

REMEMBERING



OCTOBER 2-3, 2004

EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

2003 Fallen Firefighters



ALABAMA

Matthew R. Brimer
Waynes Fire Department

Billy John Tucker
Cherokee County Rescue Services, Inc.

ARIZONA

Randall Bostin, Jr.
Boone of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency, Winslow

Carl G. Dillman
Minden Air Corporation, UDOT Private Service Contractor

Richard Glenn "Rich" Lipe
Boone of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency, Winslow

Jon Peters
Boone of Indian Affairs Contractor, Fort Apache Agency, Winslow

CALIFORNIA

Marlene "Maude" Olin
San Francisco Fire Department

Steven Lee Barker
Orange Fire Protection District

Harry Zilman
Sanberry Springs Fire Department

CENTRAL

John Amadio
Minden Air Corporation, UDOT Private Service Contractor

CONNECTICUT

Kenneth J. Jellery
United Towns Rural Information Res. Fire Department, Groton

Don Haurin
Wilbur's Volunteer Fire Department

FLORIDA

Wayne Mitchell
Manatee County Fire Rescue Department



2003 Fallen Firefighters

Georgia

Leslie E. Collins, III

Decaturville Fire Department

Randy E. Hill

Wilkes County Fire Department

John Robert "Bobby" Paruch

Camden County Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Douglas Clark Waters, Jr.

City of Jefferson Fire Department

Illinois

James A. Perino

Quincy Fire Department

Indiana

Jeff Allen

Chief, Forest Service, Salmon-Chalk National Forest

Edward G. Bost

Allen Commercial Institution, Chicago

Glenn W. Heath

Chief, Forest Service, Salmon-Chalk National Forest

Jeffrey Allen Koval

Indian Fire Department

Kevin M. Whitley

Lawrence Fire Department

Missouri

Todd W. Dicks

Warren Volunteer Fire Department

Vernie D. Keyer

Madison/Clinton Fire Protection District

Joseph M. Rotherham

Springfield Fire Department

Michigan

Jim "Nasty" Smith

Fire Volunteer Fire Department

George A. Walker, Jr.

Clarkston Fire Department

2003 Fallen Firefighters



ALABAMA

James Deane Roberts
Clear Waterhouse Fire Department
Drew Buckelberg
Trussville Fire #1 Station

ARIZONA

Gary D. Bryant
Scottsdale City Fire Department

KENTUCKY

Randy Gene Wiley
Crescent Volunteer Fire Department

LOUISIANA

Shane Scott Brown
Delcote Fire (District #5, Metairie)
Wayne Dillon
Washington Parish Fire District #1
Faron Hines (PFD)
Levee Fire Volunteer Fire Department, St. Landry
Clay Allen Taylor
Woodburn Volunteer Fire Department

MAINE

Stanley G. Wenzell
Monroe Fire Department

MARYLAND

Thomas Frank Brown
Baltimore County Fire Department
Neddy Ali Hammond
Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department
Douglas Thomas
Acres Island Volunteer Fire Department

MASSACHUSETTS

Barry Michael Bennett
Cambridge Fire Department
Martin D. "Marty" McNamara V
Lancaster Fire Department

Wayne W. Mickle

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forest Fire Control



2003 Fallen Firefighters

Minnesota

Don J. Bilig
St. Cloud Fire Department

Missouri

Dennis G. Mignone
Wabash-Chester Fire Department

Michael E. Bentley
Salisbury Fire Department

Nebraska

Ronald L. Holmes
Grand Plaza Fire Department

New Jersey

Ronald W. Pasparick
Long Branch Fire Department

George Formalek
Malden Fire Department

William W. Falkner
Union Fire Company, Wallford

Ray E. Roney
Centers Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Browns Mills

New Mexico

Ralph Dando
Amador Volunteer Fire of Las Cruces

New York

Thomas Christopher Brich
Fire Department of New York

Stephen G. Caron
Independence Fire Company 40 of the Orange Fire Department

James J. O'Brien
Fire Department of New York

George O. Wahl, Jr.
Congers Fire Department

Lawrence J. "Larry" Simkin
Green View-Camp Mills Fire Departments, Forest Park

2003 Fallen Firefighters



North Carolina

Terry W. Carroll
Cashla-Grove Fire & Rescue, Inc.

Wayne Copeland
Charlotte Fire Department

Mark T. Franklin
Charlotte Fire Department

Randy Neal Jones
Coral Springs Fire Department, Nevada

Mark A. Morgan
South Carolina Division of Forest Resources

David Heywood "Chief" Williams
Coral Springs Fire Department, Nevada

Ohio

Oscar Armstrong, III
Cincinnati Fire Department

John August Garman
New Bremen-Canton Township Fire Department

Kenneth J. Jeter
New Bremen-Canton Township Fire Department

Richard A. Long
Caldwell Fire Department

Oregon

Richard W. Black
Woodburn Fire Department, Clatsop County

Larry A. Brown
Knappa Fire Department, Harney County

Paul E. Gibert
First State Environmental, Beavering, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor

David Kelly Hammer
First State Environmental, Beavering, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor

Russell Horvath
Harvest Holdings LLC, Grants Pass

Jeffrey D. Hugel
First State Environmental, Beavering, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor

John D. James
First State Environmental, Beavering, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor

Thomas Howard Kraler
Polk County Fire District #4



2003 Fallen Firefighters

OREGON (cont.)

D. Craig Mackay

Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Care District

Richard Dean "Ricker" Moore, II

West Jordan Environmental, Astoria, Oregon Department of Revenue Contractor

Leland "David" Price, Jr.

West Jordan Environmental, Astoria, Oregon Department of Revenue Contractor

Mark Robert Russell

West Jordan Environmental, Astoria, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor

Edward M. Rutz

West Jordan Environmental, Astoria, Oregon Department of Forestry Contractor

PENNSYLVANIA

James P. Allen

Pennsylvania Fire Department

Thomas W. DeWitt, Sr.

West Woodland Fire Company

Karl Robert Hise

Lawrence Road Fire & Ambulance Company

James William McNulty

Full Township Volunteer Fire Company

William E. Ramsey

Cornellville Township Volunteer Fire Department

Donald Schenckman

Logan Fire Company, Allentown

Isaac D. Tishler

Lakeland Community Fire Company, Jonestown

William A. Wheeler

Lebanon Fire Department

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nathan G. Hansen

Rushon Fire Rescue Department

TENNESSEE

James Lee Ellis

Lawrence Fire Department

Samuel Lee Green

Walla County Fire Department

Travis A. Kirk

Memphis Fire Department

Charles A. Zachary

Memphis Fire Department

2003 Fallen Firefighters



Texas

Wayne Kevin Clarke
Dallas Fire-Rescue

Charles Howards, Sr.
New Caney Volunteer Fire Department

Russell A. "Rube" Gonzalez
Brownsville Fire Department

Charles G. Kynard
Forest Forest Service, Lufkin

Charles "Lance" Mathew
*Lubbock County Volunteer
Fire Department, Biggsboro*

Stephen L. McGregor
Bard Volunteer Fire Department

Gary Lee "Duke" Niles
Forest Volunteer Fire Department

James T. Taylor
Brownsville Fire Department

Vermont

Bruce Hennessey Young
Middlebury Fire Department

Washington

Richard J. Tillery
Clark County Fire District #11

West Virginia

Barry D. Lantz
Lakin Volunteer Fire Department

Wisconsin

Carl J. Mack
New Chester Fire Department, Grand Marsh

Jeffrey Allen Tapp
Antford Fire District

Edward J. Weber
Elkhart Lake Fire Department



Fallen Firefighters from Previous Years

2002
Michigan

Mark L. Edwards
Easton Fire Protection District

2009
Louisiana

Willard B. Paul
Plaquemine Volunteer Fire Department, Cloutier

1982
Kansas

Thomas G. Walcott
Chicago Fire Department





Remembrances



Matthew E. Browny, 18, volunteer firefighter, Warner Fire Department, died November 8, 2005, in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a call. He was voted the department's Firefighter of the Year for 2003, and his noble and humble was permanently missed. A 2003 graduate of Jacksonville Christian Academy, Browny participated in several missions trips to Oklahoma to work on church buildings. A monetary scholarship has been established in his memory, with awards based on character and community service.

He was a fire loving young man who endured himself to dangers and sometimes appreciated people and friends with grateful joy.



Billie John Tucker, 70, volunteer fire police, Cherokee County Rescue Services, Inc., died April 6, 2005, when he was struck by a car while directing traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A 33-year member with the department, he served as chief of the Brownwood/Beckwith Volunteer Fire Department for nine years and was a member of the rescue squad. He voted friends for an addition to the fire station and arranged the donation of a truck truck to the department. Two of his sons are also members of the department. Tucker retired from Archibute, where he worked as a wholesale food trader. He and his wife served as directors of the Young in Christ.

"Big Daddy" was a gentle person. He loved his family, friends, community, and church.

Remembrances

Randall Bostick, Jr., 32, federal helicopter crew member, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency, Whiteriver, died July 26, 2005, when a helicopter crashed while transporting firefighters on a fire. The pilot also died in this incident. Bostick had served with BIA for 12 years. As a trained wildland firefighter, he helped protect his ancestral homelands, land of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Known as "Smelter" to family and

friends, he enjoyed sharing time with his family, fishing, camping, and hunting on the reservation.

Randall's passion for his family and friends will remain at our hearts and minds for generations. Thank you, Randall, for a job well done.

Carl G. Dillmore, 34, pilot, Minden Air Corporation, USDA Forest Service contracting, died December 3, 2005, when an air tanker involved in work on its base in Fort Bernardino, CA. Another pilot also died in this incident. Dillmore began flying as a teenager and was eventually sent to the PPL, CPL, DCA, DCL, CFI, and Turbine Thrust. Dillmore had been in the tanker business for 17 years and had flown with Minden Air since 1999. A crop duster in his early years of flying, he flew a variety of jobs that took him all over the world. In his winter months, he flew 18 wheelers come to name for several companies. He was a dedicated outdoorsman who enjoyed camping and hunting.

He was doing what he loved and saving our planet. He loved Mountain food, his two cats, watching movies, cooking with friends, and selling steaks.



Richard Glenn "Buck" Luge, 45, federal firefighter, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency, Whiteriver, died June 19, 2005, as a result of burns suffered a month earlier during a prescribed burn. A firefighter for 34 years, he was a member of the first crew of the Fort Apache Firebirds and later served as a division supervisor for the Southwest Area Incident Management Team and as a fuels management specialist. Luge was named 2003 Firefighter of the Year and 2004 and 2005 firefighter of the Year. He was recognized by President George W. Bush for his service, others during the Redoubt/Chukchi fire. Luge loved spending time in the woods with his sons, hunting and enjoying each other's company. A monetary scholarship has been established in his memory.

Buck was the heart of his family, community, and the state of Arizona. His legacy as a wonderful husband and father will live on with us forever.

Arizona (cont.)

Jim Pearce, 55, career pilot, former of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency, Whittier, died July 26, 1993, when a helicopter crashed while transporting firefighters to a fire. He was a pilot for 20 years and flew Army Helicopters in Vietnam and during Operation Desert Storm. Pearce was also involved in rescue training at Phoenix Army Airfield and Whiting Field in California and fire engineering teams in Indiana and the Grand Canyon.

He was a loving husband, a caring father, and a wonderful human being.

California



Michelle "Mindy" Chiles, 46, career firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department, died January 15, 2003, from head injuries sustained five days earlier when she fell from a fire truck as the department responded to a call. A 14-year veteran with the department, she held degrees in business, law science, and nursing.

Her colleagues at Station 42 have established a scholarship in her memory. Chiles was an animal lover who volunteered her time working with children and enjoyed working with family and friends.

Her Mindy was as pure as gold. She was generous, upfront and always ready to help.



Steven Lee Barker, 44, career engineer, Nevada Fire Protection District, died December 29, 2003, when his crew was enroute to fire while fighting the Cedar Fire in San Diego County. An Eagle Scout, Barker began as a volunteer firefighter in Fremont while still in high school. Later, he worked as a groundskeeper with American Medical and was a seasonal firefighter with the California Department of Forestry. In his 13 years with Nevada, he was the department's internal coordinator on the local community, participated in a program to help senior citizens reduce fire hazards in their homes, and served as Chief Officer during the State Fire Training program.

Living lives was a reflection of his love for his own family, his large extended family, and his community.

Harry Eilman, 76, volunteer assistant chief, Newberry Springs Fire Department, died September 5, 2003, from complications of a heart aneurysm. He suffered a heart attack while directing operations at a structure fire in July 1996. Eilman served with the department for eight years. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966, beginning a military career that spanned 23 years and included three years of duty in Vietnam. He achieved the rank of Master Sergeant, was a Green Beret, and was honored with three Purple Hearts, two Silver Stars, and two Bronze Medals. Eilman was a licensed pilot, a skilled machanic, and a race car driver. He was a great-grand-great-grandfather of King Rancherolles, one of the last things to grow there.

Colorado

John Anwaris, 56, captain, Minden Fire Corporation, USDA Forest Service contracting, died December 3, 2003, when an air tanker crashed on route to its base in San Bernardino, CA. He served with Minden for ten years.

Connecticut

Kenneth J. Jeffery, 51, retired assistant chief, United States Naval Submarine Base Fire Department, Groton, died December 21, 2003. He became ill after responding to a call on Christmas Day and later had surgery for a ruptured aorta. A firefighter for 36 years, he also served as chief of the Westerly Local Fire Department and was an instructor at the Connecticut State Fire Academy. Jeffery was a masterful advocate of better equipment and training for firefighters. He was a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Fireline Engineers Club, the United American Club, and Island Lodge #1529. He was involved in water skiing and was a New York Yankees fan.



Ken was loved by all who knew him and will be remembered for his true friendship, generosity and dedication to service of others above himself.



Eric Mearns, 71, deputy chief, Wilmette Volunteer Fire Department, died April 8, 2015, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after returning from a call. He worked with the department for 34 years, including 14 years as deputy chief. Mearns worked for the department's annual event, Fall Dinner, fundraising and spent many hours making sure his fire truck was ready to appear in parades. He volunteered with Special Olympics and during the Christmas Walk. A fun-loving grandfather, he entertained the children at the school where he worked and was known for his imaginative Halloween costumes.

He would stand at the head of an parade parade.

Illinois

Wayne Mitchell, 77, career firefighter, Mount Dale Fire Rescue Department, died August 6, 2015, after being pronounced dead while participating in a day Mount maintenance exercise. A fire recruit, he worked as a Mount Dale County Engineer for almost a decade, studying and working up to receive a fire chief license as he a firefighter. Mitchell enjoyed golfing, playing tennis, and surfing.

He was the center of all the family's activities. His absence would be felt for a lifetime.

Georgia



Larry E. Collier, III, 46, volunteer firefighter, Doraville Fire Department, died January 6, 2015, in a motor vehicle accident while responding to the station for a call. Prior to the department, he also served as a chaplain in the Atlanta County Sheriff's Department. Collier was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Doraville. A devoted owner of Johnson City, Tennessee, he had worked with fireman programs in Atlanta and traveled up almost 100,000 miles after Tropical Storm Hannah. The week he died, he had accepted the American County State of the Year Award on his behalf. He traveled near with friends and family, the residents, and volunteers.

The work of life and his passion for helping others served as an inspiration to all of us.

Randy E. Hill, 61, volunteer firefighter chief, Intervet County Fire Department, died April 7, 2015, when he collapsed after completing a 3-mile walk as part of a charitable physical fitness training drill. A 14-year veteran with the department, he was chief of Intervet County's Station #1 in Okefenokee. Hill worked as a farmer and was a member of the Riverfront Fishing Club.

His leadership and friendship will be sorely missed.

John Robert "Bubba" Patrick, 54, career firefighter, Lawrence County Department of Fire and Emergency Services, died April 14, 2015, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting an engine structure fire. A 23-year veteran with Lawrence County, he was named 2009 Buckle of the Year and received eight Letters of Commendation and several Ohio Chapter Awards. He had previously served with the City of Rome Fire Department for 12 years. A host of many talents, Patrick taught high school before becoming a firefighter, built career homes, and was a creative building inspector. A wheelchair-bound in being wheelchair at Berry College in his memory.

Bubba was a positive value in the highest sense of those words. His absolutely never thought of himself. He was constantly looking in on how he could help others.

Douglas Clark Waters, Jr., 40, volunteer training officer, City of Jefferson Fire Department, died April 26, 2015, at home from complications seven after responding to a call. He was also a career engineer with Christian County Fire and Emergency Services, assigned to Station 45, which has recently been dedicated in his memory. Waters was a career structural fire instructor at the Georgia Fire Academy for four years and a member of the Georgia Inside Fire. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Reserve for 12 years. His father served as chief of the City of Jefferson Fire Department.

I look approached by professional and personal life with the same intensity and, as a result, was loved by all.





Remembrances

Greene

James A. Greene, 45, career firefighter, Coast Fire Department, died January 9, 2003, after suffering a seizure while on duty at the station. He served with the department for 18 years.

Hayes



Jeff Hayes, 34, federal seasonal firefighter, USDA Forest Service, National Character National Forest, died July 22, 2003, when firefighters were overrun by fire while clearing a helicopter landing zone near the Crown Creek Fire. Another firefighter also died in this incident. After leaving working seasons with the Forest Service in 1999 and moved to the Indianapolis Indianapolis area in 2000. He was a student at Ball State University and was posthumously awarded a degree in Business Administration. An all-around athlete, he served as an assistant for the Ball State football team and dreamed of becoming a college football coach. A memorial fund has been established in his name to help support high school athletes.

His head hit in the helmet, making the jump out of every day and every situation.

Edward G. Heath, 34, firefighter, Idaho Commercial Institute, Orofino, died August 14, 2003, after he suffered a heart attack while taking on a wildfire as part of an annual fire crew.



Steve W. Heath, 22, federal seasonal firefighter, USDA Forest Service, National Character National Forest, died July 22, 2003, when he and his partner were overrun by fire. Heath was hired as a firefighter with the Ball State crew on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana during the summer of 2000 and became a Class C Firefighter only in his second season. He was accepted by the Indianapolis Indianapolis area and had decided to pursue a full-time firefighting career. Heath had completed four years at Ball State University. Ranked on a 7,000-acre team, he loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing,

camping, and riding ATVs. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be a firefighter.

He was a great guy.

The whole team knew -- no one knew what year the

Jeffrey Alan Kessel, 40, volunteer firefighter, 1007, Idaho Fire Department, died August 6, 2003, when his vehicle went over a cliff as he transported supplies to the scene of a wildfire. He served with the department for four years. Employed by the City of Idaho as its only maintenance man, he had efforts to build the town's Stuart Park and helped organize annual Father Day and Parents of July celebrations. Kessel enjoyed gardening, fishing, camping, and hunting.



He was very much a family man. He loved his family, he would say, "more than me."

Kevin M. Whitley, 46, volunteer firefighter/paramedic, Forest Fire Department, died March 26, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to the scene of a gas leak. A six-year veteran with the department, he worked as a delivery driver for United Oil. His fellow firefighters established a memorial scholarship in his name, and a new fire truck has been dedicated to his memory.



He loved his fellow firefighters as family and considered the firefighter's creed and presented the new forest as a beautiful, hard work who worked hard and had a gentle spirit.

Roberts

Vodd W. Roberts, 27, firefighter, Warner Volunteer Fire Department, died December 1, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack as the department responded to the scene of a home vehicle accident. He served with the department for four years. Duties included for the City of Warner (Forest and Water Departments) and served as the mutual contract officer in Warner. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and collecting bats.

He was one of a kind and reached many lives.



Vannie D. Keever, 54, volunteer assistant chief, Gulfport/Gladstone Fire Protection District, died April 10, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a mobile home fire. A 15-year veteran with the department, he also served with the Gladstone Fire and

Rescue Squad and the Biggsville Fire Department, and had previously served eight years with the Oquawka Fire Department. Keever donated his time doing fish fries, soup suppers, and anything else he could to help better the fire department.

Vannie was a very loving husband, father, and friend to many. His life was short, but he accomplished a great deal in his 54 years.



Joseph M. Rotherham, 46, career captain, Springfield Fire Department, died January 14, 2003, of cardiac arrhythmia, after exiting a burning home to refill his air tank. A 14-year veteran with the department and a second generation firefighter, he was promoted to captain of Engine House #6 in 2002. Rotherham enjoyed fishing, camping, and traveling out west with his wife and children.

He lived every minute of his brief 46 years. He was always 100% present, and his presence is missed.

INDIANA



Jim "Smitty" Smith, 62, firefighter, Troy Volunteer Fire Department, died March 22, 2003, after he collapsed while fighting a structure fire. He served with the department for seven years and considered firefighting his proudest accomplishment. After serving four years

in the U.S. Air Force, he started a longtime career in the electronics and semi-conductor business that took him all over the world. He was active with American Legion Post 213, where he was appointed First Vice Chair, and was involved in local politics and fundraising efforts. His personal loves were his family, playing Euchre, golfing, and NASCAR.

Jim was the shining light of our family. He always had an infectious smile and heartfelt warmth for those around him. We still cannot believe he is gone.

George A. Walker, Jr., 61, career firefighter, Clarksville Fire Department, died February 1, 2003, after suffering a heart attack at a structure fire in December 2002. He served with the department for 31 years.

He was a very social person, a good person. He had a good sense of humor.

IOWA

James Duane Richards, 49, assistant chief, Oran Volunteer Fire Department, died October 20, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting a field and structure fire on a neighbor's farm. A 29-year veteran, he served three years as chief and 18 years as assistant chief. He met his wife in a first responders class, and his brother and nephew also serve with the fire department. Richards was owner/operator of Richards Repair, a farm equipment repair shop, for 29 years. He and his family remodeled and created a second family-owned business called Kountry Krafts. Active with the FFA program at his children's high school, he helped construct a greenhouse and chaperoned countless trips. He loved reading, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Jim was a good man, a wonderful husband, father, and friend. He was the center of our lives and is missed very, very much.

Dixie Steckelberg, 60, volunteer firefighter/EMT, Lovilia Fire & Rescue, died December 18, 2003, when she suffered a heart attack at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A 20-year veteran with the department, she was also a dispatcher for Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

KANSAS

Gary D. Boyert, 53, career captain, Kansas City Fire Department, died November 17, 2003, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a call. He served with the department for 29 years.



When I think of Gary, all I see is a smile. He was always smiling and laughing. Gary knew life was precious, and he did his best to live his life to the fullest.

KENTUCKY



Randy Gene Utley, 30, firefighter, Grayson Volunteer Fire Department, died June 16, 2003, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while responding to an emergency call. He had served with the department for two years and was also a part-time

EMT with Carter County Ambulance Service. A past Rookie of the Year, he was posthumously named 2003 Firefighter of the Year. Utley was a heating technician/inspector, carpenter and farmer. He coached his son's soccer team and spent most of his free time with his son, hunting and fishing.

You just couldn't be down and depressed when he was around. He was always so full of life.

LOUISIANA



Shane Scott Brown, 25, career firefighter, DeSoto Fire District #8, Mansfield, died December 24, 2003, when his vehicle was struck by a train as he responded to an EMS call. Brown became a junior volunteer firefighter at age 16, was hired as a

career firefighter in 1997, and later became the department's only paramedic. On his days off, he worked for the ambulance service. He also worked part-time at the local hospital and sometimes filled in at 911. He ran over 1800 calls in his six years as a career firefighter.

His heart went out to those who were hurting. Just to watch him work was to watch an artist who loved what he did.

Wayne Dillon, 40, volunteer captain, Washington Parish Fire District #9, died December 3, 2003, when a tanker overturned as he participated in a driver training exercise. He was a steelworker and had served with the department for two years.

If you asked him for anything, he already had it done. He never complained.

Faron Haas O'Quin, 46, deputy chief, Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department, St. Landry, died March 15, 2003, when he was struck by a vehicle while working at the scene of a tanker truck crash. A founding member of the department, he was an active firefighter for 15 years. O'Quin was employed by Alexandria Coca-Cola, where he consistently achieved "Employee of the Month" status. A granite memorial was erected at the scene of the accident, and the fire department dedicated a new truck in his memory.



Faron was the heart of his family, friends, and his fire department. His memory lives on.

Glyn Allen Taylor, 43, firefighter, Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Department, died December 29, 2003, when he was struck by a vehicle during fire department training. He served with the department for three years and received several awards for safe driving. A man of many talents and interests, he completed aircraft electrician school and truck driving school, was a certified locksmith and worked as a hotel manager. Taylor was a devoted Christian who loved his family, friends, and three dogs.



Glyn was always trying to make things better. His smile could make tears go away.

MAINE

Harding O. Wentzell, 81, volunteer fire police captain, Mexico Fire Department, died May 5, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to a fire call. A 23-year veteran with the department, he also served with the local paper mill fire brigade. His son is chief of the Mexico department. In 2003, Wentzell received the George Downes Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award. He was active with youth fellowship at his church, where he served as a deacon. Formerly active in scouting, he served as a scoutmaster and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He served in the U.S. Army in England, Germany, and France during World War II.



He was a devoted and loving husband and the best father that anyone could ever hope for. He gave of himself freely to anyone who needed him. His smile was contagious!

MARYLAND

Thomas Frank Brown, 55, career fire specialist, Baltimore County Fire Department, died December 18, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to several calls. A 28-year veteran with the department, he was assigned to Station 6-C in Dundalk.

Tom was a father figure to many of the younger firefighters in the department. He was well known in the community and well liked by his coworkers.



Nadar Ali Hammett, 29, career ERT, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, died December 1, 2003, when his car was struck by another vehicle as he returned home from a required paramedic class. He served with the department for three years

and was assigned to the Berwyn Heights fire station. He was attending paramedic school at the Washington Hospital Center and expected to graduate in January 2004.

"Nadar" means rare and unique, and he was such a wonderful young man. His spirit will always stay with his family and friends.



Dougie Thomas, 41, assistant chief, Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department, died July 9, 2003, from complications of spinal and neck injuries suffered in a fire truck accident while responding to a fire call in September 2001. A

lifetime member of the department, he had served 25 years, including many years as an officer and several as chief. He was always one of the top responders in the department and considered his full-time job "what he did between fire calls." Thomas was known within the department as a teacher with high standards who believed people could achieve and pushed them to do so. He enjoyed hunting when his schedule allowed.

Being a firefighter wasn't something that Dougie did. It was who he was.

MASSACHUSETTS

Barry Michael Bennett, 49, career captain, Cambridge Fire Department, died November 2, 2003, from complications of a liver transplant. He contracted Hepatitis-C in 1987 from a needle stick on an EMS call. He served with the department for 18 years before his injury and was posthumously promoted to captain. A Vietnam veteran, he held a bachelor's degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology and worked a second job as an electronics engineer. Bennett enjoyed playing jokes at the firehouse, throwing elaborate holiday parties for family and friends, and spending time in the woods and the Quabbin Reservoir.



Barry would want us to forget the sadness of his fate and embrace life as he did—with a good joke, unwavering hope, and perseverance in the face of adversity or hardship.

Martin H. "Marty" McNamara V, 31, paid on-call firefighter, Lancaster Fire Department, died November 29, 2003, when he became trapped in the basement of a farmhouse after an explosion occurred during a structure fire. He had been with the department for three years and was taking night and weekend classes at the state fire academy in pursuit of his longtime dream of becoming a full-time paid firefighter. McNamara worked as a drill-rig operator. He was the captain and shortstop of the Clinton Gaels baseball team.



There is a saying around here: "It's not a party without Marty." His zest for life and fun-loving way were unparalleled. You always knew when Marty was in the room.



MASSACHUSETTS (CONT.)

Wayne W. Mickle, 48, state firefighter/forest fire patrolman, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forest Fire Control, died August 15, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after fighting a Montana wildfire. A 27-year veteran with the state, he was assigned to Pittsfield State Forest and worked as part of a Massachusetts wildfire crew that had been dispatched to help fight the Boles Meadow Fire. As fire prevention officer in his district, Mickle conducted educational programs at schools, parks, and the Special Olympics and often acted as Smokey Bear. He enjoyed bowling, hunting, and fishing, and played in several softball leagues.

He loved his job.

MINNESOTA



Don J. Billig, 49, volunteer assistant chief, St. Cloud Fire Department, died October 27, 2003, when he was struck by a vehicle after responding to a fire call at a roadside construction site. An 18-year veteran with the department, he was employed by the VA Medical

Center in St. Cloud for over 27 years and was a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 622. His son is also a St. Cloud firefighter. Billig enjoyed trips to the Boundary Waters canoe area, annual fishing trips with his best friends, and boating and tubing with his family.

His love for everyone was so deep. When he saw the grandkids, his whole face would light up.

MISSOURI



Dennis G. Mignerone, 50, career captain, Webster Groves Fire Department, died January 21, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack while doing department-prescribed exercise at the station. A 26-year veteran, he served as Chief Medical Officer in

charge of the ambulance service. One of his last duties was ordering a new ambulance, which has

been dedicated in his memory. As the athletic director at St. Simon Catholic Church, Mignerone started an annual basketball tournament and received awards for his involvement. He enjoyed coaching his daughters in soccer, volleyball, softball, and basketball and water skiing with his family at the lake.

Dennis devoted his life to his family. We love him lots, miss him even more, and will never forget him.

Michael L. Stanley, 52, volunteer firefighter, Salisbury Fire Department, died March 15, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a grass fire. He served with the department for nine years and worked as a Park Supervisor for the City of Salisbury, where he lived his entire life. Stanley served with the U.S. Army, 5th Infantry, in Vietnam. He loved the outdoors and spent many hours doing yard work and tinkering with stuff in his shed.

Mike took pride in everything he did and had in life. His biggest pride by far was his family.



NEBRASKA

Ronald L. Holmes, 43, career firefighter/EMT, North Platte Fire Department, died August 6, 2003, when a tractor-trailer struck the ambulance he was driving as he transported a patient to the hospital. An 18-year veteran with the department, he served on the retirement, bargaining, hazardous materials, and truck committees. He was active with the union and collected money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association each year. Holmes served in the U.S. Navy from 1978-1982. He enjoyed Nebraska football, NASCAR, reading, and watching educational programs.

Ron leaves behind a strong and independent family because of his strength, encouragement, and love.



NEW JERSEY



Ronald W. Fitzpatrick, 68, volunteer firefighter/training officer, Long Branch Fire Department, died December 6, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack while fighting a structure fire. He retired from the Newark Fire Department after 27 years, including 16 years as captain of Truck 3. He was a 2nd lieutenant with the U.S. Army ROTC, held a bachelor's degree in accounting, and worked for the IRS before fulfilling a lifelong dream to become a firefighter. Fitzgerald was a senior instructor with the Monmouth County Fire Academy for 32 years. His two sons are also firefighters.

His dedication to the fire service and his love for the profession will be his legacy and continue on in all the firefighters whose lives he has touched.



George Petrosky, 78, volunteer fire police officer, Matawan Fire Department, died November 9, 2003, from complications of a head injury sustained in September 2003, when he collapsed while directing traffic at an accident scene. A 50-year veteran and lifetime member of Midway Hose Fire Company #2, he held many offices and served three years as chief. Petrosky served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Good Conduct Medal, and European, African, and Middle Eastern Service Medals. He worked for the maintenance departments of the Woodbridge State School and Marlboro State Hospital before retiring in 1981.

He was quiet and kind and modeled the values of honesty, fidelity, responsibility, caring, fairness, and respect.



Woodrow W. Pinkerton, 63, volunteer fire police captain, Union Fire Company, Medford, died April 19, 2003, from injuries sustained when he was struck by a car while working at the scene of a motor vehicle accident in February 2003. He was a

20-year member and past vice president of the

department. Pinkerton worked for Kings Grant Association as an Open Space Manager. He was a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. An avid sports fan, he enjoyed hunting and fishing in LBI.

Woody was a fun-loving jokester who was always there to help out someone in need.

Roy E. Prouty, 39, chief, Country Lakes Volunteer Fire Company, Browns Mills, died October 30, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack while assisting with helicopter evacuation of an accident victim. An eight-year member of the department, he became chief in 1998. As chief, he helped increase fire department membership from five firefighters to over 50 firefighters. He also began EMS 183, a sub-unit of the fire company, and designed the company's Web site. Prouty worked for the Department of Defense as a Logistics Team Leader at NAVAIR Lakehurst. He served in the U.S. Navy for 12 years and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. He organized the "Rescue Rangers" softball team.

Roy was the backbone of the company, putting the needs of his family first and leading by example.



NEW MEXICO

Ralph Dawdy, 46, assistant chief, Animas Volunteer Fire & Rescue, died June 26, 2003, when the tanker he was driving overturned as he responded to a wildland fire. He was chief of the Cotton City Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years and served with Animas for eight years. A Search and Rescue Area Commander, he was responsible for leading searches in all areas of the state. Dawdy held a bachelor's degree in animal science from New Mexico State University and had worked for Cotton City Pig and for Americulture, Inc. He was president of the Hidalgo County Farm Bureau and enjoyed camping, hiking, horseback riding, and high school sports.

His passing is a tremendous loss for all those who knew him.

NEW YORK



Thomas Christopher Brick, 30, career firefighter, Fire Department of New York, died December 16, 2003, from burns and smoke inhalation suffered while conducting search and rescue operations at a warehouse fire. He was a member of FDNY's first

post-September 11th class, and served with Ladder 36. In June 2003, Brick was awarded the Thomas Elsasser Medal for bravery. He was a graduate of Nassau Community College and studied hotel service at the New York Institute of Technology. A memorial fund has been established in his name to provide an endowed scholarship at Holy Cross High School in Flushing.

Tommy was as enthusiastic about life as he was about being a firefighter. He was a devoted and loving father, a dear friend, a cherished son, a loyal brother, and a special uncle.



Stephen G. Gavin, 52, volunteer lieutenant, Susquehanna Hose Company #1 of the Owego Fire Department, died September 2, 2003, after suffering a heart attack six days earlier while fighting a lumber mill fire. A 34-year veteran with the

department and a second-generation firefighter, he was an active member of several Firematic Hose Teams. In 2002, he and his three sons received a "Firefighter of the Year" award for their dedication to the department. Gavin also coached Little League, football, and basketball.

Stephen was a humble man who wanted no recognition or thanks for his efforts. He loved life, and his love for his family was immeasurable.

James J. O'Shea, 40, career firefighter, Fire Department of New York, died September 27, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at home after fighting an arson structure fire. A second-generation firefighter and 18-year veteran with the department, he was assigned to Ladder 127 in Queens. O'Shea was the first FDNY firefighter to die in the line of duty after September 11, 2001. He was also a longtime volunteer firefighter and had served with the Brentwood, East Brentwood,

and Lakeland departments on Long Island. A former International Fireman of the Year, he won Firehouse Magazine's 1986 Heroism Award for rescuing two boys from a fire. He read Shakespeare, enjoyed American history, and could sing all of the songs from the Disney classics.

If asked, Jimmy would have said that the greatest accomplishments of his life were his two sons.

George O. Wohl, Jr., 59, volunteer firefighter, Congers Fire Department, died December 13, 2003, from injuries sustained when he fell from a ladder while responding from his home to a fire call. A 34-year veteran, he had previously served as the department's vice president.

His two sons are members of the department, his father is a former member, and his brother is a fire commissioner. Wohl worked as an electrician with Local 363. He was an amateur historian, a railroad buff, and an avid postcard collector.



George was always there for his family and friends and will be missed by all who love him.

Lawrence J. "Larry" Yonkin, 56, volunteer chief, Forest View-Gang Mills Fire Department, Painted Post, died November 15, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after fighting a structure fire the previous day. Yonkin came from a family of firefighters and served as a firefighter for nearly 40 years. Recently retired from Corning, Inc., he had been Supervisor of Emergency Response for the corporation's science research park. He was also working to upgrade town fire codes and policies. An EMS instructor, he had recently been appointed as an instructor for the New York State Fire Academy.

He had a passion for education and firefighting. That passion is part of the legacy he leaves to us, his survivors.

NORTH CAROLINA

Terry W. Carroll, 51, volunteer firefighter, Coats-Grove Fire & Rescue, Inc., died January 7, 2003, after suffering a heart attack 11 days earlier while responding to an EMS call. He worked as a truck driver and had served with the department for six years.

He was very dedicated to the community.



Wayne Copeland, 50, career captain, Charlotte Fire Department, died January 25, 2003, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a live burn training. He was a 23-year veteran with the department. Copeland was an Eagle Scout and an active scoutmaster

and merit badge counselor. An avid wildlife advocate and conservationist, he climbed Mt. Rainier in 1981 and enjoyed taking his daughter rock climbing, camping, fishing, and hunting.

He touched so many people's hearts.

Mark T. Franklin, 46, career engineer, Charlotte Fire Department, died November 30, 2003, from complications of surgery to repair a knee injury suffered in the line of duty in April 2003. A 21-year veteran with the department, he was assigned to Engine 2 and had previously served at Station 10. He held a degree in Physical Education from Catawba College.



Randy Neal Jones, 23, volunteer lieutenant, Cool Springs Fire Department, Statesville, died July 28, 2003, in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a structure fire. He joined the Explorer Post at age 14, became a senior trainer at age 18, and was named

Squadman of the Year in 2000 and 2003. He helped start the department's medical response program and personally responded to 90% of calls. Jones was also a captain with Iredell County Rescue Squad. He received a commendation from Wilson Security for his assistance at a 1998 car fire. He was a frequent blood donor and an organ donor. A scholarship program and an annual award have been established in his memory.

I don't think he ever met a stranger. He was always helping someone.



Mark A. Morgan, 41, state ranger/firefighter, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, died April 28, 2003, when he collapsed after participating in a pack test required for eligibility to fight wildfires. A 12-year veteran with the

forest service, he worked as a forest ranger at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest, with primary responsibilities in education and prevention, and was part of a wildland fire crew. An avid outdoorsman and naturalist, Morgan especially enjoyed spending time in the western North Carolina mountains. He was a Christian.

Mark was respected and loved by everyone who knew him.

Gerald Hayswood "Chief"

Williams, 60, volunteer firefighter, Cool Springs Fire Department, Statesville, died September 30, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after participating in a training the previous evening. A 12-year veteran, he was a father figure within the department. His fellow firefighters gave him the nickname "Chief" because of his Cherokee heritage. Williams worked for Dana Corporation for 25 years and attended Union Chapel Baptist Church. He never missed an opportunity to see his grandchildren play soccer, even if it meant traveling out of state.



Gerald, thank you for loving us so, for serving your fellow man, and for being a friend. We miss your smile!

OTTO

Oscar Armstrong, III, 25, career firefighter, Cincinnati Fire Department, died March 21, 2003, when he was caught in a flashover while fighting a residential structure fire. He served with the department for three years and was assigned to Engine Company 9 in North Avondale. He was a member of the Cincinnati African American Firefighters Association and Local #48. His interest in firefighting began when he helped rescue a fellow student from a dorm fire at Wright State University. Armstrong had worked with children with autism and behavioral disorders and in substance abuse prevention. He was an avid photographer who enjoyed reading and home improvement projects.

Ozzie's life was distinguished because of his dedication to family and friends and his passion for helping others.

OHIO (CONT.)



John August Garman, 42, volunteer firefighter, New Bremen-German Township Fire Department, died October 1, 2003, when an explosion occurred at a silo fire. Another firefighter also died in this incident. A 10-year veteran with the department,

Garman followed in the footsteps of his brother and father to become a firefighter. He coordinated the department's fire prevention programs and spent many hours cleaning, doing odd jobs at the station, and enjoying the camaraderie with his fellow firefighters. He was employed at Crown Equipment in New Bremen. His 16 nieces and nephews were his greatest pride, joy, and love.

His laughter at family gatherings cannot be replaced, but will not be forgotten. John was a man of great faith whose love and belief showed in his daily life.



Kenneth J. Jutte, 44, volunteer firefighter, New Bremen-German Township Fire Department, died October 1, 2003, when an explosion occurred at a silo fire. A 19-year veteran with the department, he served five years as an officer and was

involved with the Rope Rescue and Hazmat Teams. He also served on the Rescue Squad when there were not enough volunteers. Jutte volunteered at Holy Redeemer Church as a Eucharistic minister and member of the church council. He coached youth soccer, softball, and baseball teams for many years.

Ken was a wonderful man who lived life to the fullest. He wanted to do it all and always gave 100%.



Richard A. Long, 56, volunteer firefighter, Gallipolis Fire Department, died April 3, 2003, when the pumper he was driving left the roadway and overturned as he responded to a brush fire. A 32-year veteran with the department, he retired from M&G

Polymers and had also worked for Goodyear and Shell. Long was a Vietnam veteran. He was a

member of the Loyal Order of the Moose #731 in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and enjoyed hunting and golfing.

Richard was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and spirited firefighter.

OREGON

Richard W. Black, 57, pilot, Weyerhaeuser, Eugene Helicopter Operation, died October 14, 2003, when his helicopter crashed while scouting water holes for future forest fire suppression. A member of the Oregon Department of Forestry also died in this incident. A long-time pilot with over 15,000 hours of flight time, Black had flown for the company for 19 years. He received an award from the Oregon Department of Forestry for discovering and initiating attack action on the Orchard Road Fire. A Vietnam veteran, he served as a helicopter pilot for six years in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He enjoyed tennis, skiing, rafting, biking, and cooking.



Dick's love for flying was only surpassed by his love of family, friends, and life itself. His presence brought joy to all who knew him.

Larry A. Brown, 53, career captain, Kingsley Field Fire Department, Klamath Falls, died February 21, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after performing duties at the fire station. A 24-year veteran with the department, he was named Firefighter of the Year in 1987 and promoted to captain in 1990. He previously worked at Hanna Nickel Mine and as a tree faller for Putnam and International Paper. Brown served in the U.S. Army from 1969-71. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the NRA. He loved hunting and fishing with his family in eastern Oregon.

Larry was well-liked by everyone. He believed everyone needed to have integrity, be trustworthy, and do the right things.



Paul E. Gibson, 24, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a van accident while returning home from fighting the South Fork Fire in Idaho. Eight First Strike firefighters died in this incident.

Gibson helped with NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia recovery mission. When not fighting fires, he worked in local mills. He enjoyed working on his house and spending times outdoors.



David Kelly Hammer, 38, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident.

Hammer had struggled to find his way in life, but seemed to have found his place as a firefighter. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Kelly is remembered as a good friend by many. He will truly be missed by his two sisters and all of his friends.

Randall Harmon, 44, pilot, Superior Helicopter, LLC, Grants Pass, Bureau of Indian Affairs contractor, died July 25, 2003, when his helicopter crashed as he dropped water on a fire in northeast Washington. A pilot for over 20 years, he had worked with Superior Helicopters for seven years. Harmon had over 9,500 hours of flight time and flew jobs including local high-line logging, dam building in New Guinea, oil exploration in South America, and spotting for a tuna fleet in Mexico. He enjoyed riding horses, tinkering with classic cars, lifting weights, and woodworking. He designed his family's modified A-frame home.

He loved to fly. He was the family's pillar.



Jeffrey D. Hengel, 20, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident. A passionate cook, he graduated from Western Culinary Institute in Portland

in 2002 and completed an externship at Arnaud's, a five-star restaurant in New Orleans. Hengel was working his second summer as a firefighter, saving his money for an upcoming trip to France. He had signed up to go to Antarctica in October 2003 to cook for the scientists there for a year. He enjoyed the outdoors, metal detecting, fishing, and eating pizza.

He was very giving of himself and loved to see others happy. He had definitely made the world a better place.

Jesse D. James, 22, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident. He was hired by First Strike in 2001 and assisted with NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia recovery mission. James enjoyed the outdoors—camping, fishing, and skateboarding. He was teaching himself to play guitar. The light of his life was his three-year-old son.

Jesse was a loving father, son, and grandson. We will all truly miss him in our lives.

Thomas Howard Kistler, 53, volunteer captain, Polk County Fire District #1, died March 19, 2003, when a fire engine crashed en route to a hazardous materials drill. A 25-year veteran with the department, he received numerous awards over the years, including Firefighter of the Year, Medic of the Year, and Night Owl, for the most responses during night hours. Kistler was a U.S. Navy veteran who served in Vietnam and a 30-year member of the Oregon National Guard. His love of the water led him to establish a fire department water rescue team. In addition to life as a "professional volunteer," he worked transporting handicapped and elderly people.

He found his passion, working with and serving people in all areas of his life. He was dedicated to anything in which he was involved.



OREGON (CONT.)



D. Craig Mackey, 53, state forest unit supervisor, Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District, died October 14, 2003, when a helicopter crashed while scouting water holes for future forest fire suppression. A 29-year veteran with the department, he held

the position of Air Attack, was qualified as Air Operations Branch Director, and was a fire investigator. As Training and Prevention Officer for the district, he was responsible for training hundreds of structural and wildland firefighters and state and federal employees. He was a skilled craftsman who enjoyed the outdoors, working on the family tree farm, motorcycles, baseball, and music.

Craig will always be remembered as a devoted family man. His work ethic, sense of humor, and his wonderful engaging smile will live on forever.



Richard Burt "Richie" Moore, II, 21, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident. A 2000 high school graduate, it was his second summer working for First

Strike. Impressed by how much people in the local communities appreciated the fire crews, Moore planned on a career in the fire service. He participated in NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia recovery mission. He enjoyed building and fixing things, riding dirt bikes, collecting baseball cards, and playing several musical instruments. A car enthusiast, he bought, financed, and rebuilt a '69 Ford Mustang.

From the first time we held our tiny, blue-eyed baby boy, he began to brighten our lives. He gave us 21 years of joy, pride, laughter, and love. Everywhere he went, he made friends.



Leland "David" Price, Jr., 26, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident. He was working his second summer as a contract firefighter. He

dreamed of working in Alaska on a fishing boat or as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. Price

enjoyed dirt bikes, remote-control aviation, and mechanics. He was known for his ability to "talk your ear off" and as a lover of the outdoors who couldn't stand to be inside during the day.

David left his mark on each and every person that he ever met. If he could help in any way, he was right there doing it.

Mark Robert Ramsdell, 23, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident. Hired by First Strike in 2001, he had recently been assigned as a squad leader. Ramsdell assisted with NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia recovery mission. He enjoyed skateboarding, snowboarding, bicycling, rock climbing, and music.



Mark was a very energetic kid who liked to be outside working and playing. Every time he came home he had stories to tell.

Ricardo M. Ruiz, 19, firefighter, First Strike Environmental, Roseburg, Oregon Department of Forestry contractor, died August 24, 2003, in a multiple-fatality van accident. A 2002 high school graduate, he made special arrangements to complete graduation requirements early so he could begin work before the end of the school year. Ruiz had just gotten his first driver's license and was working on his red Honda CRX. He enjoyed swimming, fishing, rappelling, and camping near the Umpqua River.



Ricky found his perfect job. It was interesting, it was outdoors, and it was dangerous.

PENNSYLVANIA

James P. Allen, 43, career firefighter, Philadelphia Fire Department, died October 7, 2003, after he collapsed while doing roof ventilation at a structure fire. The son of a retired Philadelphia firefighter, Allen served with the department for seven years and was assigned to Ladder Company 16. He was the company's union steward.



Thomas W. DiOrto, Sr., 70, volunteer fire police lieutenant, West Whiteland Fire Company, died November 30, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack while directing traffic at the scene of a residential fire. A 10-year veteran with the department, he began volunteering after his retirement from Conrail. DiOrto helped support his wife through several occurrences of breast cancer and always showed up when one of his grandchildren required the occasional late night ER visit. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

He dedicated his life to providing and caring for his family. We all knew we were loved and the most important thing in his life.



Keith Robert Hess, 22, career firefighter/EMT, Fannett-Metal Fire & Ambulance Company, died January 20, 2003, when he was trapped after a chimney collapsed at a structure fire. From a firefighting family, he served with the department for three years.

Hess also volunteered with West End Fire & Rescue Company, where he was a lieutenant and was named Rookie of the Year and Firefighter of the Year. He enjoyed hunting, riding his 4-wheeler, driving his restored 1984 Dodge Ram pickup, and spending time with family. A memorial fund established in his name provides scholarships and contributes to the Child's Dream Weekend, a charity he supported.

We are so proud of the person Keith had become. His passion and spirit will live forever.



James William McAuley, 78, fire police officer, Polk Township Volunteer Fire Company, died January 17, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after directing traffic at the scene of a car fire. A firefighter for 57 years, he served for 12 years with Polk

Township. He was a life member of Capital View Fire Company in Morrisville and the Bucks County Fire Police and a member of the Polk Township and Towamensing Fire Companies. His son also served as a firefighter for 25 years. McAuley retired from the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission in 1989. He was a

member of Penn Morris Lodge #778 and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

He was real good guy—one of a kind. He was very concerned about everyone's welfare and never complained about anything.

William F. Ramsey, 42, firefighter, Connellsville Township Volunteer Fire Department, died September 9, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after returning from a fire call. He served with the department for four years and was its financial secretary. He also acted as a liaison between the department and the local businesses and community and was a member of the Fayette County Hazmat Team. Ramsey owned the local Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant and was an active member of numerous fraternal organizations. A scholarship has been established in his name to help graduating high school seniors who plan a career in emergency services or nursing.



Although Bill is no longer with us, his memory and the lessons he taught us will remain with us forever.

Donald Schreckengast, 55, volunteer fire police officer, Logan Fire Company, Bellefonte, died June 14, 2003, after he collapsed while directing traffic at a parade. A 25-year veteran with the department, he was also a member of Citizens Hook and Ladder Company in Milesburg and a member of the Central District Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Isaac D. Tshudy, 62, volunteer fire police, Lickdale Community Fire Company, Jonestown, died March 30, 2003, after he collapsed while directing traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A ten-year veteran with the department, he was president of the local firemen's relief association. He worked as a township zoning officer and had served in the military. Tshudy was an accomplished furniture maker and built pews for the restoration of Monroe Valley Chapel, using an original pew as a pattern. He sang bass in his church choir.

He was a very outgoing person and a pleasure to be around. He would do anything for you.

**Remembrances (cont.)**

William A. Whelan, III, volunteer fire police officer, Newton Fire Department, died when he suffered a heart attack while responding to the scene of an earlier accident. He worked with the U.S. Air Force for four years and retired after 38 years as a pilot at Langley Air Force Base. Prior with the fire department for only six months, he helped with fundraising and had received in every issue of his home as he wouldn't miss a call.

He was a friend to everybody through kind, warm, understanding, and committed.

New Firefighters

Matthew G. Hammon, III, volunteer firefighter, Newton Fire Department, died July 11, 2013, from injuries sustained the previous day when a house ceiling exploded as he gave a demonstration on ceiling work to other firefighters. Hammon worked as a volunteer for a few supply firms. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and woodworking and was always busy with projects around the house. He celebrated his 10th birthday with a huge party and had purchased a dress, not picking much for even the outfit.

He had maturity and fully knows all else. He was a friend to everyone he met.

Fireman

James Lee Ellis, Jr., 29, volunteer firefighter, Newton Fire Department, died May 28, 2013, from injuries sustained when he fell from the back of a pickup truck a week earlier after training at the state fire academy. He had joined with the department for

five years and had fully attended meetings and completed over the most number of equipment maintenance without complaint. Ellis worked fulltime for the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, where he had served as corrections, communications, patrol, EMT, and as a Training Officer Supervisor.

James attended senior and middle school with me. He had this unique sense way of being very special to everyone he met, and he made this world a better place for us all.

Samuel Lee Gagne, III, career private,

Bedford County Fire Department, died July 21, 2013, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after responding to a call earlier in the day. A 23-year veteran with the department, he received numerous awards awards during his tenure and played an active role in many more. The wheel would have been his 11th birthday, a pump was dedicated in his memory at Station 24, when he started his employment as a firefighter. Gagne's career also presented a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his service. Gagne was a faithful contributor to United Way Christmas.



Sam was a dedicated friend to his fellow firefighters, a beloved father and uncle to his wife.

Tom K. Kirk, III, career lieutenant, Memphis

Fire Department, died June 14, 2013, from injuries sustained when a roof collapsed as firefighters searched for occupants in an urban town fire. Another firefighter also died in this incident. An 11-year veteran with the Department, Kirk earned the Medal of Honor in 1999 for entering in the rescue of a child from a burning home. He spent many hours studying firefighting procedures to ensure the crew would be safe, and many injuries sustained as he adhered the rule of Drive under his leadership. Kirk and his wife created a home-based business called Kirk's Designs, which was now "Kirk's Home Store" credit for their business (Kirk and) "Kirk's Home Store."

Most importantly Tom was a loving, caring, and devoted husband and a fun-loving, happy, go-with-it, Christian father who led by example for his two daughters.



Charles A. Zachary, 39, career prison, Memphis Fire Department, died June 14, 2013, from injuries sustained the previous day when a roof collapsed during an alarm drill. He, a 21-year veteran with the department, he followed in the footsteps of his father, who retired

from the department as a lieutenant. Known as a proponent of the firehouse, Zachary enjoyed playing golf and baseball, fishing, and hunting on his own off. He graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp and served in the Tennessee National Guard.

Charles will be missed and remembered by his friends and family and forever in all of our hearts.

Fires



Wayne Kevin Charles, 66, firefighter, Dallas Fire-Rescue, died February 12, 2014, after collapsing during a physical training exercise. A new recruit, his acceptance into the department was a major step toward his dream of becoming a paramedic. A native of Trinidad,

West Indies, he came to the U.S. with his parents and brothers in 1977. Charles entered as a staff engineer after serving 20 years with the U.S. Air Force, where he was stationed in Japan, Korea, and several U.S. states. After his retirement, he worked until medical issues in Oklahoma and later for the Texas Department of Human Services.

He was both a joy to be around. Many people told us of all the things he did and what a wonderful person he was.

Charles Fleming, 61, 43, volunteer chief, Fort Casey Volunteer Fire Department, died December 26, 2013, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on November 2013. A 26-year veteran with the department, he held every position during his tenure. He had a special interest in helping the younger volunteers and encouraging them to further their education in the fire service. He was the first one to donate money to its web homepage and website for money to help pay for his classes. A NREMT fire, Fleming had the honor of working on the first rescue squad at the inaugural race in Fort Worth.

Charles' dedication to the fire department was well beyond the ordinary.

Ronald A. "Bucky" Combsen, 47, career district chief, Beaumont Fire Department, died November 1, 2013, after suffering a heart attack nearly two weeks earlier following exposure to several calls. A 27-year veteran with the department, he brother and nephew followed in his footsteps in Beaumont firefighters. His recognition has been all golf and the other he played on education, an annual golf tournament has been established in memory of Combsen to fund educational scholarships. He also enjoyed hunting and was very active in his church.

During others enjoyed something Buck did not as a wife. It was truly his way of life. He will always be missed and will never be forgotten.

Charles G. Krenzel, 68, career prison operator, Texas Forest Service, Lubbock, died March 27, 2014, when a USDA Forest Service helicopter crashed while searching for debris as part of NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia recovery mission. A 20-year veteran with the Texas Forest Service, his duties included wildfire firefighting. Krenzel received Distinguished Service Award in 1988 and 1989 and a Best Management Team Award in 1998. He was known as an ambassador for working with external agencies and the public. Krenzel was a key member and worked with youth groups at the Fire Assembly of God Family Church in Lubbock.

This guy was a great man in every way that you could describe him. The community loved about other people.

Charles "Larry" Mathew, 36, volunteer, Lubbock Firemen's Volunteer Fire Department, Beaumont, died March 18, 2013, when he was struck by an 18-wheeler as he crossed the highway to reach the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A 2000 graduate of Beaumont High School, he attended Lamar University for a short time before joining the fire department. A generous, hard-working person, Mathew was willing to bring Christmas lights, help with building projects, run fundraisers anything to help someone. He was in and volunteer.

There has I met someone as generous. He was as proud as he a part of the department. I think he showed that badge in everyone he met.



TRIP 2000-2



Stephen L. McGee, 62, Southgate, Rural Volunteer Fire Department, died March 9, 2003, after he collapsed while lighting a field fire with the department on his own property. He began volunteering in 2000 after arriving in Dallas as President of Child Incubators in Dallas and meeting in the small community of Rural. McGee was active in the Dallas chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which awarded him the President's Gold Medal for outstanding service. In Dallas, he helped build a playground for the local homeless school and got up Christmas lights in the neighborhood each year. He was active in the Club Golf Links Club.

Steve brought joy to his family, friends, and colleagues with his outgoing and joyful nature, and giving heart. He was the ultimate rock when others all would depend.



Gary Lee "Dewey" Wadley, 53, Southgate, Rural Volunteer Fire Department, died January 29, 2003, after an explosion occurred during a fire in an auto showroom, after he had trained several other Southgate men at the building. Wadley graduated from the Cleveland Fire Academy in 1980 and was named Rookie of the Year. He worked as an accountant for Hamilton Franchises Company. In the morning and on his days off, he could often be found at the fire station. A memorial scholarship fund was established, and there are currently five people attending the fire academy on Gary Wadley Scholarships.

Gary decided that he was going to be a firefighter and it became his greatest passion. He died saving the community he loved and will always be remembered for his service and sacrifice.

James E. Taylor, 28, Southgate (Southgate 1997, Southgate Fire Department, died January 29, 2003, when the ambulance in which he was riding was struck head-on while responding to a motor vehicle accident. Prior to the Southgate department, he was a former recruit with the Missouri Fire Department, where he had volunteered since high school. He was instrumental in helping the Missouri department apply for a federal grant to pay for additional firefighting gear. Taylor also worked as a part-time EMT with Lamar County EMS. He helped coordinate the Black Wrench program for students at Peachland High School, his alma mater, and was involved every year with the Black Child Safety program.

He was as devoted to the wife and children. He used every opportunity to improve the lives for all of us.



VERMONT

Bruce Hunsberger Young, 63, Southgate (Southgate Middlebury Fire Department, died March 9, 2003, after he collapsed as he was leaving the station to respond to a call. A 27-year veteran with the department, he also served nine years with the Middlebury Rescue Squad. Every Saturday morning, he went to the firehouse to work and polish the fireline truck. A lifelong member of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Vermont and a member of the Mary Power Scholarship Committee, Young enjoyed traveling, hunting, fishing, skiing, tennis, and theater.

His smile is up in the sky, and his presence filled a room.





Westchester



Richard J. Tibbels, 65, volunteer firefighter/pumper/driver, Clark County Fire District #11, died November 15, 2005, when he suffered a heart attack during required physical training at the station. He served with Clark County Fire Districts #3, 11, and 12 over a

period of 37 years and had also worked as a paramedic for American Medical Response, South County EMS, Back Medical Services, and American Ambulance. He was an American Fluorine Technician in the U.S. Navy from 1967-1995. Tibbels was active in the LEO church, where he participated in the training program and young men's leadership organizations. He enjoyed camping, hiking, fishing, and playing games with his wife and sons.

"If you were to ask him who he was, he would respond with an enthusiastic smile, 'I am a son of God!' His positive attitude was felt by all."

West Virginia

Bruce D. Loney, 45, firefighter, Eastern Volunteer Fire Department, died August 15, 2005, when he was struck by a fire truck at the station after the department returned from a call. A 20-year veteran with the department, Loney was injured at the station for a week during a convalescence as none of the other firefighters had to risk responding to a call. The two sons are also members of the department. Loney worked in a coal mine for Eastern Coal Company, Harris Division, and was a member of the United Mine Workers of America. He was a member of the Church of God for 34 years.

"Bruce was a loving and dedicated husband, dad, son, brother and true friend. He lived among the community and helping others."

West Virginia



Carl J. Mack, 66, volunteer firefighter, New Chester Fire Department, Grant County, died April 25, 2005, when he suffered a heart attack at the home of a volunteer fire. A firefighter for 45 years, he served

with the Monrovia Volunteer Fire Company for 34 years and with New Chester for eight years, including terms as president of both departments. The two sons are also volunteer firefighters. Known as "The Polish Panther," he worked for the German Company for 43 years and was a member of Panther's Local 75. After his retirement, he enjoyed gardening in his deep front yard to the hilt. He could fix almost anything, and was especially proud of the maintenance of an Polish loggia.

"To know Carl was to love him, as he always had a smile, his loved life and everyone in it."

Jeffrey Allen Tapp, 47, volunteer firefighter, Southern Fire District, died November 26, 2005, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to the scene of a motor vehicle accident. An 11-year veteran with the department,



he issued only a handful of calls during that time. His wife is also a volunteer with the department. Tapp was an active member of the Putnam County Fire Association. Thank those for those years. He spent many hours teaching his grandson CPR and how to be a firefighter.

"Jeff was the heart of the family, friends, community and fire department. He is remembered as a good friend to many people and will never be forgotten."

Edward J. Weber, 64, volunteer chief, Elk River Fire Department, died April 15, 2005, when he collapsed at the scene of the third crash for he had hearted that day. A 35-year veteran with the department,



he served as chief for ten years and lived across the street from the fire department. Weber was assistant coach for the Elk River High School varsity football team for 17 years and was an usher at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. He and his family managed Foreman's Park in Elk River Lake.

"Ed will forever be remembered to our hearts with his warm, friendly smile, smile with sense of humor, and passion for firefighting."

FIREFIGHTERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

2002

Merrill



Mark L. Edwards, 42, volunteer firefighter, Glenview Fire Department, died January 29, 2002, from complications of an injury sustained while on duty in March 2001. He joined the department after moving to the Glenview area in 1996 and spent

almost every weekend for two years completing various firefighting classes. He spent one year as assistant chief. Edwards had an exceptional love for the outdoors, hunting, and fishing.

Mark was the kind of person who didn't always show up the first or make a big impression. He was kind, caring, and helpful to everyone. Mark loved being a part of the team.

1992

Bryson



Theodore E. Walcott, 46, career firefighter, Chicago Fire Department, died May 19, 1992, from a heart attack related to stroke inhibition suffered in March 1991. A 20-year veteran with the Department, he served with Squad 6, Squad 12, and Squad 14. His two brothers were also Chicago firefighters, and his son is now a lieutenant with the Department, working in the same area in which his dad served. Walcott was known as a great cook both at home and at the firehouse and was an avid fisherman. The Clearidge Lake Lodge graciously honored him for his fundraising and coaching efforts. He was also active in scouting.

Theddy taught me life by his extraordinary example and inspiring energy. He did everything he could to make us comfortable and secure. We miss him.

2001

Johnson

Wilford B. Paul, 44, firefighter, Peoria Volunteer Fire Department, Glenview, died June 1, 2001, from injuries sustained in an accident while the department was on standby at a local apartment. A U.S. Navy veteran, he retired from the Department of Defense in 1970. Paul worked for Wood & Stone Works. He was a member of Mountain Baptist Church.







National Fallen Firefighters Foundation



Programs created by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Since 1993, the nonprofit Foundation has developed and expanded programs that help those families that sustain the greatest loss to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes and to provide resources to assist their survivors in rebuilding their lives.



ISSUING THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL VOLUNTARY BURIAL PASSPORT TO WISCONSIN

Each December, the Foundation sponsors the official national release to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. Thousands attend the national ceremony that includes special programs for survivors and contributions along with moving public awareness.

HELP SURVIVORS ATTEND THE WISCONSIN

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

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 connects survivors with similar experiences and circumstances. This contact can be an important part of their healing. Families receive newsletters and specialized grief resources. A Web site provides information on Federal, State and local survivor benefits and other resources. A survivor financial handbook will provide immediate guidance.

PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE SURVIVOR'S CHILDREN

Spouses, children and stepchildren of fallen firefighters are eligible for scholarship assistance for education and job training costs. Since 1997, survivors have received over \$250,000 in scholarship awards.

HELP INVESTIGATE DEATHS WITH LAW-ENFORCEMENT

Under a Department of Justice grant, the Foundation offers training to help fire departments handle a line of duty death. Departments receive extensive pre-mortem planning support. Immediately after a death, a Chat-to-Chat Network provides technical assistance and personal support to help a department and the survivors.

PROMOTE LAW-ENFORCEMENT AND POLICE

Building a coalition with major law and law enforcement organizations, the Foundation has launched Firearm Gun Shows, a national program to reduce firefighter deaths and injuries. The main goal is to reduce line of duty firefighter deaths by 25 percent in 7 years.

CREATE A NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

The Foundation is expanding the national memorial site in Emmettsburg, Maryland, to create the first permanent national park honoring all firefighters. The park includes a brick Wall of Honor that contains the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and the official national monument. Renovation of the historic Chapel began in 2007 and will include a temporary Visitor Center.



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Special Thanks

INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONS GENEROUSLY DONATING TIME AND SERVICES TO THE 2004 MARCHING WIRELESS

Albemarle Fire Department, Virginia

Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Maryland

ARF Airport Fire Fighters Association, IATF Local 742, Maryland

Baltimore County Fire and Rescue, Maryland

Baltimore-Washington International Airport Authority

Castle Rock Fire and Rescue, Colorado

Congressional Fire Services Institute

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Special Thanks

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Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority

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Maryland

Annapolis Volunteer Fire Department, Maryland

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Regional Office of Saint Elizabeths Ann Arundel

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Volunteer and Coordination Offices (VCO)

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Wayne Township Fire, Indiana

Congressman Carl Wulken and staff, Pennsylvania

Williamsport Fire Department, Delaware

And hundreds of others who have helped in many ways.

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