

# *Remembering*



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS  
MEMORIAL WEEKEND  
OCTOBER 6-7, 2012

Charolette R. Adair • Glenn L. Allen • Steve Auch • Gregory S. Baker • Richard Leo Barbour • Christian D. Beaston Jr. • Randy D. Boley • Jeffrey S. Bowen • Andrew K. Boyt • Henry “Jay” Branscum • Joshua O. Burch • Paul J. Cahill • Jacob Anthony Carter • Dennis James Cauthen • Leslie L. Clark • Jeffrey Alan Cocke • Stephen R. Cox • Vincent J. Cruz • Daniel C. Dare • Jon D. Davies Sr. • Scott T. Davis • David L. Eason • Jarrett T. Eleam • Michael Paul Esposito • Mark G. Falkenhan • George Wendell Fisher III • Charles E. Foster • Harold F. Frey • Brett L. Fulton • Gaston A. Gagne III • Larry C. Gressett Sr. • Matthew M. Hadaller III • James M. Hall • Caleb Nathanael Hamm • Patrick B. Hannon • Charolette R. Adair • Glenn L. Allen • Gregory Leon Harris • Trampus S Haskvitz • William F. Hopman • David S. Howell • David J. Hunsinger Jr. • Chip A. Imker • Steve Auch • Gregory S. Baker • Richard Leo Barbour • Christian D. Beaston Jr. • Randy D. Boley • Jeffrey S. Bowen • Andrew K. Boyt • Henry “Jay” Branscum • Joshua O. Burch • Paul J. Cahill • Jacob Anthony Carter • Dennis James King Jr. • Kyle Kenneth King • Joseph A. “Joey” King Jr. • Derek Kozorosky • Vincent J. Cruz • Daniel C. Dare • Jon D. Davies Sr. • Scott T. Davis • David L. Eason • Todd W. Krodle • Jarrett T. Eleam • Michael Paul Esposito • Mark G. Falkenhan • George Wendell Fisher III • Charles E. Lackovic Jr. • John J. Lackovic Jr. • Donald R. Lam • Thomas J. “Todd” Lange • Elias Macias-Jaquéz • Travis L. Miller • Larry G. Nelson • Terrell G. Nielsen Sr. • Jim Niles • Johnny L. Norton • Scott Osenenko • Richard E. Paul • Warren J. Payne • Vincent A. Perez • Christopher Joseph Peterson • Chris K. Pham • Remy H. Pochelon • Keith G. Rankin • Gareth G. Rasmussen • Thomas V. Regan • David E. Remington Sr. • James Michael Rice • Ronald D. Ruprecht • Corey R. Shaw • Thomas M. Shields • Travis L. Miller • Larry G. Miller • Gregory Mack Simmons • Charles Victor “Sparky” Sparks • Edward N. Steffy • Christopher T. Stock • Robert J. Tieche Sr. • Kevin E. Townes • Nelson • Terrell G. Nielsen Sr. • Anthony “Tony” Valerio • James L. von Roden • Jacob Paul Waldner • William George Waldner • Robert Dean Watts • Michael C. Webb • Robin E. West • Timothy Ray White • Joshua J. Wilkes • Jim Niles • Johnny L. Norton • Scott Osenenko • Richard E. Paul • Warren J. Payne • Vincent A. Perez • Christopher Joseph Peterson • Chris K. Pham • Remy H. Pochelon • Keith G. Rankin • Gareth G. Rasmussen • Thomas V. Regan • David E. Remington Sr. • James Michael Rice • Ronald D. Ruprecht • Corey R. Shaw • Thomas M. Shields • Gregory Mack Simmons • Charles Victor “Sparky” Sparks • Edward N. Steffy • Christopher T. Stock • Robert J. Tieche Sr. • Kevin E. Townes Sr. • Anthony “Tony” Valerio • James L. von Roden • Jacob Paul Waldner • William George Waldner • Robert Dean Watts • Michael C. Webb • Robin E. West • Timothy Ray White • Joshua J. Wilkes • Jonathan C. W. Young

“WHAT WE DO FOR OURSELVES DIES WITH US. WHAT WE DO FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS, AND IS IMMORTAL.”

—ALBERT PINE



*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](http://www.firehero.org)



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



# Remembering



## David L. Eason

### West Memphis Fire Department – Arkansas

Career Firefighter Recruit

Date of Death: January 26, 2011

Age: 38

David Eason died January 26, 2011, after suffering cardiac arrest during a training exercise at the Arkansas Fire Academy in Camden. He was hired by the West Memphis Fire Department in December 2010 and was in the process of training to receive his state certification. He was the first West Memphis

firefighter to die in the line of duty since the department was founded in 1930.

David was remembered as strong and hardworking.

He is survived by his wife and two young children.





# Remembering



## Glenn L. Allen

### Los Angeles Fire Department – California

Career Firefighter/Paramedic  
Date of Death: February 18, 2011  
Age: 61

Glenn was born on October 28, 1949. After completing grades K-7 in the San Fernando Valley, he moved to the San Francisco area where he graduated from Oceana High School. Glenn loved anything to do with airplanes, completing several college courses in aeronautics. One goal for 2011 was to satisfy the requirements for his private pilot's license. His other hobbies included playing the cello, wood carving and wood working in general. He would create very detailed items such as beautiful, hand-carved Christmas ornaments for family and friends. He also built much of the furniture in his home, to the great delight of his wife!

In 1970, he moved back to southern California and worked for a private ambulance service. Glenn followed in the steps of his father, an LAFD engineer, and was hired by the Los Angeles City Fire Department. He graduated with the ambulance training academy class of July 1974, completed paramedic school in March of 1976, and later cross-trained as a firefighter. He spent over 36 years proudly serving the citizens of Los Angeles.

He took great pleasure in his role as firefighter/paramedic. His captain stated that he worked around the station like a rookie and was a "captain's dream." In writing to his family, one of his coworkers indicated that it was a high compliment to call someone a "good

paramedic" and then went on to say that Glenn was the best.



Off duty, along with nurturing his family, Glenn spent a good portion of his time serving Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) in North Hills, California. Fulfilling many roles at VPC, including choir member and deacon, he gladly gave many hours to making sure the church was in good order. From putting in sump pumps to fixing office equipment, he was always ready and able to tackle any problem that might come up.

He approached life with a true servant's heart, always seeing to it that others' needs were met before his own. He could calm an intense situation in a matter of moments, and you knew he would take care of everything. He just had a way of making everything all right no matter what was going on around you. To his family, Glenn was a loving example of what a husband, father, brother and son should be. To his fire comrades, he was a loyal friend and true brother.

Glenn is survived by his mother, Alberta Holtze; his brother, Bruce Allen; his sister, Deborah Abrams; his wife, Melanie Allen; his daughter, Rebecca; his son-in-law, Brandon; and his first grandchild, Nathaniel, who was born the day following Glenn's entrance into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

# Remembering

## William Floyd Hopman

### Quincy Volunteer Fire Department – California

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: January 11, 2011

Age: 53

The three Fs were very important to Bill Hopman: family, firefighting, and flying.

Born August 1, 1957, to the late Ray and Frances (Deal) Hopman in Santa Barbara, California, Bill was raised and attended school in Solvang, California, where his family operated a plumbing business. He is a 1975 graduate of Santa Ynez Valley High School. He went on to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo before obtaining a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Nevada Reno.

While helping out in the family plumbing business on a service call, Bill met a pretty young lady named Lisa Wintersteen with whom he later commuted to junior college. As their love for one another grew, the couple was married in the backyard of Bill's parents' ranch on July 14, 1984. The couple was blessed with one precious son.

Bill served the Quincy Fire Department for 14 years and was promoted to captain in 2010. He was a mentor to new firefighters, taking great pride in their success at mastering skills. He was Captain Fix-It, able to fix whatever was broken at the station. He died of a heart attack after fighting a chimney fire. His son, Robert, continues in his footsteps as a firefighter for the Quincy Fire Department.

Off duty, Bill piloted a Learjet 35 all over the United States for a drag racing team. At age 17, he received

his private pilot's license and went on to haul freight for Union Flights from 1984-2000 before becoming the chief pilot for Foxen Canyon Motorsports and Alan Johnson Performance Engines for the past 12 years. Just two days before his death, Bill gave his first flying lesson to his son, Robert.



When not helping out at the fire department, Bill could be found at his second home, his hangar on the Quincy Gansner Airport. Be it working on his Cessna 210, PiperPacer, North American AT-6, sharing his expertise with other aircraft owners on the field, or working on his classic Ford Mustang and other automobiles, Bill was doing what he loved. A drag racing enthusiast, Bill enjoyed helping out on Alan Johnson's Funny and Top Fuel Cars, starting when he and Alan were youngsters together.

Bill was always there to lend a hand to those in need. He found great pleasure in helping out with the Johnsville Junior Ski Team and co-coaching his son in the sport. He was also an assistant leader with Troop 151 of the Boy Scouts of America.

In passing, Bill leaves his loving wife of 26 years, Lisa, and the pride of his life, his son, Robert Henry Hopman. He is also survived by brothers-in-law John and Bill Wintersteen and mother-in-law, Nancy Wintersteen.



# Remembering

## Vincent A. Perez

### San Francisco Fire Department – California

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: June 2, 2011

Age: 48

Vincent Aceves Perez was born on April 9, 1963, at Saint Mary's Hospital in San Francisco.

Vince was one of five children. He attended Saint Charles Elementary and Archbishop Riordan High School. Vince grew up on Wool Street in the Bernal Heights district of San Francisco. He loved vintage automobiles. As a teenager, Vince completely restored his two-tone 1951 Lincoln and cruised with the car full of his buddies every chance he could.

Vincent served as a member of the United States Marine Corps and was also an Alameda County Sheriff's Deputy before joining the San Francisco Fire Department.

On April 2, 1990, Vince joined the San Francisco Fire Department. He soon became a member of Engine Company 7 in the city's Mission District. Vince had a childhood nick-



name, "Creature," that stayed with him into adulthood and into the firehouse. Vince was a great fireman. He was always calm and deliberate at fires and other emergencies. On more than one occasion, Vince's actions ensured that the crew came home safely. Vince was very humble and, in his own words, "a lone wolf." Vince was also known for his world famous "Italian Sausage Stuffed Pork Roasts." As he would say, "I've honed this recipe to perfection!" Vince made lieutenant and left Station 7 for Engine Company 26 in the Diamond Heights District of San Francisco.

On June 2, 2011, while fighting a structural fire and attempting to search for victims, Lieutenant Vincent A. Perez was overcome by severe heat and fire conditions. Vince passed away at San Francisco General Hospital that morning. We all miss you, Creature, and know that you will never be replaced.

# Remembering

## Anthony “Tony” Valerio

### San Francisco Fire Department – California

Career Firefighter/Paramedic

Date of Death: June 4, 2011

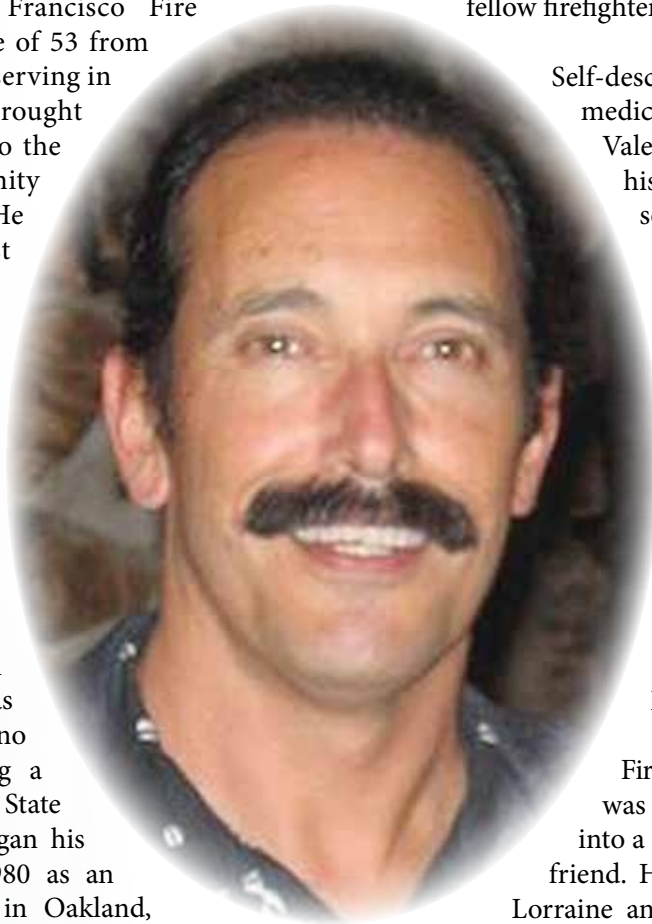
Age: 53

On June 4, 2011, Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony M. Valerio of the San Francisco Fire Department died at the age of 53 from injuries he sustained while serving in the line of duty. His death brought immense sorrow and loss to the people of the local community and throughout the state. He was a shining star amongst San Francisco’s courageous and was a dedicated firefighter/paramedic for 27 years.

Born on August 14, 1957, in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, while his father served in the U.S. Army, Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Valerio was raised in Italy, Hawaii, and South San Francisco, California. He was a 1975 graduate of El Camino High School. After earning a degree from San Francisco State University, Tony Valerio began his public service career in 1980 as an EMT with Acme Western in Oakland, California. In 1984, he was hired on with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) as a paramedic.

With the merger of the DPH and the San Francisco Fire Department in 1999, Tony Valerio became a firefighter/paramedic. Throughout his years with the SFFD, he was known as an exemplary model of professionalism, honesty, and integrity. He was immensely respected by his colleagues for his compassion, kindness, and patience for his fellow man in time of need. His dedication to

service will continue to serve as a fine example to his fellow firefighters.



Self-described as “The People’s Paramedic,” Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Valerio will be remembered for his charismatic smile and personality, for his quick wit and uncanny ability to find humor in any situation. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends and indulging in his varied interests. He was a man who lived his life as an adventure. He was an avid surfer, scuba diver, cyclist, athlete, a world traveler who spoke several languages, a San Francisco sourdough bread baker, and a volunteer for the SFFD Toy Program.

Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Valerio was a loving son who grew up into a good man, brother, uncle, and friend. He is survived by his parents, Lorraine and Frank; his sisters, Marina, Donna, Jacqueline, and Laura; his brothers, Mark and Kevin; his sister-in-law, Lynda Valerio; his brothers-in-law, Bill Walkup, Tim Samsel, and Joe Fanfa; his nephews, Austin and Jared Samsel, Kevin Mullins, and Thomas Walkup; his nieces, Melissa Walkup and Stephanie Dumm; his former wife, Ellen; and a host of other family members and many long-time and loyal friends.

He served as an example to all who served with him and will always be remembered and forever be in our hearts.

# Remembering

## Robert Dean Watts

### Windsor Volunteer Fire Department – Connecticut

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: April 18, 2011

Age: 50

Robert died quite suddenly of a heart attack while responding to a fire call. It was sudden, and he did not suffer. He died doing what he loved.

He served in the United States Marines for four years and saw action in the Persian Gulf.

He coached his son's Little League baseball team, and was involved in his son's Cub Scout troop.

He was a single father and did a marvelous job of raising his son and daughter. He gave them a sound set of values to live by.

He was a good friend who would do anything for you. His contribution to the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department and the town of Windsor, Connecticut, will be greatly missed.

He is truly loved and missed by all of his friends and family.



# Remembering

## Joshua O. Burch

### Florida Forest Service – Florida

Career Forest Ranger/Firefighter

Date of Death: June 20, 2011

Age: 31

Joshua was born on July 23, 1979, in Lake City, Florida. Joshua grew up with his loving parents, Hollis Burch and Mollie Gaylard. Joshua always had a special place for his mama and daddy, and a day never went by that he didn't talk to them on the phone.

Joshua met his wife, Danielle, in 1995. They married in June 1999 and celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in June 2011. They were blessed with two sons, Jeremy in 2002 and Jacob in 2005. Joshua's sons were his pride and joy, and he lived each day to the fullest with each of them. He loved to show them the great outdoors and to teach them the respect that it deserved. He shared his passion for hunting and fishing with his sons and frequently took them on the boat or 4-wheeler to fish and scout out the deer for the coming hunting season.

Joshua loved to cook, and was often found outside cooking on either the grill or the smoker. He also loved to go to the river, and you could bet that if he

wasn't working, he was taking his family on the boat to swim in the Santa Fe River.



In 2001, Joshua accepted a position with the Division of Forestry in Lake City, Florida, as a wildland firefighter. He spent ten years of his life doing exactly what he loved. Joshua was very passionate and excited about his job and looked forward to fighting fires as they arose. Many people go their whole life never finding that "perfect" job that makes them feel fulfilled, but Joshua was fortunate enough to do just that. There were many times over the years that he contemplated taking other jobs that offered more money, but at the end of the day he couldn't leave the job that made him so happy. He had gained great respect from his fellow coworkers and supervisors alike.

It was always known that if someone needed help, Joshua was right there to give a helping hand, without being asked. He loved his family and he loved his coworkers.



# Remembering



## Brett L. Fulton

### Florida Forest Service – Florida

Career Forest Ranger/Firefighter

Date of Death: June 20, 2011

Age: 52

Brett Fulton was an outdoorsman. He loved being in the woods fighting fire, hunting, or fishing. His love of putting out fires began when he joined the Division of Forestry in Lake City, Florida, in 1998 as an aluminum welder. In 1998, there were multiple fires started in our hometown area. He started being involved in fires as a parts runner, delivering parts to the dozer and truck operators so the machinery could be fixed.

Once a position as forest ranger/wildland firefighter was available, Brett applied and received his lifelong dream career. In 2003, Brett went to Nacogdoches County, Texas, to recover debris from the Space Shuttle that crashed and seven people lost their lives. He was in Texas for two weeks recovering what was left of the Space Shuttle. In 2005, Brett went to Louisiana to help the families and businesses that were flooded from Hurricane Katrina. He helped storm victims by supplying them with ready to eat meals, water, and ice. In 2006, Brett went to Oregon to help extinguish fires that were threatening people's homes. In 2007, he spent endless hours fighting the Bugaboo Fire that threatened homes in his hometown of Lake City,



Florida. On June 20, 2011, he lost his life trying to put out the Blue Ribbon Fire in Hamilton County, Florida, which was in the same area that his tower site was located. In a field of pine trees, the dozer he was operating became hung up on a stump.

Brett was born June 26, 1958. His family moved from Ohio to Wellborn, Florida, when he was three years old. He was very close to his mother and loved her dearly. He came from a large loving family of three sisters and one brother.

Brett was a wonderful, caring, and fun loving husband to Margaret, his wife of 32 years. He was a wonderful father to his daughter, Christina, and son, Brett Michael. One of his favorite pastimes was playing with his granddaughter, Sydney, and grandson, Luke, who cherished him. Brett loved dressing up in the Smokey Bear costume just to see the smiles on children's faces, including his grandchildren.

He also found the time to mentor his nephews and good friends. He enjoyed playing basketball, Call of Duty on his Xbox, and watching the Florida Gators play football.

# Remembering

## Gregory Leon Harris

### Miami Dade County Fire Rescue Department – Florida

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: April 22, 2012

Age: 40

Gregory Leon Harris was born July 12, 1970, to Nathaniel and Nezzie Harris. The eldest of four, he had a special and loving bond with each of his siblings. As a child, he was inquisitive and eager to experience new things. Greg accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal savior at an early age, believing that God was his firm foundation and with him all things were possible. Greg had a strong passion to serve people. He attended Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where he was one of the leaders of the singles' and men's ministry, served as an usher, and sang in the choir.

In high school Greg competed in track and field, winning first place for his school district. After graduation, he entered the United States Marine Corps. Due to his leadership ability, he was chosen to be on the frontlines defending the U.S. in the Gulf War. Greg received the National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, South West Asia Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and Navy Unit Commendation.

After his honorable discharge, Greg worked as a hospital security guard, where he was exposed to the world of emergency medicine. He studied to be an EMT at Miami Dade Community College, became a state certified firefighter at Florida State Fire College, and was cer-

tified as a police officer through Valencia Community College. With a variety of skills under his belt, Greg prayed about which field to work in. Within a few months the Miami Dade Fire Department offered him a job, and he began his career as a firefighter.

Greg continued to work hard, earning certifications for driver operator, marine firefighter, and HAZMAT technician. He served with the department honor guard and on the urban search and rescue team. He chose to work in one of Miami Dade's busier battalions, serving the community in which he was raised and which he cared about so much. With over twelve years of outstanding service, Greg gave his life serving others.

Greg had a special passion for the youth in his community and served as a coach for several youth football teams. He helped develop the players' skills and was a mentor to the boys, helping them recognize the importance of an education. He felt he was making a difference that money or accolades could not buy.

Greg was a man of courage, determination, wisdom, and character. People of all walks of life were captured by his friendliness, humor, and spontaneity. He was a hero and a man of bravery and faith. May the life that he lived speak for him. He has fought the good fight of faith to the very end, and God is well pleased.



# Remembering



## James L. von Roden

### Lee Community Volunteer Fire Department – Florida

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: March 12, 2011

Age: 49

James von Roden collapsed March 12, 2011, while responding to the fire station for a brush fire, and died later that day.

he was also president of the department's board of directors.

He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 26, 1961, and had lived in Lee, Florida, since 1998. He was the owner/operator of Von's Auto in Madison. He was a member of the Lee First United Methodist Church.

A captain with the Lee Volunteer Fire Department,

He is survived by his wife, Shirley von Roden; daughters, Lori Salsgiver Dowdy and Stephanie Kelly; two brothers; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Jim always had a smile on his face and told the best stories. He was an asset to the community, always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. He was a caring, giving, and kind man.



# Remembering

## Terrell G. Nielsen Sr.

### Bryan County Fire Department – Georgia

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: September 9, 2010

Age: 56

Terry Nielsen, Engineer #692, joined the South Bryan County Fire Department as a service to the Richmond Hill community in 2002. Little did he know when he signed up that it would become one of his later in life passions. He didn't join to drive the fire truck or wear the gear. He did it to help a growing community staff its department and was willing to do whatever task was necessary. At times he could be quite outspoken, but he always cast a different light on the issues at hand. Terry was voted South Bryan County Rookie Firefighter of the Year in 2003, Georgia State Firefighter Rookie of the Year in 2004, and was presented with honors by Governor Perdue in Atlanta, Georgia.

On September 9, 2010, devastation and sorrow struck his family, friends and community. Terry lost the battle of his life but, as he taught them, his wife and family stand strong and carry themselves with dignity and pride. Terry never wanted to be the center of attention nor receive credit for things he did for others so unselfishly. Today, he is honored for his fire service, but he is also receiving credit for the selfless acts he did for others.

Born in Rangely, Colorado, to Terrell and Wanda Coy, and later adopted by William Nielsen of the U.S. Coast

Guard, Terry spent his childhood living in Hawaii and numerous mainland coastal communities. Like a fairytale, he met his sweetheart, Kathy, in high school. They married and shared a life filled with the greatest love and happiness. They are blessed with two sons, Terrell and Jeff, along with four beautiful grandchildren, Hayley, Nathan, Jeffrey, and recent addition Blake. Terry was always an outstanding role model for his sons, preparing them to be the same kind of wonderful father that he had been for them. He loved coaching Little League baseball and taught many children the value of winning and losing. Family was always a priority, and he was an extremely involved father and husband. He also served as Master of Zerubbabel Lodge #15 F&M.

Recalling his fondest memories of his dad, Terrell reflects, "No matter how long a day Dad would have, he would always make time to do something with us every day." And this is why I loved him so much. Jeff refers to his dad as his hero and hopes he can be half the man his dad was known to be.

As Terry's family, we hold our memories close in our hearts. The things we learned from this great man are always on our minds. He will forever be a part of our daily lives, and may his legacy live forever.







# Remembering



## Vincent J. Cruz

### Guam Fire Department – Guam

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: September 29, 2011

Age: 40

Vincent Junior Cruz was born November 22, 1970, in Tamuning, Guam. He was the youngest child of Vicente and Tomasa, with siblings Marvin, Frances, and LouAnn.

He spent his whole life on Guam. In June 1988, Vince graduated with a Vocational High School Diploma in technical electronics. In December 2007, he earned a Bachelor of Science in public administration from the University of Guam. During Vince's youth and adulthood he participated in school and community sports that included armed/unarmed drill teams, volleyball, soccer, bowling, and baseball/softball. At the age of 18, Vince joined the Army Reserves with his MOS in Military Police. In December 1990, Vince was deployed with his unit and served his country in what is known as Desert Storm.

Vince met his wife, AnnMarie, in August 1987. He proposed to AnnMarie every year they were dating and did not give up until they married in December 1990. He was so in love with his wife that he married her again in December 2000. They celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in 2010. Vince was surrounded by numerous nieces and nephews who adored him and in many ways looked to him for advice and moral support.

After his return from deployment, Vince spent a number of years working for the private sector. In January 1993,

Vince earned a certificate in fire science technology from Guam Community College, immediately starting his career. He joined the ranks of one of Guam's finest and became a Guam firefighter. Vince dedicated 19 years of his life as a firefighter, with his first assignment at Engine Company 11 Talofofo Fire Station, with many rotations in between, and his final duty with Engine Company 12 Astumbo Fire Station.

Vince was tall and had a very serious demeanor. Some thought, what a giant! In reality, he was the most patient and gentle person. He enjoyed playing pranks, making jokes, and just having fun. Vince enjoyed life to the fullest. He was a very passionate firefighter who loved helping people, teaching all he knew, and learning along the way. Vince's family and friends will always remember him as a humble and dedicated son, sibling, uncle, husband, and firefighter who made a difference.

On September 28, 2011, Vince reported to work and responded to a full day and night of medic runs, with his last run logged in at 12:45 midnight. Then, during the early morning of September 29, 2011, before being relieved of duty, Vince passed away. In some sense, Vince is still doing what he does best; although his soul is gone, his heart and spirit look over his fellow firefighters.





# Remembering



## Caleb Nathanael Hamm

### Bureau of Land Management, Bonneville Interagency Hotshot Crew – Idaho

Career Seasonal Firefighter

Date of Death: July 7, 2011

Age: 23

Caleb was born on August 25, 1987, and began life as a tiny 3½ pound baby with big obstacles to overcome. His parents were told not to expect him to live. So he defied the odds early on and boy did he live each and every moment of his short life. The following words describe Caleb: fearless, thrill seeker, honest, trustworthy, loyal, affectionate, and loving. He marched to the beat of a different drummer and always remained his authentic self. In fact, the Biblical meaning of his middle name—Nathanael—means “in whom there is nothing false.”

Caleb loved nature and being outdoors, so when his family moved to Idaho several years ago, he and his brother, Seth, totally embraced life there and flourished. They spent countless weekends skiing or snowboarding in the winter, and swimming and hiking trails in the summer. Many times, Caleb’s hiking companion was his beloved basset hound, Princess, who is now 13 and accompanied him just about everywhere.

More memories for Caleb, his father, and brother were made on their hunting trips, which included sitting around the campfire sharing stories. Caleb loved the Native American culture and enjoyed making elaborate dream catchers from nature’s products, such as elk and deer horns, and feathers. Caleb was completing a degree in fire ecology. His obsession with taking care of

mother earth and recycling caused him to strike a deal with his parents – If they agreed to boycott the purchase of Styrofoam plates, he would wash the dishes. Once, when visiting his grandparents in Springdale, Arkansas, Caleb was appalled that they didn’t recycle. Before he left, he had a system set up for them.

Caleb loved his family. When he was little, he always told his mother, “You’re my favorite mom.” Into his adult life, he never ended a call or a visit with his parents or brother, Seth, without saying, “I love you.”

There are two values David and Lynnette instilled in their sons. 1) Regardless of your materials possession or the lack thereof, all you really own is your name, so let that name be defined as honesty, integrity and someone others can count upon. 2) If you are going to work at something, give 120 percent, or it’s not worth doing.

Caleb gave more than 120 percent and gave his life doing something he loved and was passionate about. And he did it in the great outdoors he loved.

Someone once said, “The purpose of life’s journey is not to arrive at the grave with a well-preserved body, but rather to slide in sideways, completely used up, yelling and screaming, what a ride!” This is how Caleb lived his life.





# Remembering



## Daniel C. Dare

### Avon Fire Protection District – Illinois

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: February 2, 2011

Age: 52

Daniel “Double D” Dare suffered a fatal heart attack after responding to a late night EMS call for a sick child during a blizzard. He was born June 18, 1958, in Canton, Illinois, to Bernard and Carol Dene (Foster) Dare. He married Katherine Louise Kjellander on October 1, 1978, at Abingdon United Methodist Church. He was a resident of Avon, Illinois.

In addition to being a volunteer firefighter, Dare had been with Avon First Responders for 20 years and was considered a mainstay of the department.

He graduated in 1976 from Abingdon High School and was in football, FFA, 4-H, and choir. He also sang in the choir at Abingdon United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Abingdon Jaycees, Avon Lions Club, Avon Summer Ball Board, Avon Businessmen Association and was an ITPA (Illinois Tractor Pulling

Association) judge. He served as a volunteer for the John Deere Classic the past two years and on the Knox County Fair Board tractor pulling committee.

Dan is survived by his wife, Kathy; his daughter, Michelle Karisa Dare; his son, Eric Daniel Dare; his parents, Bernard and Carol Dene Dare; his brother, David F. Dare; and his nephew, Dylan F. Dare.

Dan was a farmer and semi-truck driver. He enjoyed tractor pulling, hunting wild turkey and deer, and fishing. He also enjoyed coaching and watching his kids play sports, as well as watching the Chicago Cubs and Bears.

He was remembered as a dedicated person who tried to help everyone he could. His death was a huge loss for his family, the fire service, and the entire community.



# Remembering

## Patrick B. Hannon

### Chicago Fire Department – Illinois

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: January 15, 2011

Age: 51

Lt. Patrick B. Hannon, 51, entered the Chicago Fire Department on his birthday in 1988. He said it was one of the best days of his life. Prior to working with Chicago, Pat worked in Yosemite as a firefighter. While he was there he climbed El Capitan (a 5,800 foot vertical wall) on several occasions in Yosemite National Park.

When Pat started in Chicago he went to Truck Company 8. During his career he also worked at Truck Company 17 and Squad 1. After being promoted to lieutenant he relieved in the 1st and 4th districts until he found himself assigned to Truck Company 8 again. Pat was high on the list to be promoted to captain just before he passed away. Pat earned many awards for his services. He loved being a firefighter.

He also loved a good game of golf, a stinky cigar, and a good laugh. Pat comes from a large family and leaves behind his parents, Lynn and Bernard, and his six brothers and sisters. In 1989, Pat met his wife, Michelle, while he was working T8 and she on Ambulance 19. They married and had two beauti-

ful daughters, Katherine (“Katie”) and Bridget. Pat’s girls were his biggest pride and joy. He loved attending their sporting events and concerts. He always had a video camera on hand and showered them with words of encouragement.

Pat was a morning person, and every morning he would wake us up with, “UP, UP, THE SUN IS UP. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE HANNON HOUSE UNLIKE MOST DAYS.” His belly laugh was infectious as well as entertaining. His whereabouts were never a mystery due to his signature whistling.

As I said before, he comes from a large family. He has his immediate family, in-laws, aunts, uncles, and cousins. There is also his fire department family, a strong supportive family, which has been there to support his wife and children during these difficult times.

They share the same thoughts of how much he is missed. He loved working for the Chicago Fire Department, he loved life in general, but most of all he loved his wife and children and made sure they were always his priority.



# Remembering

## Corey Ray Shaw

### Du Quoin Fire Department – Illinois

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: June 17, 2011

Age: 22

Corey was born August 10, 1988, in Du Quoin, Illinois. He was of Catholic faith. Corey was a lifelong resident of Du Quoin; he was a Du Quoin Indian football player. Corey grew up with his parents and his sister, Megan. He was a happy child who loved the outdoors; boating, fishing, and swimming were some of his favorite things to do as a boy. As he grew he became involved in weightlifting and achieved his dream of being a starting football player for his high school varsity football team.

Corey was married to Nichole Hoffner. They have a daughter, Camryn, and lost an infant son, Cayden. He was a proud father and husband and could often be heard saying, "I'm livin' the dream." He and Nichole were buying a home. He worked very hard for General Tire.

Corey was always easy to find. He was either with Cam and Nichole, working out with Dad, or on the lake fishing when there were no fires to fight.

Corey was in Firefighter II class and still probationary when he was killed. He was raised around the Du Quoin Fire Department, where his father is chief. Corey's

dream was to fight fires and coach football; during his short life he did both. Corey loved being a firefighter and never missed a call or training session he was available for.

Corey loved his family—fishing with Uncle Ray, working in the shop with Uncle Mike, and hanging in the Everglades with Uncle Bill. He always had a special relationship with his Aunt Robin. He loved his cousins and his niece, Olivia. They aggravated each other to no end. He had many friends, but his best buddy, his "brother," was his brother-in-law, Joe Provart. Corey could not have loved him more if he was his actual brother, and the feeling was mutual.

Corey's assistant principal, Jeff Gossett, often said Corey had an empathetic heart, and he did. As hard as he was on the outside, he was as tender as can be on the inside. Corey was a man's man who was never afraid to say, "I love you," to those he loved, and he loved many. Corey was known for his bright blue eyes and big toothy smile and as a friend you could count on. Corey was the son a man dreams of and a mother takes great pride in raising. He was a fine young man who will be missed terrifically and never forgotten.



# Remembering

## Steve Auch

### Indianapolis Fire Department – Indiana

Career Battalion Chief

Date of Death: February 1, 2011

Age: 56

Steve Auch was born May 16, 1954, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Carl and Betty Auch. He suffered a fatal heart attack at home after returning from a 24-hour shift.

Steve followed his father, IFD Firefighter Carl Auch on the department and was appointed to the IFD on March 3, 1978. His assignments included Engine 21, Engine 12, and Engine 11. In 1986, he was promoted to lieutenant. He served on Rescue 19, Rescue 2, Battalion 2 aide, and shift EMS duty officer until his promotion to captain in 1999. As captain, he served on Medic Squad 10, Engine 11, and as chief of EMS from 2001-2007. In 2003, Steve was promoted to battalion chief; he was appointed Battalion Chief 11-A in 2007 until his death.

He was an EMT/paramedic and was certified in BERT, HAZMAT, TOSS, and Instructor 1 & 2. He was active with Peace Camp, the World Police and Fire Games, and FDIC. He attended Manchester College.

Steve was an avid competitive bicyclist for many years. He loved to play golf and was an avid sports fan. His

enthusiasm for and optimistic view of his beloved Indianapolis Colts football team was well known.

The firefighters in Steve's battalion would be the first to say they had the best battalion chief on the job. "He was knowledgeable and fair. He really took care of his firefighters."

Steve was one of the original IFD members who worked on FDIC since its first year in Indianapolis in 1995. He worked tirelessly and without complaint year-round on every aspect of FDIC planning—from obtaining sites for hands-on training to lining up local dignitaries to speak at the opening ceremony to obtaining "firehouse" furniture for the stage for Bruno "Unplugged," an FDIC favorite.

Steve leaves behind his beloved wife, Donna; children, Heather (Dave) Albrecht, Bradley (Jessica) Nichols, and Laura (Chris) Hamilton; mother, Betty Auch; brother, IFD Cpt. Matt (Tina) Auch; sister, Carol (Mike) Farquhar; and six grandsons, Drew, Joel and Nick Albrecht, and Micah, Landon and Owen Hamilton.





# Remembering



## Scott T. Davis

### Muncie Fire Department – Indiana

Career Firefighter/Paramedic

Date of Death: June 15, 2011

Age: 40

Scott Thomas Davis died June 15, 2011, in the line of duty while fighting a church fire. He was born on June 27, 1970, in Muncie, the son of Thomas and Vicki (Ergen) Davis, and graduated from Yorktown High School in 1989.

Scott married Raeanne Lillie on June 8, 1996, at the Yorktown United Methodist Church, where they and their three children were baptized and were very active members. Scott was an active member and coach in the Wapahani Wrestling Club and a member of Buck Creek Trophy Club and Ducks Unlimited.



Scott started his firefighting career at the age of 19 with the Yorktown Fire Department, where he served for 15 years, including five years as chief. In June 2005, he was hired on to the Muncie Fire Department, where he served for six years. He was a member of Muncie Professional Firefighters Local #1348.

He is survived by his wife, Raeanne (Lillie) Davis; his children, Jake (14), Emma (11), and Myron “Max” (9); and his parents, Thomas and Vicki Davis.

He was remembered as a great firefighter, father, and man who was dedicated to public service.



# Remembering



## Travis L. Miller

### Waterloo-Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department – Indiana

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: July 20, 2011

Age: 31

Travis Miller suffered a fatal heart attack July 20, 2011, several hours after operating at a structure fire in extreme heat conditions.

He was born December 2, 1979, in Angola.

Mr. Miller was very proud of and dedicated to his work for the Waterloo/Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department, where he had volunteered for five years.

He trained actively, worked well with others, and was always willing to help.

He is survived by his wife, Amy; a daughter, Rebecca; his father Jerry; a sister and brother-in-law, Stacey and Max Fugate; a niece, Sierra Bard; and a nephew, Tyler Bard. He was preceded in death by his mother, Monica.

He was a great guy, a selfless person who put everybody's life and well-being before his own.







# Remembering



## Timothy Ray White Cedar Lake Fire Department – Indiana

Volunteer Firefighter/EMT  
Date of Death: August 5, 2011  
Age: 50

Tim was born February 11, 1961, to Tommy and Betty White. He was brother to Tom, Gail, and Tracy; best friend and husband of 30 years to Kathy; dad to Tiffani (Rob), Amy (Mike), and Jessica (Matt); grandpa to Christopher, Amber, Jason, Noah, Cadden, Abbigalle, and one little guy, Zackary, that he never got to meet. The grandkids just called him Pa.

Tim was a member of the Cedar Lake Fire Department for 20 years. Tim not only joined the department to help people in their time of need, but because he hated it when the sirens would go off and the trucks would leave and he had no idea where they were going or what was going on.

Tim brought home an application and said, "Sign this." When asked what it was for, all he said was, "This is something I wanted to do for a long time—be a firefighter."

Tim overcame a lot to have this dream come true. Standing 6'5" it is hard to believe he was afraid of heights and was very claustrophobic. By the time of his passing,

Tim was a firefighter/EMT and a member of the emergency tactical team.

Tim belonged to the Eagles. He was a security guard at the Star Plaza and drove a semi for a living. When he had spare time, he would play golf.

Tim never went anywhere without finding someone he knew. Tim loved a good practical joke. Anytime he started a sentence with, "Would it be wrong if I (fill in the blank with something he had already done)," his silly grin gave him away every time.

Tim was a teddy bear of a man with a huge heart filled with love for his family.

Tim entered the hospital on Saturday afternoon after a training session in the heat. Six days later he passed away due to a heart attack.

You can rest now, my love. We will be together again some day.

You will always be my love, my life, and my heart.



# Remembering

## Jim Niles

### Downs Fire Department – Kansas

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: January 13, 2011

Age: 59

Jim Niles, 59, died Thursday, January 13, 2011. He was born on September 13, 1951, in Beloit, Kansas, to Darwin “Buzz” and Ida (Greig) Niles. When Jim was 13, the family moved to Loveland, Colorado, where he later met and married Karen (Sheaffer) Niles. They had two children, Mike and Debbie.

Jim’s interest in building motors in the early 70’s led him to drag racing. One of the cars he drove even set a track record in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He then spent most of his life working as an automotive technician for dealerships in Loveland, Colorado; Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Cawker City and Beloit, Kansas. He was ASE L1 Master Certified and owned his own business, Community Auto, in Downs, for over 20 years.

Jim played men’s and coached women’s softball in Colorado. After the family moved to Kansas in the early 80’s, he helped coach youth league baseball as well. He always cherished the time he spent being with or helping children, including Karen’s babysitting kids and especially his grandchildren.

Jim was an avid hunter and enjoyed 25 years of hunting elk in Colorado. This last fall, he even got to take his grandson on his first elk hunt. As much as he loved hunting elk, his true passion was pheasant hunting over good dogs with his favorite 16 gauge shotgun. Jim also

spent a lot of time studying ballistics and excelled at the fine art of hand-loading his own ammunition.



Jim owned and trained several horses throughout his life, and enjoyed participating in team penning events across the state of Kansas. He was also a familiar sight riding in the Downs Celebration Parade or sometimes even riding his horse in places he maybe shouldn’t have been.

Jim was a true cowboy who never passed up an opportunity to go two-stepping, and he and Karen led many wedding grand marches for couples in the area. Jim attended the First Christian Church of Downs, Kansas.

For the last 18 years, he had been an active member of the Downs Volunteer Fire Department. He was elected 2nd captain in 2003, and was promoted to 1st captain in 2006, the position in which he was currently serving. The service and camaraderie he felt with this group of men had become a joy to him that can’t be described in words.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, Buzz. He is survived by his wife, Karen, of the home; his son, Mike, and wife, Jonell, of Great Bend, Kansas; his daughter, Debbie Niles, of Ellinwood, Kansas; a brother, Dan Niles, of Downs; a sister, Thelma Franzen, and husband, Merlin, of San Angelo, Texas; his mother, Ida Niles, of Downs; and four grandchildren.



# Remembering



## Donald R. Lam

### Kentucky Division of Forestry – Kentucky

Career Firefighter/Forest Ranger Technician

Date of Death: February 17, 2011

Age: 58

Donald Lam died February 17, 2011, from injuries sustained in September 2010 while clearing a fire break during a wildfire. He was a dedicated forest ranger technician and experienced wildland firefighter who had assisted with fire suppression efforts on the local, state, and national level for nearly 12 years.

He was born December 7, 1952, in Marion, Illinois, a son of the late Donald Ray and Rose Marie Baker Lam. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and a member of Cedar Bluff Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jeannie Swatzell Lam; a stepson, Dusty Cooper; a stepdaughter, Dakota Son; a brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Brenda Lam; a nephew, Ethan Lam; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Kenneth and Brenda Swatzell.

He was my best friend, my loving husband. I met Don a few years back. He was a close friend to my first late husband. He was a logger, and my previous husband and Don were on several jobs together. My husband passed with cancer in 2008, and Don and I started dating one year later. We were married in 2009.

I was so lucky to have Don Lam in my life. He was a dedicated firefighter for twelve years, and loved it. Referring to wildfires, he would always say, "I am going to get the big ones." He lived and died for wildfires.

When I lost Don, I truly lost it all. He was a kind, honest, and genuine man that truly loved his job. Heaven got a logger and a forest ranger in paradise. I miss him terribly, but I believe God sent Don Lam to my life at the right time, and I am truly blessed to have shared my life with him even though it was a short while.





# Remembering



## Charles Victor “Sparky” Sparks

### Columbia-Adair County Volunteer Fire Department – Kentucky

Volunteer Firefighter

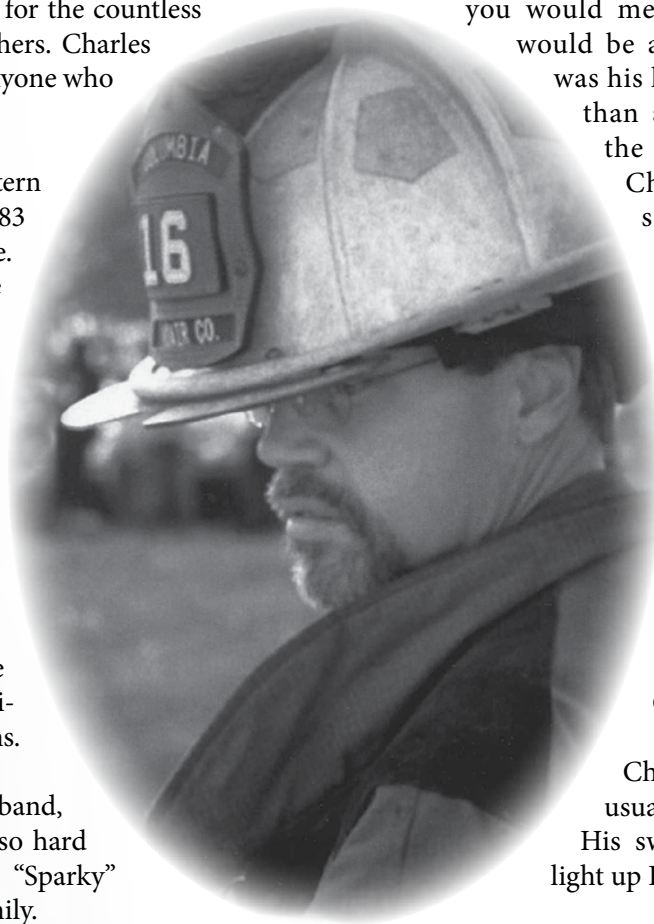
Date of Death: July 8, 2011

Age: 49

Charles “Sparky” Sparks truly loved life and will always be remembered for the countless hours he worked helping others. Charles was a positive influence to anyone who knew him.

Charles graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1983 with a major in fire science. He was a deputy state fire marshal for 23 years, a fire and rescue instructor for the Kentucky Community Technical System, assistant fire chief of the City of Columbia Fire Department, a member of the Columbia-Adair County Volunteer Fire Department for 32 years, and an EMT for the Adair County Ambulance Service. Charles was so dedicated to his chosen professions.

Charles was a loving husband, father, and son. He worked so hard to provide for his family. “Sparky” always made time for his family.



Charles was so proud of his son, Trent. Whenever you would mention his son’s name there would be a twinkle in his eyes. Trent was his heart. He adored Trent more than anything and was proud of the young man he has become. Charles couldn’t talk about his son, Trent, without the biggest of smiles and a heart visibly bursting with love.

On July 8, 2011, at the age of 49, Firefighter Charles “Sparky” Sparks lost his life while serving his community and doing the job he loved so much.

Charles became a Christian early in life and was a member of the Columbia Christian Church.

Charles was always smiling and usually had a funny story to tell. His sweet and precious smile will light up Heaven even brighter.



# Remembering



## Christopher T. Stock

### Westport Volunteer Fire Department – Kentucky

Volunteer Chief

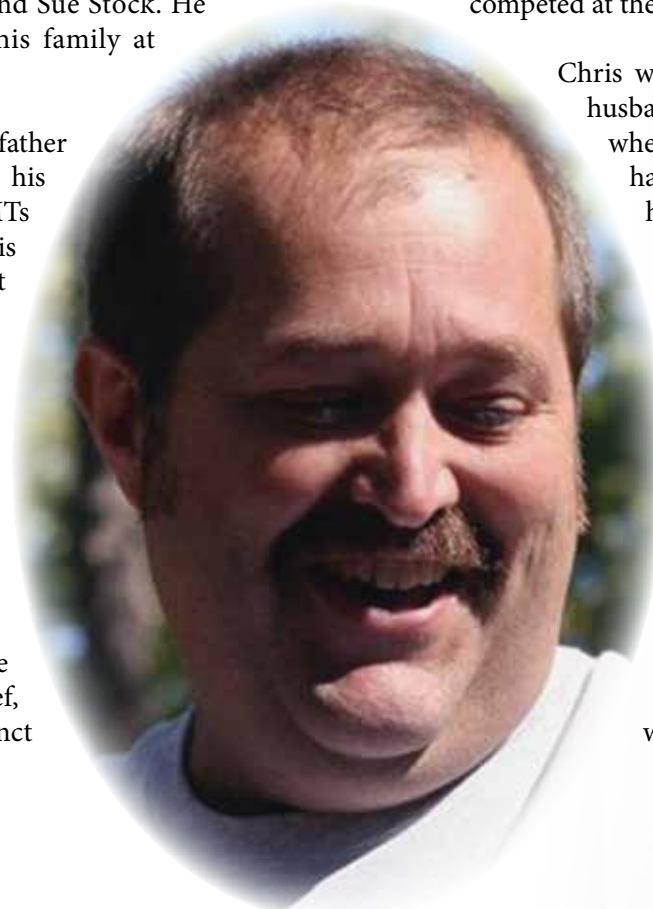
Date of Death: February 24, 2011

Age: 48

Christopher Stock was born March 11, 1962, in Colorado to George and Sue Stock. He moved to Kentucky with his family at age 14.

Following the death of his father in 1986, both Chris and his brother, Geoff, became EMTs and volunteer firemen. Chris volunteered for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for 21 years. During his time, he served in several different ranks and eventually became chief of the department in 2008. Chris oversaw the building of the new fire station from beginning to end. He played an integral role, along with his wife, Mandy, then the department's assistant chief, in rebuilding a once defunct

Explorer program into a very successful program that competed at the national level.



Chris was a loving and devoted son, husband, father, and uncle. Often, when asked how many children he had, Chris would reply without hesitation, "Thirteen." He never mentioned that ten of those were the Explorers of the department who still refer to Chris and his wife as Mom and Dad.

Chris fathered three beautiful children, Samuel, Cameron, and Morgan. His family and his department were his life. His love and devotion to his wife, Mandy, was apparent to all. He impacted many lives and will be greatly missed.

# Remembering

## Michael C. Webb

### Fleming-Neon Volunteer Fire Department – Kentucky

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: April 27, 2011

Age: 46

Michael Webb suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in Goose Creek on April 27, 2011, several hours after responding to an ATV accident. A member of the Fleming-Neon Volunteer Fire Department since 1984, he served as the captain of fireground operations. He was a mentor within the fire department, well respected, and a friend to all. Along with other firefighters, he had provided pit row fire services at Bristol Motor Speedway since 2008.

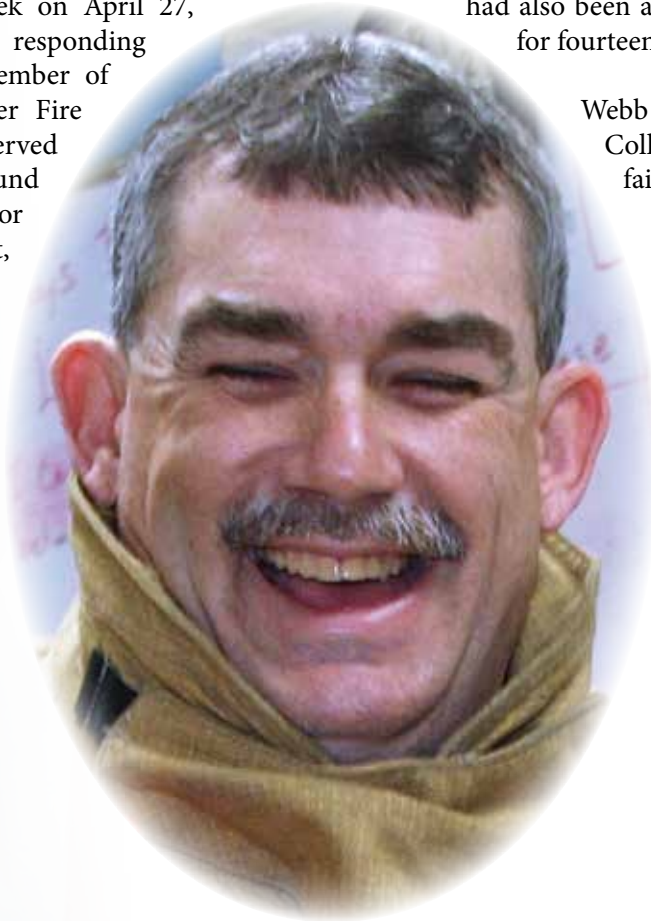
A second grade teacher at Fleming-Neon Elementary School and a school bus driver, he was as dedicated

in the classroom as he was to the fire department. He had also been a high school basketball coach for fourteen years.

Webb was a graduate of Pikeville College and was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie Webb; two daughters, Tamara Brooke and Brittany Nicole; and son, Cameron Michael.

He was a great firefighter, an excellent teacher, and a good friend. He was always willing to help somebody. His smile and kindness will never be forgotten.





# Remembering



## Scott Osenenko

### Livingston Parish Fire Protection District #4 – Louisiana

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 3, 2011

Age: 45

Scott Osenenko suffered a fatal heart attack on Saturday, December 3, 2011, while helping to rescue a family of five from a residential structure fire. Scott was a dedicated volunteer firefighter for Livingston Parish Fire Protection District No. 4, where he paid the ultimate sacrifice while protecting his community. He was the first volunteer firefighter to die in the line of duty in the department's 35-year history.

Scott was a loving father, son, brother, nephew and friend. His family, friends and the many men and women he served with will miss him dearly. He is



survived by his son, Kyle Osenenko and his mother, Kathleen Osenenko; daughter, Olivia Osenenko and her mother, Tara Burgess Osenenko; stepchildren, Devin Lambert and Mackenzie Richard; parents, Al and Pam Osenenko; brothers, Todd Osenenko and wife, Randy, and Rodd Osenenko; maternal grandmother, Joyce Read; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in the U.S. and in England.

Friends and fellow firefighters said Osenenko was the model volunteer. He never said an unkind word and was always ready to learn more.

# Remembering

## Christopher Joseph Peterson

### Ward Four Fire Protection District – Louisiana

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: September 3, 2011

Age: 22

Christopher Joseph Peterson was born on December 1, 1988, in Ruston, Louisiana, to Prinston and Janet Peterson. He was welcomed home by Meghann and Heather, his two older sisters. With the birth of Christopher, our little family of five was complete.

From the fall of 1994 until the spring of 2007, Christopher attended school ten miles from his Weston home. During Christopher's youth, he was involved in a number of community programs, including church youth group, summer reading programs, and Adopt an Angel for Christmas.

In 2001, influenced by his parents, Christopher found his first love, the restoration of antique vehicles. He was only 13 when he received a 1954 GMC half ton pick-up that was passed down from his paternal great-grandfather. The '54 GMC may have been his first restoration project, but it was not his last. He could be found with his loyal dog, Cinnamon, by his side working on a vehicle.

Christopher began high school in 2003 at Weston High School. During the next four years he became involved in sports and many extracurricular organizations, track and field, BETA, FCA, FBLA, and his favorite, FFA. He received many local, state, and federal honors. Christopher graduated as his class valedictorian with a 4.0 GPA.

Christopher attended the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology. He graduated with honors in May 2011. He was planning on continuing his education in dentistry.

While still in high school he joined the Ward 4 Fire Department. Christopher received Red Cross certification and was also a certified first responder. When he was old enough, he became a blood and plasma donor. When the blood supply in our area was low, the Life Share Blood Center had Christopher's number on speed dial, and he was there. The joy he found while helping others made it clear that being a firefighter was his passion and purpose in life.

On September 3, 2011, Christopher Joseph Peterson passed away while en route to an emergency call. He died while doing what he loved. His passing left a huge hole in the lives of his family, friends, and community. Christopher will be forever loved and missed.

Christopher was many things to many people. To his friends, a confidant. To his classmates, a tutor. To his community, a volunteer. To his sisters, a protector. To his daddy, a right-hand man. To his momma, a kind, loving son. It was said at his funeral that if there was a hole to be filled, Christopher filled it. I don't think a truer statement was ever said. With all my heart, I love you baby.







# Remembering



## David E. Remington Sr.

### Shapleigh Fire & Rescue Department – Maine

Volunteer Driver/Operator

Date of Death: January 3, 2011

Age: 58

David, known as “Remi,” passed away tragically while responding to an emergency call on January 3, 2011. He was born April 23, 1952, to Shirley and Henry Remington. David lived most of his life in South Portland, Maine, before moving to Acton, Maine, in 2003.

All his life he wanted to become a firefighter, and he was honored to serve on the Portland Fire Department for ten years. He was stationed in many stations as a driver and spent most of his years driving for Bramhall, Central, and Munjoy Hill. He loved driving the tiller truck at Bramhall.

Upon moving to Acton, Dave joined the Shapleigh Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department. He helped out any way he could, whether it was driving the rescue, directing traffic, or becoming the head of fire prevention. David would drop everything he was doing and responded to every call he heard. He made it his top priority to help those in need. He thoroughly enjoyed everything about the fire department, which he called “The Brotherhood of Brothers.”

In 1975, David married Lurene. Lurene and David were always together and were married for 36 wonderful years. They were the best of friends and enjoying their lives. In 1975 they had a wonderful son, David Jr. David was so happy to have a son. He was the pride of his life.

David took David Jr. in to see the fire trucks many times, and he couldn’t wait to buy him his toy fire truck.



Highlights in David’s life included buying his son his first car, watching him graduate, and attending David Jr’s wedding to Maria. He also enjoyed the trip he took with Lurene to Disney World in December 2010. This was their first trip and plane ride. One of David’s biggest joys was his grandson, Anthony. He was so excited when Anthony was born and was always giving him kisses. Maria and Dave Jr. have since had a beautiful daughter, Josie. Though Dave isn’t with us here, we know he was smiling when she was born.

David spent a lot of time with his brother, Hank. They had a lot of fun playing paintball with Dave Jr. and Hank’s son, Marc. They also loved to go camping and boating with the family.

David will be forever in our hearts. He is deeply missed by Lurene, Dave Jr., Maria, and Anthony, as well as his brother, Hank, and wife, Patti; his mother, Shirley; sisters-in-law, Heidi and Julie, and brother-in-law, Chet. His nephew, Marc, and niece, Becky, also miss him dearly.

We love him more than all the stars in the sky. He will always be our hero.

# Remembering

## Mark G. Falkenhan

### Baltimore County Fire Department, Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company – Maryland

Volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic

Date of Death: January 19, 2011

Age: 43

Mark was born on December 26, 1967, in Middle River, Maryland. Shortly after graduating from Mount Carmel High School, Mark joined the Middle River Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Company, where he served as chief and had become a life member. His inspiration for firefighting came from watching the television show "Emergency" as a child, and Mark fulfilled one of many dreams when he became a career emergency medical technician with the Baltimore County Fire Department in 1990.

Mark married Gladys on November 6, 1993. They became the parents of two wonderful sons, Christian in 1996 and Garrett in 2005. Shortly after his marriage, Mark was promoted to paramedic.

In 1999, Mark became a member of the Baltimore County Fire Department Honor Guard. After the tragic events of 9/11, Mark traveled to New York with the honor guard to pay his respects to many of those fallen heroes. Mark was very proud to be a member of the honor guard. He participated in many memorials and other honor guard functions even after retiring from the fire department.

He served at several stations in the eastern portion of the county before retiring in 2006 to accept

a position as an emergency services instructor with the United States Secret Service. This was a difficult decision for Mark to make, but he realized that his talents as an instructor and mentor could be put to better use training others to safely perform their duties. Mark carried his love of the fire service to the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company in 2009. He was serving with this fire company when he answered his final alarm on January 19, 2011.

Mark was the consummate professional. He was dedicated to everything that he did, most importantly to his wife and sons. Family was Mark's first passion, and he enjoyed spending time watching his sons play soccer and lacrosse.

Mark was totally committed to serving his brothers and sisters in the emergency services and was liked by everyone he met. His broad smile and determined nature made him a great asset to the profession. He will always remain a hero to all he came into contact with, and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Mark's favorite quote describes him best. *"The man who is determined to make his world better, who is willing to learn and to lead, the man who keeps trying and doing his best is the man who knows how to succeed."*





# Remembering



## Paul J. Cahill

### Boston Fire Department – Massachusetts

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: August 29, 2007

Age: 55

Paul Cahill died August 29, 2007, from injuries sustained in a roof collapse while fighting a fire in a West Roxbury restaurant.

Born in Boston, Paul Cahill grew up in Dedham, the oldest of six siblings. He and his wife, Anne, began dating as teenagers and married in 1973. After graduating from Dedham High School, Cahill joined the Navy, serving on a tugboat in Newport, Rhode Island. After leaving the Navy, he became an electrician.

He joined the Boston Fire Department in May 1993, at age 40, and was assigned to the firehouse on Centre Street, home to Engine 30 and Ladder 25. There is a family tradition of public service.

Cahill's father and uncle were both detectives for the Boston Police Department, and his sister retired from the state police. Paul loved firefighting. He was remembered by coworkers as an aggressive firefighter who loved the camaraderie of the fire house and helped with anything that needed to be done.

Paul enjoyed fishing, taking vacations, walking along the beach, and gardening. He was a simple man. He worked two jobs to support his family.

He is survived by his wife, Anne; his sons, Brendan and Adam; and his daughter, Shauna.

He was truly a good person, a wonderful father, and a hero.



# Remembering

## Jon D. Davies Sr.

### Worcester Fire Department – Massachusetts

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: December 8, 2011

Age: 43

Firefighter Jon D. Davies Sr., 43, answered his final alarm in the early morning hours of December 8, 2011, in service to his department and his community, in search of a civilian who was reported missing and known to have been in the building at the time of the fire. Minutes after entry, a catastrophic failure of the foundation caused the rear of the structure to collapse.

Jon's dedication to service has been richly passed to his three sons. Jon D. Davies Jr., 23, was recently appointed to the Worcester Fire Department, serves in the Massachusetts Air National Guard as a senior airman, and completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2011. Airman First Class Michael L. Davies, 20, also serves in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. Jon's youngest son, Adam J. Davies, is 14. Jon's love of family and life is celebrated by those who knew him well. His larger than life smile was equaled only by his devotion to his family and friends. Jon was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed boating, fishing, hunting, and scuba diving, which he enthusiastically shared

with his sons. His zest for life was never as rewarding as when he spent time with his friends and family enjoying laughter and camaraderie. Jon also enjoyed his Harley-Davidson and the freedom of the road.



Firefighter Jon D. Davies Sr., a 17-year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, was appointed in April 1994. His fire service career started on Engine 8 and brought him to Engines 1&7, Ladder 1 and finally Rescue 1. Jon also served the Worcester Fire Department as a master diver and member of the scuba /dive team and was a member of the Technical Rescue Task Force. Firefighter Davies' love of life was transparent and shaped his fire service career as well. He was always willing to mentor a fellow firefighter and share his knowledge and enthusiasm for the job. His large frame, produced by his dedication to weightlifting, was perfectly suited to his demeanor. A bull of a man, Jon was a tireless worker, especially at a fire scene, but his compassion was even more outstanding and made him known as a "Big Teddy Bear" to his family and friends.



# Remembering



## Thomas J. "Todd" Lange

### Pittsfield Fire Department – Massachusetts

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: May 20, 2011

Age: 60

Thomas "Todd" Lange began his career in the Pittsfield Fire Department on July 29, 1974, after serving four years in the Marine Corps, including one year in Vietnam. He proudly served the city of Pittsfield for 32 years. He was an exceptional firefighter, proud to serve with his brothers.

When HEP C took him off the floor, and into the inspection bureau, he immersed himself in children's fire education programs, the care of the elderly and the hoarding problem in the city. He befriended many of the poor, bringing food and checking on them on his off hours.



Todd was a simple man who took nothing for granted. He judged no one and lived each day to the fullest. He was an avid golfer and a sports fanatic, sharing all of this with his father, brothers, and sons. He loved spending time with his family and traveling with his wife, Pam.

He was a true friend, a family man, a husband most envied and a wonderful son, brother, father, and grandfather. The loves and lights of his life were his granddaughters, Maren and Emmy.

He will always be forever in our hearts.

# Remembering

## Warren J. Payne

### Boston Fire Department – Massachusetts

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: August 29, 2007

Age: 53

Warren J. Payne died heroically on August 29, 2007, from injuries sustained in a roof collapse while fighting a fire in a West Roxbury restaurant.

Born in 1954 in Boston, Payne grew up in Roxbury and Dorchester and spent time studying liberal arts at Bunker Hill Community College. He went on to work odd jobs in landscaping and security before becoming a certified emergency medical technician. He became a firefighter in 1988 and was assigned to Ladder 25, where he served for 19 years.

He was skilled and compassionate on medical calls, comforting patients by holding their hands and reassuring them. He was also a skilled observer on the fire scene, taking in details and memorizing building layouts to help ensure safety.

He is survived by his sons, Johnathan, 16, and Jeremy, 14; and his mother, Florence Payne. His family included his fellow firefighters, with whom he shared food, advice, support, and laughter.

He was just a down-to-earth, nice, friendly guy.





# Remembering



## James Michael Rice

### Peabody Fire Department – Massachusetts

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: December 23, 2011

Age: 42

James “Jim” Rice was born January 23, 1969, in Saugus, Massachusetts. He grew up in Peabody, Massachusetts, with his parents, Brian and Elaine, and his brother, Michael.

Jim attended Peabody Public Schools and graduated high school from St. John’s Preparatory School in Danvers Massachusetts, where he played football and baseball, and made lifelong friendships with fellow classmates. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree in marketing from Bentley University. Jim enjoyed the business world but ultimately wanted to be a part of the brotherhood of the Peabody Fire Department.

Jim began dating his wife Amy in July of 1993. They married two years later on October 14, 1995. They celebrated 16 years of marriage in 2011. They have three beautiful children, Alyssa, Katelyn and Ryan. Jim was a family man who had strong family values. It was so important to him to be an active father and to attend all sports events his children participated in when he was not at work. He routinely walked his kids to school after returning home from the station with doughnuts in hand. He was

very proud of his family. His schedule allowed him to attend his children’s school events and sporting events. He thoroughly enjoyed being home with them after school working on homework and school projects



Jim was a kid at heart. He could be found throwing the ball around the yard with his kids or floating around in the pool, on a basketball court, softball field, golf course, or even practicing kicking field goals at Emerson Park when he was not at the station. He was also a true New England sports fan and a season ticket holder to the New England Patriots. He only missed a game if he was working.

Because he was a kind, loving, funny person to be around, he had an amazing group of friends on and off the department. The tragedy of his death has left a huge hole not only in our hearts, but also in our community. His laugh is what many will remember.

Jimmy was an outstanding son, brother, grandson, uncle, brother-in-law, son-in-law, and husband. Most of all, he could be called the best father to his three beautiful children. They called him Daddy-O.

# Remembering

## Chip A. Imker

### Cambridge Fire Department – Minnesota

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: May 24, 2011

Age: 35

Chip Imker, age 35, died May 24, 2011, as a result of injuries sustained in a fall during a fire department training in rope rescue.

Chip Andrew Imker was born June 21, 1975, in Springfield, Minnesota, to Richard and Susan (Bendiske) Imker. The family moved to Cambridge, where Chip was raised and attended school. He graduated from Cambridge-Isanti High School in 1994. Chip was a stand-out high school wrestler and continued his passion for wrestling as a volunteer coach. He served his country in the Army National Guard and Reserves.

Always ambitious, Chip built his own business, CAI Construction/CAI Properties, through hard work and word of mouth advertising. Chip was a member of the Cambridge Fire Department for 1½ years. He was a certified Firefighter I and II as well as a trained first responder.

Chip lived each day to its fullest. He was courageous, outgoing, and enjoyed skydiving and bungee jumping, hunting, 4-wheeling, snowmobiling, and driving mud trucks with the boys.



Chip's family was very important to him. He is survived by his loving spouse, Kristin, and their two sons, Hayden and Connor; his father, Richard (Judy) Imker; his mother, Susan Rihs; two brothers, Chad (Rachel) Imker and their daughter, Amelia; and Chuck (Susan) Imker and their son, Chase; grandfather, Lester Imker; grandmother Lori Steinlicht; and aunts, uncles, cousins, and many other relatives and friends.

He was a wonderful person—a beloved father, son, brother, partner, soldier, private business owner, firefighter, and coach. He thoroughly enjoyed serving his community.





# Remembering



## Jacob Anthony Carter

### Becker-Athens Volunteer Fire Department – Mississippi

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: April 17, 2011

Age: 18

Jacob Anthony Carter was born June 13, 1992, in Amory, the youngest son of Jerome and Myra Carter. Jacob, being a person who was always eager to help anyone who asked, decided to join the Becker-Athens Volunteer Fire and Rescue in his community. He always loved doing this for his fellow members of the community. On April 17, 2011, on his way to a fire call, there was a tragic accident, and Jacob lost his life at the age of 18.

Jacob's accomplishments in life were being a great son, nephew, brother, uncle, and brother-in-law. He loved being with family. When he was with his family he was always smiling and playing with his nieces and nephew.

Jacob was a very loving son. He is missed by his family and friends deeply. Jacob told his mother each and every day how much he loved her. We miss that precious smile that he always had on his face and the big bear hugs he always gave.



Christmas was the most memorable time of the year. You could not hide a present from Jacob. He always found them. He was always the first one under the tree on Christmas morning. He was the first one in line for the turkey and dressing. We all hoped and prayed he left enough for us.

Jacob loved playing with his nieces and nephew, pulling them around the yard in the big, red wagon, and jumping on the trampoline with his nephew, Bradley, who was his pride and joy. The look on his face the first time he saw that baby boy was priceless. Jacob was such a proud uncle. He always called him his Brad Brad. He always got so excited when Halloween came. He loved carving the pumpkins and taking Bradley trick-or-treating.

Jacob was a huge George Strait fan. Every time one of his songs came on the radio, Jacob would sing it word for word.

We love and miss you, Jacob.

# Remembering

## Charles E. Foster

### Barton Fire Department – Mississippi

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: April 29, 2011

Age: 59

Charles, known as Charlie to family and friends, passed away after suffering a massive heart attack while on a call. He was doing the three things he enjoyed in life when stricken. He was on a call for Barton Volunteer Fire Department, during a storm, and also cutting up trees that had a major road in Marshall County blocked.

On November 28, 1951, Charlie was born in Gary, Indiana, to Joy Foster and the late Devon Foster. He moved to Memphis, Tennessee in the early 1970s, where he made his home. In 1995, he met his wife, Shirley Davis Foster, and they were married in 1998. Charles had two stepchildren from a previous marriage and two from his marriage with Shirley.

Charlie became a volunteer firefighter for Barton, Mississippi in the year 2000.



During his ten years of service, he served in various roles within the fire department, including captain, lieutenant, and a prominent member of the board of directors. Since Charlie's passing, numerous strangers have approached us and told us about the kind things he had done for them in their time of crisis.

Charlie was a huge NASCAR fan and memorabilia collector. He also participated as a firefighter at the Memphis Motorsports Park, where he got to work events such as the Busch Series and Craftsman Truck Series races. He was a huge Jeff Gordon fan.

Charlie is missed dearly by his family, friends, and fire department. He was the life of the party. He will never be forgotten, and we will continue to honor him with every day that passes.



# Remembering



## Larry C. Gressett Sr.

### Toomsba-Alamucha Fire & Rescue – Mississippi

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: February 17, 2011

Age: 33

Larry Cleveland Gressett Sr. was 33 years old when God took him home to his heaven. He was a volunteer firefighter at Toomsba Fire Department in Toomsba, Mississippi. Larry was also a member of L.E.M.A.

Larry loved being a firefighter, but he drowned trying to save another man. He was a very special person that always tried to help other people. My son died being a hero.

Larry was a single father to two young sons, Larry Jr. and Waylon. He was the greatest daddy they could ever have had, always playing and having good times. Larry's younger brother, Kevin, lost his best friend. We lost a son who is loved and missed every day. But he will always be remembered as a fallen hero who lost his life in the line of duty.

Larry was also a truck driver. He worked for Webster Electric and loved driving an eighteen-wheeler. We always called him "Mr. Breeze" since he was always blowing down the road. Sometimes he wore a black cowboy hat, and he always had a great big smile for everyone.

As a Christian, Larry was a member of Salem Baptist Church. He took his sons to church and Sunday school every Sunday. Larry believed in God, and now he is a very special angel in God's heaven. We all hope to see him again there some day.

At the Toomsba Fire Station, Larry Jr. and Waylon were honored with a plaque by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. On October 11, 2011, Larry Gressett Sr. was added to the firefighters' memorial in Pearl, Mississippi. He will always be missed but never forgotten.

Memories and pictures are a treasure to his family and friends. His crazy laugh and big smile are missed by a lot of people every day. Larry was a brave young man who loved his family, country, and all fire and rescue members. He lost his life doing what he wanted to do, being a firefighter, way too young. He will remain in our hearts forever.

On February 17, 2011, my son lost his life trying to save a stranger's life. I am very proud to say Larry C. Gressett Sr. is my son.



# Remembering

## Joshua Jay Wilkes

### Unity Fire Department – Mississippi

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: February 13, 2011

Age: 26

Joshua Jay Wilkes was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on May 24, 1984. He was 26 when he died on February 13, 2011. He had responded to an afternoon outdoor fire and was returning to his station with another firefighter. During a stop to refuel the fire truck, Josh collapsed and died.

Josh was a volunteer firefighter with the Unity Fellowship Fire Department in Saltillo, Mississippi, for about five years. He was very active in the fire

department. He tried to make the calls and often helped out the other departments in the area.

Josh was married and had four children—two sons and two daughters. Joshua Terry is 10, Zachery is 6, Chloe is 5, and Isabella is 3. He was a great and wonderful dad.

Josh loved sports, playing drums, and family time. He worked his adult years in furniture manufacturing and carpentry.





# Remembering



## Henry "Jay" Branscum

### Northeast R-IV Rural Fire Association – Missouri

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: September 3, 2011

Age: 32

Henry "Jay" Branscum, 32 years old, firefighter, son, husband and father. Jay, Jay Henry, JayJay could never sit still. As soon as we settled in our home in Cairo, Missouri, in July 2011, he contacted the fire chief of the Northeast R-IV Volunteer Fire Department. Jay was told as soon as he attended six meetings, he could proceed through training. Jay went to work and arranged to be off work by 6 PM every Tuesday so that he could attend those six meetings and get to training. Once they gave him a pager, he kept testing it and testing it to make sure it worked. He was excited and wanted to help.

Jay never met a stranger no matter where he was, whether at the grocery store or a rest area along the highway. One time on the way home from his parents' house in southeast Kansas, there was a couple on a motorcycle stranded. Jay insisted we pull over. We were maybe an hour away from his parents' house, and it was a hot summer day. We stayed until they were able to contact a tow truck and it arrived.



Jay was a registered accredited nursing assistant and loved the work. He loved putting smiles on the faces of the people he cared for. When I met Jay, he had already been involved in his community in La Harpe, Kansas, as a volunteer firefighter. He wanted to help his community. Even though he worked as an assistant manager at a convenience store, he helped people. If you came in in a bad mood, he took it upon himself to put you in a better mood before you left.

Jay was the type of person that if you needed help and he could, he would. He lit up a room with his smile and his jokes. He loved to laugh, and it was infectious. Once, we were catfishing at a friend's house, and the water was low. Jay's bell rang, and the fight was on, or so he thought. When he got it to the bank, it was a 4-inch baby catfish that had gone through brush. He was a wonderful sport and even posed for pictures with his "killer" catfish.

Jay will be missed by many. He will always be with us. Jay is MY hero! Rest in peace and thank you, Henry "Jay" Branscum.

# Remembering

## Leslie L. Clark

### Dixon Rural Fire Protection District – Missouri

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: January 20, 2011

Age: 80

The Dixon Volunteer Fire Department lost a beloved member, Leslie Clark, on January 20, 2011, leaving his colleagues saddened, yet blessed to have worked alongside him. Leslie was a member of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department for over 20 years and at the time of his death had achieved the rank of captain. He had a positive influence on young firefighters and served as a mentor to many. He was looked upon as a leader by his colleagues. He was instrumental in building a branch firehouse in his hometown of Brinktown, Missouri, and recruiting volunteer firemen to serve the rural community.

Leslie was the owner and operator of Clark's TV Sales & Services, as well as a farmer. It was not unusual for him to provide free services, not only to local churches and other organizations, but to individuals who he knew were struggling to

pay their bills. He was a member of the Camp Ground Christian Church and served on several community boards and committees.

He enjoyed traveling, bowling, fishing, reading westerns, playing cards, and being with his family. He never met a stranger. He always said hello whether he knew you or not.

He was married to his wife, Lydia, for over 56 years. Lydia died unexpectedly two weeks after Leslie. Leslie and Lydia raised four children, Randy, David, Tina and Michael. They had eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Leslie died while driving a fire truck to a structure fire. All of his life Leslie firmly believed in helping others. He was a kind and humble man. He is remembered as a great and loving father and a man who never hesitated to give of himself to help others.





# Remembering



## Richard E. Paul

### Kansas City Fire Department – Missouri

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: January 7, 2011

Age: 54

Richard E. Paul began his career in November 1977 with the Kansas City Fire Department. He spent 25 years of his time in the downtown area of Kansas City before going out to the more quiet suburbs of the city to spend his last seven years. He was a member of Local 42.

He was at both major events of Kansas City's history, the Coates House Fire and the skywalk collapse at the Hyatt Regency. Richard was extremely passionate about his job; it was his true love in life. There wasn't too much at all that could stop him from going to work, including illness.

He was a wonderful husband, best friend and father. He was a master at practical

jokes on his fellow firefighters. To sit and listen to his stories was one of the true joys of my life. At the same time, he had great respect for all his brothers and sisters he worked with.

He loved traveling, especially on our motorcycle. He proudly rode the fireman edition offered by Harley-Davidson after 9/11.

I am extremely proud to say that my husband passed doing exactly what he lived each day of his life for. To have his name added to the memorial is not a sad day, but an honor for his family.

Richard is survived by his wife, Paula, and by his children, Kenneth, Christina, Ric, Molli, Samantha, and TJ.



# Remembering

## Remy H. Pochelon

### USDA Forest Service – Montana

Career Fire Safety Officer

Date of Death: September 30, 2009

Age: 64

Remy Hathaway Pochelon died September 30, 2009, after working with fire suppression crews on the Table Mountain Fire. Born July 4, 1945, in Geneva, Switzerland, he spent his childhood in George's Mills, New Hampshire and graduated from Mount Hermon High School in Northfield, Massachusetts. In 1965, Remy enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Reese Air Base in Lubbock, Texas. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he was honorably discharged in August 1972.

Following his military service, Remy headed west and began his 36-year career with the Forest Service. He started as a seasonal employee in 1973 while attending the University of Idaho. After graduating with a degree in forest resources, he started working as a firefighter for the St. Joe Interagency Hot Shot crew based out of Clarkia, Idaho.

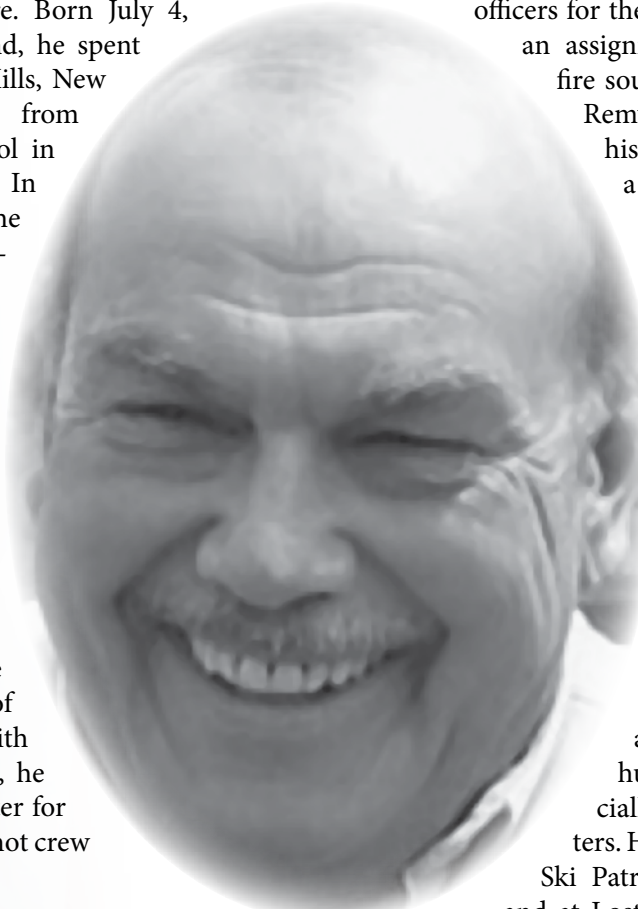
In 1976, Remy accepted a permanent position with the U.S. Forest Service in Wallace, Idaho. His work later took him to Clarkia, Idaho, the Philipsburg Ranger District, and eventually to the Flathead Valley, where he worked for the Swan Ranger District as a resource assistant until retiring in 2004. Remy was especially proud of his role in the development, permitting, and eventual establishment of the Blacktail Ski Area on the Flathead National Forest near Lakeside.

Throughout his career, Remy was active in the fire program and continued to be a member of a Northern

Rockies Type 2 incident management team after his retirement. He was one of the longest-serving safety officers for the USFS and had just completed an assignment on the Table Mountain fire southwest of Philipsburg. Indeed, Remy was around for so long that his coworkers eventually gave him a symbolic stuffed dinosaur that was a permanent fixture on the dashboard of his pickup. His knowledge and experience with forest policy and recreational issues continued to serve him well in retirement. Remy worked as a part-time consultant on forest planning issues throughout the west for Ecosystem Research Group in Missoula.

Remy thoroughly enjoyed himself in retirement. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting, fishing and skiing, especially skiing with his granddaughters. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol at Silver Mountain, Idaho, and at Lost Trail and Discovery Basin in Montana. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Philipsburg Volunteer Fire Department. One of Remy's simplest pleasures was firing up the barbeque on a summer evening for a gathering of friends and family, enjoying their company, and treating them to the awesome views of the Flint Creek Valley from his deck.

He is survived by his wife, Mary McDonald; his daughter and son-in-law, Michele and Todd Seiger, and their children, Abby and Caitlyn; his sister, Gabby; his brother, Allen; and numerous nieces and nephews.







# Remembering



## Harold F. Frey

### Sandown Fire and Rescue Department – New Hampshire

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: January 16, 2011

Age: 46

Harold F. Frey, 46, of Sandown, New Hampshire, died January 16, 2011, after participating in ice rescue training with the Sandown Fire and Rescue Department.

He was born in Edmonds, Washington, on November 7, 1964, a son of Malcolm Frey and Virginia (Gillard) Clark. Harold was a resident of Sandown for two years and had formerly lived in Epping, New Hampshire. He was a United States Marine Corps veteran and served during the Gulf War in Beirut.

Harold was employed as a paramedic for Care Plus, and was also a volunteer



firefighter with the Sandown Fire Department. He had volunteered previously with the Epping Fire Department. He loved anything to do with firefighting and paramedics. Harold enjoyed motorcycling and was an active member of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. He enjoyed playing computer games and was a Civil War enthusiast.

He is survived by his mother, Virginia Clark of Elwood, Illinois; three daughters, Marlena Frey of Mississippi, Lauren Bundy of Louisiana, and Tabitha Frey of Sandown; five grandchildren; and two sisters, Lori Hunter of Baxter, Tennessee, and Kari Frey of Joliet, Illinois.

# Remembering

## Andrew K. Boyt

### City of Cape May Fire Department – New Jersey

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: October 3, 2011

Age: 45

Andy's firefighting career began in 1991 when he entered the Cape May Volunteer Fire Department. He became a career firefighter/EMT for Cape May City in 1999 and rose to the rank of lieutenant in 2006.

Throughout his firefighting career, Andy held many positions, which include being a rescue specialist on the New Jersey Task Force 1, a founding member of the Cape May County Urban Search and

Rescue Team, and the deputy emergency management coordinator for the City of Cape May. Andy was awarded several commendations during his career. He was a member of Local 3495.

Andy enjoyed all that life offered, more specifically, time at the beach, surfing, volleyball, cooking, carving decoys, and collecting antique bottles. Andy especially cherished priceless moments with his wife, Michelle; family; friends; and yellow lab, Cali.





# Remembering



## Thomas M. Shields

### Flanders Fire Company No. 1 – New Jersey

Volunteer Assistant Chief  
Date of Death: May 31, 2011  
Age: 42

Tom found his true calling when, at age 18, he joined the fire service family by becoming a member of the West Paterson (now known as Woodland Park) Volunteer Fire Department. He later became fire marshal for the township. Upon moving to the Flanders, New Jersey, area, Tom joined the Flanders Fire Department as a volunteer member. He later rose to lieutenant and then to assistant chief.

Tom spent his entire fire service career as a volunteer, dedicated to helping those in need in the communities where he lived. He was “a fireman’s firefighter,” often taking the time to educate those in the fire service about firefighting techniques, but also why to apply them and how to make the techniques better. Tom owned his own company, Security Designs Concepts and Controls, which specialized in alarm systems for property protection, but it was the fire service that was his passion. Tom was often seen at the fire house, having a good time by playing practical jokes on his fellow members. He was often heard saying, “If I had two, I’d be a king.”

Tom was regarded as a friend to everyone he met. People were drawn to him. It was said in his eulogy, “It didn’t matter if Tom knew you for two weeks, two months or

two years, he would make you feel special.” He was the kind of person who brought you in under his wing. Within a matter of minutes, you felt like you could go out and have dinner with him. He was that friendly kind of guy, so caring for other people that he made you feel special.



Above all, Tom was a loving and dedicated father to his two sons, Gregory and Brandon, and husband to his wife, Nicole. Tom actively took part in his sons activities, as they played football and baseball. Tom could be seen wearing his red and white Devils jersey at many a home game. Tom was active in the scouting program with his sons, taking trips and helping to support his community. When Tom was not at the fire house, he could often be found at the local Dunkin’ Donuts having a cup (or two) of coffee. Tom enjoyed spending time with his friends at a BBQ in his backyard, often followed by a dip in the hot tub.

Tom passed away suddenly, after responding to a call involving a small child needing assistance. His passing has deeply impacted those whom he touched. Those who knew Tom feel a deep void, but also feel lucky and blessed to have had a person like Tom in their lives.





# Remembering

## Jonathan C. W. Young

### Roselle Fire Department – New Jersey

Career Captain

Date of Death: November 16, 2011

Age: 49

Jonathan Cardell William Young was born for a lifetime of service. He began the journey November 28, 1961, in Newark, New Jersey, son of Ruth Griffin Young and Howard Curtis Young. In 1979, he graduated from Abraham Clark High School in Roselle and from Linden Vocational Technical School where he studied electronics.

At age 15, Jon started his career in emergency services with the Roselle Volunteer Ambulance Corps. In 1979, he became a volunteer firefighter for the Roselle Fire Department, and in 1990, he achieved his life goal to become a career firefighter for the department. In 2001, he was promoted to lieutenant; he later earned the rank of captain. He was a certified Level 2 Fire Department Training Officer, training firefighters at the Roselle Fire Department and at the Union County Fire Academy. He served as an EMT for over 23 years and as coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management in Roselle.

Jon was Roselle's most highly decorated firefighter. In addition to being awarded Fire Fighter of the Year three times, he received Valor Awards from the New Jersey Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association and the St. Barnabas Hospital Burn Foundation, and the Community Service Award from the Roselle NAACP. A highlight of his career was the delivery of thirteen babies. In 1997, while off duty, Jon rescued a civilian trapped in a burning car, for which he received a Valor Award from the City of Woodbridge. In his memory, and in an effort to preserve

his love for the community, the Borough of Roselle, the Roselle Chamber of Commerce, Agape House of Worship, and the Young family are holding the Annual Jon Young Memorial 5K.



Jonathan was a certified HAZMAT specialist and communications specialist with the New Jersey Urban Search and Rescue Team NJ-TFI. NJ-TFI was the first rescue team at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001, and remained there for ten straight days. Following that assignment, he worked with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in a mental health support program for first responders.

Jon was the communications officer for the NJ Task Force and president of the NJ Emergency Preparedness Association. He was a certified instructor for confined space rescue, high angle rope rescue, HAZMAT, automobile extrication, CPR, weapons of mass destruction, blood borne pathogens, incident command systems, and emergency vehicle driving.

In his off time "Juice," as he was affectionately known, enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He was a licensed Ham Radio Operator and was in the process of obtaining a pilot's license. He loved all animals, especially Kieko and Kayla, his beloved Labradors.

Jonathan C. W. Young departed this life in the line of duty on November 16, 2011, just shy of his 50th birthday. "Well done, my good and faithful servant"



# Remembering



## Jarrett T. Eleam

### Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company – New York

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: January 12, 2011

Age: 26

Jarrett Eleam died January 12, 2011, as a result of a stroke suffered during SCBA training at the firehouse two days earlier.

Jarrett joined the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company in 2009 and graduated from Firefighter 1 Boot Camp in July 2010. He completed the necessary training to become a firefighter in record time and was signed up to begin EMT training at the time of his death. He was dedicated to continued training and improving his skills as a firefighter, consistently ranking among the top ten responders in the department each month. At the installation of officers held just days before his death, Jarrett was honored as one of the top responders of the company, coming in fourth with more than 400 calls. He was also installed as lieutenant of fire prevention and was described as an-up-and-coming member of the company. He loved being a part of the fire department and particularly enjoyed visiting area schools to teach students fire prevention. He was the first firefighter to die in the line of duty in the department's 74-year history.

A Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native, Jarrett was a graduate of Oliver High School and Duquesne University,

where he graduated in 2007 with a degree in business administration. At Duquesne, Jarrett was president of Delta Sigma Pi, a campus business fraternity, and was very active on the national level, organizing trips for students to go to national conventions. He was an avid volunteer, working with homeless people and campus multicultural events. He moved to the Buffalo, New York, area after graduation, where he worked for Target before joining the fire department.



Jarrett is survived by his parents, Terrell and Jacqueline Eleam of Millvale, Pennsylvania. The second youngest of twelve brothers and sisters, Jarrett is survived by nine siblings, Adrian Locke, Darneice Bivins, Lillian Cannon, Dionnea Watkins; Terrell, Sharell, Jacquelin and Termene Eleam; and Gloria Wicks. He was predeceased by his brother and sister, Norman and Lavenia Williams.

Jarrett signed up to be an organ donor the day he got his license and was able to help others through organ donation. This was not a surprise to those who knew him and his dedication to helping others and working for the greater good. Friends and family remember him as easy to like, helpful, positive, and hardworking.

# Remembering

## Michael Paul Esposito

### Baldwin Fire Department – New York

Volunteer Ex-Captain

Date of Death: May 18, 2011

Age: 43

Michael Paul Esposito was born to Gerard Esposito Sr. and the late Linda Esposito on 1 April 1968. Michael spent his early years in his hometown of Oceanside, New York, on Long Island and his teenage years in Salinas, California, before his family returned to the neighboring village of his hometown, Baldwin, New York, when he was a young adult.

In 1990, Michael followed in the path of his younger brother, Todd, and became a member and volunteer of Hook & Ladder Company #1 in the Baldwin Fire Department. Michael found his calling in life and spent over twenty years selflessly protecting and serving his community. In 1996, he rose to the rank of captain within his company. In 1998, Michael transferred within the department to Hose Company #1. In this company he again was elected to the rank of captain two more times.

Year-round he was involved with fire department activities. In the autumn, winter, and spring, Michael could be found most Friday nights bowling with his company's team, The Foxes, at the local bowling alley. In late spring, softball season would begin, and he enjoyed playing for the department team in games with other fire departments from within the county. It was the summer that Michael seemed to enjoy the most, being a member of the Tomcats Drill Team and competing in racing tournaments throughout Long Island and New York State.

Michael is survived by his father, Gerard Esposito Sr.; brother, Gerard Esposito Jr., and wife, Susan Esposito; sister, Donna Esposito; brother, Ex-Chief Todd A. Esposito and husband, Brian C. Cinetti; sister, Dawn Esposito; longtime companion, Roberta Jaeger; and his nephews, Gerard Esposito III, Joseph Esposito, and Jordan Esposito.







# Remembering



## Thomas V. Regan

### Garden City Park Fire Department – New York

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: February 17, 2011

Age: 82

Thomas Regan died on February 17, 2011, as a result of injuries sustained in a fall while responding to an alarm call three weeks earlier. He was a volunteer firefighter with the Garden City Park Fire Department's Hillside Heights Engine Company for 34 years, where he was in charge of safety training and tactics.

He retired as a deputy chief after a 38-year career with the Fire Department of New York. His son, Timothy, also retired after a career as an FDNY firefighter.

Tom Regan stayed in top physical condition, typically running six to eight miles daily and working out for two hours each day at the fire house.

He was a Korean War veteran. Family and friends remembered him as a jokester and a great story teller who was always making people laugh. He led a simple life and enjoyed life's simple pleasures. He was a very active grandfather who attended every event his 11 grandchildren participated in.

He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Elsie Regan; sons, Thomas and Timothy; daughter, Christine; and grandchildren, Timothy, Carolyn, Ryan, Nicole, Thomas, Robert, Brian, Matthew, Laura, Brooke, and Kristen.

His life's passion was to help others. He had a generous, caring heart that put the needs of others above his own life.



# Remembering

## Kevin E. Townes Sr.

### Mount Vernon Fire Department – New York

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: December 8, 2011

Age: 54

Kevin Edward Townes Sr. looked toward a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God, and he departed this life in honor and bravery doing as God purposed for him from the beginning of time on December 8, 2011.

Kevin was born March 30, 1957, to Sylvia Isabelle Townes in White Plains. In addition to the love and care of his mother, Kevin experienced the rich and affectionate meaning of “a village to raise a child,” with loving instruction and support from his great-grandmother, Idell “Mother” Johnson; grandmother, Louise “Granny” Townes; aunts Virginia Cooke and Louise “Chippy” Johnson; and uncle Leonard Townes. Their influence helped to cultivate Kevin’s life and values.

Kevin was educated by White Plains City School District. He served in the United States Marine Corps, receiving an honorable discharge in 1980. He was employed by General Motors before joining the City of Mount Vernon Fire Department in September 1986. He faithfully served the City of Mount Vernon doing what he loved and respected until his final call to duty on his heavenly departure.

Kevin began his Christian walk as a practicing Catholic, serving as an altar boy in his younger years. In 1995, Kevin met Patricia A. Way, and they were married on June 28, 1997. In 1997, he joined Calvary Baptist Church, where he was baptized and served as an usher. In 2004, he and

his family relocated to Dutchess County. Kevin joined Beulah Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Jesse V. Bottoms Jr., where he studied and discovered his God-given purpose. He was a member of the Fine Gold Men’s Ministry and Leadership Ministry of 40-Days of Purpose Christian Education. He loved God, family, and the Gospel.

Kevin loved people. He never met a stranger, because he would always make friends with everyone he’d come in contact with. He would make you love him. An avid sports enthusiast, he coached for Town of LaGrange Softball/Baseball League, Town of LaGrange Girls’ Basketball League, and Pop Warner – Hudson Valley Knights Football. He had a heart and passion for children, as they did for him. All he wanted was for them to learn proper skills and fundamentals, do their best, be their best, and have fun. Also, a win would be nice. He was often thought of as “The Gentle Giant” or “The Big Teddy Bear.”

He leaves to mourn and cherish a host of great memories, his wife, Patricia Way-Townes; son Kevin Jr; daughters Jazmin, Blair, Rebecca, and LaToya; mother, Sylvia I. Townes; in-laws Rev. C.J. Way and wife Emma; brother-in-law Charles (Renee) Way; and many relatives, friends and colleagues.

He will be greatly missed. He touched so many in such a magnificent and extraordinary way.





# Remembering



## Richard Leo Barbour

### Wilson's Mills Fire/Rescue – North Carolina

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: February 4, 2011

Age: 55

Chief Richard Leo "Ricky" Barbour began his fire service career in 1969, the year that Wilson's Mills Fire Department began the process of becoming chartered by the State of North Carolina. Ricky was a charter member, and the department began answering calls in 1973.

Ricky held many ranks in the department. He became chief in 1996 and remained in that position until his death in 2011. During his time as chief, Ricky also served as president of the Johnston County Firemen's Association and the Johnston County Chiefs' Association.

Ricky had a sincere love for his community and the people living here. He was quick to help out in any way he could. Ricky brought many positive ideas to the department. The department

added a second station during his tenure in 2003.

Ricky is survived by his wife, Diane; three daughters, Valerie, Amy, and Holly; and two sons, Ryan and Chad. He was also a grandfather to seven wonderful grandchildren.

Ricky's third love, after family and the fire service, was deer hunting. He spent many hours looking for "the big one," and he found several over his years of hunting.

Ricky was also the Safety and Health Director for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, a career that carried him over the entire state of North Carolina.

Ricky was a member of the Wilson's Mills Baptist Church.

The only stranger Ricky ever found was someone he hadn't had a chance to talk to yet.



# Remembering

## Jeffrey S. Bowen

### Asheville Fire Department – North Carolina

Career Captain

Date of Death: July 28, 2011

Age: 37

Our world was blessed on August 11, 1973, when Jeff was born in San Bernardino County, California. Jeff's interest in serving others began early in his life, and he entered the fire service at the age of 16. He began his career with the U.S. Department of Forestry and then came to the Asheville Fire Department in 1998. Jeff brought his mother, Laurel, to Asheville, and it was also here that he met and married his wife, Stacy.

Jeff was a superstar in the Asheville Fire Department. He was instrumental in many department initiatives including company officer development, promotional process improvement, and youth development programs.

Jeff completed his bachelor's degree in fire safety and management from Fayetteville State University and had enrolled in the first offering of the Asheville Fire Department's Chief Officer Development Program. Jeff's contribu-

tions to the fire service were many, and they continue to be blessings today.

Jeff loved the outdoors. He was an avid hunter and loved anything related to the water. Jeff spent much of his free time with his family in water recreational activities, and this carried over to his passion for water rescue in the fire service. Jeff and his closest friends in the fire service spent many days in the woods on numerous hunting trips, a bond that showed daily on the job.

Jeff had a smile and an attitude that made everyone around him feel positive about everything. He was a can do fire officer that everyone wanted to work with.

Jeff is survived by his mother, Laurel; his wife, Stacy; and their children, Robin, Sarah, and CJ.

He is sincerely missed by all whose lives he touched. We are so blessed to receive the many gifts he gave us.





# Remembering



## George Wendell Fisher III

### Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire and Rescue – North Carolina

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: September 22, 2011

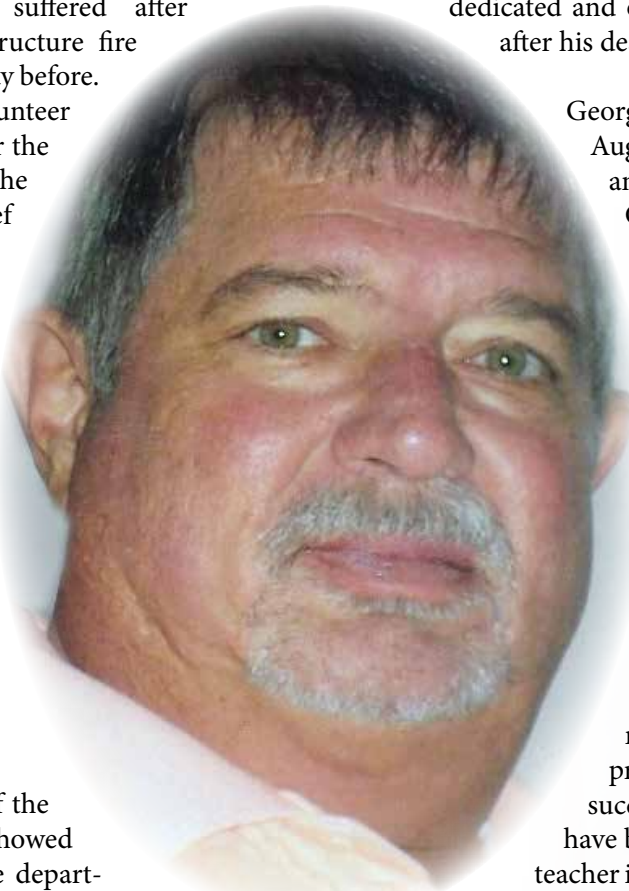
Age: 57

George, 57, died on September 22, 2011, from a pulmonary embolism suffered after responding to a reported structure fire followed by an EMS call the day before.

He joined Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire and Rescue in 1988. Over the course of the next 23 years, he served as chief, assistant chief and, for the last several years prior to his death, president of the board of directors. He attained the rank of captain and was a certified EMT and a first responder for EMS calls. East Care, our regional helicopter rescue department, knew they were in good hands when they found out that George was in charge of creating the landing zone for them when called on to fly accident victims to area hospitals.

George was a mentor to all of the young men and women who showed an interest in joining the fire department. He was training instructor for the junior firemen and enjoyed spending time with all of the young people at the department. He was the “patriarch,” looked up to by his peers and counted on to provide wisdom and insight into all situations when asked. Several times over his career he was voted Fire Fighter of the Year and Officer of the Year by his fellow firemen. Probably the accomplishment he was most proud of at Sandy Bottom was overseeing the application process and construction of a new 15,000 square

foot state of the art facility for the fire department. It was dedicated and open for business a few weeks after his death.



George and Sandy were married on August 25, 1973. George owned and operated Auto and Muffler Center in Kinston, North Carolina, for 20 years, working in that industry for 35 years. His friends and customers dubbed him “One More Muffler George,” since he was always willing to stay late to put on one more muffler when asked.

His daughters, Jennifer, born in 1977, and Lindsay, born in 1984, were everything he could have asked for in children. He loved his girls more than life itself. He was so proud of each of them and the successful young women they both have become. Jennifer is a first grade teacher in our public school system, and Lindsay is a pharmacist with CVS. Jennifer married Daniel in 1999, and Lindsay married Brendan in 2009. Jennifer and Daniel have given us two precious grandchildren, Ethan and Anna George. Being “Papa” to Ethan and Anna George was the “job” he cherished most.

We mourn his passing every day but are determined to keep his memory alive for them. We love and miss you every day, Honey, Daddy, Papa.

*Remembering*

# David S. Howell

**Roseboro Volunteer Fire Department – North Carolina**

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: May 22, 2011

Age: 54

David Samuel “Sammy” Howell suffered a fatal heart attack at home on Sunday, May 22, 2011, after responding to assist at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

Mr. Howell was born in Sampson County on November 26, 1956, and was preceded in death by his father, David Greene Howell.

He was a farmer and a member of the Roseboro Volunteer Fire Department.

He is survived by his mother, Audrey Honeycutt Howell, of Roseboro.

Sammy was remembered as a kind person who was always there to help his friends and neighbors.





# Remembering



## David J. Hunsinger Jr.

### Tar Heel Volunteer Fire Department – North Carolina

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: April 7, 2011

Age: 23

David J. Hunsinger Jr., 23, died in a motor vehicle accident while responding to the fire department for a call. He served with the Tar Heel Volunteer Fire Department for six years. He and his brothers followed in the footsteps of their father, Tar Heel Fire Chief David Hunsinger Sr.

David was a dedicated young man who loved serving his community and was working towards a career as a paid full-time firefighter.

He worked as a pipefitter for Danaher Sensors and

Controls in Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

David is survived by his wife, Savannah Caitlyn Hunsinger; two daughters, Hailee and Riley; his father and stepmother, David and Renee Hunsinger Sr.; his brothers, Shawn, Chris, and John; his sister, Dana; and his paternal grandparents, David and Sandra Hunsinger.

His interests were simple and included firefighting and hunting. If he wasn't doing one, it was the other.



# Remembering

## Johnny L. Norton

### Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department – North Carolina

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: November 24, 2011

Age: 56

Johnny was born November 13, 1955. He served as a volunteer firefighter and first responder for the town of Hot Springs since the age of 16. He held the rank of chief for 12 years from 1988-2000. He joined the North Carolina Forest Service in 2006 as an on-call wildland firefighter, serving the last three years as a crew leader.

Johnny loved serving his community. Whether it was moving a booth in the diner to retrieve a child's quarter, stopping a child from choking, shoveling snow from an elderly person's sidewalk, shooting fireworks, performing CPR, or driving the ambulance, he was always there to help. Johnny served as alderman on the town council from 1995-

1997, 1999-2001, 2005-2007, and was elected again in November 2011. He served as mayor from 2007-2009.



Johnny was married to Abigail Norton for 33 years. They have two sons, Jonathan Eric and Joshua Adam, whom he dearly loved. Johnny always wanted a daughter. When Josh married Ashely, Johnny had his daughter. He loved her as though she were his own. Johnny has one grandson, Carter. Carter's name for Johnny is Dadaw. Johnny loved Carter and loved being called Dadaw. He would take Carter to work with him, take him to the river to throw rocks, or just stay home and play with him. They were "bestest buddies."





# Remembering



## Charolette R. Adair

### Richfield Township Fire Department – Ohio

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: October 28, 2011

Age: 45

Charolette Rae “Charlie” Adair, 45, of Richfield Township, Ohio, died on October 28, 2011, while assisting at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. She loved helping others. She was born in Lancaster, Ohio, to Christina and John Collins.

Charlie was a passionate volunteer with the Richfield Township Fire Department, where she received numerous awards for all of her dedication, including Volunteer of the Year.

She was a devoted and popular sixth grade teacher at Holy Trinity School for seven years. She cared deeply for the students she worked with. She was also a CYO coach of volleyball, and track. She loved being around



children and was a mother to many. Her home was always an open armed welcoming. She is survived by her husband, Craig; daughters, Cayla and Hailey, mother, Christina Collins Nutter; sisters, Rosemary (Fred) McCandlish, Sandy (Randy) Slack, Patty (Lowel) Nutter, Chrystal Householder, and Chris Reichley; brother, Mike (Karen) Collins; mother and father-in-law, Orville and Ruth Adair; grandmother, Luella Langenderfer; sisters-in-law, Debbie (Bill) Artino, Luann Adair and Joe Steinbrecher; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Charlie is remembered for her smile and sunny outlook and for her willingness to always help others.

# Remembering

## Gregory S. Baker

### Lewisville Community Volunteer Fire Department – Ohio

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: November 20, 2011

Age: 52

Greg was born in Barnesville Hospital on March 23, 1959, the son of John and Lois Baker of Lewisville, Ohio. He attended Lewisville Elementary School and was a graduate of Skyvue High School and Swiss Hills Vocational School. He married his loving wife, Chris, on October 11, 1980. They were blessed to be together for 31 years. They are the extremely proud parents of one daughter, Nikki Von Baker Lude, born March 28, 1983, and her husband, Jeremy, who were married June 11, 2011. Greg was the brother of Steve Baker and Rhonda (Kevin) Marshall. He is also survived by nieces, Cody (Josh) Booher and Casey Marshall; nephews, Chad Baker, Scott Marshall, and Carson Piatt; great-nephew Brayden Baker; mother-in-law, Carolyn Kindle; brother-in-law, David Piatt; and Duane and Trish Piatt. He had three loving dogs, Lexie, Maggie, and Layla.

Greg was president of Baker & Sons Equipment Company and Fire Chief 701 of the Lewisville Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Monroe County Firefighters' Association, board member for the Paul Bunyan Show, Monroe County CIC, Stafford Masonic Lodge, Woodsfield Moose, Woodsfield Eagles, Monroe County Water Board, and Lewisville Community Center.

As chief of the Lewisville Fire Department, Greg lost his life responding to a barn fire on November 20, 2011. He suffered a heart attack and later died with his family by his side. Greg Baker left his impressive mark on everyone he ever touched. He will be remembered as a high-spirited individual who contributed without limit to the world around him. His concern for improving the quality of life was truly evident. His absence to our family, friends, and community will be forever felt.

He was my loving husband and Nikki's devoted father, a man who will forever live in our hearts. His legacy of care and commitment will never be forgotten. The world is a richer place for having him in it, and he will forever be missed. As his wife and mother of his child, I mourn his absence, and I will forever feel blessed to have had him as my partner. Not a day goes by that I do not ask why God took him so young. He had so much to live

for. Why him? Why us? I did not truly understand until in my dreams God told me it was his time, I needed him, and I did not let him suffer. He went out of this world with all his glory and exactly how he wanted it. Although he knew that you and Nikki would be profoundly hurt by this, he knew he had instilled the right confidence in you both that you will forever make him proud.

We will for all eternity love, honor, and respect Chief 701.





# Remembering



## Randy D. Boley

### Clinton Township Fire Department – Ohio

Volunteer Captain

Date of Death: April 12, 2011

Age: 51

**D**edicated. That is just one of the many words used by those who knew him best to describe the life of Randy Boley. Randy was dedicated to so many things in his life, whether it was his loving family or the community he served.

Randy was very active in all aspects of the fire department, whether he was responding to a fire call or attending numerous meetings and training sessions. At the mere age of 21, Randy joined the Clinton Township Volunteer Fire Department, where he served for 29 years, holding various positions including chief, assistant chief, and captain for the majority of that time. He also held a position as a Wayne County fire inspector, as well as a member of the Wayne County Fire Investigation Unit.

Randy felt one was never too young or old to learn. He always looked forward to Fire Prevention Week, where he took pride in teaching the youth of the community about fire safety. He also volunteered his time as a 4-H advisor for the Wayne County Shooting Sports Club. The smiles he received from the children learning about what he was most passionate about were all the thanks he needed.



Randy spent much of his time serving his community as a self-employed carpenter. He loved the Village of Shreve, where he resided with his loving wife, Linda, and three now grown children, Megan, Randall, and Victoria. In his spare time, he loved being outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and camping with his family. Randy was a firm believer in the 2nd Amendment and was an active member of the NRA and a certified concealed carry instructor. But most of all, Randy loved helping others and always seemed to put others before himself.

On April 11, 2011, less than 24 hours prior to Randy's passing, his day started like any other day. While working in his workshop, Randy heard the call come across his pager for a squad run. Randy would often help out his fellow colleagues, assisting them on emergency calls by driving the ambulance. That day Randy assisted on two calls that were back-to-back, though he had been feeling under the weather himself. After a day of selfless acts, he returned home to relax with his wife and son. It wasn't until early the next morning that his family found he had made his final call. With his passing, there will be forever a hole in the heart of Shreve.

# Remembering

## James M. Hall

### Greentown Volunteer Fire Department – Ohio

Volunteer Firefighter/EMT

Date of Death: May 30, 2009

Age: 40

For James “Marty” Hall, the fire station was not just a workplace; it was his second home. Besides his family, firefighting was what he loved. He was so proud of the fact that he was a captain on the fire department. Marty served 15 years on the Canton Fire Department, where he was a career captain and a paramedic, and also served one year part-time on the Green Township Fire Department.

Marty was very compassionate for what he did. In 2003, he received Firefighter of the Year after going into a burning house because there was a child inside. He carried out a small four-year-old boy who was not breathing. Marty and his crew began CPR and mouth to mouth to revive the child. It did not end there. Marty celebrated Austin’s birthday with him every year. Marty was a true hero.



Aside from work, Marty had three beautiful daughters he adored—Ashley, Arika, and Chloe. He carried three pennies in his firefighting gear, one to represent each of his daughters. His favorite thing to do with his daughters was to play sports. He always pushed them to be the best they could be, and it shows by how successful they have become. Marty was a devoted son to his parents, Jim and Sue. He called his dad every day to get advice on how to prepare his girls for the next sporting event.

On the day Marty passed away, he was playing in a benefit basketball game for a police officer that was shot and killed in the line of duty. He was so devoted to the community and impacted so many people. He will always be remembered as the courageous, loving man he was.

# Remembering



## Robert J. Tieche Sr. Cardinal Joint Fire District – Ohio

Career Chief

Date of Death: May 28, 2011

Age: 63

Robert John Tieche Sr. was born May 4, 1948, in Youngstown, Ohio, to Howard and Irene Belott Tieche. He graduated from Canfield High School and attended Youngstown State University and Kent State University. In 1969, Bob joined his parents to work at the family bakery, Tieche Pie. Bob met his wife Deby at the bakery, and the two continued the family business until its closing in 1982.

In 1971, Bob became a volunteer firefighter with the Canfield Fire Department. His love for the fire service grew, and he made a career of it in 1983 when he was appointed fire chief by the City of Canfield. He was instrumental in creating the Cardinal Joint Fire District (CJFD) and was appointed fire chief of the district upon its creation in 1990, a position he held until his passing. He was dedicated to his colleagues, employees, and community. Even on holidays, birthdays and anniversaries, Bob attended to the many duties of being a fire chief. He helped create the Mahoning County Fire Chiefs' Association where he held many positions, including president. He also helped establish the Mahoning County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Bob had a vision to make the CJFD a very progressive department, and he never stopped trying to achieve this goal. He led the department from a volunteer organization to a paid department and was instrumental

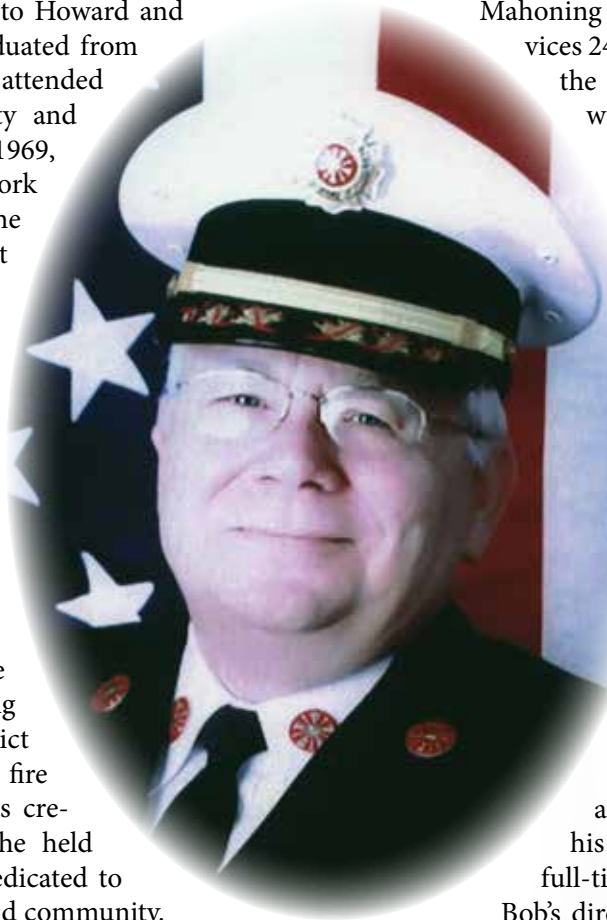
in CJFD becoming the first paid department in Mahoning County to provide paramedic services 24 hours a day. Due to his diligence, the department was honored in 2006 with a national award for having AEDs in many public buildings.

Bob was a fire inspector, fire instructor, and past president of the NEOEMS council. His pride and dedication as a fire chief shined until the day he passed away. Bob responded to a call the night before his passing, even though he was feeling ill.

Bob was as passionate about his family as he was with his career. His wife Deby was the light of his eyes, and he was an amazing husband. A dedicated father to Rob and Katie, he was very proud of his children's achievements and accomplishments. Rob followed in his father's footsteps and became a full-time firefighter/paramedic under

Bob's direction. Bob loved watching Katie play softball. To his five grandchildren—Robert III, Anna, Alyssa, Joey, and Timmy—he was affectionately known as “GrandBob” or “BobBob.” He loved taking them places and showing them off. Bob also enjoyed NASCAR, golfing, trips to Myrtle Beach, and driving his Camaro.

Bob was a compassionate man who always put others first. Memories and stories about him will continue to be told for a long time. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren and the members of the CJFD!



# Remembering

## Kyle Kenneth King

### Perry Fire Department – Oklahoma

Career Captain

Date of Death: August 7, 2011

Age: 53

Kyle Kenneth King, 53, of Perry, Oklahoma, passed from this life on August 7, 2011, surrounded by his loved ones. Kyle King was born on April, 21, 1958, to Earl Kenneth and Donna Rae (Thompson) King in Perry, Oklahoma. He attended schools in Perry, graduating from Perry High school in 1976. After graduation, Kyle went to work for Ditch Witch and was employed there for more than 15 years. During his last three years at Ditch Witch, he joined the Perry Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter. He quickly realized that being a firefighter was his calling. In 1991, Kyle joined the Perry Fire Department. He bravely served the community as a firefighter and EMT for more than 20 years, attaining the rank of captain.

On June 16, 2010, Kyle married his best friend, Teresa Taylor, in Perry, Oklahoma. Although their years together were shorter than they had planned, there was a lifetime of love fit into those years.

When he was not working, Kyle enjoyed several hobbies. He loved taking daytrips with Teresa to see the countryside, traveling, wood working, teaching fire prevention



week at the elementary school, inspecting businesses for fire safety, welding, and being outdoors. He was a member of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Oklahoma Fire Fighters Association, and the International Association of Professional Firefighters.

Kyle was a selfless and generous man who is described by those who knew him as a goofball. He enjoyed life to the fullest and loved spending time with his family. Kyle King was a brave firefighter, an amazing husband, a loving father, an adoring grandfather, and a faithful and loyal friend. He will truly be missed by his family, friends, and the entire community of Perry, Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa, of the home; his parents, Earl and Donna (Thompson) King, of Perry; two daughters, Angel Mast of Cainsville, Missouri, and Falon King of Sand Springs, Oklahoma; a brother, Mike King, and his wife, Brenda, of Perry; a sister, Kim Fisher, and her husband, Mark, of Perry; and two grandchildren, Ashlee Mast of Chillicothe, Missouri, and Kaedan King of Cainsville, Missouri. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.



# Remembering



## Christian D. Beaston Jr.

### Hellam Fire Company – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Fire Police Officer  
Date of Death: December 7, 2011  
Age: 52

Christian D. Beaston Jr. was born in Marietta, Pennsylvania, on November 12, 1959.

Upon graduation from Donegal High School in 1978, Chris enlisted with the Army National Guard. After his honorable discharge, he had extensive training in firefighting, forest firefighting, and fire police. Chris enjoyed being a member of the Hellam and Wrightsville Fire Companies and the Pennsylvania Fire Police Association. He served as 1st lieutenant for Wrightsville's fire police. Emergencies weren't the only times he dedicated his services. He also volunteered his time to community events such as River Runs, Polar Plunges, Heritage Days, Bridge Busts and carnivals.

In 1985, Christian married Karin Oakes. Together they raised two beautiful daughters, Natasha and Ariana. When he became a grandfather, Chris was overjoyed because there were now more children to spoil. Chris was as proud of his family as they are of him. He was a family man who did anything for them. Providing for them and getting them everything they needed or wanted was his goal.



In his spare time, Chris loved to have yard sales at the Saturday's Market and work on mowers.

Everyone knew Chris. He would do anything for anybody. Maybe that's why his wife always says he should have been a State Farm agent, because, "Like a good neighbor, Chris Beaston was always there."

There are so many fond memories of Christian. The family vacations to Wildwood, the outings at Mt. Gretna, and the trips to the amusement parks. Even firemen parties were memorable. At one of Hellam's parties, the men had to dress up like the Village People and sing their songs. What an embarrassing moment that was for him, because he had no idea what was happening! Sometimes Chris's own fun had to be put on hold, because when the sirens blew and his pager went off, Chris was on his way to the scene. The public's safety was his concern.

Unfortunately, Christian's life ended abruptly on December 7, 2011, at the age of 52. Family, friends, and communities will miss him deeply. He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten!

# Remembering

## Derek V. Kozorosky

United States Air Force, Kadena Air Force Base, Japan –  
Pennsylvania

Career Senior Airman

Date of Death: February 11, 2011

Age: 22

Airman Derek V. Kozorosky was a firefighter assigned to the Fire Emergency Services Flight, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, 18th Civil Engineering Group, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. He proudly served his fellow firefighters in mitigating structural, crash, WMD, HAZMAT, medical, and rescue emergencies. He was dedicated and committed in providing first class fire protection for 24,000 base personnel, 100+ assigned/attached aircraft and 10,000 facilities valued at 8.4 billion dollars.

Airman Kozorosky was born at Westmoreland Hospital in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. His dedication and attention to detail were evident at an early age when he obtained his black belt in karate at the age of twelve. He graduated from Bishop Carroll High School, where he played football and basketball and was part of the homecoming court. Airman Kozorosky worked as a produce manager at Giant Eagle grocery store for three years, where he was labeled by the owners as the “best employee they ever had.” He also spent a year as a construction worker doing some masonry work.

Airman Kozorosky began his Air Force career in November 2008. He joined the service for financial

assistance to obtain a college degree and for the prospects of an exciting change in his life. In just over two years of service, he was able to reach his initial career goals of completing his CDCs in less than fifteen months while scoring above 90% on all his end of course exams. Additionally, he was handpicked by flight leadership to attend the challenging emergency medical technician basic training course, where he excelled and received his National Registry Certification. He was also able to achieve a few personal goals in his short time here by deploying to Kuwait, giving him the opportunity to meet a lot of new people while seeing the world. Airman Kozorosky was very excited about being stationed at Kadena and being a part of the Fire Emergency Services flight.

Derek was close to his immediate family and was a loving son, brother, and grandson. He is survived by his parents, David and Lisa Kozorosky; his sister, Mikayla; and his grandparents, Len and Carol Zeman and Joe and Priscilla Kozorosky. His is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He had a zest for life and left a lasting impression on those he loved with his humor and integrity.







# Remembering



## John J. Lackovic Jr.

### Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Fire Police Lieutenant

Date of Death: July 11, 2011

Age: 60

John J. Lackovic, Jr. suffered a fatal heart attack on Monday, July 11, 2011, shortly after responding to a motor vehicle accident.

He moved back to Chester County, Pennsylvania. He joined Valley Forge Fire Company in 2001 and served as a fire police lieutenant until his death.

Born in Coatesville, he was the son of the late John J. and Rose Marie Mackey Lackovic. John was a 1969 graduate of Coatesville High School and a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in fire protection engineering.

Throughout his life, John was passionately involved with various volunteer fire companies. He started his illustrious fire career at Washington Hose Company in 1968. While attending the University of Maryland, John served with the College Park Fire Department for five years and earned the rank of captain on Truck 12. From 1976 through 1985 John was a fire marshal with the Fire and EMS Fire Marshal's Office in Chesterfield County, Virginia. There he enforced state and county fire codes and investigated fires, explosions, and hazardous materials releases. In 1985, John started working for fire insurance compa-



He loved golfing and spending time with family and friends.

He was the husband of Donna C. Poteet Lackovic, with whom he shared 37 years of marriage. John was a loving husband, father and grandfather and will be truly missed by all who knew him. Surviving, in addition to his wife, Donna, are a son, John B. Lackovic; a daughter, Jillian A. Lackovic; two brothers, Robert and James Lackovic; two sisters, Mary Jo Beals and Susan Bechtold; and two grandchildren, Ava and Nicholas.

Because of his extensive knowledge of fire science and fire behavior, John was often known to help young people in their path as successful firefighters. John will always be remembered for his calm composure and dealing with taxing situations with an unflappable coolness.

# Remembering

## Keith G. Rankin

### Lancaster Township Fire Department – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: September 25, 2011

Age: 38

Keith Rankin was 38 years old and had served his community for 23 years with Lancaster Township Fire Department. Keith had been an assistant chief in the past and had again achieved the rank of lieutenant. Keith also was named Firefighter of the Year after rescuing a woman from a fire. Keith loved to teach other firefighters how to be better firemen. He also worked as a Pennsylvania State Constable.

Keith was a wonderful family man and loved his wife of five years. He was a loving stepfather to two girls. He attended many soccer games and events, always with his camera in hand taking tons of pictures. He loved taking pictures, and his family often called him their clicker and teased him that he was like having a personal paparazzi.

Keith was a huge New York Yankees fan and at one point attended spring training to see his team in pre-season action.

He loved to travel and had been to Portugal several times and also to Jamaica. He enjoyed eating and was definitely a foodie. Keith was a tech junkie and always had the newest gadget on the market. If any of his friends or family had a question or needed a radio programmed he was the guy to get it done. If a friend called and needed something, he would drop what he was doing and help them. He was serious about carrying on the legacy of his fire family and took care of the widows of the men who died before him. Keith is survived by his wife, Abby; stepdaughters, Sarah and Meaghan; his mother; aunt; brother; and two sisters.



He is our hero and will live forever.

# Remembering

## Edward N. Steffy

### Rothsville Volunteer Fire Company – Pennsylvania

Volunteer Fire Police Officer  
Date of Death: November 10, 2011  
Age: 71

Edward N. Steffy, 71 years old, from Rothsville, Pennsylvania, died on November 10, 2011, in the line of duty while serving as a fire police officer. At the scene of a motor vehicle collision, Mr. Steffy felt ill and sat in his vehicle, where he suffered a massive cardiac event and succumbed despite resuscitation efforts of medical personnel.

As a 49-year life member of the Rothsville Volunteer Fire Company in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Ed held numerous operations and administrative positions, including assistant chief. Also during his tenure with the fire company, he was a life member in the Rothsville Ambulance Association, where he served as an emergency medical technician, crew chief, and CPR instructor, as well as holding many administrative positions. Ed ran actively with the Rothsville Volunteer Fire Company until 1999. In recent years, his capacities were reduced to fire police duties.

Prior to joining the Rothsville Fire Company, he held memberships in both Lititz and Neffsville Volunteer Fire Companies.

Ed was very active in the Salem United Methodist Church, located in Rothsville. He held many positions and was involved in numerous committees.

Ed also served in the United States Army Reserves as a member of the 99th Field Hospital.



Following a long career in the automotive and truck parts sales business, Ed retired in 1999. During retirement, Ed and his wife, Rosene, lived full-time in their recreational vehicle. They had been longtime campers and had an ambition to travel the country in their RV. In their travels they were able to visit all 50 states, including a 50th wedding anniversary trip to Hawaii. Ed and Rosene enjoyed life “on the road” for almost twelve years. When “off the road,” Ed also loved spending time with his grandchildren and horses.

He will fondly be remembered for his ambition to assist those in need, as Ed was always willing to lend a helping hand. He also had an infectious sense of humor and lived life to its fullest.

Ed is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Rosene K. (Kreider) Steffy; two sons, Mark C. and wife, Dawn Steffy, of Lititz, Pennsylvania, and E. Nevin and wife, Janice Steffy, of Millington, Maryland. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Elizabeth Anne Steffy, Kathryn Marie Steffy, Nathaniel C. Steffy, and Gabrielle E. Steffy.

# Remembering

## Dennis James Cauthen

### Elgin Volunteer Fire Department – South Carolina

Volunteer Chief

Date of Death: August 16, 2011

Age: 54

Following in his father's footsteps, Dennis Cauthen carried on the tradition of leading the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department as its chief for over 15 years. While serving the same department for more than 30 years, he also served several terms on the Lancaster County Fire Commission and was an active member of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs' Association.

Dennis was also an instructor for the South Carolina Fire Academy for over 17 years. During that time he provided over 2,165 hours of instruction to hundreds of local and regional firefighters in various courses. In addition to his dedication to the fire service and his full-time job, as the owner of Williams Flooring, he volunteered in many other capacities. At his local church he was board of trustees chair, president of the men's club, a Sunday school teacher, and a site leader for Salkehatchie Summer Service Camps (a United Methodist Church mission camp) and even participated in mission trips internationally. He volunteered with the local Boy Scout Troop 180 as a board member and a venture crew leader.

Dennis was not only a mentor, but a father figure to so many people beyond his core family. He provided support and guidance to his children, as well as other children, while coaching his son's sports teams and teaching classes for his daughters at Girl Scouts.

Dennis was a loving, caring, and amazing husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, mentor, and friend. He worked endlessly for those he loved, including his wife, Teresa, and their three children, five grandchildren, and his parents. Not only did he live a life of service to his family, but he also devoted much of his time to others in the church, scouts, community and fire service. Dennis achieved his goal of making memories for everyone.

In his memory, the Lancaster County EMS renamed their annual "First Responder of the Year Award" the "Dennis J. Cauthen Award" for his years of dedication and teamwork. He was also honored by the firefighting class at Lancaster High School and the Lancaster County fire service, when they dedicated their new training facility in his memory.

If everyone could only do half of what Dennis did during his lifetime the world would reap great benefits, as he served everyone as part of his own family. He lived by the motto "Instead of giving someone a fish and feeding them for day, take the time to teach them to fish so they will have food for a lifetime."

On August 16, 2011, at the age of 54, Chief Dennis J. Cauthen lost his life while serving his community and those he loved so dearly.





# Remembering



## Robin E. West

### Startex Fire Department – South Carolina

Volunteer Assistant Chief  
Date of Death: June 19, 2011  
Age: 55

Robin was born September 10, 1955. He officially joined the Startex Volunteer Fire Department in 1975. His father was a charter member and fire chief from 1961 until 1993, so Robin actually grew up in the fire department. He dearly loved being a firefighter and was very dedicated to the department. Before we were married, many of our dates were at fire calls or the department. He was very much a community man, and if anyone ever needed help, he was always there. He loved his God and his family, in that order. Being very active in the church, he sang in the choir and in a quartet with our son, daughter, and son-in-law. He loved to joke around with people and gave most of them nicknames.



Robin was married to his high school sweetheart (me!) for 36 years and has a very loving family. We have a son, Joshua West, his wife, Leigh, and their daughter, Kendall; our daughter, Jessi Hill, her husband, Johnathan, and two sons, Noah and Tucker. The grandchildren were the light of Robin's life. He is also survived by two sisters, Pam Wheeler and Dianne Rogers, and a brother, Jesse West.

His motto was, "The happiest people aren't the ones who have the best of everything, but the ones who make the best of everything they have!"

We miss him terribly, but feel his presence is always with us.

# Remembering

## Trampus S Haskvitz

### South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Wildland Fire Suppression – South Dakota

Career Seasonal Firefighter  
Date of Death: August 11, 2011  
Age: 23

Trampus S Haskvitz was born December 28, 1987, in Custer, South Dakota, to Don and LuJean Haskvitz. Born six minutes after his twin brother, John, he joined brother Benjamin and sister Betsy. He was blessed with lots of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends he had gained over the years. He was an amazing Uncle to Ella Lou. At the time of his death, he was living in Buffalo Gap, South Dakota.

Trampus attended Hot Springs public schools and was involved in football, basketball, baseball and track. After high school he attended Dickinson State University, where he played football for the Blue Hawks and graduated in 2010 with a major in business administration and a minor in manufacturing technology. For the last five years of his life, Trampus worked as a seasonal firefighter.

Trampus was the most kindhearted, caring person, always putting other people first and taking care of everyone. He was his family's rock. After losing Trampus we learned how much Trampus had taken care of his college friends, giving crosses to people who were having hard times. He told his sister to wear a cross and keep it close to her heart, for then God is always with you. Trampus will always be remembered for his strong heart, gentle spirit, and fearless approach to life.

He was a leader and had a knack for mischief. He could make pulling weeds fun. Ben and John always wanted their little brother—the youngest by six minutes—to look up to them. “But it was really us who looked up to him,” Ben said. “We emulated him and tried to find a piece of his character to put into our own. He could talk to anybody. The guy could make friends with a wall.” People always wanted to help Trampus since he was often the smallest in the group, but usually it was Trampus who was helping others.

All three brothers were seasonal firefighters for the South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression Division, and they had the opportunity to work side by side on the fire line for the summers of 2008 and 2009. Trampus joined the ranks in 2007 and was in his fifth summer season when he died fighting the Coal Canyon Fire.

The City of Hot Springs, South Dakota, has proclaimed August 11th Trampus Haskvitz Day. An annual golf tournament will be held every June to raise money for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, as well as a motorcycle poker run and softball tournament in honor of Trampus. “Never Forgotten” is the vow of his family, friends, and area firefighters. If love alone could have spared him, he would have lived forever.





# Remembering



## William George Waldner and Jacob Paul Waldner

### Sunset Fire Department – South Dakota

Volunteer Firefighters

Date of Death: September 15, 2011

Ages: 22 and 20



William Waldner and Jacob Waldner were members of the Sunset Volunteer Fire Department. They were always helping people in any way possible, and joining our local volunteer fire department was just one of the numerous ways they volunteered their time to help less fortunate people. They were both in the fire service for about three to four years.



Both William and Jacob lived at the Sunset Community all their lives.

**William** William was helping with the farm work on the community. He was also a tremendous help at the community blacksmith shop. Everyone knew they could depend on him. He was an inventive person, always full of new ideas. **Jacob**

Jacob was working as an apprentice for his dad to be an electrician. When not busy doing electrical work, Jacob helped anyone who needed his help around the community. He was always ready to lend a hand.

On September 15, 2011, William and Jacob died when a coal bin exploded. Our small community was in shock when this double tragedy hit.

We made lots of precious memories through the years, and we will never take for granted the few short years that we were able to share with them.

*Till our joyful Reunion in heaven  
We love and miss you  
More than words can say  
Our firefighting angels*

# Remembering

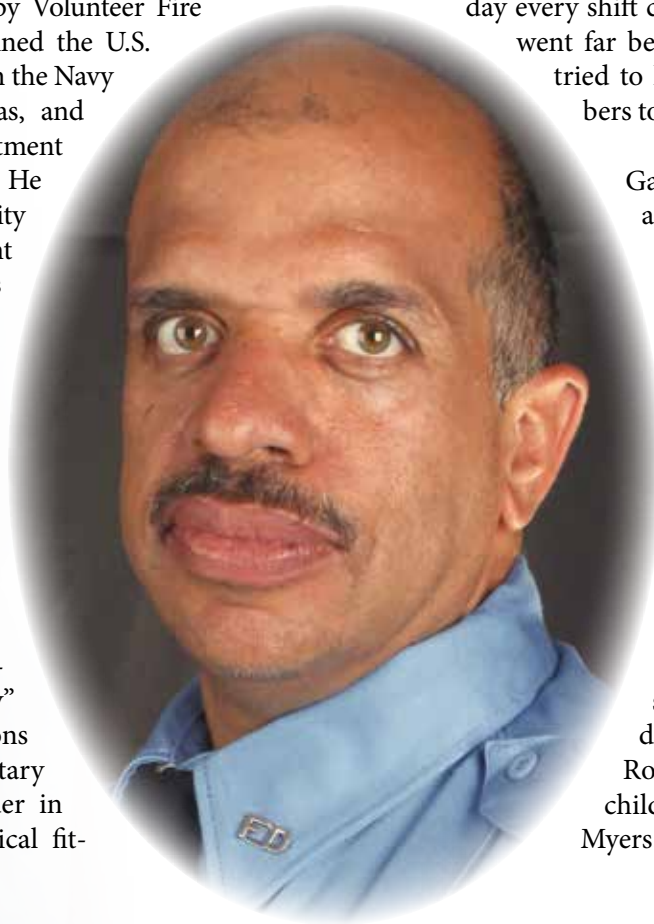
## Gaston A. Gagne III

### Baytown Fire Department – Texas

Career Firefighter/EMT  
Date of Death: July 26, 2011  
Age: 46

Gaston Aloysius Gagne III began organized fire-fighting with the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department in 1983. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1985. After serving in the Navy he moved to El Paso, Texas, and obtained his Texas Department of Health paramedic patch. He started his career with the City of Baytown Fire Department in 1993. He earned his Hazardous Material Operator Certificate and was part of the city's Hazardous Material Response Team. He was also with the Urban Search & Rescue Team.

Gaston was awarded Fire Fighter of the Year in 2008. One of his outstanding contributions was in the nationally recognized "Beat Alley" fire prevention presentations to the primary and elementary schools. Gaston was a leader in the area of firefighter physical fit-



ness. His involvement in fitness training was a twice a day every shift commitment. His involvement went far beyond just his own fitness; he tried to help motivate his crew members to improve their status together.

Gaston enjoyed life to the fullest, always busy and forever entertaining others. He loved riding his Harley, either with a group or by himself. Gaston was a "Mr. Fixit," believing there was nothing he could not do.

Gaston Aloysius Gagne III was truly a unique personality.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years, Elizabeth; his son, Gaston IV (Sonny); step-daughters, Leslie Myers and Robin Greeninger; and grandchildren, Hunter, Holly and Harley Myers.





# Remembering



## Todd W. Krodle

### Dallas Fire-Rescue Department – Texas

Career Lieutenant

Date of Death: August 14, 2011

Age: 41

Todd Wesley Krodle was born April 6, 1970, in Greenville, Texas, the firstborn of Richard and Nell Krodle. He was as close to the perfect son as any boy could be and was a hero to his brother, Kurt. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1988 and earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture education from East Texas State University in 1992. Todd was the type of person that any parent would want their son to grow to be or for their daughter to marry.

At age nine, Todd put his faith in Jesus Christ and followed Him with his whole life. While in high school, his youth minister challenged him to live his life by a simple statement: "I'm Third." For the rest of his life, he put his relationship with Jesus first, his relationship to others second, and he always put himself third.

In 1986, Todd went on his first date with Kelli, who quickly became his best friend. Todd and Kelli dated for almost nine years before marrying in 1995. Todd knew early that he would spend his life loving and cherishing Kelli, which he did until his final breath. They welcomed their son, Cade, in 1998, and their daughter, Caroline, in 2001. His children were his greatest source of pride, and he cared for and loved them with every ounce of his being. Todd worked hard so that he could attend to practically every need of his family; that brought him deep joy.



In 1993, he became a member of the Dallas Fire Department and Rookie Class 239. After rookie school, Todd was assigned to Station 26 as a fire rescue officer and paramedic. He was promoted to driver-engineer and transferred to Station 35 for almost a year before moving back to 26's, where he would spend the rest of his career.

Todd loved his coworkers and the community that he served, and he was equally loved in return. A firefighter at 26's described Todd's first shift as their lieutenant, "That day, the greatest officer we had ever known walked through the door." When his crew was asked to describe their lieutenant, they said:

He was the epitome of character and integrity. He taught us that doing the right thing may take longer, make you sweat more, and may not win you many friends. You could never out-work Todd; all you could hope for is to work beside him.

Todd Krodle was what every man should strive to be – the consummate husband and father, a faithful son and brother, and a man of integrity and character with a relentless work ethic. We will miss Todd each day of the rest of our lives, but we are better because he was part of our lives.

# Remembering

## Elias Macias-Jaquéz

### Cactus Volunteer Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: April 20, 2011

Age: 49

Elias Macias-Jaquéz, 49, was very strong and a hard worker. He grew up in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, Mexico. Then he migrated around the United States until he met our mother, Josephine, in a little town called Cimarron, New Mexico. They lived there for a few years, then decided to move to Texas where he raised his four daughters. He lived in Cactus, Texas, for 23 years and worked at JBS Swift & Co. for 23 years as well. Elias did a lot of hard work, including even helping out on a farm for just about his whole life.

He enjoyed being a volunteer firefighter for two years for the Cactus Fire Department. He enjoyed being able to help anyone in need. We remember back in 2011, about a week before his accident, he was very proud of himself because they had a call for a fire out in the country, and he was able to help an elderly man save his barn.

Elias was a very loving person, especially when it came to animals. He enjoyed feeding the cattle, the horses, the pigs, anything that came across the farm.

One thing he sure did enjoy besides working was being with his family. He was able to spend time not only with his wife and four girls, but also with his three grandchildren. He never was able to experience having a son, but he did get to have two grandsons that he loved very much and showed them as much as he could.

Even though they were too little to learn, he would still do so. He spoiled his grandchildren like there was no tomorrow.

All we have left is the wonderful memories he shared with us. He is a grand hero not only to his family, but to his community where everyone knew him.





# Remembering



## Larry G. Nelson

### Val Verde County Rural Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Lieutenant

Date of Death: August 12, 2011

Age: 61

Family, friends, and fellow firefighters all cried as the final call was received on the pagers of the Val Verde County Fire Department.

Lt. Larry G. Nelson, age 61, would no longer answer his call to duty.

Larry was known more for his giving than receiving. He was a man whose strength was only matched by his generosity. The Larry I knew was a good natured person. He had an ease about him that made being around him fun. He wasn't pushy or a braggart. "What you saw was what you got—a salt of the earth kind of a guy that you wanted on your side," said Don Ingram, publisher of the Andrews County News.

Being a non-compensated fire department, everyone in the department has other jobs. Larry worked two weeks on and two weeks off as a consultant in the oil fields of west Texas, but when he was home, he was dedicated to his beloved fire department 110%. Because of his dedication and tireless efforts, he was elected Fire Fighter of the Year in 2007. This was followed by a resolution by the State of Texas House of Representatives recognizing him for his exemplary performance and being an inspiration to others. When the fire department needed something, Larry wouldn't wait three days for a purchase order to be issued. He would

just go buy whatever was needed so the department would be ready for the next call.



Larry was a devoted family man. He loved his wife, Joyce; son, Michael; daughter-in-law, Becky; and grandsons, Justin and Cade. He loved his three sisters and two brothers. His sisters all stated that Larry was always more concerned about their welfare than his own. The reason we did not receive an acknowledgement from his brothers is that tragically Larry and his two brothers all died within ten days of each other in August 2011. Larry touched many lives in many ways, and they all came out better for knowing him. Joyce stated, "Not a day goes by that I don't think of my husband, friend, and fellow firefighter with great respect and love, and a yearning to see him one more time, because there was no chance to say a final goodbye or to tell him how much I loved and respected him."

Larry was a hero every day to everyone he knew and in the way he lived his life. I invite you to go to YouTube and view the tribute entitled "Lt. Larry G. Nelson" which was put together by his fellow firefighters. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

# Remembering

## Chris K. Pham

### Dallas Fire-Rescue Department – Texas

Career Firefighter

Date of Death: June 23, 2011

Age: 35

Chris Pham was born June 3, 1976, in Saigon, Vietnam, the fifth of six children. Chris, along with his mother, Thanh, and siblings, Calvin, Khang, and Monica, fled the war-torn area in 1979 to a Malaysian refugee camp. Two years later, they traveled to the U.S. and made Garland, Texas, their new home. After ten years of hard work and acclimation to their new environment, Chris and his family were able to sponsor his father and other two siblings, Mai and Tram, to America.

Chris met his longtime girlfriend, Kate, in 1992. He stole her heart with his boyish smile, silly ways, and goofy personality. They encouraged each other to pursue their respective dreams—hers to become an optometrist and his to become a firefighter. Chris and Kate became “parents” after adopting their beloved dogs, Peanut and Butter. Chris was an incredibly thoughtful and sentimental man; Kate found many letters and cards he had saved throughout the years. According to Chris, they had been “married for over 30 years!”

Chris always strove to better himself, dedicating his life to becoming an exceptional firefighter for the city of Dallas. In 2003, Chris became the first college

graduate of his family by earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Dallas. Then, in September 2005, his dream of becoming a firefighter was realized. Chris trained extensively to reach his goals, becoming a part of Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) and earning superior status on the annual fitness test. Chris utilized his skills on a daily basis as a firefighter and paramedic of Station 49, the second busiest station in Dallas. Although Chris treated his career and responsibilities with utmost seriousness, he was known for his humor and good natured personality among his fellow comrades. Chris even became a self-proclaimed “elite” member of the Hispanic Firefighters Association, since an Asian association had not yet been created.

Chris’s love of being a firefighter was outshone only by the love he had for his family. He became a father figure to his niece and nephew, assisting his sister, Monica, in providing guidance and instilling a strong educational foundation in her children. Along with his siblings, Chris cherished the relationship he held with his mother and always made it a priority to care for her needs. Although Chris left far too soon, his legacy will live on with the many memories he created with his loved ones.





# Remembering



## Gregory Mack Simmons

Eastland Fire Department – Texas

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: April 15, 2011

Age: 50

Gregory Mack Simmons began a life that would cross paths with people from all walks of life. Firefighter Simmons was always willing to lend a helping hand. He accepted the oath, belief, and life of one who serves his community. You could find him at the concession stand cooking for the band, at the volunteer fire department's fish fry, lending a hand with the town's haunted house, or serving as the "oldest water boy in history" for the athletic teams and the Eastland High School band.

Greg received a 10-year pin from both the Sachse Fire Department and the Eastland Fire Department. He was named Fire Fighter of the Year in 2001 and 2012 and received an award from the State of Texas in 2011. He had an unforgettable smile, cheerful laughter, and a warm hello. One of his favorite pastimes was to take advantage of the clear and dark evening skies in Eastland, where he would have the girls join him outside to watch the stars and spend time talking. He would even stop in the middle of a crazy day to make a simple phone call to his girls just to say, "I love you."



Greg answered his final call on Friday, April 15, 2011, while battling one of five wildfires in Eastland County, Texas. Although his efforts helped to save the town of Gorman, Eastland Fire Department volunteer firefighter Greg Simmons gave his life doing what he loved. Greg was indeed a giver. On that dreadful day, the lives of his brotherhood at the Sachse and Eastland Volunteer Fire Departments, his community and, most importantly, his family were changed forever. They will always miss the husband, father, and friend he was.

He is survived by his wife, Carrie Simmons; his daughters, Kateland and Karley Simmons; his mother, Inez Simmons; his sister, Sharon Simmons; and his parents-in-law, Ken and Helen Songer. He was predeceased by his father, Harvey Simmons.

The legacy he leaves behind in his wife, Carrie, and his daughters, Kateland and Karley, is reflected in their special smile, contagious laughter, and the sparkle in their eyes.

# Remembering

## Stephen R. Cox

### South Davis Metro Fire Agency – Utah

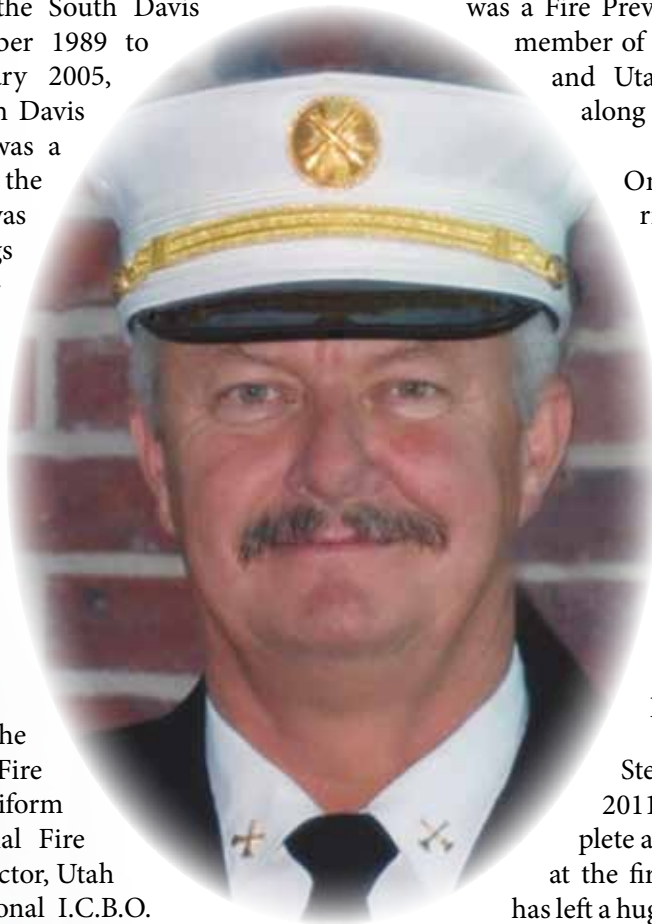
Career Fire Marshal

Date of Death: August 28, 2011

Age:55

Steve Cox was hired as an emergency medical technician/firefighter with the South Davis Fire District from September 1989 to December 2004. In January 2005, he became part of the South Davis Metro Fire Agency. Steve was a very “hands on” member of the fire department, in that he was always trying to make things safer and better for the community in which he served. In order to better do that, he applied for and was promoted to the fire marshal position in 2000. Steve took that position very seriously and continued to educate himself in order to obtain the many certifications required for the position of fire marshal.

Steve was certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators, the National Uniform Building Code, the National Fire Protection Association Inspector, Utah State Inspector II, the National I.C.B.O. Plans Examiner Certification, and numerous individual state certifications. Steve was a member of the National and Utah International Association of Arson Investigators, completed several courses in high angle rescue, heavy duty rescue and extrication procedures, and was Firefighter I & II certified. Fire Marshal Cox



was the current Davis County Fire Officers president, was a Fire Prevention Board member, and a member of the Fire Marshals Association and Utah State Chiefs' Association, along with many other fire boards.

On a personal level, Steve loved riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He loved to cook (especially his famous homemade secret salsa recipe), go camping, and work outdoors in his yard. But his greatest passion was spending time with his family—his wife, Karen; his kids, Sarah, Tony, Becky, Greg, and Nate and their spouses; but most of all, his grandkids. Steve was a family man with a great passion for that family.

Steve passed away on August 28, 2011, while attempting to complete a physical fitness test for his job at the fire department. Steve's passing has left a huge hole in the hearts of his family and friends and the community he served.

We, as a family, are honored to display one of Steve's most prized possessions, his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Steve had his motorcycle custom painted to honor one of his other major passions, the fire service.



# Remembering



## Jeffery Alan Cocke

### Altavista Volunteer Fire Department – Virginia

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: August 4, 2011

Age: 59

Jeffery Alan Cocke was born April 20, 1952, in Lynchburg, Virginia, a son of Christine Keese Cocke of Altavista and the late Claude Swanson Cocke. He was a life-long member of Lane Memorial United Methodist Church. He retired from Abbott Laboratories with 21 years of service in 2003, allowing him more time to enjoy his favorite hobby—golf. After retiring, Jeffery also worked several part-time jobs at various local businesses—NAPA Auto Parts, Bennett's Mechanical, and more recently Steve's Florist.

Jeffery was a member of the Lynch Station Ruritan Club, where he held several positions from member to serving as president for at least two terms during his more than 22 years of service. Jeff also loved Altavista High School sports. He volunteered for many years keeping stats for the football team, score-keeping for the basketball team, working in the pit crew for the marching band, and assisting with girls' softball. He eventually became an umpire with the Colonial Officials Association in 2000.

Volunteering and helping others was his life's passion. He served his ultimate position of volunteerism

while with the Altavista Fire Company for over 39 years. Jeff worked through the ranks as a firefighter, holding several elected positions including lieutenant, captain, assistant chief, and chief during his time volunteering. According to many community members, he is going to be an irreplaceable part of the tight-knit community of Altavista.

Altavista Fire Company Chief John Tucker says, "Jeffery was one of the top call runners in the department. He meant a lot. He was someone you could call in the middle of the night and he'd come out to help even if it wasn't really that big of a deal. Or for the one that was a really big call, he was always there. We could count on him no matter what."

Jeffery Alan Cocke, 59, of Altavista, Virginia, died Thursday, August 4, 2011, at Lynchburg General Hospital. He was the husband of Vickie Bowyer Cocke for 39 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Monroe (38) and her husband, Jeff; and Christy Murray (31) and her husband, Brian; three grandsons, Jordan Monroe (18), Jackson Monroe (17), and Joshua Murray (5), all of Altavista.





# Remembering



## Matthew M. Hadaller III

### Lewis County Fire District #3 – Washington

Career Chief

Date of Death: June 27, 2011

Age: 47

*M*att was born on November 7, 1963, in Ethel, Washington. He was the son of Matthew and Marjorie Hadaller. Matt grew up in the small town of Mossyrock, Washington, where he graduated high school. Matt was a star football and basketball player. After school, he worked at the local sawmill. He committed 16+ years to his fire department, first as a volunteer firefighter. He was appointed assistant fire chief in 1998, and then held the position as Mossyrock's first paid fire chief from 2003 until his death in June 2011.

Matt was admired by many people in Mossyrock—

everyone from small kids to geriatric residents. Matt coached pee wee football, t-ball, and girls' softball. He was very involved in his community from being on the city council and from having the fire department doing year round activities for the town. The fire department annually put on an Easter egg hunt in town, Christmas with Santa, 4th of July fireworks show, and much more. Matt was always working to improve the fire department and his community as a whole.

Matt leaves behind his wife, Loranda; daughter, Robin; sons, Austin, Brayden, and Wyatt; and grandson, Ashton.







# Remembering



## Garet G. Rasmussen

### Chelan County Fire District 1 – Washington

Career Battalion Chief

Date of Death: June 12, 2011

Age: 38

Garet was a firefighter's firefighter. He was a leader, a mentor, and a friend to all. More importantly, he was a loving husband and caring father. Garet had two passions in life, the fire service and his family. He is survived by his wife, Allyson, and two children, Jostin and Jalyn.

Garet's determination and will to succeed gained him tremendous respect from his fellow brothers at Chelan County Fire District #1 in Wenatchee, Washington. He proudly served for 15 years as a firefighter, lieutenant, captain and eventually battalion chief. He was a member of Local 3835.

Above all, Garet was a family man, a devoted father who participated fully in every aspect of his children's lives. This devotion is best expressed in

Garet's own words. "I play with fire for a living. Love my wife to eternity. I enjoy every moment raising my two beautiful children. My family is my world! I'm truly blessed!"

Garet's enthusiasm about being a fireman could only be matched by the love he had for his family. He lived and breathed for his children. He also enjoyed the outdoors—camping, taking the kids hiking, having picnics, hunting, and fishing. He honed his skills with long-range sighting and target practice. He also loved playing basketball, working out at the gym, and watching UFC fights.

On June 12, 2011, at the age of 38, Battalion Chief Garet Rasmussen lost his life while serving his community and doing the job he loved so much.





# Remembering



## Joseph A. "Joey" King Jr.

**Davis Creek-Ruthdale Volunteer Fire Department – West Virginia**

Volunteer Firefighter

Date of Death: December 4, 2011

Age: 60

Joey was born on August 28, 1951, in Charleston, West Virginia. He grew up with his parents, Joseph and Betty Jo, and his siblings, Arietta, Diana, Bethel, and Linnie "Curley."

Joey was blessed to have three children, Edna, Joey III, and LeAnne. Joey's beloved only son passed away at age 12 in 1988, which was very devastating to him. Joey later met his longtime companion, Sonja Kay. He helped raise her son, Anthony, who meant the world to him and became a fine firefighter and young man. Joey loved to travel to Florida on his motorcycle to visit his daughter and spend time with his granddaughters, Amanda and Skyler. Joey loved to ride and was a member of the Patriot Guard and The Red Knights Motorcycle Clubs.

Joey spent many years working at Copley's Wrecker Service. He later worked for the City of Charleston Sanitary Board as a mechanic, before retiring for health reasons. Joey was always there for someone in need. People have said he was the nicest guy they knew and could never be replaced. One man stated at his memorial service that Joey was a "First Responder" before there was such a thing, the man you wanted at an accident scene.

Joey served as a volunteer firefighter for seven years. One of his sisters asked Chief Jeff Snodgrass how Joey got started at the fire department. The chief said Joey joined

the fire department not for himself, but for Anthony. He came and asked if he and Anthony could join. He felt that Anthony was maybe hanging around the wrong crowd and wanted to get him into something more positive. I don't think Joey had any idea how much it would affect his life! In the early days he was there to see that Anthony went in the right direction, but he soon realized that he had a knack for what the fire department does--helping people! He became not only a firefighter, but a great friend to many members of the department. He saw that he could use his mechanical skills to benefit the fire department by caring for the equipment. Most people will never realize how valuable an asset Joey was to our department. He was our friend, our brother, our mentor, and many looked to him for personal advice to help them to get through life. He was a great man, and we miss him every day.

Joey loved to tease and play practical jokes on others. He enjoyed taking his nieces' sons and granddaughters to his garage, sitting them on his motorcycle, or taking them to the firehouse and putting them in the fire truck.

On December 4, 2011, we lost a lifelong companion, father, uncle, grandpa, brother, friend, and firefighter, but most of all A GIFT OF LIFE. We love and miss you.





# Remembering



## Ronald D. Ruprecht

Stone Lake Fire Department – Wisconsin

Volunteer 2nd Lieutenant

Date of Death: June 11, 2011

Age: 51

Ronald “Dwayne” Ruprecht died at his home on June 11, 2011, after responding to a false alarm.

community minded, he served as the president of the Stone Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Dwayne was born July 18, 1959, in Watseka, Illinois, to Ronald O. and Barbara (Buck) Ruprecht. He owned and operated R.D.R Construction. In his spare time Dwayne enjoyed hunting and fishing. Being very



Those who loved and shared his life are his parents, Ronald and Barbara Ruprecht; two brothers, Bill (Maria) Ruprecht and Roy (Kelly) Ruprecht; and two sisters, Rhonda (Michael) Fisher and Becky (Jeff) Ritter. Dwayne is also survived by thirteen nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by one sister, Linda Betts, in 2007.



# 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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# Individuals and Organizations Generously Donating Time and Services to the 2012 Memorial Weekend

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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 assisted and served as family escorts and the honor guard units that participated in the Memorial Weekend programs. Special thanks to our survivors who return each year and assist with Memorial Weekend activities.*



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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.*



*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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