

Remembering



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS
MEMORIAL WEEKEND
OCTOBER 5-6, 2013

DAVID LLEWELLYN BAILEY • COREY A. BAKER • KARLTON ALLEN KOLE BRISCOE • MICHAEL A. BURGAN • SAMUEL BUTLER SR. • ROBERT S. CANNON • RONNIE EDWIN CHAMBLESS • TONY B. CHAPIN • DAVID R. CHEW JR. • MICHAEL J. CHIAPPERINI • DEON J. CLASSAY • JOHN H. COLBERT • DAVID L. CRENSHAW • LEO L. CRISANTO • WILLIAM RICHARD "DICK" DANES • RYAN SCOTT DAVID • GEORGE S. DAVIS • THOMAS W. DILLION • ROCKY E. DUNKIN • JOHN LENNOX ECHTERNACH JR. • WILLIAM J. ELLIOTT • DAVID M. FLINT • KENNY DEWAYNE FOX • STEVEN W. FRITZ • LOREN JAMES

GEORGE • CHRIS "GOODY" GOOD • JOHN D. GRABOWSKI • DOUGLAS D. HAASE SR. • JOHN M. HALL • MARK A. HAUDENSCHILD II • STEVEN C. HENRY SR. • JEFFERY A. HUDSON • DUANE KANOELEHUA IBARRA • TIMOTHY P. JANSEN • HERBERT T. JOHNSON • DONALD L. JONES • TOMASZ M. KACZOWKA • JAMISON N. KAMPMAYER • RONALD J. KEDDIE • FRANCIS A. LADUE JR. • TIMOTHY J. LAMERE • BRANDON L. LITTLE • ADAM J. LONGO • MICHAEL MARTIN • JOSEPH M. MCCORMICK • EDDY WAYNE MEADOR • PAUL K. MIKEAL • MARK W. MORRISON • PHILIP A. MORTENSEN



JONATHAN D. MYERS • RICHARD A. NAPPI • ROBERT P. NEARY • RUSSELL F. NEARY • LARRY D. NIELSEN • WALTER PATMON JR. • NOLAN E. PITTMAN • ANTHONY RAMON POLK • JIMMY RANDOLPH • MARK G. RATLEDGE • STEPHAN C. RICH • GEORGE M. SANFORD • JOHN T. SAYLES • RICHARD JOSEPH SCHAEFER • CHRISTOPHER J. SEELYE • JALEN S. D. SMITH • NEAL W. SMITH • DONALD L. SUGGS • WALTER M. SUMMERVILLE • WALTER C. SUMNER • GERALD LEE SUNDSTROM JR. • DANIEL SWEENEY • DAVID M. TATUM • JON TIBBETTS • JEREMY RYAN TIGHE • TODD N. TOMPKINS • JUSTIN E. TOWNSEND • BRUCE A. TURCOTTE • ANNE VESETH • GERALD ROBERT WETHERELL • ZACHARY T. WHITACRE • DAVID A. WINTZ SR.



THE FIREFIGHTER'S PLEDGE

I promise concern for others. A willingness to help all those in need.

I promise courage—courage to face and conquer my fears. Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me.

I promise strength—strength of heart to bear whatever burdens might be placed upon me. Strength of body to deliver to safety all those placed within my care.

I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort, and the love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called.

—Author Unknown

*For those
who have
answered
their last
call...*



Before the Memorial Weekend, the Foundation asked families to submit information about their fallen firefighters for the Remembrance Book. If no information was received, the best information available to us for each firefighter was used. We regret any inadvertent errors or omissions. Fallen firefighter profiles can be viewed on the Foundation's Web site at: www.firehero.org



*... we
honor
you and
your
loved
ones.*

Remembering

Deon J. Classay

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency – Arizona

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: July 24, 2011

Age: 43

Deon Jason "Dino" Classay was born May 1, 1968, to Minor and Roberta (Hinton) Classay

Sr. of Whiteriver, Arizona. Dino was a lifelong resident of Whiteriver. He attended Whiteriver Elementary School, Whiteriver Middle School, and Alchesay High School. In high school, Dino was a three sport athlete. He excelled on the basketball court, the football field, and the baseball diamond.

After high school, he married his wife of 25 years, Mitzi (Stevens) Classay, and he began his 22-year career in wildland firefighting as a member of the elite Fort Apache Hotshot crew. Dino was highly trained in his line of work. He completed the Fire Use Training Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and burn management training in Florida. Dino also demonstrated excellent leadership skills. He not only served as a sawyer squad boss and Class C faller, but he also taught a saw class to younger crew members, and safety was always a priority in the lessons he taught. Many of the younger crew members considered Dino a big brother who was always laughing

and joking. Though he was a funny guy, the crew members also looked at him as a protector.

Dino was an avid outdoorsman. When he wasn't at work, he was either hunting or fishing with his son, Thane, grilling at cookouts after returning home from a fire assignment, or enjoying the company of his family, especially his granddaughters, Kamare and Kylee.

Dino was a dedicated family man and a close friend to all. Although he stood at 6' 2", he was soft spoken, loving, and genuine on the inside.

Dino is survived by his family in Whiteriver, Arizona: his wife, Mitzi; son, Thane Classay; daughter, Mandy Classay; granddaughters, Kamare and Kylee Classay; mother, Roberta Classay; brothers, Minor Classay Jr. and Marty Classay; sisters, Debra Bead, Tina Classay, and Roberta Lupe; a traditional God-daughter, Tyler Baha; and his second family, the Fort Apache Hotshots.

He has fought the good fight of faith.



Anthony Ramon Polk

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Yuma Agency – Arizona

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: June 8, 2012

Age: 30

Anthony Ramon Polk (Two Feathers, Dances When the Sun Comes UP, Ant Dog) was born June 22, 1981, in Phoenix, Arizona. He was a proud member of the Quechan Tribe, California, and of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Arizona. He graduated from San Pasqual in Winterhaven, California, where he excelled in football, basketball, track, and boxing. He went to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

While growing up he participated in Native American ceremonies and was a Sun Dance singer and a singer for the Winterhawk Tail family drum group. He said when he sang it felt like he was home with his family. He was brought up in the Pow Wow circuit as a Grass and Traditional Dancer, brought into the arena at the very last YPG Pow Wow held in Yuma, Arizona, to receive his first four Golden Eagle Feathers. It was a new beginning for Anthony. That day he danced hard 'til his moccasins flew off; he kept on dancing, and he sang strong. That was a good day.

He served ten years with Ft. Yuma Agency, B.I.A. where he became a leader of the Prescribed Fire Operations Fuels Program. He was a firing boss, an incident commander Type 4, and an engine boss. He went back to school to become a fire investigator. He worked with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and local fire departments.



Anthony was well known for the good, brave deeds he did for many and for his caring, friendly personality and great sense of humor. He had a smile that could light up a room. He enjoyed fishing, cooking, traveling, and spending time with his family, especially his six-year-old daughter, Aiyana. She was his life. Anthony was brought up by many relatives, friends, and their families. He learned from everyone, and many learned from him. Anthony was a gentle soul that would help anyone.

We had a run in his memory. It is a quest for peace, unity, and healing of all people. The vision is about mending the sacred hoop of our People, retracing our ancestors' tracks, how they lived and wiped the tears from their eyes. The spirit energy keeps you going and giving thanks. Different stories come along with it. It is a journey we will never forget, the strongest spiritual connection we will ever meet.

Anthony is survived by his daughter, Aiyana Virginia Polk; parents, Ramona and Benjamin Villa; siblings, Manuel, Alex and Raquiel Villa; grandparents, Lucinda Escalanti Polk Smith and Vernon Smith; and many aunts, uncles, and extended family.

Anthony, even though you're gone physically, we will keep you alive in our memory and live through us. We love and miss you so much, Son.

Remembering

Donald L. Jones

Jacksonville Fire Department – Arkansas

Career Captain

Date of Death: March 20, 2012

Age: 56

Captain Donald “Donnie” Jones, of Jacksonville, died Tuesday, March 20, 2012, when he was struck by a vehicle while working at the scene of an earlier motor vehicle accident. Another firefighter and a police officer were also injured in this incident.

Donnie was born October 21, 1955, in Del Rio, Texas, to Lee Jones and Wanna Faye David Jones.

He started his 31-year career with the Jacksonville Fire Department on December 24, 1980, and rose to the rank of captain, serving in that capacity at Station 4 for 15 years. Dedicated and passionate about his work, he helped to train others and served as a mentor and “brother” to his fellow firefighters. He was a consummate professional and a dedicated public servant, proud of the vital role he played in protecting others and providing for the safety of citizens. A fellow firefighter remembered a time when Donnie helped

him out of a fire, reminding him that saving himself was more important than saving the building. Captain Jones is the first Jacksonville firefighter killed in the line of duty.



Donnie was the beloved son of Melvin Leroy Jones and Wanna Faye David Jones; the loving husband of Betty Jones; the proud father of Tracy Jones, Beverly Smiley (Thomas), Donna Henderson, Teresa Myers, and Vernon Myers; the devoted brother of John Jones, Michael Ray Jones, and Bruce Jones; the caring grandfather of nine grandchildren; and great-grandfather of one child. He is also survived by many friends and by his brotherhood of fellow firefighters.

Donnie was a caring family man who loved coaching softball, hunting, and fishing. He was focused and passionate about the things that interested him. Friends remembered him as “one of a kind.” He was deeply loved by his family, his many friends, and his fellow firefighters.

Remembering

David Llewellyn Bailey

Los Angeles County Fire Department – California

Career Captain

Date of Death: April 3, 2012

Age: 50

David Llewellyn Bailey was born January 16, 1962, in Homestead, Pennsylvania. In 2005 he was affected by Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana, and in 2011 by the Earthquake & Tsunami Ofunato, Japan.

Dave started his career with the Los Angeles County Fire Department in September 1994. He was proud and honored to be a fire captain serving his community and being a part of the "brotherhood." We teased him that if he bled it was not red but "County Blue." His first love was the fire department--anything, everything, all in or nothing at all. He had a thirst for knowledge. He was goal oriented. He was a perfectionist at work and at home. He had vision as to where his career would lead him. He had a good sense of humor and believed that in 18 years he was still a "Boot." When teaching the new recruits, Dave took it seriously. He once said, "We have a responsibility to teach them greatness. These young men and women will carry the legacy."

Dave had an impressive resume, and his accomplishments included Firefighter 1994-2002, Engineer 2002-2009, and Fire Captain 2009-2012. He was certified in USAR, CAMP Foreman, HAZMAT, HAZMAT Certified Instructor, HAZMAT Recruit Instructor, Explorer Academy Instructor, Swift Water Rescue, Homeland Security, and FEMA TEAM, including deployments in



Dave's second love was his wife, Lisa. He was a loving husband with a high moral compass that was to be admired. He always had a smile. When not at work he enjoyed his days off at home with his three dogs, Lola, Easy and Hanna, known at the fire station as "The Kids."

Dave had his hands into everything. Life for him was about "today" and enjoying the journey. Dave was passionate about many things. He loved traveling with his wife, riding his Harley Davidson, restoring his '69 Plymouth Roadrunner, but mostly he enjoyed camping in the desert and riding his dirt bike with good friends. He loved to BBQ and share his homemade whiskey and a cigar with whomever he was with.

He had a beautiful smile and bright blue eyes. His heart was as big and bright as the moon. He would call home and end each night from the fire house with, "I love you to the moon and back." He will be terribly missed in our lives, but will never be forgotten. Our memories will be the reflection of his beautiful life.

He is survived by his wife, family, and friends.

Remembering

Leo L. Crisanto

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – California

Inmate Firefighter

Date of Death: January 4, 2012

Age: 54

Leo Lionel Crisanto died on January 4, 2012, while participating in daily, required training exercises with CAL-FIRE as part of his assignment to the Cuesta Fire Camp. He was participating with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's inmate Firefighter Training Program, where low-custody, non-violent offenders are given an opportunity to train to become state certified firefighters.

Leo was born in Santa Clara, California, on August 11, 1957. A beloved son, brother, husband, father, and

grandfather, Leo loved the outdoors, riding his '69 Harley, and playing pool. He lived life to the fullest, and his smile and sense of humor will be missed.



Leo was survived by his wife, Diane; his mother, Maria de Jesus; siblings, Sylvestre, Xavier (Vivian), Lupe, Ralph (Susie), and Louie; children, Christine Martinez (Eddie), Eric, Lynita, Albert, Rachel, and Leo; stepchildren, John and Vincent; and three handsome grandsons, Elias, Andrew, and Miles Martinez. He was preceded in death by his father, Alberto, and brother, Alfredo.

Remembering

Jimmy Randolph

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – California

Inmate Firefighter

Date of Death: August 19, 2012

Age: 44

*J*immy Randolph became ill while working the Buck Fire incident in the rural Sage area southeast of Hemet, California. He was hospitalized and died the next day on August 19, 2012, with his family by his side.

Randolph was a camp laborer housed at the Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp (CC#41). The camp's primary mission is to provide inmate fire crews to CAL FIRE for fire suppression, pre-fire, and hazardous fuel reduction projects in Los Angeles, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties.



Remembering

Mark G. Ratledge

Cottonwood Fire Protection District – California

Career Captain

Date of Death: February 29, 2012

Age: 35

Captain Mark Gregory Ratledge was an exceptional firefighter, loving family man, and devoted friend to many. Mark began his career as a firefighter serving as both a volunteer and as a temporary firefighter with the Redding and Cottonwood Fire Departments and the U.S. Forest Service at Harrison Gulch. He was appointed as fire captain with the Cottonwood Fire Department in 2008 and gladly took on the role of training officer, as safety was one of his highest job priorities.

Mark thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors and animals and spent happy times with his constant best friend, Tigger. In pass-

ing, Mark leaves behind his two-year-old daughter, Sophia, and her mother and his future wife, Jennifer Hobbs; and Jennifer's children, Hannah Jasperse and Connor Hobbs, with whom he had already developed a fatherly bond. Mark also leaves his mother, Maria Closa, of Redding, along with a large extended maternal family in Barcelona, Spain, including his 89-year-old grandmother, with whom he shares a March 2nd birthdate; his sister, Susana, of Stockton, and his father and stepmother, Jack and Candace Ratledge. Mark was killed on February 29, 2012, at the scene of a traffic accident, where he was struck by a truck that lost control as it passed the accident scene.



Remembering

Russell F. Neary

Easton Fire Department – Connecticut

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: October 29, 2012

Age: 55

Russell F. Neary, age 55, of Easton, Connecticut, died on October 29, 2012, in the line of duty, while assisting residents during the height of Hurricane Sandy. A 13-year veteran volunteer fireman with the Easton Fire Department, he was serving as president and lieutenant of the company. He was also an emergency medical responder with Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service. He loved every aspect of the fire service—the calls, training, and the camaraderie. Even with mundane tasks like fundraising he would put in 110 percent.

Russell was born on July 8, 1957, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to the late John J. and Phyllis Neary, and grew up in Easton. Russell attended Fairfield College Preparatory School and the College of Holy Cross, where he majored in accounting. Russell had been employed since 1979 as a vice president of the Global Ocean Marine Department at General Reinsurance in Stamford, Connecticut, where he enjoyed mentoring trainees in the reinsurance field.



A certified U.S. track and field official, Russell coached sporting teams and volunteered with the Joel Barlow High School track team. He attended his children's sporting events as well as alumni events at Fairfield College Preparatory School and College of the Holy Cross. Russell loved spending time with his family—taking vacations, telling stories, and swimming in the family pool. He also enjoyed playing golf, thoroughbred horse racing, and smoking a cigar with friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Maryanne (Faley); daughters, Cara and Caitlin; his brother, Peter, his wife, Judith, and their children, Christopher, Laurel, and Heather; brothers-in-law, John Faley, and his wife, Susan, Kevin Faley, Michael Faley and his wife, Kathy; sister-in-law, Eileen Faley Carroll, and her husband, Jim; parents-in-law, John and Eileen Faley; and many nieces and nephews.

Russell did so much for his community. His death leaves a huge hole in our hearts.

Remembering

George M. Sanford

Redding Fire & EMS Company #1 – Connecticut

Volunteer 1st Lieutenant
Date of Death: April 15, 2012
Age: 67

George Marshall Sanford was a bachelor who was employed as a history teacher at Norwalk High School for 35 years, retiring in 2002. "Marshall" was a 50-year member of the Redding Fire and EMS Company #1, serving as chief, vice president, and lieutenant of Engine One. He was also a 40-year volunteer for the Danbury Hospital Emergency Room, and a member and past president of the Bethel Fire Department.

He was also a member of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association; the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs; Connecticut Firemen Historical Society, Inc.; Connecticut Fire Police Association; Southern Connecticut Antique Fire Apparatus Collectors; Connecticut

Cellar Savers; Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus; Battleship Missouri Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii; Hall of Flame, Phoenix, Arizona; and the International Fire Buffs Association. He was a member and past chairman of the Redding Zoning Board and had been an EMT since 1973.

Marshall was also a member of the Redding Men's Club and treasurer of the Redding Ridge Cemetery Association for over 30 years.

A world traveler, Marshall enjoyed visiting local fire departments throughout the United States and around the world during his many vacation travels.



Remembering

Justin E. Townsend

Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Department – Delaware

Volunteer Junior Firefighter
Date of Death: September 27, 2012
Age: 17

Justin Townsend was a dedicated young man with a big heart. Everything about him was “Big Country,” from his 6’ 1” height to the size of his determination to succeed. He was born and raised in Dagsboro, as was his father. Anyone that knew Justin knew him for his big smile and love of anything camouflage. He came from three generations of volunteer firefighters and grew up hearing stories of his pop-pop Clayton and his father back in the day and knew in his heart that he wanted to be a part of that brotherhood.

Justin was an avid fisherman and hunter, an accomplished equestrian, and loved dirt track racing. Justin often enjoyed fishing with his father at their family pond, or they could be seen together at the local dirt tracks enjoying a good race. Justin learned his love of horses and cats from his stepmother. Justin also loved kids. He enjoyed sharing his love of horses and 4-wheelers with his fellow firefighter’s son, Wyatt, even taking the time to help teach the two-year-old all about horses. Hunting was a big part of Justin’s daily activities, as long as it did not interfere with the firehouse, and he often hunted with brothers from the DVFD.



Justin’s dedication to service was not limited to just the fire company. He was a member of the Sussex Tech JROTC since he began his high school career and would have continued until graduation. And he thought it was “cool” to get to wear an extra day of camo, too.

As soon as Justin was of age and before, he wanted to be a part of DVFD. His drive to service propelled him to complete all of his requirements in record time. Nobody in the history of DVFD had done this. It was his want, his need to help, that pushed him to accomplish this. He felt honored to have such strong roots in both his community of Dagsboro and with the DVFD. He had plans to never leave the area and to continue the family tradition of service to the community that held his family seat.

Justin gave his all in everything he tried to do, and with that heartfelt knowledge I know he was happy to give his life to the service of his department and community. Some say it’s a tragedy for one so young to have been lost. I know he would say, “It’s not tragic giving your life for what you love and believe in.” With that knowledge we will continue to serve.

“Gone but not forgotten.”

Remembering

William J. Elliott

Pompano Beach Fire Rescue – Florida

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: January 6, 2012

Age: 49

William “Bill” Elliott was born on Long Island, New York. He and his younger brother, John, and sister, Mary-Beth, moved to Lighthouse Point, Florida, with their parents in 1974.

Bill was a special person to so many and was unique in many ways—a good person, a good friend, and a wonderful son and brother.

Bill passed away Friday, January 6, 2012, in the line of duty, with Pompano Beach Fire Rescue. Bill was the first Pompano Beach firefighter ever to die in the line of duty.

An outpouring of grief triggered by Bill’s death extended well beyond his immediate kin. Firefighters think of themselves as a brotherhood, and feelings of loss run deep.

Bill served as a firefighter in Lighthouse Point for seven years and then switched to Pompano Beach, where he served for 22 years. Bill loved his profession as a firefighter/EMT. He also specialized in rope rescue, hazardous materials, rescue diving, and extrication. He was known as “MacGyver” in his profession for his intuitive mechanical skills, innovation, and clear thinking during crisis and emergency situations.

Bill was always ready to lend a hand to his fellow workers. His endearing smile and wonderful sense of humor

kept everyone in good spirits. People were attracted to him. His circle was wide. He had friends in every avenue of life. He helped save and enhance many lives in his 29 years of duty as a firefighter.



Bill was an avid outdoorsperson. He felt at home on his airboat in the Everglades, hunting, fishing, and swishing down the ski slopes. He had a love for life and made sure his family and friends enjoyed it with him. Bill was a “Fine American” who left us “With His Boots On” and was in service to others up until the very last moment of his life. He will be loved and missed forever, not only by his family and friends, but by the big family of the fire rescue community.

Our Brother, Our “Paaardna,” Our Hero.

Bill is survived by his mother, Joanne Elliott; his father, William A. Elliott; his sister, Mary-Beth Elliott Williams; his brother-in-law, Scott Williams; his nephew, Jacob Williams; his brother, Boca Raton Firefighter/Paramedic John Elliott; and his faithful dog, Dinghy..

We thank you for honoring Bill at this year’s solemn ceremony at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Remembering

Mark W. Morrison

Saint Lucie County Fire District – Florida

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: March 4, 2012

Age: 53

Mark Wayne Morrison was born February 4, 1959, in Du Bois, Pennsylvania. He was the only child of Joan and Wayne Morrison. He grew up as part of a large, extended family in Brockport and Clearfield, Pennsylvania. After graduation from high school, he attended classes at State College and worked for the railroad operating heavy equipment.

Family was important to Mark, so he relocated to Florida after a large number of family members moved south. After moving to Fort Pierce, Florida, Mark went to work in the construction field. A relative that he lived with was an employee of the Ft. Pierce Fire Department. After many long conversations between the two, Mark got the "fire bug" and knew what he wanted to become. He wished to work and help his community. He continued to work in construction as he completed the Fire Academy at Indian River Community College.

In 1987, after completion of the Fire Fighter and EMT Program, Mark was employed with the Fort Pierce Fire Department, now known as the Saint Lucie County Fire District. In 1996, he was promoted to driver/engineer and three years later became a lieutenant.

Mark's work ethic was beyond reproach, only missing

work time for death of a parent, injury to himself, or a family member. He consistently received yearly attendance awards. Mark always arrived very early at work before his shift to be able to get "shift report" and bond with his "brothers and sisters." His commitment to the fire district, his firefighter family, and the community was always in his heart. He taught CPR in schools and continued to educate himself in the field, working on college classes and his degree.

The chief of the fire district described Mark like this: "(He was) a company officer, the meat and potatoes of our organization....He just excelled. As a company officer, he was just a great leader, and he was the type of person when there was an emergency, he was all about getting it mitigated safely and effectively. Mark was a true professional and loved to serve the community.

He was very well respected by his peers. He had this infectious smile about him. It was always good to see Lt. Morrison, because he walked in, and there was that wonderful grin."

This warm, gentle giant was large in both spirit and physique. He was a special person with a huge heart, always helping others. Mark was a wonderful husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters, Patricia and Brittany; and numerous in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.



Remembering

Stephan C. Rich

Sarasota County Fire Department – Florida

Career Firefighter/Paramedic

Date of Death: August 10, 2004

Age: 58



Remembering

Duane Kanoelehua Ibarra

Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety – Hawaii

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: January 18, 2012

Age: 50

Duane Kanoelehua Ibarra was born February 27, 1961. “Kanoe,” as he was known to family and many friends, was born in Honolulu and raised in Nanakuli on the island of O’ahu, Hawai’i. Growing up near the beach, he developed a love of the ocean. Swimming, bodysurfing, surfing, fishing, football, and baseball were favorite pastimes. He was privileged to attend Kamehameha Schools from grades K-12. Lifelong friendships were forged there. The school’s vision is to assist people of Hawaiian ancestry in achieving their highest potential as “good and industrious men and women.” In Kanoe’s case, it was mission accomplished, for he embodied the definition of a good man. Loving, generous, dependable, hardworking, and fun loving were a few of his traits that we cherish. He balanced pride and humility.

In 1988, after working a variety of jobs and studying at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Kanoe moved to Maui to join the Maui Police Department. He decided to pursue his dream of being a firefighter. On August 1, 1991, the dream became a reality.

Over the years his career with the Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety took him to several stations on Maui, including Lahaina, Paia, Hana, Makawao, and Kaunakakai, Molokai. His last assignment was as Firefighter III Driver Operator with C watch in Makawao. He found fulfillment and reward in serving his community as a firefighter.

Kanoe lived by the words “Live, Laugh and Love.” A person of diverse interests, some favorite activities included golf, hiking, physical fitness, cooking, and traveling. He also enjoyed breeding and raising Staffordshire Bull Terriers. Whatever the endeavor, he gave 100%.

However, his greatest source of joy was his family, whom he loved and supported in every way. A proud family man, his love and devotion continue to inspire. He is survived by his wife, Terri; their daughter, Pomaika’i (the apple of his eye); brothers, Wayne (Janice) and Ronald (Esther); a large extended family; and numerous friends. He enjoyed a special bond with his nieces and nephews. Kanoe touched many lives, and he is greatly missed.



Remembering

Ronnie Edwin Chambless

Neptune Aviation Services, Inc. – Idaho

Contract First Officer

Date of Death: June 3, 2012

Age: 40

Ronnie E. Chambless was born August 19, 1971, in Gainesville, Texas. He had two younger sisters, Jennifer and Kirsten. He became fascinated with aviation at age four, when he was given a toy airplane, and spent many hours talking flying with his grandfather, a retired air force pilot. He also spent much free time on computers when they came out with flight simulator games.

He attended school in Wichita Falls, Texas, graduated from Rider High School, then attended Midwestern State University, where he completed a degree in environmental science. While in high school, he belonged to a Boy Scout explorer group for aviation which met at Sheppard Air Force Base at the flying training wing. Several times they were able to ride along on some of the tanker aircraft. Ronnie loved it, but he always got airsick. During college he worked part-time at a small airpark and put all his pay toward flying lessons, still getting sick every time he flew.

Ronnie loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, camping, and photography. He went to the Philmont Boy Scout area in New Mexico as a teenager, later returning to work as staff. He fell in love with the state of New Mexico and bought his first house in Angelfire. He took flying jobs that would further his career as a pilot and enable him to travel extensively.



Over his career, he spent summers in India, Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Canada doing weather modification projects. He was the pilot in a BBC documentary about cloud seeding. He ferried a single-engine plane by himself from Florida to Denmark. His winters were spent in the Boise, Idaho, area where he also did weather modification (making snow). He flew smokejumpers in Alaska, but his ultimate goal was to be a "fire pilot." He welcomed the opportunity to fly for Neptune Aviation and trained on the Lockheed P2-V firefighting aircraft.

Ronnie and Todd Tompkins were fighting the White Rock fire in Utah near the Nevada border when they crashed June 3, 2012. Ronnie was living in Boise, Idaho, at the time of his death. He was involved in the Hash House Harriers and loved going to Burning Man. He spent many hours volunteering at the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, helping on many fundraisers. He had many friends in the firefighting community. Recently, aviation pictures were hung on the wall at the WFF with the story behind each incident, a project Ronnie had been working on.

Ronnie was able to marry his love of flying with firefighting, and that is how he died. We remember his spirit and his smile, his kind ways, his love of being up in the air and looking down, which is what he is doing today.

Remembering

Todd N. Tompkins

Neptune Aviation Services, Inc. – Idaho

Contract Captain

Date of Death: June 3, 2012

Age: 48

Todd Tompkins was born February 13, 1964, in Spokane, Washington, the second of four children. His parents moved the family to the Seattle area when he was young, where he embarked on a lifelong exploration of the outdoors.

A gifted and natural athlete, Todd participated in many organized sports throughout his childhood on Mercer Island. His true passion was outdoor activities—down-hill skiing, sailing, water skiing, road and mountain biking, mountaineering, and backpacking. He trained with a close childhood friend for nearly a year to compete in Ironman Canada British Columbia in August 1989. This proved to be one in a slew of outdoor events he participated in for fun, sport, and the love of competition.

Todd developed a keen interest in flying, balancing his love for skiing and mountain biking with the training and time required to get his pilot's license. After completing an associate's degree at Big Bend Community College, he went to Embry Riddle Oak Harbor, attaining a bachelor's degree in aviation management.

Todd eventually found work as a pilot. He completed an internship at Alaska Airlines, worked a number of small cargo plane jobs, and did a stint at Lake Mead Air providing scenic tours around the Grand Canyon. Ultimately Todd was drawn to aerial firefighting, which appealed to his free spirit and sense of adventure. He landed a job

as a co-pilot with ARDCO flying a DC-4, an aircraft he respected for its capability in fighting wildland fires. He worked a short period for Butler Aircraft and eventually was hired as a captain at Neptune Aviation Services flying Tanker 11, a P2-V. Todd joked that he liked the aerial firefighting gig as it allowed him to ski 80 times a year, but those who knew him understood how dedicated he was to the job and the entire wildland firefighting community and those he served.

Along the way, Todd met his future wife and was able to carve out the life he always wanted, balancing work, family, and play. True to form, he did it seamlessly, still pursuing his passions while being present for his family in enviable ways. Todd was hands-on with everything he did, and time with his family was no different. His three children had an easy contentment with him, as he had a way of making people feel accepted and comfortable in their own skin. The many "Todd" stories that make family, friends and coworkers laugh and cry also help them navigate life without him positively.

Todd lived a happy and fulfilling life, full of risk and adventure with a foundation of love and stability that he carefully and conscientiously nurtured. In the words of one of his favorite Grateful Dead songs, "I know you, rider, gonna miss me when I'm gone." And we certainly do.



Remembering

Anne Veseth

USDA Forest Service, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest – Idaho

Seasonal Firefighter

Date of Death: August 12, 2012

Age: 20

Anne Rosemarie Veseth was born April 5, 1992, in Moscow, Idaho, to Roger and Claire Veseth. She was the youngest of four children and was loved by each of them for her easy going ways. She could not hold a grudge for more than a couple minutes and was always willing to laugh at herself. She loved horses and was delighted when she got her first one at age eight. She participated in 4-H for eight years and especially appreciated the last two years of riding Woody. Anne enjoyed spending time with her family riding horses, rafting, camping, and biking.

Anne's father died when she was eleven; this profoundly affected the rest of her life.

Anne was always one to try new activities. In junior high she decided to play basketball and run cross country; it was the first time she had played basketball and run any further than to catch her horse. She enjoyed the physical challenges and the camaraderie with her fellow athletes.

Her junior year in high school she decided to try out for Junior Miss. When asked what talent she would perform, she thought about it for a few days and then said she would do breakdancing. Mom pointed out she had never done breakdancing, but Anne said she would learn. For a sometimes very painful year, Anne took lessons and practiced for hours. The hours were well spent;

Anne put on an amazing performance in front of an appreciative crowd, earning second runner-up in the program.

A year later she spent her summer as a member of the Northwest Youth Corps repairing trails and working outdoors. They camped during the week and took showers on the weekend, and Anne loved it. Again, she reveled in the hard physical labor.

After high school Anne attended Lewis-Clark State College on academic scholarships and majored in auto mechanics. Once more she was trying a new activity in which she had no experience. She graduated after two years near the top of the class with an associate's degree in auto mechanics. She organized study groups, served as treasurer of the Auto Club for two years, and made a name for herself as someone that cared about others, but could also take charge and get things done.

She worked for the Forest Service as a wildland firefighter on the North Fork Ranger District for two seasons. She appreciated being in the outdoors, working hard and making a difference. She was a young woman with integrity, determination, a desire to do good, and a passion for life. Her loss leaves a deep hole in our lives and hearts. She will be forever missed by her coworkers, friends, and family.



Remembering

Timothy P. Jansen

Santa Fe Fire Protection District – Illinois

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 2, 2012

Age: 45

Timothy Jansen died December 2, 2012, when he was struck by a fire truck while unloading hose at the scene of a structure fire.

He was born February 3, 1967, in Breese, to Marjorie and the late Paul Jansen, and was one of six siblings.

Tim was a 15-year veteran of the Santa Fe Fire Protection District in Bartelso. He joined the department after many of his friends did and enjoyed serving the citizens of Bartelso.

Tim was the owner/operator of MacJennas Restaurant, named for his two daughters and located across the street from the fire house. He worked long hours at the restaurant, where he made many friends and was known for his generosity.

An avid deer hunter, he loved spending time with his family and friends on the river and at the clubhouse. He was a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Bartelso, Bartelso Knights of Columbus Council 4745, and the 7 Levee Club in Bartelso.

He was survived by his wife, Brenda, nee Kluemke, Jansen, whom he married January 28, 1995, at St. Cecilia Catholic Church; his mother, Marjorie "Margie," nee Gebke, Jansen; daughters, Mackenna and Jenna Jansen; his siblings, Tony (Brenda) Jansen, Lynn (Louie) Loepker, Jeff (Sonja) Jansen, Joe (Sandy) Jansen, and Theresa (Jim) Ghormley; his father-in-law, Gerhard Kluemke; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Karen (Linus) Ripperda, Brian (Sam) Kluemke, Craig (Tanya) Kluemke, and Danny (Shelly) Kluemke; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Jansen; his mother-in-law, Bernadette, nee Varel, Kluemke; his dear uncle, Father James Jansen; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Tim was remembered as "one of the nice guys," a pillar of his community, and a generous neighbor with an outstanding work ethic. Everybody loved Tim.



Remembering

Herbert T. Johnson

Chicago Fire Department – Illinois

Career Captain

Date of Death: November 2, 2012

Age: 54

Captain Herbert T. Johnson died on November 2, 2012, at a working fire in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. Captain Johnson was affectionately called "Herbie" by all of his friends. Herbie was extremely entertaining to anyone who met him; he had a great sense of humor and was, without a doubt, larger than life. Herbie helped people see the funny side of almost every situation. Besides being a wonderful husband, Herbie was a loyal friend, brother, and father. With his gift of storytelling and genuine concern for everyone, he was the glue keeping his friends, family, and department together.

In 1980, Herbie began his 32-year career on the Chicago Fire Department, a career that saw Herbie work in almost every neighborhood in Chicago as he worked his way up the ranks. Herbie was a firefighter on Chicago's west and south sides (Engine 117, Truck 48, Engine 62), an engineer downtown, on the south side and across the street from Wrigley Field (District 1 Relief, Engine 100, Engine 78), lieutenant on the north side and in Englewood (District 2 Relief, Tower Ladder 39), and finally captain on Chicago's south side (District 5 Relief) at the time of his death.

Herbie was humble about his accomplishments and awards. In 2007, Herbie received the Medal of Honor from the State of Illinois for a fire rescue of several

children while working as a lieutenant on Engine 123.

Herbie did not want a large group at this ceremony and only invited his immediate family to share this award with him.

In many ways, he would downplay his accomplishments, although he would give generously of his time and talents to many friends and various causes without recognition.

Captain Herbert T. Johnson continuously demonstrated what it took to be a great leader in the Chicago Fire Department. Having worked his entire career in areas that had a high volume of fires and emergency medical calls, Herbie saw the value in training. Therefore, Herbie's career included teaching over 1,000 CFD recruits, an entire generation of Chicago firefighters, at the Robert J. Quinn Fire Academy. Herbie believed in providing mentoring to new firefighters, while in the academy and on the street, because he felt that to have an enormous impact on the lives of new firefighters and developing their firefighting skills was important to preserve the future of the Chicago Fire Department. People like Herbie are what makes the Chicago Fire Department the organization it is today.

Herbie is survived by his wife of 28 years, Susan; three children, Thomas (age 27), Laurie (age 25), Michael "Mickey" (age 20); and seven brothers and sisters, many of whom are police officers and members of the Chicago Fire Department.



Remembering

Walter Patmon Jr.

Chicago Fire Department – Illinois

Career Firefighter

Date Of Death: November 11, 2012

Age: 61

Walter Patmon Jr. was born February 17, 1951, in Chicago, Illinois, to Walter Sr. and Annie V. Patmon. He was the second of three children, between Joe Williams, the oldest, and Mary Ann Patmon, the youngest. Walter was very close and loving with his siblings.

Walter confessed a hope in Christ at an early age, and his faith guided him.

While attending Oglesby Elementary School on the south side of Chicago, Walter met and befriended a group of young men who formed a brotherhood which lasted half a century. Because of his portly physique and great sense of humor, the guys nicknamed him "Bubble."

Walter graduated from Calumet High School in 1969. Shortly thereafter, he went on to become an employee at Michael Reese Hospital, where he was first a page that carried patients all over the hospital. Then he worked in the mail room delivering mail.

Walter met his wife, Diane, at Michael Reese Hospital. The couple married, and in this union three daughters were born. Walter was a committed and conscientious husband and father. There was always a lot of laughter and fun in our house. Walter was also a long distance truck driver for North American Van Lines, and later operated a concrete truck for Material Service.

In 1994, at the age of 43, Walter Patmon Jr. successfully completed his training at the Chicago Fire Department, thus fulfilling a lifelong dream to become a firefighter. Upon graduation from the fire academy, he was assigned to Truck 19, Company 14 on the north side of Chicago. His next assignment was Truck 40, Company 121, in the Beverly area of Chicago. A veteran firefighter for 18 years, he was not only committed to his fire company, but also committed to helping people.

Walter worked tirelessly to promote greater support and respect for firefighters from the citizens of Chicago, whom they are sworn to protect and serve. Walter will be remembered by his colleagues for his willingness to lend a hand to any task and for his outstanding cooking skills. Which leads us to his famous rub for meat, called the "Bub Rub." This made his barbecue worth the wait and was all the rave among his colleagues, friends, and family.

Walter Patmon Jr. leaves loving memories in the heart of his devoted wife, Diane; their three daughters, Windy, Kirby, and Kirwin; brother, Joe Williams, and wife, Shilla; sister, Mary Ann Patmon; a host of uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends; and his many brothers and sisters on the Chicago Fire Department.



Remembering

Mark A. Haudenschild II

Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department – Indiana

Volunteer Assistant Chief Engineer

Date of Death: November 11, 2012

Age: 26

Mark Haudenschild died November 11, 2012, in an apparatus accident while responding to a reported grass fire.

Born in Fort Wayne, he was a second-generation firefighter with the Washington Center Township Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as an assistant chief engineer for five years. He was motivated by a desire to help others in their hour of need. Known as "Mr. Fix It" by his family, Mark also put his talents to use doing maintenance on some of the fire department rigs.

He worked as a technician with Comcast for six years. He enjoyed cars, hunting, fishing, and family. He was a Eucharistic minister and a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Arcola, Indiana, as well as Sugar Grove Church of God.

Mark was a devoted father to his two young children. He and his wife enjoyed being together, whether they were doing something special or just working together around the house.

He was survived by his wife, Janet Haudenschild; his children, Kyra and Mark Haudenschild III; his father, Mark (Susan) Haudenschild Sr.; his mother, Jean Haudenschild; siblings, Casey Morgan, Matthew Kinsey, Angela (Mark) Gregory, Amber Martin, and Angela S. (Patrick Muller) Haudenschild; nephews, Andrew, T.J., and Alex; grandparents, Paul (Marlene) Haudenschild, Mary (Hubert) Williams, and Sunny (Darlene) Myers; and parents-in-law, Richard and Anita Frame.

He was remembered as a devoted family man who was always smiling.



Remembering

Jeremy Ryan Tighe

McCutchanville Fire Department – Indiana

Volunteer Firefighter
Date of Death: February 22, 2012
Age: 18

Jeremy Tighe was born February 23, 1993, to Jerri Johnson of Evansville, Indiana, and Tim Tighe of Cleveland, Ohio. Jeremy worked for the City of Evansville as a lifeguard from the age of fifteen. He gave swimming lessons to children in the community and loved the water.

He graduated from Central High School in 2011, where he was a member of the swim team. He was very involved with Young Life, serving as a mentor.

Jeremy started with McCutchanville Fire Department in 2010. He was an Indiana state-certified Firefighter I and II, a state-certified First Responder, a state-certified EMT, and a member of the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Jeremy was an avid firefighter. He lived at the firehouse and was very involved in day-to-day operations at the firehouse.

Jeremy had a smile that could light any room. He put everyone in front of himself, and everyone who knew Jeremy loved him. He loved spending time with his friends and supporting local bands.

Jeremy, you will be remembered by many.

On February 22, 2012, Jeremy made his last run in the fire service with McCutchanville Fire Department. He always said, "Don't talk about it. Be about it." He lived his short 18 years to the fullest.



Remembering

Larry D. Nielsen

Gilmore City Fire Department – Iowa

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: October 9, 2012

Age: 60

Chief Larry Nielsen suffered a heart attack while responding in department apparatus to a reported barn fire on October 9, 2012. He was transported to the hospital where he died later that day.

Chief Nielsen was a 41-year veteran with the Gilmore City Fire Department and the Gilmore City Ambulance Service, where he served as a volunteer emergency medical technician and director. His assistant chief said he “lived and breathed” for emergency services and that a better fireman couldn’t be found. He was remembered by fellow firefighters as very calm and collected even on a chaotic fire scene. He was diligent about making sure someone was available to respond to

emergency calls, staying in town when he knew other members would be away.



Larry worked for Gilmore City for 30 years and retired in 2011 as utilities supervisor. At the time of his death, he worked at the Pro Coop station in Gilmore. He was also the sexton of the Marble Valley Cemetery. Larry volunteered as a coach for Girls’ Little League for over fifteen years and played men’s fast-pitch for ten years.

He was survived by his wife, Susan Nielsen, and his children, Chris and Luke Nielsen.

Larry was a good father and a good citizen who contributed a lot to his community

Remembering

George S. Davis

Hollis Fire and Rescue Department – Maine

Career Chief

Date of Death: June 23, 2012

Age: 62

George S. Davis was born February 15, 1950, to George C. and Ramona McMillan Davis.

George was a 1968 graduate of Greeley High School in Cumberland, Maine. While in high school he was a junior member of the Cumberland Fire Department at age 15.

Following high school he served in the Army as a door gunner in Viet Nam. After his military service he returned to Maine and began work for Dave Astor's Garage. He later worked for Motor Truck & Trailer Company, where he met his future wife, Denise.

In 1976 he married the former Denise Meehan in Portland, Maine. Following his marriage he worked for James Wiltsie Company. He later worked for Shaw's Supermarkets.

The family moved to Lyman, Maine, and George joined the Goodwins Mills Fire & Rescue, where he rose through the

ranks of the department serving as deputy fire chief from 2002 until 2004. He received the Chief Coyle R. Meserve Outstanding Member of the Year Award in 2001 and was named an honorary member of the Goodwins Mills Fire Rescue.

George was also a full-time fire marshal for the Sanford Fire Department and a Maine state fire instructor. George served as town selectman for the Town of Lyman for two terms. In 2005, he was named fire chief of the Hollis Fire & Rescue, a position he held until the time of his passing. George was a member and past president of the York County Fire Chiefs Association.

George leaves behind his wife of 36 years, Denise, and his son, Aaron, along with his wife, Ronny, whom George considered his daughter. He also leaves the joy of his life, his grandson, Ronan. He was also survived by two brothers and six sisters.



Remembering

John D. Grabowski

Riverview Fire Department – Michigan

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: October 1, 2012

Age: 49

John Daniel Grabowski was born on January 28, 1963, in Wyandotte, Michigan, to Anthony and Patricia Grabowski. John was the sixth of eight children that made up the Grabowski family. He grew up working for the family business, a popular “mom and pop” hardware store that was known for its friendly service and laid back atmosphere. Twenty years later, people would still recognize John from his days at the hardware.

In 1988, John decided to take a new turn towards a career and was hired by the city of Riverview, Michigan, as a firefighter. During his time with the department, he worked hard and was dedicated to his community. He climbed the ranks, completing numerous trainings and earning many awards, eventually earning the rank of lieutenant and becoming an EMT-Specialist. He was involved in firefighter charities such as the annual Bowl for Burns, which raises money for the University of Michigan Burn Center. At 24 years of service, John became the president of his union, Riverview Firefighters AFSCME Local 3667.

John was not only involved in the firefighting community, but also held a job at a local chemical plant, BASF Corporation, where he “climbed the ladder,” earning the title of technician trainer. He was part of BASF’s emergency response team, using his skills as an EMT to respond to emergency situations on the large property.

Outside of his firefighting services and the chemical plant, John enjoyed traveling to the family vacation home in “Up North” Michigan where he would fish and ride his jet ski. He was well known around a large community for his outgoing and friendly personality. There was not a person that crossed his path that did not like John Grabowski. He made friends everywhere he went and considered his co-workers family, and his fellow firefighters, brothers.

John was 49 years old. He is survived by two daughters and a stepson, but was preceded in death by his wife, Angela Hicks-Grabowski, who lost her battle with cancer. Everyone will forever remember his positive outlook on life, as well as his ability to light up a room with his charismatic smile and the sound of his laughter.



Remembering

John T. Sayles

Pentwater Fire Department – Michigan

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: November 14, 2012

Age: 38

John Thomas Sayles was born May 7, 1974, in Jackson, Michigan, to Thomas and Ann (Sexton) Sayles. John's mother and father exposed him to livestock and farming from a young age. He loved the outdoors, swimming, and water skiing. He was a protective older brother to his sister, MaryAnn. In 1985, the family moved to Hart, Michigan. John was eager to get a snowmobile, but his father had other ideas. John received his first tractor, a John Deere Model A.

John graduated from Pentwater Public School in 1992. On October 3, 1998, he married his college sweetheart, Melanie Hartley, at Riverside Park in Scottville, Michigan. John and Melanie were blessed with three beautiful daughters, Mercedy, Marissa, and Mandi. Like their father, they are being raised with the love of farming.

John's firefighter training began in the fall of 2002. Within two years he was one of the more active members of Pentwater Fire Department. He then accepted a full-time job with the Pentwater Department of Public Works. John had a reputation for always smiling and was willing to help anyone, no matter how big or small the problem. Whenever there was a call for

help, John was always there. He responded to 787 fire and rescue incidents in just 10 years, second only to the fire chief.

At 6' 4", John was a gentle giant. He enjoyed deer camp every year with the same group of friends, even though he never shot a deer. When the fire pager would tone, his enthusiasm to respond and a more serious demeanor would surface. A Michigan certified Fire Officer I & II, he commanded all incident responses, but his strength and passion was water supply. He thrived when there were no hydrants. John always made sure the engines were pushing enough water, and tenders were bringing enough water.

John was not only active in the Pentwater DPW and Fire Department but also very active in agriculture, working for Aerts Apple Farm. He was extremely active with his daughters, coaching soccer and basketball, leading 4-H, and being a member of the West Michigan Old Engine Club. John will be remembered for his core country living values and his dedication to family and community. He loved country music, trucks, and anything John Deere. But more than anything, John loved his wife, children, and family.



Remembering

Gerald Robert Wetherell

Denton Township Fire Department – Michigan

Volunteer Firefighter/EMT

Date of Death: February 28, 2012

Age: 74

Gerald Robert “Jerry” Wetherell was a volunteer fireman and full-time EMT in Denton Township, Roscommon County, Michigan. Jerry was born on February 23, 1938, in Flint and lived there until 1973, when he moved his family to Denton Township. That year, he and his wife, Alice, purchased the Sand Bar, a nightclub on the southeast shore of Houghton Lake. Together they operated the Sand Bar for 38 years. Jerry joined the Denton Township Volunteer Fire Department in 1974, where he attained the rank of lieutenant and served until his death on February 28, 2012.

The Denton Fire Hall is located next door to the Sand Bar. Living so close, Jerry was very often the first person to arrive for a fire or rescue call. He loved being a fireman and helping people. He also enjoyed going on emergency rescue calls and took advantage of all the training the department offered. He trained as a first responder and EMT and became a full-time EMT for the township ambulance service. Jerry was well known and

liked by emergency staff personnel at hospitals throughout Michigan’s lower peninsula.



He was an organizer and quick to volunteer for any community event supported by the fire departments. He really enjoyed riding in or driving the fire trucks in parades and at local Halloween events. Jerry also was a powerful advocate for the wellbeing of animals. He belonged to the Humane Society of the U.S. and several state and county animal protection agencies. Jerry was generous with his time and his resources when it came to animals. He rescued three cats from the local shelters and always kept a watchful eye for pets in burning buildings.

Jerry leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Alice; two daughters, Pamela and Kristine, and their husbands, Ron and John; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. His smile was contagious! He is missed by his family, the members of the Denton Township Fire Department, township offices and ambulance service, and the many, many patrons of the Sand Bar.

Remembering

Karlton Allen Kole Briscoe

Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department – Mississippi

Volunteer Auxiliary Firefighter

Date of Death: March 25, 2003

Age: 16

Karlton Allen Kole Briscoe was born November 19, 1986, to Tammy and Ronnie Briscoe.

The younger of two boys, he had a loving bond with his brother, Craig, and all his family members and friends. Everybody in the community from the youngest to the oldest loved him.

At the young age of sixteen, he gave his life serving his community as a junior firefighter. Kole was a man of courage, wisdom, and character way beyond his years. He had a love for life and left a lasting impression on everyone that knew him. He was full of humor and integrity.

Kole was a sophomore at Hickory Flat High School in Hickory Flat, Mississippi. He was hind catcher for the H.F.

Rebel baseball team. He worked, rode horses, and was a firefighter.



Kole was a member of First Baptist Church, where he accepted Jesus as his Lord and savior at a young age. We know he is in a better place, and we thank the Lord for letting us have him, even if it was for a short time.

There is a scholarship that is awarded in Kole's honor each year to a graduating student from Hickory Flat High School.

He is survived by his mother, Tammy Hogue; his father, Ronnie Briscoe; his brothers, Craig Briscoe and Kolton Briscoe; his sister, Britney Childers; and his grandparents, Jimmy and Norma Rooker and Verona Briscoe. His grandfather, Vardman Briscoe, is deceased.

Remembering

Nolan E. Pittman

Centreville Volunteer Fire Department – Mississippi

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: March 4, 2012

Age: 45

Chief Nolan “Goat” Pittman suffered a fatal heart attack on March 4, 2012, after becoming ill while operating at the scene of a residential structure fire.

He was born July 20, 1966, the son of Sedgie and Helen Louise Pittman. He worked as a truck driver. A 25-year veteran with the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department, he was remembered for his dedication to the department and the town. He lived and breathed the fire department.

He was survived by his wife, Melissa “Missy”

Thomas Pittman; his mother, Helen; his seven-year-old daughter, April Renee Pittman; a stepdaughter, Lacy Summerall; his parents-in-law, James and Hattie Thomas; brother-in-law, Jason Thomas; two sisters, Robin Pittman McKenzie (Thomas) and Penny Pittman Slocum; a brother, Denson Pittman (Reta); and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father and two brothers, David and Terry Pittman.

“Goat” was well loved, the kind of person you could count on if you were ever in need.



Remembering

Douglas D. Haase Sr.

St. Charles Fire Department – Missouri

Career Firefighter/Paramedic
Date of Death: February 1, 2012
Age: 60

Mr. Douglas D. "Doug" Haase Sr. was born on October 3, 1951, in Waverly, Missouri, to Louis and Dora (Schutte) Haase. He was the youngest of five brothers, Eugene, Herbert, Larry, Don, and Doug. He met the love of his life, Cathy Rucker, during his high school years. They were joined in holy matrimony on March 14, 1970, in Marshall, Missouri, and were blessed with a son, Dale. The family resided in Marshall until moving to Lexington and later to Troy in 1975. Doug was transferred by Orscheln Farm & Home, and opened their first store in Troy.

Doug began his firefighting career in 1978 with Troy & Rural Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as chief from 1980-1984. He worked as an EMT-paramedic for Lincoln County Ambulance for 15 years. On September 4, 1984, he began working for St. Charles City Fire Department, where he served as a firefighter, paramedic, and engineer for 27 years.

He was called "SELF" by those he worked with, because he went around saying, "I said to myself, 'Self'—that's me, you know."

He was a caring and compassionate person his entire life, and working to help others was second nature to him. Doug had been a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church since moving to Troy. Most people do not like the thought of snow, but Doug loved to play outdoors with his son and grandsons sledding and making snowmen. Doug was an amazing, loving, and caring man. He had a way of calming any stressful situation. He had a dry sense of humor that could make anyone smile and a hearty laugh that will be remembered by family and friends.

Doug passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, at Station 2 in St. Charles.

Doug's greatest accomplishment was caring for his loving family, his wife, Cathy; son, Dale; daughter-in-law, Robyn; and grandsons, Doug and Sam.

He is also survived by his brothers, Herb Haase, and wife, Darlene; Don Haase, and wife, Norma; and his sisters-in-law, Loretta Haase and Bonnie Haase; his father-in-law, Wayne Rucker; brother-in-law, Larry Rucker; sisters-in-law, Becky Silvey and Susan Rucker; and other relatives and friends.



Remembering

Jeffery A. Hudson

St. Louis Fire Department – Missouri

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: December 12, 2012

Age: 46

Jeffery Artell Hudson was born on November 25, 1966, in St. Louis, Missouri, to the union of Presley Sr. and Ernestine Hudson. He was the youngest of four children, two brothers; Andrew and Presley Jr., and a sister, Veronica.

Jeffery attended Southwest High School, where he developed a love for basketball, wrestling, and art; he was even offered an art scholarship upon graduation. With an energetic attitude and a smile that would light up any room, Jeffery was always full of life.

Early in life he married and reared four children, Tia, Donnella, Sherita, and Jeffery. He also has four grandchildren, Aniya, Demar Jr., Dahlia, and DonVeion Jr.

In 1993, Jeffery joined the St. Louis Fire Department, where he served for 18 proud years. His love for his job inspired him to have hopes of making captain, which he was studying for up to his passing. Jeffery was also a member of the Firemen's Association. Along with being a fireman, Jeffery explored several successful business ventures, such as Hudson Auto Sales, and many home proprietorships.

Anyone that knew Jeffery would tell you of this face he made right before he was getting ready to tell a joke, laugh, or render good news. He will always be remembered as loving, kind, and caring; a great son, brother, father, and grandfather. Jeffery was always there when you needed a helping hand. There was never a problem he couldn't solve or help with for his family. To many Jeffery was a hero, but to his children he was Superman.

Dad, you were our hero... in so many ways, we are so grateful to you. We have such respect for the man that you were and the wonderful things that you did. You had a heart "as big as an ocean," a "soft side" you didn't often show. All of your life, you worked for our family, you taught us and helped us grow. You were the man we knew we could lean on, who fostered a strong sense of pride. The father who gave us his love and affection and always remained by our side.

All of our lives, Dad, we will be thankful, that we had a father so true. We never had to search for a hero; the hero in our lives was you.

Tia, Donnella, Sherita, and Jeffery



Remembering

Eddy Wayne Meador

Pattonsburg Rescue and Fire Protection District – Missouri

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: December 8, 2012

Age: 54

Eddy W. Meador, 54, of Pattonsburg Missouri, passed away Saturday, December 8, 2012.

He was born August 28, 1958, in Bethany, Missouri, the son of Eddy Joe and Elnora (Salmon) Meador. Eddy was a lifelong resident of Pattonsburg.

Eddy had served with the Pattonsburg Rescue & Fire Protection District since he was 18 years old. In 2002, he became fire chief and was still serving in that position at the time of his death. He was also the superintendent for the Water Department of the City of Pattonsburg.

Survivors include his two sons, Bryan (Bobbie) Meador and Chris Meador, and his daughter, Whitney Meador-Ortiz, all of Pattonsburg; his mother, Elnora Smith, sister, Elizabeth Hoover; brothers, Danny Meador and Randy Meador; half-sisters, Jenny Jo Page and Felicia Meador; and seven grandchildren.

If you knew Eddy, consider yourself blessed! For anyone that has ever met Eddy and knew the kind of man he was, no explanation is necessary to understand why his passing leaves such a huge void in our community. For those unfortunate few that never had the pleasure of meeting Eddy, no amount of explaining will ever adequately describe this man without making it appear that he was a super hero of some kind.

While I have never actually seen Eddy leap any buildings in a single bound, I have seen him soaring high above the buildings and light poles of Pattonsburg on many occasions, with the aid of an "old yellow bucket truck." That tiny detail might not qualify him for true "Super Hero" certification. But when you factor in the other highly admirable qualities this man possessed, he's just about as close to being a super hero as anyone you will ever meet on this earth!

Eddy didn't have x-ray vision, but he could truly see deep into the hearts of others and could always seem to find the good in someone where many others could not. Eddy wasn't faster than a speeding bullet, but he never wasted any time rushing to help someone in need. Eddy couldn't lift a locomotive, but he was ALWAYS willing and able to help lift the spirits of someone who was feeling like the weight of the whole world was crashing down upon them! Eddy didn't wear a cape, but he would give the shirt off of his back to anyone that was less fortunate than him.

Eddy Meador may not have been a super hero, but if you knew Eddy, you can consider yourself blessed, because you knew a man that treated everyone with true dignity and respect, no matter their age or their gender, and who could persuade you to feel good about yourself, even during times when you really didn't want to!



Remembering

Christopher J. Seelye

USDA Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest –
Montana

Contract Firefighter/Timber Faller

Date of Death: September 17, 2012

Age: 61

Christopher Joseph Seelye was born in Glens Falls, New York, on May 30, 1951. He graduated from high school in Sacramento, California, and attended Feather River College. After working as an engineer for Pacific Lumber Company, he began a long career as a timber faller.

Chris worked for a number of logging companies over the years, and his work took him to many interesting locations across the western United States. He died on September 17, 2012, after becoming ill while working on the Klone fire, near Wenatchee, Washington. He often mentored more novice fallers, walking them through the process and shar-

ing his wealth of knowledge. His coworkers enjoyed hearing stories of his adventures over the years, especially about the old growth Humboldt redwoods he used to fall.

Chris loved the outdoors. An avid hunter, he spent many hunting seasons at Ruth Lake, eventually moving there with his family. He was active with the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department, the Scotia Jay Cees, Twin Creeks Motorcycle Group, and the Ruth Rodeo Club.

He was survived by his two daughters, Stephanie Saunderson and Kathleen Brunson; his sisters, Rosalie Martin and Christine Seelye; and extended family.



Remembering

Richard Joseph Schaefer

Hopkinton Fire Department – New Hampshire

Career Chief

Date of Death: September 2, 2012

Age: 52

Richard Joseph Schaefer was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 21, 1960, to Richard L. and Eleanor M. Schaefer. The family lived in Burlington, Massachusetts, until they moved to Hopkinton, New Hampshire, in 1972. After graduating from Hopkinton High School in 1978, he joined the Hopkinton Rescue Squad. One year later he joined the organization that would truly define what he would mean to the community that he called home, the Hopkinton Fire Department.

Rick was a devoted firefighter/EMT with the Hopkinton Fire Department for 33 years. In 1983, he was promoted to lieutenant, then in 1988 to captain. In 1991, he was further promoted to deputy chief/training officer, and in 1999 was promoted to chief and a deputy warden. In 2009, he revolutionized the department by becoming the first full-time fire chief. Under Rick's leadership, training standards for the department were a top priority. He worked hard to bring additional full-time firefighters and paramedics into the department, providing the town with high quality service.

His professionalism and dedication to the job earned him the title of vice president of the Capital Area Fire Compact. He served as the Hopkinton emergency management director for years. He wrote many grants to provide essential equipment for the fire department and other town buildings. Rick was instrumental in researching,

designing, and purchasing multiple ambulances and trucks for the department.

Chief Schaefer was involved with his community by participating in many programs including the Safety Committee for the Hopkinton School District and the Hopkinton Community Outreach program. He volunteered his time to teach the local students about firefighting and general safety. He was assistant coach to many of his sons' sports teams.

Rick was married for 31 years to his high school sweetheart, Kathy Starkey. They had three children, Richard (Ricky), Jessamyn, and Joshua. He had two grandchildren, Kyleigh Mae and Dreesen Joseph, whom he adored. His children were encouraged to believe in their own career paths. His daughter followed in his footsteps as a firefighter/EMT-I for the Town of Hopkinton. He was a family man with a passion for planning family vacations as well as getaways with his wife. His family will always remember their fun-filled vacations with Dad.

Known as a jack of all trades, with a heart of gold, he was always willing to help anyone at any time. If he didn't know how to do something he would find someone who did. He was an honest man with high morals and standards and was well respected by all who knew him. He was known for his overwhelming dedication to his family, the fire service, and his community. Rick's level of commitment was second to none.



Remembering

Bruce A. Turcotte

Hopelawn Engine Company No. 1 – New Jersey

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: January 19, 2012

Age: 58

Bruce Turcotte joined the Hopelawn Engine Company #1 in February 1973 when he was just 20 years old. He was one of the youngest firemen in all of New Jersey at the time, because the state had just passed a law lowering the minimum age for firefighters from 21 to 18. Bruce quickly rose through the ranks of the department, serving as fire chief in 1983. During his tenure, he served in every line and executive officer position including company president. Bruce was also the fire company's chaplain and historian, keeping meticulous records of every member that has walked through the doors of the department.

Bruce Turcotte served in many positions outside of the fire company. He was a life member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. He was also the secretary of the United Firemen's Relief Association of Fords, Keasbey, and Hopelawn. Firefighters throughout Woodbridge Township would find it hard to miss his presence at fires and other large emergencies, as he would assist the incident commander as a township mutual aid coordinator, and he was well known by many as MAC 3.

Bruce was often called "The Mayor" because of the people he always seemed to know in some of the most unexpected remote locations. He had a presence about him that would make it easy for people to remember

him. Maybe it was his size and stature. Or, maybe it was his (sometimes twisted) sense of humor. He would not hesitate to lend a hand to anybody in need.



On January 19, 2012, Bruce Turcotte responded with his son Brian, Hopelawn's Assistant Chief, and the rest of their crew to a mutual aid house fire in the Iselin section of the township. They were to be assigned as the rapid intervention crew at the scene. It was during that deployment that Bruce became ill and was found unresponsive behind the wheel of Hopelawn's rescue truck. This was Hopelawn's first ever line-of-duty death in their 98-year history.

Bruce Turcotte is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Janet; his two sons, Michael Turcotte and his wife, Rebecca, and Brian Turcotte and his wife, Nicole; and his daughter, Catherine, and her husband, Robert Keene.

Bruce especially loved taking his family to Promised Land State Park in Pennsylvania and eventually bought a summer home at Eagle Lake in Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania. Despite having three kidney transplants, that never stopped him from serving his community and enjoying life. A park near Bruce's childhood home has been renamed the Bruce A. Turcotte Memorial Park in his honor as a dedicated volunteer firefighter. He is sorely missed and will never be forgotten.

Remembering

Jon Tibbetts

Sandoval County Fire Department – New Mexico

Career Chief

Date of Death: July 23, 2012

Age: 59

Fire Chief Jon Tibbetts started his career in the emergency services as a paramedic with the San Juan County Emergency Services. He worked at San Juan County until 1986 and was certainly considered a pioneer in his profession. In 1986, he started his 18-year career with Albuquerque Ambulance, where he would work for the next 18 years. During his years at Albuquerque Ambulance he would serve as a paramedic, system education coordinator, system status manager, and operations manager. He was one of the main people tasked with the project of setting up a global positioning system in the late 1980s. In 2004, he became the first career fire chief for Sandoval County Fire Department. Chief Tibbetts loved fighting fires and responded to every possible structure fire he could.



Chief Tibbetts helped build the Sandoval County Fire Department from the ground up. During his tenure as chief he built four fire stations and completely staffed the new fire department with career staff to supplement the volunteers. His characteristics as a person of integrity, determination, honesty, and gentleness, all made him a natural born leader. Chief Tibbetts wrote a grant that resulted in the funding of a brand new fire station in Santa Ana Pueblo in 2009.

He was killed in an on duty motor vehicle crash on July 23, 2012, at age 59.

In addition to his numerous professional accomplishments he was a loving husband to Connie and a loving father to his daughters, Amy and Natasha. A Habitat for Humanity house is currently being built in his name.

Remembering

Michael J. Chiapperini

West Webster Fire District – New York

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 24, 2012

Age: 43

Michael J. "Chip" Chiapperini was born April 1, 1969, and grew up in Webster, New York, with his loving parents, Marcia and John, and sister, Michelle. He dedicated his life to serving the Webster community, both as a volunteer firefighter for the West Webster Fire Department and as a police lieutenant with the Webster Police Department.

Mike had volunteered with the West Webster Fire Department for over 25 years and rose through the ranks of lieutenant, captain, second assistant chief, first assistant chief, and chief. At the time of his passing he was serving as the advisor for the Explorer Post, something he had done for many years and greatly enjoyed. It was through the Explorer program that Mike befriended and became a mentor to Tomasz Kaczowka, who also passed away on Christmas Eve during the same tragic incident. Mike was always quick to volunteer to go on emergency deployments to areas affected by weather-related devastation. Prior to his passing he had spent a week helping out at the Mastic Beach Fire Department after Hurricane Sandy. He said it had meant a lot to him to be able to go on that deployment with his son, Nick, who is also in the West Webster Fire Department.

Mike served in the Webster Police Department for over 19 years. Within the department he also rose through the ranks of patrol officer, investigator, sergeant, and

lieutenant. Mike served on many committees and was trained in many areas of emergency response.

He was particularly interested in crash reconstruction, arson investigation, grant writing, and safety procedures. Mike loved to be involved in the community and helped instruct the citizen's police academy, gave many talks at the schools, and volunteered at the Webster Fireman's Carnival.

Mike leaves behind his wife, Kimberly, and three children, Nicholas (20), Kacie (5), and Kylie (3). He is also survived by his mother, Marcia; sister, Michelle (Dane) Ehrich; mother and father-in-law, Pete and Shari Munding; brothers-in-law, Michael and Ryan Munding; sister-in-law, Julie (Jeffrey) Dawson; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Mike had a passion for life and keeping busy. In his free time he enjoyed boating, snowmobiling, hunting, road trips, vacations and lots of family time. Every weekend he planned something fun to do with his family. Mike was also a dog lover and cherished his two boxers, Jax and Carlie.

Courageous, determined, outgoing, humorous, and generous are qualities that describe Mike. He adored his family, would always help a friend in need, and was a true public servant. He is and will always be greatly loved and missed.



Remembering

Tomasz M. Kaczowka

West Webster Fire District – New York

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 24, 2012

Age: 19

"I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives." During his short 19 years, Tomasz Kaczowka modeled his life after Edward Croker's quote.

Born on May 16, 1993, Tomasz Marian Kaczowka was a first generation Polish-American and the youngest of three brothers. He loved his friends and family, visiting Poland, and helping others. Those who knew him remember him as an energetic, fun-loving individual with a sense of humor and a contagious smile. He enjoyed making people laugh and playing jokes on his unsuspecting brothers, Dariusz and Greg. His parents, Janina and Marian, taught him to work hard and reap the benefits of a career he was passionate about, although few people would have guessed that he would become a firefighter.

Tomasz developed an interest in civil service at a young age, drawn to any profession requiring a uniform and helping others. He joined the West Webster Explorers Post at age 14, eagerly attending trainings in order to develop himself as a firefighter and help the other explorers he trained with. During high school, Tomasz enrolled in certified first responder and EMT courses at the Eastern Monroe Career Center in Rochester, eventu-

ally earning CFR and EMT certifications. He graduated the Explorers Program in August 2011 at age 18, becoming the youngest volunteer firefighter in the department.

After becoming a firefighter, Tomasz's interest in civil service expanded outside of the fire department. He continued his studies with a concentration in fire safety at Monroe Community College, while simultaneously working full time as a fire dispatcher for the Rochester Emergency Communications Department on the overnight shift. Even with this rigorous schedule, Tomasz still dedicated time to attend incidents, and was placed on the dean's list for the fall of 2012.

In preparation for life after college, he planned to take professional firefighter exams in Prince George's County, Maryland, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Tomasz Kaczowka was killed in the line of duty along with his friend and mentor, Michael Chiapperini, during an ambush at the scene of a fire on December 24, 2012. He had selflessly offered to stay at the firehouse overnight so that other firefighters could spend time with their families on Christmas Eve. His heroic actions will not be forgotten.

Tomasz's dedication and drive to succeed in civil service serve as proof that age is not always an accurate measure of a person's character and ability. Hopefully Tomasz's actions will serve as a guide for other young firefighters.



Remembering

Ronald J. Keddie

Sheridan Fire Department – New York

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: June 27, 2012

Age: 64

Ronald J. Keddie, a 41-year member of the Sheridan Fire Department, passed away on June 27, 2012, at the age of 64. While reporting to the fire station to drive an engine to a motor vehicle accident, Ron collapsed on the floor of the fire station due to a medical emergency and succumbed to his injuries.

Ron was a New York State fire instructor for over 30 years. He had a passion for the fire service that was difficult to rival. He attempted to instill that passion in all of his students, as well as in anyone else who would listen. He coordinated the Chautauqua County Weekend at the New York State Fire Academy, where there was rarely an empty seat.

Ron also loved to work with children and routinely taught fire prevention to children at local schools, youth groups, and at the Children's Safety Village. Ron was a burly man with a deep, gruff voice which may normally frighten a child, but

due to his gentle ways he almost always endeared the children to him and his message of fire safety.

Ronald Keddie served the Sheridan Fire Department in the offices of president, chief for two terms, and most recently as a fire commissioner in his third term. Through the course of his career, he also served on countless committees.

Ron served his country in the Viet Nam War from 1967-1970 in the U.S. Navy, and received the National Defense Medal. He was also very active in local fraternal organizations, clubs, charitable organizations, and was an avid Buffalo Sabres fan.

Surviving are his wife, Kathleen, and son, Michael, both active members of the Sheridan Fire Department, and his daughters, Jennifer and Melissa.

He is also survived by five grandchildren, Kelsie, Kaylynn, Dominic, Allison, and Corey. He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Esther, and his son, Todd.



Remembering

Timothy J. Lamere

Constable Volunteer Firemen, Inc. – New York

Volunteer Assistant Chief
Date of Death: August 21, 2012
Age: 47

Assistant Chief Timothy Lamere collapsed at home after participating in a training drill at the fire department. He was

taken to the hospital, where he died on August 21, 2012. He was survived by his wife, Renee, and five children.



Remembering

Richard A. Nappi

Fire Department of New York – New York

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: April 16, 2012

Age: 47

If you only met Lt. Rich Nappi once, you would never forget him. His leadership, fire-matic ability, and quick wit left an everlasting impression on everyone. Every firefighter who ever had the good fortune to spend time with Rich quickly understood the true meaning of a "Brother Firefighter."

Like most firefighters, Rich loved "The Job" and perished while leading the members of FDNY'S Engine 237 in a smoky and stubborn 3rd alarm warehouse fire on April 16, 2012. The only thing Rich loved more than "The Job" was his family. He was a devoted husband to Mary Anne and father to Catherine and Nicholas. He loved to attend the kids' sporting events and would battle rush hour in New York to ensure he would catch the last few innings of a softball or baseball game.

His introduction to the fire service began as a volunteer firefighter with the Farmingville Fire Department in Suffolk County. In 1995 and 1996 he was awarded the "Merit of Valor" by the department for his dedication and skills. Rich was chosen by his fellow firefighters to lead as a lieutenant, and the community elected him to serve as a commissioner.

The two most important days in most lives are when you get married and the day your children are born.

The third most remembered day for a firefighter is when they swear the oath to save lives and property. Rich took that oath for the Fire Department of New York in October 1994, and for the next 17 years he devoted his life to the fire service. After graduating from the rigorous Probationary Fire School, he was assigned to Engine 7 in Manhattan and later transferred to Engine 302 in Queens. With just over 10 years of experience, Rich was promoted to lieutenant and was assigned to Engine 237 in Brooklyn.

On September 11, 2001, Rich responded from home to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. In the months after, Rich spent a considerable amount of time at Ground Zero and received the Survivors Medal.

Lt. Nappi understood the need for training and brought his enthusiasm for teaching to the Suffolk County Fire Academy. He was appointed as a deputy chief instructor and was recognized as Instructor of the Year in 2012. Rich was the president and founding member of the Suffolk FOOLS. As the leader of this organization, he laid a foundation that was dedicated to training and the brotherhood.

Lt. Nappi was a true role model. He was a man with a big heart who inspired with devotion and led with courage.



Remembering

Samuel Butler Sr.

Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department – North Carolina

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: January 8, 2012

Age: 52

Samuel Butler Sr. was born July 19, 1959, to Jessie Mae Mauldin. He was married to Brenda Strickland Butler for 32 years. Sam was the father of three children, Samuel Jr., Clerissa, and Aaron. He also had three grandchildren. Sam was employed for 29 years with Campbell Soup Company of Maxton and also worked part-time with O'Reilly's Auto Parts in Pembroke.

Sam joined the Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department in 1991. After two decades, Sam became passionate about firefighting and instilled the same desire in his sons and grandson. After serving as assistant chief, secretary, and captain, Sam was appointed chief of Evans Crossroads Fire Department in January 2011. He had been president of the Robeson County Fireman's Association since 2006. Sam served as a board member of the Robeson County Fire and Rescue College and Robeson County Honor Guard. He was a former secretary of the Southeastern North Carolina Regional Board and was named one of Robeson County's Heroes in 2005. Amongst all of this, he still managed to be a husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

He was proud of his family, life, friends, and definitely his fire department. Sam enjoyed helping others and participating in school events. He was president of PTO, assistant coach for the football and baseball team, and a Boy Scout volunteer.

His legacy will live on because of the impact he had on others in and around the Evans Crossroads community and Robeson County. Sam did everything fast and definitely made friends fast. "If he didn't know you, he would get to know you before you left his presence," spoken by a friend.

Sam loved being a fireman, and it was a duty he took to heart. Sam offered guidance to young firemen, sharing his love for helping others. This was his calling. "Some people are called to preach, some are called to guide, some are called to save the world, and then there is my dad... He lectured to his friends on how important it is to love what you do. He guided all of us on how to love life wholeheartedly. He saved the world, or in my eyes he did! He constantly lost hours of sleep to fight fires and provide aide to the community and county when tragedy struck. So, YES! He saved the world!" his daughter Clerissa said so passionately.

Throughout his career, Chief Sam Butler Sr., brought honor to the Evans Crossroads Fire Department, the community, Robeson County, and North Carolina. His life was tragically cut short in the line of duty. He put others first and stood for what was right.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. -John 15:13







Remembering

Robert S. Cannon

North Carolina Air National Guard, 145th Airlift Wing – North Carolina

Career Senior Master Sergeant

Date of Death: July 1, 2012

Age: 50

Robert S. Cannon was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1962. All who knew him called him "Robbie." He was a senior master sergeant with the Air National Guard, where he served for 29 years, the last 21 years as a flight engineer with the 145th Operations Support Flight. As part of his duties, he was a member of an elite, highly trained team proficient in Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS). He died on July 1, 2012, along with three other crewmen, in the White Draw Fire in South Dakota. The Charlotte-based Air National Guard crews were helping the Colorado, Wyoming, and California National Guard units battle the Waldo Canyon and Flagstaff Fires in Colorado; the Arapaho Fire in Wyoming; and the White Draw Blaze in South Dakota.

Robbie served multiple tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and participated in humanitarian missions in the United States and overseas.

Robbie leaves behind his wife of 22 years, Melanie; his 18-year-old son, Alex; and his 16-year-old daughter,

Madeline. He is also survived by his father, Robert F. Cannon, and his sister, Teresa.



When at home, Robbie loved to be with his family and volunteered in school, sports, and activities that his children were involved in, such as basketball, track, cross-country, football, scouts, and church. He loved to ride his BMW motorcycle and was part of a group called Adventure Riders, participating in cycling trips throughout the country.

Everyone who knew Robbie appreciated his sense of humor, fun-loving personality, kindness, and fondness for laughter and pranks. He travelled all over the country and the world and "never met a stranger." He loved to help others and serve, often going above and beyond to help a friend or neighbor.

Although he is dearly missed every day, we are humbly proud of the person that Robbie was and the wonderful legacy of husband, father, serviceman, and patriot that he left behind for us to remember and cherish for all the days forward.

Remembering

Ryan Scott David

North Carolina Air National Guard,
145th Airlift Wing – North Carolina

Career Major

Date of Death: July 1, 2012

Age: 35

Major Ryan Scott David, 35, of Boone, North Carolina, was a crewmember on the C-130 MAFFS 7 mission that crashed fighting the White Draw Fire near Edgemont, South Dakota. Ryan was an experienced, highly decorated navigator and member of the NCANG 145th Airlift Wing in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ryan had over ten years of active duty experience in the U.S. Air Force, serving multiple deployments to Southwest Asia.

Born April 3, 1977, in Nebraska, Ryan turned down an opportunity to attend the U.S. Naval Academy to briefly play college football at the University of Nebraska-Omaha before transferring to complete a bachelor of science and later a master's in business administration.

Ryan had three great loves: his wife and son, flying, and football. In 2000, he met his wife, Jenny, and impressed her with his sense of humor and infectious smile. From their first hiking date to their beautiful wedding, Ryan and Jenny's story was special. Best friends, they enjoyed hiking, snow sports, cycling, cooking, football, and traveling. In December 2011, they were blessed with their son, Rob.

In 2001, Ryan commissioned out of the University of Maryland's Air Force ROTC Detachment 330 as a second lieutenant and became a C-130 navigator. His first assignment was to the 41st Airlift Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina. Ryan completed his active

duty career in 2011 with the 19th Operations Support Squadron as a deputy tactics officer and the 61st Airlift Squadron as an instructor navigator (both at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas). He earned numerous decorations, including Navy and Air Force Commendation Medals, four Air Medals for meritorious aerial achievement flying over 80 combat sorties, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Joining the NCANG, 145th Airlift Wing in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2011, Ryan and Jenny moved to Boone, North Carolina, to be near her parents and await son Rob's birth. Ryan was excited to be back in North Carolina and serving in the Guard's elite aerial firefighting unit. His last mission to combat wildfires in the western United States was with an outstanding crew on MAFFS 7.

In Ryan's last message to Jenny and her parents, he spoke of how "awesome" it was to be flying, fighting fires, and helping others.

Ryan never considered himself a hero. Instead he would want to be remembered as a loving husband and father who was very proud to serve his country. He is survived by his wife, Jenny Ellerbe; son, Rob Ellerbe David; and their families and friends. They treasure Ryan's memory and will always miss him.

Ryan found adventure in every day, excitement in each moment, and considered himself very blessed to have his dream: Jenny and Rob and flying.



Remembering

John M. Hall

Clarkton Volunteer Fire Department – North Carolina

Volunteer Deputy Chief

Date of Death: November 7, 2012

Age: 48

Deputy Chief John M. Hall served the citizens of Bladen County, North Carolina, for 21 years. Hall was an active volunteer firefighter with Elizabethtown Fire Department and the Bladenboro Fire Department. He also served as the deputy chief for the Clarkton Fire Department.

Hall served as a deputy fire marshal for Bladen County Emergency Services, providing assistance on numerous occasions to every department within the county. He brought a new level of professionalism and compassion to the fire service in Bladen County.

Hall was a dedicated volunteer for the American Red Cross, assisting many families and providing shelter services in the aftermath of local disasters.

Deputy Chief Hall was born in Smithfield, Virginia, on September 21, 1964. He is survived by his mother, Kay Hagerman, of Holden Beach, North Carolina, and his son, Michael Hall (Ashlie), of Bladenboro. He was preceded in death by his father, Teddy S. Hall, who served as a volunteer firefighter in Virginia.

John Hall was the kind of individual who could be called at a moment's notice, provide the assistance needed, and be there for the long haul. John was a great example of a good hearted, compassionate, dedicated, and loving person who cared deeply for the citizens he served. He was truly an asset to the entire county, and his presence will continue to be sorely missed.



Remembering

Joseph M. McCormick

**North Carolina Air National Guard,
145th Airlift Wing – North Carolina**

Career Major

Date of Death: July 1, 2012

Age: 36

Major Joseph M. McCormick, North Carolina Air National Guard, of Taylors, South Carolina, was assigned to the 156th Airlift Squadron of the 145th Airlift Wing as an instructor pilot for the C-130H transport aircraft and chief of training. He was also the squadron publications officer, charged with ensuring the integrity of publications that have a direct impact on mission safety.

Major McCormick received a bachelor of science degree, magna cum laude, from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 2003 with a major in professional aeronautics and minors in business administration and aviation safety. He was commissioned through the Academy of Military Science (the Air National Guard Commissioning Program), where he was a distinguished graduate and received the Citizen-Soldier award. He also attended the Community College of the Air Force, focusing on technical and avionics training.

After completion of C-130H Initial Co-Pilot Training, he joined the N.C. Air National Guard as a co-pilot, and later completed Aircraft Commander Training. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (in Afghanistan), accumulating more than 200 combat flying hours. As an enlisted man he had served with the South Carolina Air National Guard from 1996 to 2000 as an F-16 Electrical/Environmental System Mechanic.

Major McCormick was awarded the Air Medal with one device, the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Air Force Combat Action Medal, as well as campaign and expeditionary awards.

Major McCormick was killed on July 1, 2012, in the crash of the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) 7 mission to fight wildfires in South Dakota. He was 36 years old and leaves behind his wife, Heather, and four children, Luke, Thomas, Henry, and Margaret.



Remembering

Paul K. Mikeal

North Carolina Air National Guard, 145th Airlift Wing – North Carolina

Career Lieutenant Colonel

Date of Death: July 1, 2012

Age: 42

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Keith Mikeal, North Carolina Air National Guard, of Mooresville, North Carolina, was a member of the 156th Airlift Squadron of the 145th Airlift Wing of the North Carolina Air National Guard, stationed near Charlotte, North Carolina. He also served as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation of the North Carolina Air National Guard.

Lt. Col. Mikeal grew up in Clinton, Tennessee, attending Clinton Elementary and High School. After graduation, he attended the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on a swimming scholarship, where he was a three-year letterman and captain of the varsity swim team. While in college he was a member of the Air Force ROTC and was the unit's Distinguished Graduate. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and, most importantly, met his wife, Marlo. He served on active duty for ten years before joining the Air National Guard.

During his career, Lt. Col. Mikeal had five deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, where he flew C-130 transport

planes and participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom (in Afghanistan), Joint Forge (in Bosnia-Herzegovina), Jump Start (Mexico-U.S. border security) and Restore Focus. During his career he earned, among many others, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal, all while contemporaneously earning a master's degree in aero science technology.

Lt. Col. Mikeal passed away on July 1, 2012, while piloting a C-130 transport plane on the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) 7 mission to fight wildfires in South Dakota. He was 42 years old and is survived by his wife of 20 years, Marlo; a daughter, Amanda; and a son, Liam. In honor of his many accomplishments in community service and swimming, the community center swimming pool in Clinton, Tennessee, has been renamed as the Paul Mikeal Aquatic Center.

Paul was a devoted and loving husband, father, and son, an optimist, and a fine officer.



Remembering

Donald L. Suggs

Summerville Fire and Rescue, Inc. – North Carolina

Volunteer Assistant Chief
Date of Death: June 11, 2012
Age: 55

Donnie served as assistant fire chief with the Summerville-Bunnlevel Fire and Rescue Department for over 20 years. Donnie also served as a member of the Harnett County Fire Department Honor Guard.

He was an assistant scoutmaster of Troop #61 in Lillington, a 3rd Degree Master Mason and 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a Shriner of the Lillington Masonic Lodge #301.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Donnie retired as a master sergeant in 1999, after 25 years of service. He was an employee of Pfizer Corporation in Sanford, North Carolina.

Donnie's wife of 34 years is Deloris Mason Suggs. Their son, Jonathan L. Suggs, is a fireman for the Summerville-Bunnlevel Fire and Rescue Department. Donnie is also sur-

vived by his mother, Hilda Ausley, and his brother, Ronnie Suggs.

Donnie was a wonderful and loving husband and father. His eyes were as blue as the sky or the seas of blue. He never met a stranger, and his compassion was to help someone at all times. Donnie was a carpenter; he could build or make anything. He was a great leader, mentor, and a true friend to all he met.

One of Donnie's favorite sayings was: Just Do something! Lead, follow, or get out of the way. Donnie always gave 100% of everything he set out to do. He was a great motivator.

Donnie is with the Lord in his eternal home, in which we will meet again one day.

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

A Firefighter's Pledge

*I promise concern for others, Willingness for all those in need
I promise courage – courage to face and conquer my fears
Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me
I promise strength – strength of heart to bear whatever burdens might be placed upon me
Strength of body to deliver safety all those placed within my care.
I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort and
The love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called.*

~Author Unknown



Remembering

Walter M. Summerville

Kernersville Fire Rescue Department – North Carolina

Career Chief

Date of Death: November 7, 2012

Age: 55

Walter M. Summerville III was the fire chief for the Kernersville Fire Rescue Department.

He joined the department in 1987 as a captain. During his tenure, Walt was promoted through the ranks, serving as district commander, battalion chief, and assistant chief. In February 2008, he was promoted to fire chief. Walt believed it was his duty as a senior officer to be the best firefighter possible, not only for himself but for the department. In an effort to set a good example for the staff and to promote further education, he obtained the designation of Certified Fire Officer (CFO) in March 2010 and Executive Fire Officer (EFO) in April 2012. He was a dedicated community leader who felt it was his responsibility to ensure the safety of its residents.

Walt was born August 2, 1957, to Walter M. Summerville, Jr. and Tucker Summerville. He was a graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy, Class of 1975, and graduated from

Appalachian State University in 1979. Walt found his passion for the fire service while he was a photo-journalist in Boone, North Carolina, and was asked to take photographs of a live burn. The instructor proceeded to build a large fire to enhance the photo opportunity, when suddenly the front door blew open and Walt was thrown 15 feet off the front porch. Once he stood up and made sure his cameras weren't broken, he thought it was the coolest thing he had ever seen. He said most people would run away from that situation, but he found his new calling. Shortly after this incident, he became a part-time firefighter for the Boone Fire Department.

Walt will always be known for his sarcastic sense of humor and warm, devilish smile that could brighten any room. No one loved his family more than he loved his wife, Cheryl, and his daughters, Jennifer and Emily. He was a true gem and will be missed more than words can express.

His legacy of honor, duty, and compassion will live forever in the lives that he touched.



Remembering

Gerald Lee Sundstrom Jr.

North Carolina Forest Service – North Carolina

Career Pilot

Date of Death: May 11, 1996

Age: 38

Gerald "Lee" Sundstrom Jr. was born August 20, 1957, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, to Gerald L. and Peggy L. Sundstrom. As a youngster, he was very inquisitive, eager to learn and would tackle anything. His grandparents were farmers, and at a very young age he would love to visit and stay with them on the farm. As he got older, all he wanted to do was to be a farmer. His grandfather would take him on the tractors to work in the fields. At twelve years old he was allowed to drive one in the fields. He spent most of his summers on the farm.

He soon got fascinated with crop dusting planes. Then he decided he wanted to get his pilot's license. After graduating from Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach, he moved to North Carolina and helped his grandfather on the farm. At age 19 he was chosen "Future Young Farmer of the Year" in Chowan County, North Carolina. With that honor, he was awarded a week at NC State in Raleigh to attend the Future Farmers of America conference.

At the age of 24 he started taking flying lessons. He loved flying. In 1993, he started his own crop dusting business after getting his pilot's license. During the peak forest fire season of March, April, and May, he would fly an M-18

Dromader plane for the NC Forestry Service fighting forest fires. Lee had a very deep, clear voice, and during one forest fire in Onslow County, he guided an equipment operator and several firefighters on the ground through the smoke by radio to safety.

He was a member of Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. He was a member of Oak Grove Hunting Club, Rocky Hock Ruritans and the NC Agricultural Aviation Association. The love of family and God was always present in his life.

He had great love for his parents, brother, grandparents, and especially his nieces. Lee was a kind, compassionate, and unique person. If you needed someone, he would be there to help.

He could talk to anyone. If a man could tell it like it was, it was Lee. He accomplished so much to have had so little. He was a farmer, a pilot for the NC Forestry Service, and owner/operator of Farmers Air Service.

His familiar sayings were, "How're you doing?" and, "You worry too much." If a man's wealth could be measured by his friends, then Lee died a rich man. His quick smile and his care for others will live forever in our hearts.

"Gone from sight, but not forgotten."



Remembering

David M. Tatum

White Oak Fire Department – North Carolina

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: November 5, 2012

Age: 55

David Mitchell Tatum was born April 5, 1957, to Virginia and the late William Tatum.

David is survived by his wife, Regina Tatum; sons, David Jr. and Chris Tatum; Tommy Layton, Michelle Brown, and Lisa Mahoney; and two brothers, William Jr. and Kenny Tatum. David was the proudest grandfather of all 15 grandchildren.

David joined Tar Heel (North Carolina) Volunteer Rescue Squad in 1982 and worked as an EMT-basic until the end. Even when off duty, if David heard a page for our community he would be out the door and on the scene helping out until rescue got there.

David retired after 25 years (since 1985) from Kelly Springfield Tire & Rubber Company, now Goodyear, where he worked as a forklift mechanic. He was also on the fire brigade at work until he was injured in an auto accident on the way home from work that caused him to retire.

David joined Dublin Volunteer Fire Department in 2003, and in 2005 he made Firefighter of the Year. He also joined the Tar Heel Volunteer Fire Department in October 2006, and shortly after joining made the

rank of captain. David was president of Bladen County Firefighters' Association from 2009-2010.

He joined the White Oak Volunteer Fire Department in 2008 and again made Firefighter of the Year in 2011. He received his Firefighter 1 and 2 certifications in 2010. He also served on the board of directors.

David loved everything about life and stayed busy, always dedicated in trying to help others when in need. He was a wonderful husband and father, always putting others first. Everyone that knew David loved him dearly.

David gave his life to the Lord on May 23, 2010, and was a member of White Oak Baptist Church. He was a loving, forgiving man and saw the good in everyone. Now he is where he belongs for all the good and love he spread, watching over us with our Heavenly Father. He is gone but will never be forgotten. He left us doing what he loved best, serving his community with honor, courage, dedication, and leadership.

David was a man of courage and dedicated in everything—fire, rescue, and family.



Remembering

Loren James George

Minot Rural Fire Department – North Dakota

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 21, 1991

Age: 25

Loren James George was born on August 14, 1966, in Minot, North Dakota, to Ernest and Marjorie George. His father died when Loren was only two years old. Loren was the second youngest of four boys and a girl. He attended Minot High School and played trombone in the band and jazz band. He was proud that they took first place in a national competition in Florida in his senior year. He attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church and served as an usher there.

After high school he worked at Sun Mart Grocery. Everyone liked him. He was a very outgoing and friendly person. He would do anything for anyone. From an early age, Loren was interested in weather and tornadoes. Every time it looked

like it was going to storm he would be outside watching the clouds, and as he got older he would drive to the top of the hill to watch. He loved to fish and watch his favorite football team, the Minnesota Vikings.



For a time, Loren was a member of the local dive and rescue team. He also was a volunteer police reserve. He spent many nights riding with our local police officers learning what their jobs were like. While he was a member of the Police Reserve, he decided to volunteer for our local Minot Rural Fire Department.

Loren gave his life serving others, which was not an unusual thing for him. He lived to love, and he loved to live. He was 25 at the time of his death.

Remembering

Michael A. Burgan

Sugarcreek Fire Department – Ohio

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: August 10, 2012

Age: 46

Captain Michael A. Burgan was born on July 14, 1966, to Betty and the late Archie Burgan Sr. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy, on January 29, 1995. He is survived by his mother, as well as his daughter, Rachel, and brothers Roscoe, Raymond, William, and Archie Jr., and his sister, Laura. He was known to most people as "Mouse."

Captain Burgan was a 19-year veteran of the Sugarcreek Fire Department and had completed numerous advanced training courses. He was also an EMT with the Swiss Valley Joint Ambulance District and a certified diver. Mike was a member of the Tuscarawas County



Firefighters Association, Ohio State Firefighters Association, and the Tuscarawas County RIT Team. He was very dedicated to the fire service and rarely missed a call. Mike was twice awarded the Firefighter of the Year award for his department.

Michael worked as an electrician and plumber after graduating from high school. He later worked on the Rowe family farm. He was a mechanic and welder who could fix just about anything. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, and shooting, which he enjoyed along with his daughter. He also enjoyed watching his daughter play softball as a teenager, as well as helping her practice.

Remembering

Rocky E. Dunkin

Niles Township Volunteer Fire Department – Ohio

Volunteer Lieutenant
Date of Death: July 1, 2012
Age: 24

Rocky Edward Dunkin, age 24, of Friendship, Ohio, died Sunday July 1, 2012, at Southern Ohio Medical Center. He was born August 1, 1987, in Portsmouth, Ohio, to Rocky Lee (Renee Lynn) Dunkin and Alice (Normand) Bradley Tremblay. He was a 2006 graduate of New Boston High School, where he played soccer, baseball, and basketball. He attended Shawnee State University, where he played on the soccer team.

Rocky was a fireman with the New Boston Fire Department and served as a lieutenant in the Nile Township Volunteer Fire Department. He was an assistant coach for the New Boston High School soccer and baseball teams. He attended the 7th Street Christian Baptist Church in Portsmouth.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and golfing, and he loved working with kids. Rocky always enjoyed life, and you could

always find him with a smile on his face. His passion for firefighting was at the top. Helping people was not something that he looked at as a job, but just what he thought was part of his calling.



Rocky was preceded in death by his grandparents, Mary and Eddie Dunkin, Emogene Goode, Carolyn Deaver, and George Stevens. Along with his parents, Rocky is survived by his wife, Ashley Michelle Stevens Dunkin, who he married on June 11, 2011, in West Portsmouth; two brothers, Paul Dwayne "AJ" Foit and Ronald Lee Foit; four stepbrothers, Shane D. Adkins, Joshua S. Skaggs, Keith Tremblay, and Normand Tremblay; two stepsisters, Dusty A. Blevins and Donna Tooill; his father and mother-in-law, Mike and Bev Stevens; brothers and sisters-in-law, Shawn and Katie Stevens, Michael and Ernie Stevens, and Heather and DJ Everman; several loving aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Remembering

Tony B. Chapin

Willamina Fire Department – Oregon

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: September 25, 1998

Age: 19

Tony Chapin was injured in a motor vehicle accident on September 24, 1998, while en route to a required paramedic class. He was transported to the hospital

where he died the following day. He was survived by his wife, Kelly Chapin; his stepson, Ashton Lay; and his daughters, Brooke and Nikki Chapin.



Remembering

Corey A. Baker

Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Deputy Chief
Date of Death: July 6, 2009
Age: 42

Corey Baker fell ill after responding to a call on June 27, 2009, and passed away on July 6, 2009. Corey was a resident of Reading, Pennsylvania, and a 1984

graduate of Governor Mifflin High School. He was survived by his wife, Rose, and his sons Justin and Zach, both of whom also served as firefighters.



Remembering

David M. Flint

Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: February 2, 2012

Age: 49

Chief David Michael William Flint of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, died February 2, 2012, from injuries sustained when his vehicle was struck head on by another vehicle as he reported to the station for department-mandated training drills. The department's assistant chief was also critically injured in the accident.

David was born in Erie on January 15, 1963, son of the late Raymond William Flint and Johanna Hannelore Mathilde Alsbach (Honey) Flint. He was a 1980 graduate of McDowell High School, where he was an active member of the ROTC. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Gulf War, the Mediterranean, and in Granada. He served for over 20 years, becoming a decorated war veteran.

In his younger years, David was a junior firefighter for the Perry Highway Hose

Company. In 2002, after retiring from the military and returning to the area, he joined the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department, where he was active in every capacity. Four years later he was elected chief of the department.

David was a self-employed mechanic of heavy machinery at Flint Equipment Servicing. He loved his work.

Survivors include his assistant chief and life partner, Sharon Petri; Sharon's three children, Corrine, Brody, and Tyler; and his ex-wife, Gina Flint.

Dave was devoted to the fire department and the community, well liked and respected by firefighters throughout the county. He was remembered as a fireman's fireman who was always available to listen and help.

Words cannot express the deepness of the loss of this man.



Remembering

Chris "Goody" Good

Good Will Fire Company – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: November 21, 2012

Age: 36

Captain Chris Good found his love for the fire service at a very young age. He watched his uncles and father become active in local fire companies and looked up to their examples and leadership his whole life.

He began his journey at Ridge Fire Company in 1991 at age 15. It was here he started to see the meaning of the word brotherhood. In 1995, Chris joined Lionville Fire Company, where he held the positions of lieutenant and captain. But he found his home in 2002 with the West Chester Fire Department at Good Will Fire Company. He made it his mission to train the men and women of the West Chester Fire Department and the numerous other companies he belonged to in the Chester County area. He was called upon often to help with their training drills because of his knowledge of the fire ground.

In 2006, Captain Good received the opportunity to do what he loved every day when he obtained a job at Arcelor Mittal Steel Plant in Coatesville as a career firefighter. Accepting this job cemented the fact that Captain Good had brought his love of the fire service into every aspect of his life.

Captain Good loved fire prevention and going to local elementary schools to work with the kids on keeping them and their families safe. He was proud to be part of

the West Chester Fire Department's 100% Volunteer Certification in 2010.

Captain Good was a true leader and led by example. He was often seen leading a group at a training or a fire call, asking questions of the group to make every experience one of learning. He pushed everyone around him to be their best, the best he saw within them.

Captain Good set goals for himself. He worked several years as a lieutenant at Good Will Fire Company and was honored to be voted into the position of captain in 2012 by his peers. It was one of his proudest accomplishments

Captain Good had the same love and dedication to his family as he did the fire service. He often brought his children to the fire house, chasing them from one apparatus to another and answering all their questions. Seeing their interest in the fire service brought him such joy. He wanted his children to know he did what he loved every day, not because of the recognition, but because of his love of the fire service.

Captain Good leaves a lasting legacy in the smiles of his children and in all who knew him. His remarkable work ethic, dedication to teaching and training, and friendship are deeply missed by his family, the West Chester Fire Department, and beyond.



Remembering

Steven C. Henry Sr.

Columbia Consolidated Fire Department, Columbia Fire Police – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Fire Police Captain
Date of Death: September 6, 2012
Age: 52

Steven C. Henry Sr. was born to Michael and Pauline Henry in San Antonio, Texas, on August 24, 1959. Steven was the fifth child, with five brothers and sisters. The family settled in Maytown, Pennsylvania. At the time of Steven's death, he was married to Edith M. Freels. Steven has three adult children from a previous marriage, Steven Jr., Jessica, and Kristen.

Steven's true love was volunteering as a firefighter. He started out volunteering with the Maytown-East Donegal Township Fire Department in 1978 and later joined the Shawnee Fire Company, Station 8-3, in 1979. During his tenure with Station 8-3, he served in the capacity of chief engineer, captain, 1st and 2nd assistant fire chief, deputy fire chief, fire chief, and president. The Shawnee Fire Company was formally dissolved in 2000, when Columbia Consolidated Fire Department (CCFD) was formed. At the time of the closing of the Shawnee Fire Company, Steven had served as the fire chief for more than eight years. He also served as the chief engineer, assistant fire chief and fire chief of the CCFD. After serving as a firefighter for over 32 years, Steven became very active with the Columbia Borough Special Fire Police and served as the captain of the Special Fire Police for two years.

One of Steven's biggest contributions to Columbia, as chief, was bringing back fireworks after 20 years. The

number of man hours to bring off this week of festivities was countless. This past July 4th marked the fifth year for the people of Columbia to enjoy the sights and sounds of fun ending in a beautiful display of fireworks.



Steven gave a great deal of time, energy, and money to ensure he fulfilled his duties, as well as taking many courses through the years to maintain his skills. Some of his courses were Helicopter Safety, Incident Command, Firefighter I and Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials, First Responders, CPR/AED, National Incident Management, and FEMA courses. His awards include the Chief's Award, appreciation from CCFD for helping to make it a reality, and an award for assisting the FDNY following September 11, 2001.

Steven was very dedicated to his family, friends, and community. He loved spending time on the river fishing and enjoying the relaxing waters. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed camping, the beach, and riding his motorcycle, where he felt the most free. Steven had an extended family in the fire service and was known for giving many chances and constantly rooting for the underdog. He took troubled teens and turned them into firefighters. He never wanted recognition for his actions; he did what he was called to do. He is greatly missed.

Remembering

Brandon L. Little

United Hook and Ladder Company 33 – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: January 18, 2012

Age: 19

Brandon was born on September 29, 1992, at Hanover Hospital in Hanover, Pennsylvania. His proud parents are Keith and Nancy Little, and loving brother, Shawn Little. Brandon graduated from New Oxford High School in 2010.

His goal was to join the United States Army. He joined right after high school, but before being sent to basic training, he had second thoughts and chose a different path. He decided to get an ordinary full-time job, as well as join the fire company. I remember how much time he gave towards training and helping out around the station. I know he loved hearing the pager go off; the look on his face said it all.

He received many certificates throughout his Firefighter I train-

ing. Brandon also received Rookie of the Year from his fire company. He devoted any spare time he had to working on his physical fitness. He could be found at the local gym every day and was always signing up for 5K runs.

As a son, you could always count on him. If you needed any help, he would be there without any questions. Brandon was also always there for his friends, lending an open ear and any advice that he could give.

At the time of his passing, Brandon had numerous applications submitted to become a paid full-time firefighter. His saying was always "Be strong." God knows we try our best, but some days it's just hard to keep going. We will always remain strong, because we know he is watching over all of us.



Remembering

Michael Martin

PPL Susquehanna – Pennsylvania

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: November 27, 2012

Age: 51

*M*ichael Martin died on November 27, 2012, after suffering a heart attack while participating in a first responder training program at the Luzerne County Community College Public Safety Training Institute.

A resident of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Antonetta (D'Amato) Martin of Hazleton and the late Robert A. Martin. Michael was a 1980 graduate of Bishop Hafey High School and the owner/operator of Martin's Printing in Hazleton. He was employed at PPL Susquehanna and was a

member of the fire brigade at the nuclear power plant in Salem Township.

An avid sports fan, Michael was very active in the Hazleton Little League and Bishop Hafey athletics.

He was a devoted son and husband, a loving father, brother, nephew, cousin, and friend.

He was survived by his wife, the former Cathy Carr; children, Audra Marie, Robert, and Michael; his mother, Antonetta Martin; his sister, Mary Anne Hornack; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.



Remembering

Robert P. Neary

Philadelphia Fire Department – Pennsylvania

Career Captain

Date of Death: April 9, 2012

Age: 60

*M*y husband was Robert P. Neary, born on May 29, 1952. He became a captain following his tragic death. My husband was 59 years young. His spirit passed on April 9, 2012, in the Kensington Warehouse Fire in Philadelphia. An abandoned building which encompassed a whole city block caught fire that night. My husband and his men were ordered to protect the adjoining furniture store from catching on fire. There was a partial wall of great height which collapsed on my husband and another younger firefighter, killing them under the weight of thousands of hot bricks.

Bob was in the fire department for 40 years. He was also in the Philadelphia Police Department three years prior. Bob served in the Army reserves for ten years. He was very passionate about his job and loved to research new approaches to fight the next job with his men. During his many years, he traveled around the city befriending many brothers. He was usually a quiet man, kind in his mannerism. However, he could go on forever debating the fire department and its policies.

Bob was born and raised in Philadelphia with his brother and sister. He attended Father Judge High School, excelling in academics and basketball. The school now has a scholarship fund in his name for any firefighter's family who can't pay the school tuition.



We were married 36 years, have three children and three grandchildren. Bob's mother, Virginia, is still living, along with his brother and sister. Two of the grandchildren he got to know, with the third child on its way. They will really miss out on a truly loving Pop Pop who would have given his life for them. His two sons and one daughter meant the world to him. His life revolved around them, only ever wanting the best for them.

We joined a swim club when the kids were small, and Bob taught them how to swim. They became members of swim teams during their younger years and continued to excel in the sport to afford them all college scholarships. Bob was very well respected by all the swimming athletes.

Bob loved fresh and saltwater fishing, camping, and the last four years boating. We purchased a 34-foot Silverton live aboard boat, which was in Wildwood, New Jersey. Bob spent most of his summers on the boat. We had many happy memories there.

Bob could do anything he put his mind to. He could build a house, fix old cars, plumbing, electric, cement work, tile work. You name it, and he could do or figure it out. He was very patient, willing to help with any problems. His existence in this world made many people who they are today. I sorely miss his love.

Remembering

Walter C. Sumner

Cranesville Volunteer Fire Department – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: January 24, 2012

Age: 49

Walt was born October 6, 1962, in Erie, Pennsylvania, to Alfred and Janice Sumner. He grew up in Springfield, Pennsylvania, with his parents and his sister, Tammy.

He loved working on trucks, riding his dune buggy and four-wheelers, and occasionally fishing with his father-in-law, Ed.

Walt married his high school girlfriend, Jeannette, in 1986. They had two daughters, Stephanie and Allison.

If Walt wasn't working, you could find him at the fire hall, either running calls or just hanging out doing anything that needed to be

done. He was so proud to have been part of the department. We often teased him about spending so much time there, that we were going to put a recliner there so he wouldn't have to leave.

Walt was also proud to have his son-in-law, Dennis Blood, in his life. Finally another male so he wasn't outnumbered, until his beautiful granddaughter, Layla, was born. He would volunteer to help the kids fix up their house, and instead he would sit and hold the baby for hours.

He had many friends and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Remembering

Daniel Sweeney

Philadelphia Fire Department – Pennsylvania

Career Lieutenant
Date of Death: April 9, 2012
Age: 25

Daniel Sweeney was born on September 18, 1986, to David and Marian Sweeney. He attended St. Cecilia Grade School where, during his eighth grade graduation ceremony, he was named Altar Server of the Year.

Dan attended Bishop McDevitt High School in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. He had a strong, beautiful singing voice which led to him getting involved in the school musical plays. His roles included Prince Charming in Cinderella and the Cowardly Lion in the Wizard of Oz.

Dan also worked throughout high school at a local bakery. At his high school graduation in June 2007, Daniel was awarded the Gold Medal in social studies. He received a substantial scholarship to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but decided after the first day of classes that he did not want to attend college. So he came home and became an EMT. He wanted to become a police officer, but he had just missed the test day, so he took the test for firefighter.

Dan entered the Philadelphia Fire Department in July 2006, just a few months short of his twentieth birthday. Upon graduation from the fire academy he was appointed to Engine 64, but transferred to Ladder 10 in the Kensington section of Philadelphia after six months. He found his niche there, making many new friends.

During this time Daniel also completed his paramedic training at Jefferson Hospital and began working as a paramedic at stations in Bucks County. He received two unit citations in his six years at Ladder 10.



In the early morning of April 9th, the day after Easter, Daniel's company was dispatched to a five-alarm warehouse fire. The fire was declared under control at 5:30 A.M. At 6:00 A.M., Ladder 10 was ordered to check for fire in a furniture store adjacent to the warehouse. Part of the warehouse wall had collapsed; part of the wall loomed 60 foot above the furniture store. While Dan's company was checking the furniture store, unaware of the free-standing wall, the wall collapsed on top of the furniture store, killing Dan and his lieutenant instantly. Though Dan was posthumously promoted to lieutenant, he was a career firefighter, and that's the way he would want to be remembered.

Daniel is known for his sense of humor, his family loyalty, his strong work ethic, and straightforward moral values. He is so missed by his mom and dad; his older sister, Suzanne Swedlige; younger sisters, Sarah and Deborah; his girlfriend, Kristen; his brother-in-law, Dave Swedlige; and his niece and godchild, Stacey Swedlige.

We love you so much, Dan!

Remembering

David A. Wintz Sr.

Bristol Fire Company – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Fire Police Captain

Date of Death: May 16, 2012

Age: 65

David A. Wintz Sr. was born September 28, 1946, in Philadelphia, to Francis and Marie Wintz and was raised in Feasterville, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Neshaminy High School, David started volunteering as a firefighter at age 16. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1964 and was ordered to active duty in 1966. While serving his country in the military, David completed his firefighter certification through the Navy and also through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He served as a firefighter at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, was honorably discharged as a seaman apprentice in 1970, and continued to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter.

In 1970, David married Catherine Kemps. They had three children: Sandra (born 1971), David Jr. (born 1972), and Sueann (born 1975). David and Cathy separated and eventually divorced. In 1979, David met Helen Toth. David and Helen welcomed their son, Daniel, in 1984. They married in 1989, with a reception at David's fire company, Goodwill Fire Company Station 52 in Bristol.

In 1994, David, Helen, and Daniel moved to Florida. David had his Class A CDL and was certified as a heavy equipment operator. He worked for Florida Power until the company went out of business, then became a delivery driver for Cox Lumber. In 2007, David and Helen moved

back home to Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Their son Daniel and his wife remained in Florida.

When David returned to Bucks County, one of his first stops was in Bristol Borough, requesting to come back to the fire department as a fire police. David was offered the fire police captain position at Bristol Fire Company Station 51. David was a role model who helped show other members the ropes and gained the respect of his fellow firefighters and fire police. When firefighters saw FP Captain David Wintz on the fire scene directing traffic, they knew they were safe. David did not think of himself as a hero; he just loved what he did and was good at it.

Three of David's four children—David Jr, Sueann, and Daniel—have followed in his footsteps into the fire service. Sandra, the oldest of the four, is a big supporter of her siblings and attends many fire department activities.

Early on the morning of May 16, 2012, Croydon Fire Company Station 11 was called to the Dow Chemical Plant in Croyden, Pennsylvania, and it eventually went to three alarms. David answered the call. While at his post doing his duties, David went into cardiac arrest. He died later at Lower Bucks Hospital.

David was well respected by all. He was a role model for his family, friends, and fellow firefighters.



Remembering

David L. Crenshaw

Anderson County Fire Department – South Carolina

Volunteer Firefighter
Date of Death: January 9, 2012
Age: 63

David Crenshaw was born April 23, 1948, in Pendleton, South Carolina, and spent his life serving the citizens of Anderson County in numerous civil service positions.

He started as a volunteer firefighter at Pendleton Station 2 in 1962, at the age of 14. By 2004, he had become the longest serving fire chief in the Anderson County Fire Department, with 21 faithful years of leadership with Pendleton Station 2.

He filled the positions of patrolman with the Pendleton Police Department, deputy and then investigator with the Anderson

County Sheriff's Office. He retired in 2000 as a magistrate court judge. In 2004, he was elected as the sheriff of Anderson County, where he served for four years. He retired from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office in 2008.

He died on January 9, 2012, doing the job he loved, still on the pump panel of Engine 2-1 after 50 years of volunteer fire service.

Known by his friends as "Big Dummy," he was a father, friend, and mentor to countless others. He is survived by his loving wife, Lynn; his daughter, Jennifer; his son, Ben; and his brother, Frank, all of whom reside in Pendleton.



Remembering

Kenny DeWayne Fox

Decaturville Volunteer Fire Department – Tennessee

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: April 7, 2012

Age: 39

Kenny DeWayne Fox was born February 28, 1973. He was raised by his loving grandparents, Ray Lenard and Tommie Sue Fox; his mother, Gail Ann Maness; and father, Thomas Lee Maness, all of Lexington. As a young child, Kenny was mischievous.

In high school Kenny was a football player and the class clown. This was something he carried throughout his life, always making you laugh with his humor and always with a smile on his face.

Kenny married his high school sweetheart, Deana Renee Moore, at the young age of 18. They started a family. "Like two sparrows in a hurricane, trying to find their way. The world said they'd never make it, but love said they will."

Kenny has three sons, Michael Lee (20), Dylan DeWayne (14), and Ethan Ray Fox (3). Kenny loved watching his boys play football, both in the backyard and on the field. If he ever got started talking about one, you'd better be ready to stay and visit, because he was one proud daddy and loved to talk about his boys.

Kenny believed in serving his community. He was driven to bring comfort to those he met daily and was quick to put his personal agenda aside to help others. He was involved in teaching children about fire safety within the educational system of Decatur County and was involved with the underprivileged children during the holiday season.

Kenny was a fire chief for Decaturville, chief of Decatur County Fire Department, Station #3 and Decatur County Rescue Squad. He was vice president of the PBA Board in law enforcement, a sergeant with the Decatur County Sheriff's Office, and the chief of police for the City of Decaturville. He attended the post-certification law enforcement academy in Donelson, Tennessee.

Kenny drove people to give their best in giving his.

Don't let your past define you. You define your past.
~The Legend of Kenny Fox



Remembering

William Richard "Dick" Danes

Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Firefighter
Date of Death: May 17, 2012
Age: 69

William Richard "Dick" Danes was born January 9, 1943, in Hackensack, New Jersey. He and his parents moved to San Antonio, Texas, in 1953. He attended Texas A&M University, where he earned a degree in civil engineering in 1964. He was an Air Force reservist after graduation and pursued a civil engineering career for 43 years.

After he retired, he remained active in his community in many ways. Dick was a radio operator for BARC (Brazos County Amateur Radio Emergency Services) and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services), an active participant in the Citizen's Police, Sheriff and Fire Academies, a member of the "Old Ag Lunch Bunch" (an organization for former Texas A&M students), and a volunteer firefighter for Brazos County Precinct 3.

Dick had a love of the fire service that he ventured into at different times in his life. At age four, his mother found him at the fire station a couple blocks from their home "visiting his buddies," as he explained to her. After college he settled into his civil engineering career and started a family. After retirement he found his way into the fire department as a volunteer firefighter in Brazos County. He enjoyed his time at the station, in training and volunteering as a "victim" to help train at "Disaster City" at the TEEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services) in College Station, Texas. His love

of firefighting put a smile on his face during every training, demonstration, and his time at the station.



Shortly before his death, Firefighter Danes and Captain Merker took Engine 323 out to be displayed at a service demonstration for the Texas A&M chancellor. The Texas Forest Service was in attendance and captured a great picture of Firefighter Danes and Captain Merker which is now used as the face of the Texas Forest Service Volunteer Fire Department Support Campaign. The display was produced a month prior to Dick's death, and was displayed for the first time a month after his death at the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas Conference, at which Dick was honored at the memorial service as a fallen firefighter line-of-duty death.

On May 17, 2012, Dick collapsed during training. His death was unexpected; however, he was doing what he loved, training with his brother firefighters in the line of duty at a ladder evolution training at Brayton Fire Training Field at TEEEX.

Dick leaves behind his wife of 45 years, Betsy; son, Bill Danes, and daughter-in-law, Tracy; daughter, Mandy, and son-in-law, Ronnie Collins; grandchildren, Cody, Samantha, Tessa, and Hannah; and his faithful friend, Buddy, his dog.

Remembering

Thomas W. Dillion

Houston Fire Department – Texas

Career Captain

Date of Death: March 14, 2012

Age: 49

Thomas William “Bill” Dillion was born March 25, 1962, in Houston, Texas, to Thomas Wayne and Letha Faye Dillion. He was a 1980 graduate of Cypress Creek High School. Bill was a very warm, friendly, outgoing individual who enjoyed life. He is described by others as kindhearted, compassionate, and someone who loved helping others.

Bill knew at a very early age that he was interested in being a firefighter. At the age of 15, he joined the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department as a junior member. He continued to serve his community until deciding to pursue that love and become a professional firefighter. Bill attended the Texas A&M Fire Training Academy and upon completion accepted a position with the Houston Fire Department. He completed his training and graduated from the Houston Fire Academy in June of 1989.

Bill’s passion for firefighting and the love of his job provided the motivation required to advance quickly through the ranks of the Houston Fire Department to become a senior captain. He loved the guys that he worked with—his “Station 69 family.” Bill was known as a prankster and loved having fun with the guys, but when it came to work—safety and training—it was all business. Safety always came first.

Throughout his 22-year career with HFD, Bill served as a member of the HFD Honor Guard, the suicide preven-

tion team, and assisted with training classes. In 2006, he completed his degree in fire science.



On his days off from HFD, Bill also worked as a member of the duty crew for the Magnolia Fire Department. He was well respected by his peers and was often asked to assist with whatever his experience could bring to the department. He spoke often about the “brotherhood” that firefighters share, no matter what department you are with or what demographic area you are from. He was passionate about that bond that all firefighters share.

When Bill was not at the fire station, he loved spending time with his children, family, and friends. He was a loving father, and most of the time you could find him at one of their athletic events cheering on the team. He loved camping and spending time with friends. He was an avid fisherman, where he enjoyed meeting people and sharing the gospel of Christ. He was a member of Grace Community Church and enjoyed volunteering whenever there was a need.

Bill is survived by his sons, David and Matt Dillion; daughter, Katelyn Dillion; mother, Letha Dillion; sister, Brenda Machala, and husband Tommie; nephews, Daryl, Gary, and Cody Machala; brother, Lee Gooch, and wife Sonya; and niece, Shalee.

Remembering

Francis A. Ladue Jr.

Santa Rosa Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: January 9, 2011

Age: 63

Francis Arthur "Frank" Ladue Jr. passed away January 9, 2011, from complications of an injury suffered while fighting a brush fire in November 2010.

Frank was a volunteer firefighter for Santa Rosa, Texas. He lived in Belchertown, Massachusetts, all of his life and came to Texas for the winters from 2003 to 2006. He then moved to Santa Rosa permanently. He loved Texas and enjoyed helping out on the fire department. He had worked as a power house stationary engineer for Solutia in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts, for 27 years and had trained in firefighting. He attended the fire training school in Houston, Texas.

Frank served in the Navy from July 1966 to June 1970. He was stationed on the USS KOELSCH and served in Vietnam.

Frank loved animals, and he helped foster many dogs for BONES, a beagle rescue in Massachusetts, and then for Tip of Tex K9 Rescue in Harlingen, Texas. He helped adopt out at least 100 dogs in a couple of years. The dogs were picked up from the local animal shelters, fostered and trained, and then adopted out to good homes.

Frank loved children and helped foster 48 children in 13 years in Belchertown, Massachusetts. He also adopted three adults, one young man from Massachusetts and two young women from Santa Rosa, Texas.

Frank's favorite pastime was remote control airplanes. He was a member of SMASH, which is located in Rio Hondo, Texas. He also loved large trucks and traveling with an RV. He was a very smart man, and he could do just about anything on the house. He helped build his house in Belchertown and did a lot of work in Santa Rosa.

He was survived by his loving wife, Joan Ladue; son, Nick Tran Ladue; daughters, Susie Santos and Mari Valdez; brother, John Ladue; sisters, Jean Eckman and Nancy Reynolds; and six grandchildren, Michael Tran, Jimmy Tran, Maranda Hernandez, Alberta Coral Hernandez, Yasmine Hernandez, and Steven Valdez.

He was always ready to drop everything if someone needed help. He was a good man with a big heart, and he will always be greatly missed.



Remembering

Jalen S. D. Smith

Jackson Heights Volunteer Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 3, 2012

Age: 20

Jalen ShaQuille DaShun Smith was born March 31, 1992, to Charlean Mosley. God was with him from the beginning. As a child Jalen knew what he wanted to do, and his dream was to become a firefighter. He was introduced to it by his grandfather, Charlie Butler, who was a volunteer firefighter for Jackson Heights Volunteer Fire Department. Jalen became a junior volunteer fireman at the age of fifteen. He graduated in June of 2010, and two years later he was an active member of Jackson Heights Volunteer Fire Department.

His life and career were just beginning, and he had

a bright future ahead of him. He was accepted into the Kilgore Fire Academy and would have started in January 2013, but God had other plans for Jalen. His life ended December 3, 2012, when he was in a car accident while on his way to the fire station to get his gear to go work a wreck.

He leaves behind a loving mother, Charlean Mosley; five sisters, Ambreana Johnson, Dominique Johnson, CaTina Francis, Genia Terry, and Jeree Terry; maternal grandparents, Charlie and Jossie Butler; uncle, Anthony Butler; and two nieces, Aubrey Johnson and Audrey Johnson.



Remembering

Neal W. Smith

Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: September 17, 2012

Age: 46

Neal Wade Smith was a remarkable young man who, in his too short 46 years, accomplished most of his own dreams and helped many more reach theirs. It is hard to put into a few words how much he meant to his family and friends and all those who had the privilege of working with him. Something will always be left out.

Born in Texas and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Neal was the eldest son of Donna and Dexter Stephens, big brother to Noel and Nathan, beloved husband of Penny, and devoted, proud daddy to Nicholas and Natalie. Those simple descriptions—son, brother, husband, father—don't begin to capture the depth of what he brought to each of those roles in life.

Throughout his life he expressed in deeds and words the lessons he learned from his mother and father—lessons about loyalty, faithfulness, fairness, steadfastness, devotion and, most of all, love.

He took those lessons with him as he went out into the world. As so many young men do, he joined the service, entering the Navy and using his skill in photography to chronicle his fellow servicemen and women and the great ships they sailed upon. He received an honorable discharge after three years due to medical issues.

With veteran's benefits, he attended Kansas State University and Wichita State University. He took his

education into the workplace, finding his forte in retail management. His work finally took him and the family to Humble, Texas, first with Sprint and then Zales, where he quickly turned around struggling stores using a hands-on approach. Over and over he was told how much his consistent dedication to the people he worked with inspired them to excel and meet goals they thought were out of reach.

Neal's business success was just a prelude to what became his true passion—being a fireman. The seed was planted when daughter Natalie, then in preschool, came home talking about the visit from the AVFD. He went on to join the fire department from there.

Within the next four years, he went from civilian to firefighter board member to lieutenant to captain at the Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department.

Some of his achievements include AVFD's Firefighter and Officer of the Year, plus Fire Fighter of the Year for Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce and Harris County Fire Fighters Association. Many would tell you his greatest achievements were the personal ones as he inspired and encouraged everyone he met.

He went to his final call doing what he loved. His greatest legacy though is truly his two precious children, Nicholas and Natalie, and his beloved Penny. They are shining reflections of the man Neal Wade Smith was to all of us.



Remembering

David R. Chew Jr.

Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company – Virginia

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: July 16, 2012

Age: 30

The Rev. David Raymond Chew Jr., husband of Rebecca Chew and a resident of Parksley, Virginia, passed away on July 16, 2012, while responding to a motor vehicle accident with the Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company.

He died as he lived, helping others in their time of need. David had no knowledge of how that day would unfold when he kissed his wife and son good-bye that morning. Although goodbye kisses were part of his daily routine, there was nothing routine about his love for family.

David was an EMS provider, having been employed by both Northampton and Accomack Counties in Virginia. He was also a part-time pastor and was newly appointed to the Hallwood UMC. He had attended the University of West Virginia and the ES Community College. David was a devoted member of the Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Born February 20, 1982, he was a son of David R. Chew Sr. and Mary P. Chew. In addition to his wife and parents, survivors include a son, David Raymond Chew III; a brother, Henry C. Chew; and a large host of extended family and friends.

David loved his son and wife with everything he had. He lived and breathed to provide for them and

make them happy. He has left a legacy, for we each are given another star in the sky. His son, Little David, understands that his Daddy lives with Jesus and he can talk to him at any time. As a cherished tradition, Little David and Mommy send a balloon to Daddy for every holiday and special occasion. Little David has come to look forward to this special moment, and this past Father's Day was no exception. When the balloon was released, it became stuck in a tree behind their home. A disappointed Little David was concerned that Daddy would not receive his gift, but Mommy promised that somehow Daddy would receive that gift. As they came home from church, Little David noticed that the balloon was gone! Daddy had retrieved the balloon from the tree. Once again, David saved the day and provided a moment of joy for his family. His presence is always near.

David's legacy continues. He was a man of courage, determination, wisdom, and character. People of all walks of life were captured by his friendliness, humor, and love for life. He is a hero and a man of bravery and faith. May the life he lived continue to speak for him. As 2 Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Undoubtedly, David has heard from his Heavenly Father, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Remembering

John Lennox Echternach Jr.

Boones Mill Volunteer Fire Department – Virginia

Volunteer Lieutenant
Date of Death: July 2, 2012
Age: 54

John was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the loving son of John (Jack) Echternach Sr. and Jeanne Troy Echternach, and beloved big brother to his sister, Cathy. He spent his early years in Maryland and New York before moving to Norfolk, Virginia. He graduated with honors from Maury High School in Norfolk and attended Virginia Wesleyan College, where he ran on the cross country team. He earned a master's degree in biology and a degree in physical therapy from Old Dominion University. He later completed a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

While preparing for PT school, he fell in love with Debbie King, a PT working at Montgomery Hospital in Blacksburg, Virginia. They were married and moved to Boones Mill, Virginia, where they built their log cabin home and raised two great kids, Jeff and Jaimie, who were their pride and joy.

John worked as an orthopedic physical therapist at Professional Therapies for 20 years before he became an assistant professor for the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Jefferson College of Health Sciences. John loved working with his patients and being a part of their rehabilitation as much as he loved teaching his PTA students about a career in physical therapy.

He began volunteering as a firefighter with Clearbrook Company 7 in 1993, then transferred to Boones Mill

Company 7, where he attained the rank of lieutenant. John immediately began his EMT training and ran many medical and fire calls over the years. He always answered the call. He completed firefighter instructor training and enjoyed coordinating continuing education for the volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

John was an avid outdoorsman, an Eagle Scout, and a member of the Order of the Arrow. He enjoyed hiking, nature photography, and gardening. He enjoyed woodworking, using wood he had cut at his sawmill to make furniture and to build his parents' home. John was a member of Boones Mill Christian Church, where he taught Sunday school. We mourn our loss, but also celebrate his life and his moral character.

John died as he lived, serving others. On June 29, while trying to help a motorist who was trapped in her vehicle during the Derecho windstorm, he was struck by a tree and suffered a head injury. The firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics from his station responded quickly. Their supportive care, coupled by John's excellent health, made him the perfect organ donor. John passed away three days after the accident and was able to donate several of his organs and tissues. John's legacy lives on in the lives of these recipients, and others whose lives he touched through his endless devotion to service. His life on earth was short but full, and we will rejoice when we are reunited with him in God's heavenly kingdom!



Remembering

Jonathan D. Myers Norfolk Fire-Rescue – Virginia

Career Firefighter
Date of Death: March 19, 2012
Age: 54

Jonathan Dickerson Myers passed from this earthly existence to life eternal on March 19, 2012. Tall, soft spoken, and kind, he was known as “the Gentle Giant.” He was a quiet hero among heroes who never expected praise for the countless good deeds he performed.

Raised in Paoli, Pennsylvania, Johnny attended Syracuse, Villanova, and Old Dominion Universities. He served for nine years in the U. S. Navy as a radio-man, supporting Seal Team activities aboard the U.S.S. Nashville.

Johnny enjoyed kayak-fishing with his wife, Nancy, paddle boarding, biking, and relaxing on his deck overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. An award winning softball and golf player, he dedicated his time and talents to tournaments that raised money for great causes. As a member of IAFF Local 68, he was dedicated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and participated in “Fill the Boot” and the annual softball tournament in Maryland. On off-duty days, Johnny assisted Nancy with operating her family’s Printer’s Supply Company Incorporated. He did yard work and maintenance of the business and his parents-in-law’s home.

Johnny was assigned to Ladder 13 in the Ocean View area of Norfolk, as the aerial driver operator. A team player, he mentored new members on the operation of Ladder 13 and the fire-rescue boat, The Vulcan, and remained physically fit by working out with other sta-

tion members. He loved the community interactions at the local dog park next to Station 13 and could be found during his shift conversing with the neighbors and their furry friends.

On March 19, 2012, Johnny reported to duty ready to work. He checked off his apparatus and placed the aerial up for a physical training exercise. All members climbed the aerial ladder in turnout gear with a tank. Shortly after his climb, Johnny did not feel well and went inside to cool off. He collapsed in the bunkroom and was found by station members who promptly started working on him. Despite their advanced skills and best efforts, Johnny did not survive.

Johnny was loving and supportive of his best friend and wife, Nancy.

He was, in the words of his daughter, Melissa Rose Myers, “a fun dad who would get on the floor and play with us, and always bought the best Christmas and birthday presents.” His legacy lives on through his son, Benjamin Haldeman Myers, who wishes to become a firefighter for Norfolk Fire Rescue. He was a caring grandfather; a loving son to William Heyward Myers III and Jean Halderman Longnecker Myers Grady; stepson to Alan H. Grady; a wonderful brother to Emily, Sarah, and Heyward Myers; and “Uncle Johnny” to many nieces and nephews. He is greatly missed by his fire family. His gentle smile, big heart, and compassion to help others will always be remembered.



Remembering

Zachary T. Whitacre

Gore Volunteer Fire & Rescue – Virginia

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: February 13, 2012

Age: 21

Zach was born November 13, 1990, in Winchester, Virginia. Zach was a lifelong resident of Gore, Virginia.

Zach grew up with his grandparents, Donald and Sue Whitacre Sr., whom he called Pappy and Nanny Mom. He was a happy person who enjoyed watching the deer in the yard, feeding birds and squirrels, and watching the sunrise. He enjoyed time with his dad, Donald Whitacre Jr., and stepmother, Donna, bringing in hay, cutting wood, or working in the garden. He also enjoyed time with his mom, Diane Holmes, his stepfather, James, and also his other grandparents whom he called Aunt Pansy and Uncle Norman Anderson. He had a stepbrother, Justin Rudolph; a stepsister, Victoria Rudolph; and a half-sister, Cheyenne Holmes.

Zach was quiet and a fan of country music. His friends at the fire department gave him the nickname "Jukebox" because he loved to sing his country music. Zach enjoyed playing video games with his cousin, Triston, and his fellow firefighters at the fire station. Zach also enjoyed football and NASCAR, especially Mark Martin.

Zach worked with his grandfather, Donald Whitacre Sr., delivering lumber after he graduated from James Wood

High School. Principal Joe Salyer called the 2009 graduate "a young man of strong character who was highly respected by those who knew him and he was dependable and had a strong love for his school and community."

Mr. Jonathan Russel, Zach's drafting teacher, said, "Zach was an amazing kid and was always happy and friendly. Zach never had anything bad to say about anyone he knew. He always had a smile on his face, but not too much to say, but that was Zach for you. He had a warm smile that just made everyone happy who was around him."

Kyle Ritter, a fellow firefighter, recalled him as a man of great character who displayed respect, humor, and dedication, and was compassionate about serving the fire department. Zach was described by Rescue Captain, Tonya Holliday, as "an old soul in a young body." Zach had only been a member of the fire department for a year and was planning to go to fire school.

He enjoyed being part of the fire department that his granddad and dad were in. His dad is a firefighter and an EMT. Zach had the two-minute drill down to 1 minute 14 seconds. He helped with the annual yard parties, cut firewood for the station, helped work on the trucks, and was at the station for work details, meetings and trainings.

Zach was loved and respected by everyone he met and is missed very much by his family and friends.



Remembering

John H. Colbert

Birchwood Fire Department – Wisconsin

Volunteer Acting Captain
Date of Death: April 6, 2012
Age: 60

John "Jack" Colbert, age 60, of Birchwood, Wisconsin, died April 6, 2012, after responding to the fire station to handle radio communications during a call.

John Henry Colbert was born March 29, 1952, in Wisconsin to Howard and Theresa (Ziegenbalg) Colbert. Jack graduated from Birchwood High School in 1971. He worked at Birchwood Lumber & Veneer and at the lumberyards in Birchwood for many years. He also dug graves by hand at Woodlawn Cemetery. He enjoyed gardening and fishing.

Jack was a firefighter and worked on the Birchwood Ambulance and Rescue Team for many years. A 38-year veteran with the fire department, he had hoped to make it to 40 years.

Jack Colbert was survived by two sons, Jason Colbert and Jacob Colbert; a daughter and son-in-law, Sara and David Livingston; four grandchildren, Amanda, Auston, Alyssa, and McKenzie; his companion, Aura Lea Carrell, and her family; a brother, Gerald (Judy) Colbert; two sisters, Patty (James) Langham and Gail (Sam) Grazziano; and many nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Theresa Colbert; two sisters, Beverly and Cathleen; and his favorite dog, Lou.

Jack's fellow firefighters remembered him as serious and focused during an emergency, but friendly and smiling as soon as there was a break in the action. Jack was a true hometown hero.



Remembering

Steven W. Fritz

Rothschild Fire Department – Wisconsin

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: December 10, 2012

Age: 58

Steven Wallace Fritz died on December 10, 2012, from a heart attack, six hours after answering his last alarm. He was born on September 5, 1954, to Wally and Dorothy Fritz. He lived his entire life in the Rothschild area. He was baptized October 10, 1954, and confirmed on May 5, 1968, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Rothschild, where he attended Sunday school and Vacation Bible School as a boy.

He was a member of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America and participated in Little League baseball. Steve attended Rothschild Grade School and D.C. Everest Junior and Senior High, where he participated in the band and wrestling.

After completing his education at North Central Technical College with a degree in electrical service, he was employed at the Domtar Paper Mill in Rothschild as an electrician for 38 years and was a past vice president of Local 319 of U.P.I.U.



Steve was an EMS instructor for North Central Technical College, serving the area for 20 years. On September 25, 1992, he joined the Rothschild Fire Department, working his way up the ranks and was named chief on February 15, 2007. As chief, he was very proud of his department and considered the members as extended family. He knew the time and effort each one put forth and tried to be available to them if he could be of assistance.

Steve enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, camping and loved riding his Harley. He participated in many benefit rides. He had a special fondness for animals and cared for many through the years who ventured onto his property.

Steve grew up with his two sisters, Susan Dobrinska, who died of cancer on November 12, 2010, and Shelly LaPorte, who lives with her husband, Bruce, in Rothschild. Karen, his wife of 18 years, passed away in August, 2002, of cancer. He has two grown sons, Chad and Ben, three nephews, five nieces, and a special friend, Mary LaPorte.

Remembering

Jamison N. Kampmeyer

Colby Volunteer Fire Department – Wisconsin

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: March 4, 2012

Age: 34

Jamison N. Kampmeyer dedicated his life and career to service. He joined the Colby Volunteer Fire Department on February 7, 2002, as a part-time firefighter and quickly became active in all areas of the fire department, furthering his education to become an EMT. Jamison participated in doing fire inspections in the community, and was active in the fire prevention programs put on at local schools. Jamison showed natural leadership skills at crash scenes and major fire scenes, taking on leadership roles for entry teams into fires, rope rescue, and other technical rescue incidents. In doing so, Jamison quickly obtained the respect of all the officers on the department and was promoted to lieutenant. At the time of his death, Jamison was on the list for promotion to captain.

Jamison took the fire department's mission statement seriously and led by example. He was always one of the first to enter the hot zones and a very active participant in all debriefings. By nature, he was always working on ways to improve response and make scenes safer for everyone involved.

Knowing he aspired to serve his community further, Jamison made the decision to pursue a career in law enforcement. He attended the Recruit Academy at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau and was hired by the Marathon County Sheriff's Department on

April 26, 2004. In addition to his normal duties as a deputy sheriff, Jamison was a member of the S.W.A.T. Entry Team, S.W.A.T. Team Medic, Honor Guard, and trainer for C.P.R. and Defense and Arrest Tactics. Jamison was also a field training officer, tutoring and mentoring the newly hired deputies. He became an adjunct instructor at NTC for the Basic Recruit Academy and other criminal justice programs. He was next on the department's eligibility list for detective and was posthumously promoted to detective.

On March 4, 2012, Jamison died while combating a fire at the Abbotsford Theater when the roof collapsed on him, and he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Those who knew Jamison are lucky to have been touched by his dry sense of humor, which was always followed by his bright smile. He was deeply dedicated to his family, having married his high school sweetheart, Amy. Jamison was proud to have bought a farm where he could still immerse himself in his rural farm upbringing.

Jamison is survived by his wife of 10 years, Amy, and three sons, Jack (7), Henry (3), and Miles (1). Jamison embodied the spirit of giving in both his professional and personal life. Jamison leaves a legacy as a dedicated public servant and true hero who touched the lives of many. He is greatly missed and will never be forgotten.



Remembering

Philip A. Mortensen

Brooklyn Fire & EMS District – Wisconsin

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: December 22, 2012

Age: 67

Philip "Mort" Mortensen was born on May 12, 1945, in Madison, Wisconsin, the son of Vernon and Elna (Karmgard) Mortensen. He married Sandra Mary Farnsworth on April 23, 1966, at Brooklyn Lutheran Church, of which he was a charter member.

Philip attended school in Brooklyn, Wisconsin, and graduated from Oregon High School. He studied automotive technology at MATC, where he later served as an instructor. He opened Mortensen Auto Repair in 1965, and in 1992 was joined in the business by his son, Kyle.

Philip joined the Brooklyn Area Fire Protection District in 1966 and became the fire chief of the district in 1974, a position he held until his death. During that time, he was instrumental in moving the district forward, playing a large role in the establishment of Brooklyn's Emergency Medical Service in 1996. In recent years, his many hours of hard work made it possible for the Brooklyn Fire & EMS Protection District to obtain funding for, build, and move into a new state of the art facility. His assistant chief of 25 years says of Mortensen, "Phil was my chief, my mentor, my close friend, and my adult life inspiration...He had an absolute commitment to the community he served. He was one of a kind."

Chief Mortensen led the department by example. While meticulous in the protocols and practices he'd established

for firefighters and first responders, he was temperate and considerate in dealing with others, an approach that earned him universal respect among those he worked with. He was willing to take control and give directions, as any good chief would, but he would also dig right in beside those he was leading. He was an active participant of the emergency crew, not one to just sit back and give orders. He was a dedicated professional who was not afraid to get his hands dirty. A mechanic by trade, he often spent many extra hours servicing the equipment of the District. Even in the absence of District duties, he still visited the department nearly every day.

He served on the Brooklyn Village Board for about a year and was active working with the Village Board to facilitate business between the Fire & EMS District and the Village.

Phil enjoyed spending time at his lake cabin fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling. This past year, he fulfilled a longtime dream of purchasing a 1956 Thunderbird, which he enjoyed driving and restoring.

He especially loved spending time with both his home and fire department families. Philip is survived by his wife, Sandy; children, Todd Mortensen and Kyle (Lori) Mortensen; granddaughter, Miranda; brother, David (Cheryl) Mortensen; and numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, his dog, "Korby;" other relatives; and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.



Remembering

Adam J. Longo

Natrona County Fire Protection District – Wyoming

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: April 18, 2012

Age: 31

Adam Longo had barely turned 31 years old when he suffered a stroke responding to a grass fire. He was nine months into his probationary period as a firefighter with Natrona County Fire District. He was concurrently employed at Wyoming Medical Center as an EMT-B for the ambulance service. Here, he had recently completed the requirements to teach CPR for the American Heart Association.

Prior to this, Adam worked at a local plumbing company, CK Mechanical, while returning to school to pursue his second degree in fire science. From 2002-2009, Adam was a state trooper for the Wyoming Highway Patrol. He received numerous accolades and awards, including the Luke Schalund Medal of Life Award.

He was involved in a variety of activities including hunting and fishing, model railroading, and weightlifting. In 2007, he won second place for his weight division at the International AAU Powerlifting competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. He also participated in various Highland/Celtic games around the region and was a weightlifting coach for Special Olympics of Wyoming.

Adam had served a brief time in the military after high school. He and his wife, Jennifer, were just two months away from their eight-year anniversary when he died. They had two dogs, Trooper (a yellow lab) and Hunter (a chocolate lab).

Adam was a jokester and was always pranking his friends and co-workers. He will always be remembered for his sense of humor, his laugh, and his positive impact on others and outlook on life.





“...THE GREATEST GIFT A MAN CAN GIVE IS TO LAY HIS LIFE UPON THE LINE SO THAT SOMEONE ELSE MAY LIVE....”

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN



National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

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.

SPONSOR THE ANNUAL NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

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. The Memorial Weekend activities are televised nationwide.

HELP SURVIVORS ATTEND THE WEEKEND

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

OFFER SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the Foundation provides survivors with a place to turn. Families 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 bi-monthly newsletter and specialized grief resources. Our Web site provides information on Federal, State and local survivor benefits and other resources. An annual Fire Service Survivors Conference offers life skills workshops and a chance to network with other survivors. The Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters provides a weekend bereavement camp combined with fun activities for the children.



AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIRE SERVICE SURVIVORS

Spouses, life partners, children and stepchildren of fallen firefighters are eligible for scholarship assistance for education and job training costs. Since 1997, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships.

HELP DEPARTMENTS DEAL WITH LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

Under a Department of Justice grant, the Foundation offers training to help fire departments handle a line-of-duty death. The Foundation's Taking Care of Our Own® training provides departments with extensive pre-incident planning support. Immediately after a death, a Local Assistance State Team is available, by request, to provide technical assistance and personal support to help the department and the family. Team members assist the departments and families with filing of paperwork for state and Federal benefits.

Immediately after the World Trade Center event on September 11, 2001, the Foundation provided financial support to the Fire Department of New York to help with funerals and provide counseling services for the families of the fallen firefighters. The Foundation continues to support the department and families.

WORK TO PREVENT LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

With the support of fire and life safety organizations, the Foundation launched the "Everyone Goes Home" campaign in 2004. Its goal is to reduce firefighter deaths.

CREATE A NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

The Foundation is expanding the 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 connects the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and the official national monument. A statue honoring the firefighters who died in the World Trade Center, "To Lift a Nation," was added to the park in 2007.

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...and hundreds of others who have helped in so many ways.

Special thanks to the members of the fire service who assist and serve as family escorts and the honor guard and pipe band units that participate in the Memorial Weekend programs.

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A special thank you to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation staff and contractors who work tirelessly throughout the year to assist and support the families and coworkers of fallen firefighters.

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Special thanks to all of the fire service members who serve as State Advocates for the Everyone Goes Home® program, as members of the Local Assistance State Teams, and those who coordinate golf tournaments and stair climbs.



“The true legacy of the individuals whom we honor for making the ultimate sacrifice lives in the minds and hearts of each of us. It is there to be shared, to be nurtured, and to be protected, so that it may one day be passed on to another. Protect their memories well. Share in a good-hearted laugh as we remember the personality, vitality and spirit of these individuals. And, as we gather here in Emmitsburg each year, go forth with those memories. Make them a part of your day-to-day life and share them until the day comes, a year from now, when we will all meet here again.”

*Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation*

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