy—very patriotic, just a good family man and a fine gentleman.*

**Garet J. Caulfield**, 51, career lieutenant, San Francisco Fire Department, died June 11, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to several calls during his work shift. A San Francisco native, he began his career with the Burlingame Fire Department in 1973. A year later, he joined the San Francisco Fire Department where he served for 28 years.



*His compassion and outgoing personality inspired so many lives. He was the kind of guy you want your son to grow up to be.*

**Michael H. Davis**, 59, engineer, Hawkins & Powers Aviation, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 17, 2002, when his airtanker crashed while fighting a forest fire. All three crew members died. Davis learned to fly C-130s while serving in the U.S. Air Force and later flew with various air cargo companies and worked as an aircraft mechanic. He was a journeyman welder/pipefitter and a member of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union #460. A Bakersfield native, he ministered through his church and in juvenile and adult detention centers.

*Mike had three loves: God, his wife, and flying.*

## CALIFORNIA (CONT.)



**Heather J. DePaolo-Johnny**, 28, firefighter, USDA Forest Service — Lassen National Forest, died July 28, 2002, when the fire truck she was driving rolled down a mountain as her crew monitored a wildfire. Three wildland firefighters died in this incident. DePaolo-Johnny was an honors student who won awards in many disciplines, studied abroad, and completed a double major in Spanish Literature and Women's Studies. She volunteered with AmeriCorps and later served as a firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management. After completing the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program, she joined the Forest Service.

*Heather was a remarkable, intelligent, and extraordinary young woman. She chose to follow her dream and, in doing so, showed an uncommon courage and a selfless sacrifice of love.*



**Craig LaBare**, 36, aviator, Hawkins & Powers Aviation, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 17, 2002, when his air tanker crashed while fighting a forest fire. He began as a summer wildland firefighter for the Silver State Hotshots. LaBare trained to be a pilot while living in Hawaii. He was in his sixth season flying for the Forest Service and earned his Initial Attack Captain's Card in 2001. He was looking forward to applying his talents as a carpenter and handyman to the home he and his wife had recently purchased.

*His nickname "Sparkler" captured his cheerful, outgoing nature.*



**Steven Kent Oustad**, 51, firefighter, USDA Forest Service — Lassen National Forest, died July 28, 2002, when a fire truck rolled down a mountain as his crew monitored a wildfire. A member of the Federal Wild Fire Service Association Local F-262, he served with the Forest Service for 25 years and was just a few years from retirement. Oustad was active with

Westwood Little Community Theater, where he performed in mystery theater dinners. He spent his free time remodeling his own home and several houses that he planned to rent out.

*He was an effective leader and was well respected among his peers.*

**John "Cowboy" Self**, 19, firefighter, USDA Forest Service — Lassen National Forest, died July 28, 2002, when a fire truck rolled down a mountain as his crew monitored a wildfire. In his second season as a firefighter, he had already received a commendation from his captain and chief. Self was an honor roll student and accomplished athlete in high school. After his death, his high school officially retired both his football and baseball jersey numbers. Self was also a member of the rodeo team and a sports reporter for the school newspaper. He umpired Little League games and coached Powder Puff teams.

*"Cowboy" was noted for his engaging smile, hard-working ethic, and leadership skills. He loved his work, especially the comradeship among firefighters.*



**Milt Stollak**, 56, aviator, Hawkins & Powers Aviation, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died July 18, 2002, when his air tanker broke apart and crashed while fighting a wildfire near Denver. Both crew members died. Stollak began flying at age 18 and defined himself as a pilot. He operated a flight school and aircraft rental business before discovering his aviation passion: warbirds. For 20 years, he had a career in antique aircraft salvage and restoration. During the off-season, he enjoyed working on his 1975 Porsche 914 and listening to Jimmy Buffet. Stollak shared his love of flying with his daughter, who is training to become a pilot.

*He was a quiet man who made his presence known through his wry sense of humor and practical jokes. He always tried to make the best of a bad situation and live every day as if it were his last.*





**Sekou I. Turner, 28, career firefighter,** Alameda County Fire Department, San Leandro, died May 22, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while working at an EMS call. He joined the department as a volunteer in 1999 and completed the fire training program at

Chabot College. Turner had been a career member for less than one year and was working shifts at various fire stations.

*He was very happy to be a firefighter. He was very outgoing, very helpful, always asking if there was anything he could do.*

### COLORADO

**Gordon Knight, 52, aviator,** State of Colorado, contractor, died July 30, 2002, when his helicopter crashed while dropping water on hot spots at a wildfire. A Nebraska native, he earned a Purple Heart as a U.S. Army pilot in Vietnam. Knight was a professional brewer who started three brewpubs in the Boulder area and won gold medals for three of his beers at the Great American Beer Festival. Friends describe him as a perfectionist who always downplayed his accomplishments.

*Gordon didn't have jobs. Gordon had passions.*

### CONNECTICUT



**Richard Alan "Ricky" Cusson, 30, volunteer firefighter,** South Killingly Fire Department, Danielson, died June 30, 2002, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while responding to the scene of an arson fire. He served with the department for four years and worked as a

computer technician. His father, brother, and other relatives are also active with the department. Cusson was an avid horseshoe and pool player.

*He didn't like to be in the spotlight, yet he was always there to lend a hand. You never knew what to expect from Ricky, but whatever it was, it was going to be entertaining. He was so full of life.*

**Bruce Steven Fletcher, 50, chief,** Ashford Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., died November 18, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack after returning to the fire station from an EMS call. He served with the department for 30 years, six of those as chief. He held a bachelor's degree in Fire Science, had been a certified EMT since 1974, and taught fire service courses. A decorated Vietnam veteran, Fletcher received a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts while serving in the U.S. Army. He also served for 20 years in the Connecticut National Guard. Retired from D.C.M.A., Pratt Whitney, he enjoyed hunting with his brothers and quiet time in the woods.

*His leadership, his "lessons to be learned," his sense of duty, and his love for the fire service will be with us always.*

### DELAWARE

**Louis A. Rickards, 55, volunteer president,** Lewes Fire Department, died February 3, 2002, in a motor vehicle accident as he traveled to a regional firefighters association meeting. He served with the department for 39 years, including 25 years as chief or assistant chief and 13 terms as president. In 1997, he was named Chief Emeritus of the department. Rickards was involved in the construction of two fire stations and helped compile a complete history of the department. He was a Delaware State Police trooper for over 25 years and received two Superintendent's Citations for bravery. He served for six years with the U.S. Army Reserve.

*His two grandchildren were his whole world.*



## FLORIDA



**Dallas B. Begg**, 20, career firefighter, Osceola County Fire-Rescue, Kissimmee, died July 30, 2002, when a flashover occurred during a live burn training exercise. Two firefighters died in this incident. Begg completed the Emergency Medical Technology course at Valencia Community College and 450 hours of training at the Central Florida Fire Academy. He had been on the job with Osceola County for only eight days.

*Dallas is someone who tried to find the best in everyone he met.*

**Rupert A. Fuller**, 76, volunteer firefighter, Darlington-Gaskin Fire Department, Westville, died October 24, 2002, from an aneurysm after becoming ill on the scene of an EMS call four days earlier. He was very active with the department, attended any training provided, and was the expert on the compressed air foam truck the department had recently acquired. Fuller operated a country store for 30 years, where he once kept the area's first fire truck gassed up and ready to go.

*He was an asset.*



**Shane M. Kelly**, 26, career firefighter/EMT, City of Oviedo Fire Rescue, died June 8, 2002, when he was struck by a tractor-trailer after he stopped to assist victims at the scene of an interstate motor vehicle accident. Kelly was vice president of Local 3476. He received many posthumous awards and honors, including the Florida Fire Chiefs Award of Excellence in EMT/Rescue, City of Oviedo Firefighter of the Year, and the American Red Cross Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action. The city of Oviedo named a park in Kelly's honor, and a scholarship was established in his name. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and his father-in-law.

*Shane died like he lived: helping others.*

**John K. Mickel**, 32, career lieutenant, Osceola County Fire-Rescue, Kissimmee, died July 30, 2002, from burns sustained in a flashover during a live burn training exercise. He graduated from the Central Florida Fire Academy in the top ten of his class and received the highest score on his physical agility test. Mickel served as a volunteer firefighter before being hired by Osceola County in 1993. He was a member of Osceola Local 3284 and the FOOLS. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed surfing, hunting, scuba diving, sports, and saltwater fishing in his Boston Whaler.



*John had presence. He always said, "You have to be happy." And he set the example for those who knew him by living life to the fullest and loving just as much.*

## GEORGIA

**Jeremy Brown**, 27, volunteer firefighter, Screven County Fire Department, Sylvania, died May 14, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to a fire call. He served with the department for nine years and was active in fundraising. He enjoyed the outdoors, building boats, and four-wheeling with friends.

*He was always there when you needed him. We will always remember his zest for life.*

## IDAHO

**Jacob Brent Martindale**, 20, firefighter, Grayback Forestry, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 21, 2002, when a van crashed while carrying firefighters from Oregon to Colorado to fight a wildfire. Five firefighters died in this incident. Martindale had completed two years at Boise State University and planned to take an extension course in international economics in Italy. He enjoyed the outdoors and was working as a firefighter for the summer in order to help people and to raise money for his upcoming trip.

*Jake was intelligent and fun loving. When he came home, the excitement and noise level just went up.*

**Zachary M. Zigich**, 18, firefighter, Grayback Forestry, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 21, 2002, when a van crashed while carrying firefighters from Oregon to Colorado to fight a wildfire. He had just been offered a position as a starting defensive end on the football team at Carol College in Montana.

*He had character. He loved his mother and valued his whole family.*

### INDIANA

**Paul K. Jolliff**, 37, career firefighter/paramedic, Indianapolis Fire Department, drowned June 14, 2002, during a dive training exercise. A member of the department for seven years, he died during the final practice dive before certification as a dive team member. Jolliff received an academic excellence award from Indiana University's EMS/Paramedic Science Program, an award that has since been named in his honor. He was a marathon runner and had served with the U.S. Army Airborne Rangers. Jolliff's grandfather was a member of the Indianapolis Fire Department for 26 years.



**Terry W. Stinson**, 44, reserve firefighter/EMT, Brown Township Fire-Rescue, Mooresville, died June 7, 2002, after suffering a heart attack nearly two weeks earlier after returning from a call. He joined the department as a volunteer in 1996 and

was chosen 1997 Firefighter of the Year and 2000 EMT of the Year. He worked full time for Eli Lilly and Company's emergency response and security teams. Stinson said that, had he known earlier in life how much he was going to love firefighting, he would have chosen a different career path. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran.

*His quick smile and compassionate ways were a tribute to anyone who knew him.*



**Ralph Stott, Jr.**, 50, career captain, Terre Haute Fire Department, died September 30, 2002, when the façade of a building collapsed during a structure fire. He served with the department for 24 years. He was a

U.S. Army veteran and had served as a Democratic precinct committeeman since 1984. Known as outspoken and mischievous, Stott was a New York Yankees fan and liked tea, Elvis Presley, westerns, and Christmas.

*My dad was larger than life in every way—his voice, his laugh, his smile, and his big ole bear hugs. He was a good man, one of a kind.*

### IOWA

**Michael Raymond "Mike" Kruse**, 53, career firefighter, Muscatine Fire Department, died September 14, 2002, when a roof collapsed during a structure fire. He served with the department for 27 years and kept track of every run he had ever been on. While out for his morning jog, he sometimes stopped in to check on people he had helped. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge with the younger firefighters at the station, was active in "passing the boot" to collect for MDA, and volunteered with the Special Olympics.



*Mike was taken from us at a moment in time when his family and friends were so proud of who he was. He will always remain alive in our hearts as a true American hero.*

### KANSAS

**Earl M. Hemphill**, 61, career chief, Russell City Fire Department, died April 11, 2002, when he was struck by a fire truck after the brakes failed as he directed traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A U.S. Navy veteran, he joined the fire department as a volunteer, and worked as an electrician. He was an active firefighter for 35 years, including 20 as chief. Hemphill was known for the progressive training he provided for members of the department. Several firefighters who served under him as volunteers, including his son, have gone on to careers in the fire service.



*He was a quiet kind of leader. You don't have to raise your voice when everyone is waiting to hear what you have to say.*



## KANSAS (CONT.)



**Mark David Mansfield**, 30, career firefighter/EMT, Overland Park Fire Department, died April 6, 2002, from arrhythmia after running several calls. He served with the department for ten years, following in the footsteps of his father, a volunteer firefighter for 30 years. Mansfield was also a police officer for the City of Roeland Park. He collected fire and police antiques, and enjoyed skiing, scuba diving, camping, playing games and cards, and traveling. He joined the department's Explorer Post as soon as he was old enough. A perpetual scholarship fund was established in his memory for the Post.

*Mark was well respected and loved by family and friends. You never knew what fun and exciting things he would come up with. He was a true joy to be around.*

## KENTUCKY



**Richard J. Dake**, 48, volunteer firefighter, LaGrange Fire & Rescue Department, died March 4, 2002, when a train struck his tanker as he returned to the station after a live burn training exercise. He served with the department for two and a half years and had recently been certified to operate tanker trucks. He was retired from the U.S. Army and worked at a local corrections facility.

*He was very, very goal oriented.*



**Kenneth Wayne "Kenny" Taylor**, 49, career captain, Madisonville Fire Department, died October 11, 2002, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of an apartment fire two days earlier. He served with the department for 26 years and worked a second job laying and refinishing hardwood floors. His fellow firefighters knew him as a practical joker who played a tough game of cards, but was also a serious, professional firefighter. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

*Kenny was unselfish and always thought of others before himself. He loved to see other people happy and having fun.*

## MARYLAND

**David Michael Turney**, 50, firefighter/EMT, Oakland Volunteer Fire Department, died May 6, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack after returning from a hazardous materials call. He served with the department for 26 years, including 16 as treasurer. He was also a 27-year veteran of the Southern Garrett Rescue Squad. He worked as a 911 dispatcher for Garrett County and was an active member of B.P.O.E., where he served as Leading Knight at the time of his death. Turney was mayor of Mountain Lake Park, Maryland for 12 years.

*His family and many friends within the community will never forget all Dave did to make all our lives a little better.*

**Andrew Waybright**, 23, firefighter, Harney Volunteer Fire Company and Frederick County Department of Fire/Rescue Services, died July 3, 2002, from hyperthermia after he collapsed during a training run with his Frederick County recruit class. He was a ten-year member of Harney VFC, of which his father is president, and had just been hired as a career firefighter with Frederick County. During his time with Harney, Waybright was among the top ten fire responders and served as EMS captain. He was employed as an EMT and ambulance driver for Taneytown Fire Company for two years. When he was not working with his dad and brothers on the family farm, he loved to hunt.

*Andy had a kind heart. He was always concerned about the welfare of others.*





## MASSACHUSETTS



**Gerald W. Nadeau**, 51, career district chief, Fall River Fire Department, died October 24, 2002, from progressive respiratory failure as a result of inhalation at a hazmat incident three weeks earlier. A 25-year veteran of the department, he achieved his lifelong

dream when he was promoted to District Chief in 1993. He held a bachelor's degree in Fire Science, was an instructor with the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, and was a member of the state's Hazardous Materials Team. Nadeau took pride in his carpentry skills and did extensive remodeling on his home over the years. A serious history buff, one of his favorite pastimes was watching the History Channel.

*Gerry was a fun-loving person who especially loved traveling and spending time with his wife and children.*



**Joseph M. Tynan, Jr.**, 55, career firefighter, Brookline Fire Department, died May 8, 2002, from complications of head injuries as a result of a fall from a fire truck in 1982. He was permanently disabled by the fall and lived in a long-term care facility.

Tynan, whose father was also a Brookline firefighter, served with the department for ten years. He held an associate's degree in Fire Science and served with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. He was active in the Elks and Lions Clubs and enjoyed family cookouts, playing recreational softball, following Boston-area sports teams, and working on home improvement projects.

*All who knew him were very happy to have been part of his life. Joe was a wonderful, caring man.*

## MICHIGAN



**Raymond Alvin Ebel**, 62, volunteer chief, Newaygo Fire Department, died February 18, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a house fire. A second-generation firefighter, he served with the department for 36 years, including three as chief. He was instrumental in planning for Newaygo's new fire

station, completed shortly before his death. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Ebel had served as a Newaygo City Council member. He owned a local body shop. His interests included anything that involved moving parts or flight. He loved taking care of his many flowerbeds, playing with his dog, Screwball, and spending time with his daughters.

*Ray was a behind-the-scenes hero. Always strong during the tough times, he showed aside his own difficulties to get the job done or to help someone.*

**Steven M. Olander**, 39, career firefighter, Detroit Fire Department, died February 7, 2002, from injuries sustained while fighting a structure fire a month earlier. During his 14 years with the department, he received many citations for valor and earned the respect of his coworkers at Engine 42 and Ladder 21. He was a member of Local 344. Olander golfed, howled, and played in many baseball tournaments to raise money for Children's Hospital Burn Center. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.

*He had a wonderful sense of humor and a heart of gold, especially when it came to children. He loved his job and family and was always there to lend a helping hand.*



**Robert E. "Bob" Peterson**, 57, volunteer firefighter, Bad Axe Area Fire Department, died October 11, 2002, after he collapsed while fighting a field fire. He served with the department for 34 years and was an active member and past president of the Huron County Fire Fighters Association. Peterson received numerous awards throughout his years of service to Huron County. Peterson owned and operated Pennzoil 10-Minute Oil Change in Bad Axe and was an avid NASCAR fan. He was a member of the Ushers Club at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

*Day or night, whenever that pager went off, Bob was there and stayed until the job was done. When Bob said the fire was out, you could trust that the fire was out.*



## MINNESOTA



**Kim Alan Granholm**, 28, captain, Thomson Township/Esko Volunteer Fire Department, died July 1, 2002, after he was struck by a vehicle while assisting at the scene of an interstate car fire. His wife is also a member of the department and was working at the scene at the time of the accident. Granholm served with the department for four years and quickly earned a promotion to captain, a responsibility he took very seriously. He worked as a truck driver and enjoyed riding motorcycles, snowmobiling, fishing, and anything to do with computers.

*Kim was adored by his two daughters and spent every spare minute he had with them. His love of life was never ending.*



**Jonathan M. Lanphear**, 23, volunteer firefighter, Boyd Fire Department, died December 12, 2002, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a fire call. His grandfather and uncle are also firefighters. Lanphear graduated from auto body

school and worked in a variety of jobs. He helped local farmers during harvest, was a talented welder, and loved hunting with his grandfather and fishing with family. A memorial scholarship will be established at his high school for students involved in wrestling, his favorite sport.

*No matter what, when his pager went off he would drop everything he was doing and respond to the fire call. He was proud of what he did. He loved helping those in need.*



## MISSISSIPPI

**Gerald W. Allbritton**, 45, career engineer, Columbus Fire Department, died May 29, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after returning from an EMS call. He was with the department for 17 years and was one of its first certified firefighters. Allbritton also served with the Lowndes County Volunteer Fire Department for 14 years and was twice named Fireman of the Year. The American Red Cross honored him as a "hero." Well known for his excellent auto mechanic skills, he was always willing to lend a hand or share his knowledge with others.

*Wayne was a faithful Christian. He touched many lives by his generous, giving spirit and his wonderful sense of humor.*



**Elmer Bell**, 44, career firefighter, Choctaw Fire Department, died January 17, 2002, after suffering a stroke during a physical ability test two days earlier. He was the first in his family to be a firefighter, and the family was very proud of him. Bell especially liked teaching children about fire safety and seeing their excitement when they visited the fire station. He enjoyed playing the guitar, fishing, hunting, playing the traditional Choctaw game of stickball, and watching his children at different college events.

*He loved being able to help people. We miss him very much, but we're thankful to God for the time we did have together.*



**Rodney L. Chambers**, 51, volunteer captain, Verona Fire Department, died May 27, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack after returning from a car fire. He served with the department for 27 years and received an award for heroic efforts in 1988. He worked at Comcast Cable for 21 years. Chambers was a member of two motorcycle clubs in Tupelo and collected model cars.

*He was the type of person who was well loved by everyone. He was a devoted Christian and a significant attribute to his neighborhood.*





**Adam Lee Weisenberger**, 19, firefighter, Gluckstadt Volunteer Fire Department, Madison, died March 20, 2002, when he was struck by a vehicle at the scene of an accident while assisting a victim. From a family dedicated to public safety, Weisenberger followed in the

footsteps of his father and older brother. In addition to his service with the fire department, he volunteered with the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the Madison County Emergency Management Agency. He was a member of his high school's Air Force ROTC and a student at Holmes Community College. He was active in the Catholic Youth Organization.

*He enjoyed helping others and tirelessly gave of his time. His joy for life was evident in his work and with everyone with whom he fellowshiped.*

#### MISSOURI



**Derek Duval Martin**, 38, career captain, St. Louis Fire Department, died May 3, 2002, when he became trapped while searching for another firefighter at a structure fire. Two firefighters died in this incident. Martin served with the department for 11 years. The

department posthumously awarded him a Medal of Valor and promoted him to the rank of captain. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, he served with the U.S. Army before becoming a state corrections officer in Jefferson City and St. Louis. He was active at Mercy Seat Baptist Church, where he had recently been ordained a deacon.

*He was excited about everything he participated in and was a tremendous family man.*



**Robert Bruce Morrison**, 38, career captain, St. Louis Fire Department, died May 4, 2002, after he became trapped the previous day while searching for another firefighter at a structure fire. He served with the department for 12 years and helped

rescue two children from a burning apartment a month prior to his death. Morrison taught at

Word of Life Preschool. He was an avid golfer and skier; enjoyed scuba diving, trips to the ocean, and cruises with his family; and dreamed of retirement in the New Mexico mountains.

*As with everything in his life, Rob approached his job with dedication, passion, and commitment. He is missed more than words can express by family, friends, and firefighters.*

#### MONTANA

**Rick Schwartz**, 39, aviator, Hawkins & Powers Aviation, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died July 18, 2002, when his airtanker broke apart and crashed while fighting a wildfire near Denver. He became a pilot at age 18 and fought back after a serious car accident to fly again. While recovering from his accident, he trained as an aircraft mechanic. Schwartz enjoyed snowmobiling and flying his private plane. He loved to talk about his wife and their home in Montana, and that soon he was going to be a daddy.



*Rick lived in the here and now and enjoyed all that life offered. Two minutes after meeting him, you felt like you knew him all your life.*

**Jean Spear**, 45, senior engine supervisor, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, died March 18, 2002, after she collapsed while training for a required annual pack test. She served with the department for 12 years and had full-time firefighting duties from March to November. During the winter, she worked part-time for the department providing basic firefighter training to volunteers around the state and working on forest improvement projects. Spear grew up on a ranch in Montana and continued to run cattle on her own ranch. She was the first full-body organ donor in her county.



*She was very pleasant, had a mischievous sense of humor, and was a very capable fire person.*

## NEBRASKA



**Bernes J. "Bernie" Schutte**, 69, firefighter, Palisade Volunteer Fire Department, died March 20, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting a grass fire. He served with the department for 42 years, including 30 years as an EMT and a number of years as chief and president. At the time of his death, he was president of the Palisade Rural Fire District Board. A former mayor of Palisade, he served on the Village Board for 35 years. Schutte worked for Great Plains Communication for 48 years. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea and Japan and was active in veterans' organizations. He enjoyed fishing, camping, old cars, auctions, and attending his grandchildren's ballgames and other events.

*Bernes's life was exemplified by volunteerism. He was a person others looked to for guidance and leadership, a devoted family man, and a source of quiet strength and stability.*

## NEVADA

**Steven R. Wass**, 42, aviator, Hawkins & Powers Aviation, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 17, 2002, when his airtanker crashed while fighting a forest fire. He had been with Hawkins & Powers for 18 years. Wass became a pilot at age 16, began flying charters at age 18, held certificates as an Airline Transport Pilot and Flight Instructor, and had a total of 9,455 hours in the cockpit. He played electric and acoustic guitar and joined with friends playing the drums at various gigs around his hometown. He was an avid gun collector.

*He was devoted to family. Family came first.*

## NEW JERSEY



**George F. Batelli, Sr.**, 55, volunteer assistant engineer, Garfield Fire Company #1, died October 1, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to a fire call. He served with the company for 25 years and was a father figure to the younger

members. He was also active with the Garfield Volunteer Ambulance Corps and was a Board member and treasurer for the New Jersey Employees Labor Union Local #1. Batelli was active with local children's softball, football, and cheerleading leagues. He especially enjoyed time with his four grandchildren, vacations at his summer home in upstate New York, and spending time with his wife on their boat.

*He was a husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, and OUR HERO!*

**Robert W. Feeney**, 41, volunteer lieutenant, Phil Daly Hose Company of Long Branch Fire Department, died January 16, 2002, after he collapsed at the scene of a house fire. A lifelong resident of Long Branch, he served with the department for 25 years, including three terms as captain. He was Fireman of the Year and received a Ready Commendation ribbon from the department. His father is a 50-year member of the department. Feeney founded the department's Fire Explorers program in 2001 and served as its advisor. He worked as a supervisor of grounds at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

*He was an easygoing, honorable man and a devoted husband and father.*

**Thomas Gray Stewart, III**, 30, career firefighter, Gloucester City Fire Department, died July 4, 2002, when a building collapsed as he tried to save three children from a structure fire.

Three firefighters and the three children died in this incident. Stewart joined the department as a volunteer and served for a total of 13 years. His father was a firefighter with the department for 22 years. Before becoming a career firefighter, Stewart worked as a corrections officer for the Camden County Sheriff's Department. He owned two small businesses, Tropical Illusion Tanning Salon and Thomas G. Stewart III Remodeling.

*I am proud of Tommy, not because he gave his life to save another, but because he made our lives complete. He didn't need to be a hero. He was perfect just the way he was.*





**James E. Sylvester**, 31, volunteer chief, Mount Ephraim Fire Department, died July 4, 2002, when a building collapsed during a structure fire. He served with the department for 17 years and was instrumental in the consolidation and reorganization of the department. As a young firefighter, he was the ultimate student, attending any training that would improve his knowledge of the fire service. Later, the student became an instructor at Camden County Fire Academy. Sylvester previously served as chief of Mount Ephraim Fire Company #2 and was a certified EMT and a Board member for Camden County Fire Chiefs Association.

*Jim was a born leader and friend to all that knew him. His passing has left a chasm in many lives.*



**John D. West, Sr.**, 40, career deputy fire marshal, Camden County Fire Marshal's Office, died July 4, 2002, when a building collapsed during a structure fire. He served with the fire marshal's office for 12 years. West became a junior firefighter for United Fire Company in Mt. Ephraim at age 16. He was a member of the Mt. Ephraim Volunteer Fire Department for 23 years, a fire investigator and K-9 handler for Camden County and the ATF, and an instructor at local fire and police academies. He received awards from several organizations for valor and meritorious service. A member of the Mt. Ephraim School Board, he also coached street hockey, Little League, and girls' softball.

*We will forever miss your enthusiasm for life and the great "Westy" smiles that lit up the room and our world.*

#### NEW MEXICO



**Steven "Louis" Jones**, 46, career chief, Roswell Fire Department, died March 26, 2002, from injuries sustained ten days earlier when a man opened fire at the scene of an explosion/structure fire. An EMT and a civilian also died, and a child was critically injured.

Jones served with the department for 19 years. As president of the Southern New Mexico Chapter

of the Safari Club International, he worked tirelessly to ensure the conservation of the state's natural resources. He was a rugged outdoorsman who won awards for his work as a taxidermist and for his pencil drawings of wildlife. Active in numerous civic associations, he felt a great responsibility to his community. His wife is an officer with the Fort Worth Fire Department.

*Louis had a lust for life that was contagious. He lived every day with gusto and faced any obstacle fearlessly. He left us with a legacy of service to others and a responsibility to each other.*

#### NEW YORK

**Harold Coons, Jr.**, 76, captain, South Schodack Volunteer Fire District, died August 30, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while performing fire police duties at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A founding member of the department and one of its first chiefs, he served for a total of 45 years, including 25 years as the fire police captain. He was chairman of the South Schodack Fire District Board of Commissioners and was widely known as "the mayor of South Schodack" for his active involvement in community affairs. He worked as a farmer and mechanic.



*He dedicated his life to the fire service. Whenever we needed someone with experience, you could count on Harold being there.*

**Allen R. Frye**, 31, volunteer captain, Roslyn Rescue Hook & Ladder Company, No. 1, died March 25, 2002, when a vehicle struck him as he participated in a training drill. He served with the department for seven years and enjoyed taking younger firemen under his wing. Frye was chosen 1998 Firefighter of the Year for the Fifth Battalion for saving a woman from her burning home. Very involved in community relations, he organized the department's annual open house and its children's Christmas party and coordinated fire prevention classes at area elementary schools. He worked as a plumber and enjoyed playing football, basketball, and softball.

*He was known in the department as a leader, a teacher, and a true gentleman.*

## NEW YORK (CONT.)

**John E. Ginocchetti**, 41, career firefighter/paramedic, Manlius Fire Department, died March 7, 2002, when he became trapped after a floor collapsed as he fought a house fire. Two firefighters died in this incident. Ginocchetti served with the department for 12 years and was president of Manlius Professional Firefighters Local 3316. He also served with the Fayetteville Fire Department.

*He lived his life selflessly, with courage and kindness.*



**Timothy J. "TJ" Lynch**, 28, firefighter/paramedic, Fayetteville Fire Department and Manlius Fire Department, died March 7, 2002, when he became trapped after a floor collapsed as he fought a house fire. He worked full-time for Fayetteville, part-time for the Tully Fire Department, and volunteered with the Kirkville and Manlius Fire Departments. Lynch was a paramedic with Rural/Metro Medical Services for seven years and was a special deputy for the Sheriff's Department. He enjoyed hunting, camping, biking, and scuba diving and was a licensed ham radio operator.

*TJ will be remembered every day by all who love him as a role model who embodied the best of humanity—courage, strength of character, high ideals, and a radiant, strong vitality for life.*



**William J. "Billy" Tripp, Jr.**, 28, volunteer firefighter, Richford Fire Department, died April 13, 2002, after collapsing at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. He had served with the department for five years and was certified in fire police, hazmat first responder operations, commanding the initial response, basic firefighting, and rescue technician-basic. His uncle is also a member of the department. Tripp worked as a surface mount solderer. He enjoyed going to the movies, fishing, shooting bows, and camping with his daughter.

*Billy was always there for anyone in need. He was afraid of nothing and tried everything he could. His daughter retains this gift to this day. This is his legacy.*

**Rex Walter**, 69, volunteer firefighter, Napanoch Fire Company, died February 10, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack at the station while preparing to respond to a fire call. He had served with the department for 43 years and was chosen its Firefighter of the Year three times. In 1994, he ran the most calls for the department for which he received the district's Firefighter of the Year. Walter was a retired correctional officer and served in Korea with the U.S. Air Force. He was active with the Ellenville Elks Lodge #1971 and Wawarsing Lodge #582.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Bridgett Nicole "Smurf" Autry**, 18, firefighter/EMT, Herring Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Clinton, died June 13, 2002, when the fire truck she was driving overturned as she responded to a structure fire. She served with the department for two years and was its youngest member. She received the "Medic of the Year" award during her first year with the department. Her brother is also a member of the department. Autry was a sophomore Nursing student at Sampson Community College.



*Her love for people and dedication to help the sick was her drive to become a nurse.*

**William J. "Jackie" Beard, Jr.**, 56, career captain, City of Greensboro Fire Department, died April 10, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while leading a live burn training exercise for recruit firefighters. He was the department's oldest rookie at age 42 and served there for 12 years. Beard was also active with the Deep River Volunteer Fire Department for 31 years and served as its chief. Along with a degree in Fire Science, Beard earned a degree in Agriculture from North Carolina State University. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he served in Vietnam.



*His passion for helping others was only rivaled by his love for animals and working the land. He is greatly missed by his family, friends, and beloved dog, "Jim."*



**Thomas Earl Brooks**, 48, career master firefighter, Lambertson Fire Department, died January 31, 2002, after responding to several calls during a 24-hour shift. Known to coworkers as "Pappa Smurf," he served with the department for 19 years. Certified as a

firefighter, EMT, and hazmat responder, Brooks was a state fire instructor and a member of the Robeson County and North Carolina Firemen's Associations. Called "Flip" by his family and friends, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, took special pride in his daylilies and vegetable garden, and enjoyed sharing his harvest with senior citizens in his community.

*He will always be considered a "Hero at Heart" by family members and friends. He was known first as a dedicated and sincere family man.*



**Joshua Brandon Earley**, 23, career firefighter, Harrisburg Fire & Rescue, died March 6, 2002, from burns sustained while fighting a house fire two days earlier. He served with the department for six years, was also a full-time career firefighter with the

Charlotte Fire Department, and was active with the Flowes Store and Midland Volunteer Fire Departments. He received numerous posthumous honors, and two scholarships have been established in his name at the UNC-Charlotte's Fire Safety Engineering Technology program. Earley will be one of the four firefighters depicted on the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

*Josh was one of the finest men you would ever meet. He was truly a hero.*



**Sandy Powell**, 32, career firefighter, McLeansville Fire Department, Inc., died September 23, 2002, when the pumper tanker overturned as she returned to the station. She was the department's first female career firefighter, one of many firsts she achieved. She joined

the fire service as a volunteer for the City of Eden and became certified as a Firefighter 2, Driver-Operator, Aerial Operator, EMT, and Fire and Life Safety Educator. She later worked as a career

firefighter for the Summerfield, Lewisville, and Colfax Fire Departments. Powell was active with the North Carolina Fire & Life Safety Committee.

*Sandy's life was like a bright shooting star. Though seen for only a brief moment, the impact and remembrance will remain with us forever.*

#### NORTH DAKOTA

**Barry Lee Dockter**, 44, volunteer firefighter, Anamoose Fire Department, died July 5, 2002, when he was struck by a fireworks shell while assisting with a Fourth of July fireworks display. He served with the department for two years. Dockter returned to Anamoose a few years ago to work with his parents on the farm where he grew up. A water plant operator for the City of Anamoose, he was active with several community organizations, and was an elder at his church. He loved spending time with his family, camping, being outdoors, and hunting with his dog, Sadie, his loyal companion.



*Barry was always willing to help out, always with a smile. His many friends and family will never forget his quiet manner, his genuine smile and his love for life.*

#### OHIO

**Dustin Michael "Dusty" Schwendeman**,

26, firefighter, Dunham Township Volunteer Fire Department, Belpre, died January 22, 2002, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident the previous day as he responded to a fire call. He served with the department for eight years and was beginning his second term as president. As a youth, Schwendeman showed horses and won numerous national honors, as well as a world championship in the American Paint Horse Association. When he was 18, he opened a show horse training facility, where he combined his love of horses with his enthusiasm for working with young people. Schwendeman also worked in his family's insurance business.



*Dusty had such a big heart and was good to everyone, always the first to lend a helping hand. We feel so very fortunate to have been blessed with him for 26 years.*



## OHIO (CONT.)



**Leo L. "Lee" Swank**, 50, volunteer lieutenant, Jefferson Township-Bellville Fire Department, died March 16, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while returning to the station after responding to a fire call. He

served with the department for 27 years, including 17 as president. One of his sons is also a firefighter/paramedic, and another is a member of the department's Explorer Post. Swank played semi-professional football with the Clear Fork Wheels and later coached youth league baseball and pony league football for 17 years. He worked at the Sohio/BP Service Station in Bellville for 32 years. As a member of the U.S. Army, he served in Vietnam.

*Lee never wanted any recognition for the things he did. He served his community quietly and continuously for 27 years.*

## OKLAHOMA



**Jackie Eli Ellington, Jr.**, 19, volunteer firefighter/EMT, Newcastle Fire Department, died April 1, 2002, in a motor vehicle accident as he responded to the station for a call. Before graduating

from high school in 2001 with a 4.0 grade point average, he had already completed Firefighter 1 and enrolled in EMT school. Ellington, whose father and other relatives are also firefighters, was pursuing a Municipal Fire Service degree at Oklahoma State University. He served as a mentor for elementary school children and worked at a hospital, where he could often be found in pediatrics trying to get the kids to smile. He enjoyed wrestling, baseball, football, weightlifting, and water sports.

*Jackie always wanted to be just like his dad, and he was. Jackie was kindhearted, caring, loving, and always had a kiss for Mom no matter where he was.*

## OREGON

**Bartholomew Blake Bailey**, 20, firefighter, Grayback Forestry, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 24, 2002, from injuries sustained three days earlier when a van crashed while carrying firefighters from Oregon to Colorado to fight a wildfire. He was beginning his second summer as a wildland firefighter. In high school, Bailey excelled in sports, theater, and music groups and was elected Prom King his senior year. He was studying Civil Engineering at Oregon State University in Corvallis, where he sang in a special men's group.



*Bart was always a joy to be around. He loved Jesus with all his heart and judged no one. No one could ever adequately explain how much Bart was loved and admired.*

**Randall E. "Randy" Carpenter**, 46, career lieutenant, Coos Bay Fire and Rescue, died November 25, 2002, when a roof collapsed at an auto body shop fire. Three firefighters died in this incident. A second-generation firefighter with 23 years' experience, Carpenter served with Coos Bay for 13 years and was chosen 1991 Firefighter of the Year and 1999 EMT of the Year. He previously served as a volunteer and career firefighter with Baker City Fire Department. Carpenter taught CPR and EMT courses at the local community college and owned a contracting business with a good friend. A memorial fund established in his name will help train local firefighters and emergency personnel.



*While Randy had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed playing a practical joke, he never wanted the limelight, just a way to be of help. His honesty and integrity were unquestionable.*

**Jeffery E. Common**, 30, volunteer firefighter, Coos Bay Fire and Rescue, died November 25, 2002, when a roof collapsed at an auto body shop fire. A second-generation firefighter, he had 12 years of fire service experience, including service with the Coos Bay, North Bend, and North Bay Fire Departments.



Common was chosen 1995 Firefighter of the Year for North Bend and 2000 Firefighter of the Year for Coos Bay. He had a Master Mariner's license from the U.S. Coast Guard and worked with his father at Coos Bay Towboat Company. In 2001, he made a two-month tug voyage to Alaska, going up the Inside Passage, through the Bering Sea, and up the Yukon River.

*Jeff was honest, hardworking, trustworthy—a loyal friend, a wonderful father, and a loving and devoted son and brother. He loved life and would wake up every day and make the most of it.*



**Chuck Hanners**, 33, volunteer firefighter, Coos Bay Fire and Rescue, died November 25, 2002, when a roof collapsed at an auto body shop fire. He served with the department for nine years, during which he was twice selected Fireman of the Year. Hanners worked as a department manager at Wal-Mart and had recently become an EMT Basic as part of his goal to become a full-time career firefighter. As a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, he helped build six houses, including one for his own family.

*Chuck was soft-spoken, energetic, extremely dedicated to his wife and six children, fun loving, supportive, and full of encouragement to others. His life was filled with overwhelming challenges, and yet he chose to conquer instead of run.*



**Daniel Eric "Dan" Rama**, 28, crew boss, Grayback Forestry, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 21, 2002, when a van crashed while carrying firefighters from Oregon to Colorado to fight a wildfire. He had been with Grayback for five years.

Rama grew up and worked in Nebraska before moving to Oregon and becoming a firefighter in 1998. He enjoyed working on his guitar skills, playing basketball, snowboarding, camping and hiking, video games, trivia, and spending time with family and friends.

*Dan was excited about his job and talked for hours about his experiences. He said, "We get to visit the most dazzling places in the country, and we do something worthwhile while we are there."*

**Retha Mae Shirley**, 19, firefighter, Grayback Forestry, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died June 21, 2002, when a van crashed while carrying firefighters from Oregon to Colorado to fight a wildfire. She was a nursing student at OTI in Klamath Falls and worked part-time at a veterinary clinic to help pay for school. A scholarship for a senior year nursing student was established in her honor. Shirley was active in school sports and 4-H horsemanship. Her high school classmates voted her "Best Smile." She enjoyed the outdoors, including hunting, fishing, and floating the rivers.



*Retha was changing the world one person at a time, and she lives on through all the lives she touched. She will always be remembered for her kindness and willingness to help others.*

**Alan Wayne Wyatt**, 51, seasonal firefighter/timber faller, USDA Forest Service, died July 2, 2002, when a tree fell on him as he cut hazard trees at a forest fire in Colorado. He worked as a timber faller for 29 years in the western United States and Alaska, including ten summers for the Forest Service. He also trained military troops in emergency firefighting practices and chainsaw safety. Wyatt was a cattle rancher, a working cowboy, a leather craftsman, and a preacher. He was a skilled teacher who inherently knew the best way to approach the student's level and drive the lesson home.

*Alan's word was gold and his integrity steadfast, his love for his family and his God evident in all things. His stories were notorious, and he could always make you laugh with his cowboy humor.*



## PENNSYLVANIA



**Joseph J. Craft**, 33, firefighter, Penn Hills Universal Volunteer Fire Department #6, died September 4, 2002, when he collapsed at the station after responding to a call. A new member of the department, he had just begun state-mandated training for new firefighters and was eager to learn from the veterans at the department. Craft worked as a security guard and was an auxiliary police officer in Lower Burrell.

*He cannot be replaced.*



**Timothy A. "Timmy" DiOrto**, 36, volunteer firefighter, Maine Fire Company No. 1, Coal Township Fire Department, died November 1, 2002, when a wall collapsed during a residential structure fire. He especially enjoyed working with junior firefighters and making sure that they were properly trained. DiOrto served with the department for 22 years, but his public safety service was not limited to firefighting. He was also a Pennsylvania State Police Trooper. After his death, the Pennsylvania State Police appointed him Deputy State Police Fire Marshal, the career goal to which he had aspired. He loved animals and worked with local shelters to find homes for strays.

*Tim packed more living into 36 years than anyone I have ever known.*



**William H. Goodrich, Jr.**, 56, assistant chief, North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, Allison Park, died August 17, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while performing command duties at a structure fire. He joined the

department at age 14 as one of its original junior firemen and rode his bike two miles to the fire hall when the alarm went off. In his 42 years with the department, he served as chief for 12 years. The owner/operator of a towing and truck repair shop, he built and maintained fire trucks for local departments. Goodrich received many

commendations for community service, including a 2001 Heart of Hampton Award for responding to over 4,000 emergency calls.

*His last call resulted in saving the lives of two people, on the same street where Bill was born and raised and lived at the time of his death. He is sadly missed.*

**Edmund E. Malinski**, 39, firefighter, Northern Wayne Fire Company, Lakewood, died November 4, 2002, from smoke inhalation while fighting a structure fire. He served with the department for 15 years and was very dedicated to the fire company and his position as a volunteer firefighter. He lost his own home to fire and did not want others to suffer that same loss. He worked as a maintenance supervisor and was a member of the Lake Como Lions Club. A skilled mason and carpenter, Malinski built his own home. He loved being outdoors, playing practical jokes, and spending time with family.



*Ed was charismatic and loving, yet stern and serious when needed. He was a loving husband and father who made time in his busy day to call and let his family know he was thinking of them.*

**Henry J. Wissel**, 55, chief, Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department, Carnegie, died December 7, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting a structure fire. He joined the department at age 16 and served for almost 40 years. His son and brother are also active members of the department. Wissel served a term as chief in the 1980s and had just begun serving as chief for a second time. He worked at Reichhold Chemical.

*He was dedicated to his community.*

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Thomas E. Andersen**, 48, assistant chief, Surfside Beach Fire Department, died January 21, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting a residential structure fire. He served with the department for 22 years. Andersen, an adjunct South Carolina



Fire Academy instructor, was instrumental in the creation of a local hazmat response team, on which he also served. He was a member of the Horry-Georgetown Fire Chiefs Association, a charter member of the Grand Strand Fire Inspectors Association, and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He enjoyed working on computers, fishing, and playing golf.

*Tom devoted his life to firefighting.*



**Thomas W. Kickler**, 38, volunteer firefighter, Laurens County Fire Department, died May 6, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a structure fire. A second-generation firefighter, he had 20 years of fire service experience. A volunteer with Laurens County and City Fire Departments, he also was a career assistant chief with Pelham-Batesville Fire Department. Kickler received a state award for saving a man's life in a house fire and was the 2000 Firefighter of the Year for Laurens County. He enjoyed duck and deer hunting with his brother in the Pennsylvania mountains.

*Everything Tom did, he did with vigor and dedication. He was a gentle giant who could fill up a chair with his bulk and light up a room with his smile.*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** One of our own, Tom Kickler served as a family escort at several National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekends. We truly miss him!

#### SOUTH DAKOTA



**David A. "Dave" Martin**, 48, firefighter, Opal Volunteer Fire Department, died August 6, 2002, from burns suffered five days earlier when he fell from a fire truck into the path of a grass fire on his "loved South Dakota Prairie." He served with

the department for 20 years and worked for the Meade County Highway Department. Martin enjoyed hunting and fishing. In his younger years, he participated in softball, basketball, football, and track. In later years, he never missed one of

his children's sports events.

*Most important in Dave's life were his wife and three children.*

**Roger Glen McMillin**, 44, assistant chief, Martin Volunteer Fire Department, died September 10, 2002, after he was overcome by toxic fumes while trying to rescue a mill worker from a molasses tank at a feed mill. McMillin worked as a foreman at the mill. He served with the department for 17 years, and was chosen 1986 Rookie of the Year, and 1987 and 1989 Firefighter of the Year. He implemented the department's Fire Explorer Program, in which his two sons are active. An EMT with Bennett County Ambulance Service for 11 years, he received an award for his service in 2002. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his family and playing cards and bowling with friends.

*There was never a dull moment when Roger was around. We will never forget our beloved husband, father, son, brother, friend, and hero.*



#### TENNESSEE

**Jason Jackson Hampton**, 17, firefighter, Almaxville Volunteer Fire Department, Smyrna, died September 5, 2002, when the fire truck he was driving overturned as he responded to a brush fire. A 2002 high school graduate, he was a member of the 304th Military Police Battalion and the 450th Military Police Company and was a second lieutenant in the ROTC. He was scheduled to begin boot camp with the U.S. Army less than two weeks after his death. A native of New Orleans, Hampton volunteered there as a camp counselor in an attempt to touch at least one child's life.

*Jason was a joy to be around—selfless, loving, and considerate. His life's flame was snuffed out, but his touch of volunteer public service will forever light his community's landscape.*



## TENNESSEE (CONT.)

**Dennis L. Harris**, 43, firefighter, Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, Tellico Plains, died December 5, 2002, after he collapsed at the scene of a structure fire. He served with the department for 10 years. Harris was a minister at Faith Baptist Church in Sweetwater and also did road construction.

*He was always willing to reach out and help anyone. He's is deeply missed by the fire department and the community.*

**Richard A. Majors**, 45, career firefighter, Nashville Fire Department, died January 11, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to several calls.

**Thomas S. Murray**, 21, volunteer firefighter, Jefferson City Fire Department, died March 1, 2002, when a flashover occurred during a structure fire. He joined the Lakeway Central Volunteer Fire Department at age 17, and eventually rose to 1st lieutenant. He had been with Jefferson City for less than six months and was enrolled in first responder classes with the goal of being certified with the EMS. He loved to hunt and fish with his friends.

*The thing you remember most about Shane is that silly little grin. He always had a smile on his face. He was not afraid to show his true feelings and was a very dedicated fireman.*



**Robert Glen Poore**, 71, firefighter/dispatcher, Briceville Volunteer Fire Department, died November 10, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack after assisting victims and assessing damage from a tornado. A founding member of the department, he served there for 28 years. Raised in a small coal-mining town, he quit school after the fourth grade to help support his family. A member of Briceville Church of God, he never missed a service that his son preached. Poore retired from Rexnord Corporation and had served as an auxiliary deputy for the Anderson County Sheriff's Department. He was well known for his expertise with lawnmowers and often charged people less than it cost him to make a repair.

*He was always the first on scene. He was devoted to the fire department and helping others. He said he couldn't sleep at night knowing others needed his help.*

## TEXAS

**Kevin Leo Baker**, 39, firefighter, Mid-North Johnson County Volunteer Fire Department, died April 7, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while assisting at an EMS call. He served with the department for less than a month. Baker worked as a superintendent with a local swimming pool company. He found the department through its Web site and called to see how to get involved.



*He jumped in with both feet and kept running. He made every call and every call. He just left a good impression.*

**Vincent Llyonnell Davis**, 42, career firefighter, Dallas Fire and Rescue, died February 11, 2002, from injuries sustained when a wall collapsed during an apartment fire. He served with the department for 11 years and was a certified paramedic. An Illinois native, he held a degree in Industrial Technology from Illinois State University and was an All-American high jumper. Davis was a member of Friendship West Baptist Church, the Black Firefighters Association, the Methodist Hospital softball team, and the Back Draft flag football team.



*He was a dedicated fire and rescue officer.*

**Michael L. "Mike" DePauw**, 51, career captain, Dallas Fire and Rescue, died December 5, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting a house fire. He served with the department as a firefighter, EMT, lieutenant, and captain for more than 30 years. Off duty, he gave fire safety presentations to elementary school students. He was a residential construction contractor who often performed work at discounted prices to help people who could not otherwise afford to have the work done. DePauw was a mentor and role model for family, friends, and coworkers. He loved to travel, snow ski, and go deep-sea fishing.



*Mike was a hero to many people, both on and off duty. His love of family and friends was always evident, and he really enjoyed the time he had with his grandchildren.*

**Roger M. Dunn**, 48, captain, Clute Volunteer Fire Department, died August 12, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while assisting at the scene of a house fire. A lifelong resident of Clute, he served with the department for 16 years and often took new firefighters under his wing. His brother and late father were also members of the department. Dunn retired from Dow Chemical, where he worked as a firefighter for 23 years.

*Captain Dunn was a well-respected and well-loved person.*



**Travis Lyn Wiens**, 28, firefighter, Wichita West Volunteer Fire Department, died August 12, 2002, when a vehicle struck the fire truck he was riding on while operating at a brush fire. He had been with the department for less than two months, but had served since age 15 with departments in Montana, Nevada, and Texas. He worked as a paramedic for American Medical Response and was working toward his dream of becoming a licensed Paramedic. Wiens became a foster parent in 1998 and fostered a total of ten children. He volunteered his Saturdays off to work with a church program that gives city children a positive alternative to violence.

*To Travis, there was no greater reward than seeing that he had made a positive difference in someone's life. He answered his calling in life: a great husband, friend, foster parent, and firefighter/EMT with dedication beyond comprehension.*



## VERMONT

**Clarence F. Birchmore**, 60, chief, Whiting Volunteer Fire Department, died March 16, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to a fire call. He served with the department for 35 years, 30 of those as chief. Birchmore served as Whiting's town moderator for several years. A lifelong dairy farmer, maple sugar maker, and hunter, he believed strongly in community service. A memorial scholarship fund established in his name makes awards for public service and volunteerism.

*Clarence was the heart of his family, his friends, his community, and his fire department. He greeted every day with a new sense of wonder and always saw the best in people.*

**Special Note:** Birchmore's brother Floyd died in the line of duty in 1996 and is also honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.



## VIRGINIA

**George J. Rehak**, 42, career firefighter, Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue, died June 30, 2002, when his car struck a deer as he traveled to the fire station. He served with the department for 18 years. He also owned a drywall and plastering business and was applying his talents to renovating an old farmhouse. Rehak had a private pilot's license, loved the outdoors, and was an avid hunter. He and his wife had recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

*George was a Christian and loved the Lord with all his heart. He was a devoted family man. Words cannot express how much he is missed.*



## FIREFIGHTERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS BEING HONORED IN 2003

2000

## NEW YORK



**Ralph Oralls, Jr.**, 43, volunteer firefighter, Oxford Fire Department, died January 7, 2000, from complications of injuries sustained in a fire truck accident in October 1978. He joined the department at age 18 and also served with the Emergency

Squad. Employed as a machine operator at the time of his accident, he later became a justice of the peace for the town and village of Oxford. He loved the outdoors and continued to hunt using a four-wheeler after his accident.

*Ralph always had a ready smile and a word of greeting for everyone.*



## PENNSYLVANIA

**Jack Gazalie**, 46, firefighter, Adamsburg and Community Volunteer Fire Department, died August 3, 2000, from smoke inhalation after rescuing his mother and daughter from an apartment fire. He served with the department for 20 years. Following in his father's footsteps, he joined the Straw Pump Volunteer Fire Department as a junior firefighter at age 16. Gazalie was an auxiliary police captain in Jeannette and worked as a 911 dispatcher for Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety for ten years. A carpenter and wood craftsman, he enjoyed professional wrestling, fishing, and riding his motorcycle.



*Jack was well loved by many people who he personally took the time and effort to help through difficult times.*





## FIREFIGHTERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS BEING HONORED IN 2003

2001

## DELAWARE



**Wayne A. Steen, Sr.**, 48, volunteer deputy chief, Mill Creek Fire Company, died September 26, 2001, from complications of an aneurysm suffered at the scene of a motor vehicle accident in June 1995. A life member

of the department, he served for 34 years and held numerous offices. In 1996, the department awarded Steen its President's Award. He worked as a building maintenance mechanic for New Castle County Parks and Recreation for 21 years. Steen was an officer in county and state chiefs' associations and was a life member of the Eastern Division of the IAFC and the Delaware Valley Fire Chiefs.

## FLORIDA



**Jack "Kit" Barker**, 45, career driver/engineer, City of Tampa Fire & Rescue, died January 21, 2001, from complications of Hepatitis C contracted in the line of duty in 1993.

He served with the department for 22 years and was known at any station as a phenomenal cook. In 1999, he founded the Krew of St. Florian in order to provide opportunities for community service. He completed coursework for a bachelor's degree in Business and was awarded his diploma posthumously, with honors. Barker served in the U.S. Army. He volunteered at his church and at his daughters' schools and was an avid hunter, fisherman, and golfer.

*When a man is a husband, father, and firefighter, it is impossible for him to form a thought without the three being connected. It is not how he died that made him a hero; it is how he lived.*

## MICHIGAN

**Michael G. Elliott**, 46, volunteer firefighter, Maple Rapids Fire Department, died October 24, 2001, when his vehicle was struck by a falling tree after he responded to a page during a tornado warning. He served with the department for 18 years. Elliott worked as a truck driver for a local steel company.

*He never met a stranger.  
He was a nice guy to be around.*

## OHIO

**James H. Hanson**, 62, firefighter, Chauncey-Dover Volunteer Fire Department, died November 10, 2001, when he suffered a heart attack after returning from the scene of a motor vehicle accident. He had over 20 years of experience in the fire service, including six years as chief of Chauncey-Dover, and was also a member of the Nelsonville Division of Fire. Hanson was active in the Chauncey Village Council and served as its president. He shared his expertise in electronics by serving on the local Vocational Schools Advisory Board. A U.S. Navy veteran, he enjoyed hunting and fishing.



*While he was a leader in the local fire service, he was also one of the guys. No matter how bad things got, he would always find a way to make you laugh.*



Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the non-profit Foundation has developed and expanded programs that fulfill that mandate. Our mission is to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes and to provide resources to assist their survivors in rebuilding their lives.




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#### SPONSOR THE ANNUAL NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

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Each October, the Foundation sponsors the official national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. Thousands attend the weekend activities that include special programs for survivors and coworkers along with moving public ceremonies.

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#### HELP SURVIVORS ATTEND THE WEEKEND

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The Foundation provides lodging and meals for survivors of fallen firefighters being honored. This helps survivors participate in Family Day sessions conducted by trained grief counselors and in the public tributes.

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#### OFFER SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

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When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the Foundation provides survivors with a place to turn. Families can receive emotional assistance through a Fire Service Survivors Network. This Network matches survivors with similar experiences and circumstances. This contact can be an important part of their healing. Families receive a quarterly newsletter and specialized grief resources including a Lending Library. Our Web site provides information on Federal, State and local survivor benefits and other resources.

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#### AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN

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Spouses, children and stepchildren of fallen firefighters are eligible for scholarship assistance for education and job training costs.

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#### HELP DEPARTMENTS DEAL WITH LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

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Under a Department of Justice grant, the Foundation offers regional training sessions to help fire departments handle a line-of-duty death. Departments receive pre-incident planning support through the Foundation. Our Web site provides information on steps to follow when a tragedy strikes. Immediately after a loss, a Chief-to-Chief Network provides professional and personal support from another chief who "has been there."

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#### ASSIST AFTER WORLD TRADE CENTER TRAGEDY

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Immediately after the disaster, the Foundation coordinated resources from across the country to provide support to FDNY's Counseling Services Unit. Mounting an unprecedented response effort, the Foundation helped families and coworkers through the critical early days. The Foundation is now providing long-term emotional support for the fallen firefighters' families.

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#### CREATE A NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

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America's fire service has a rich heritage based in community involvement. The Foundation is expanding the official national memorial site in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to create the first permanent national park honoring all firefighters. The park includes a brick Walk of Honor that will connect a Visitors Information Center, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, and the official national monument.

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*Home Interiors & Gifts, Inc.*  
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Special thanks for the continuing support from our Federal partners:

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## INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS GENEROUSLY DONATING TIME AND SERVICES TO THE 2003 MEMORIAL WEEKEND

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*Montgomery County Fire and*

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 INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS GENEROUSLY DONATING TIME AND SERVICES TO  
 THE 2003 MEMORIAL WEEKEND
 

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|--|--|
| <i>Rescue Services, Maryland</i>   | <i>Red Helmets Committee</i>                               |
| <i>Morningside Volunteer Fire Department,<br/>Maryland</i>               | <i>Senator Paul S. Sarbanes<br/>and staff, Maryland</i>    |
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And hundreds of others who have helped in many ways.

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