

R E M E M B E R I N G



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

OCTOBER 8TH AND 9TH, 2005
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

ALABAMA



Clinton L. Romine, 25, firefighter, Goodsprings Volunteer Fire Department, died September 16, 2004, when a tree fell on his vehicle as he was clearing debris from Hurricane Ivan. A 7-year member of the department, he served as a captain

from 2001-2002. He spent countless hours working to maintain the fire hall and fire trucks. Romine loved driving the engine in the local Christmas parade and to the local school during Fire Prevention Week. He enjoyed the outdoors—hunting, fishing, and riding 4-wheelers and horses. His family’s own “Mr. Fix-It,” he collected Zippo lighters and could challenge anyone in a Tabasco eating contest.

Clint’s life was such a blessing and an inspiration.

His adoring eyes, gentle smile, and cheerful laughter warmed the hearts of all that knew him.

Robert L. Smith, 68, volunteer firefighter, West Shelby Fire & Rescue, died March 21, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while working at the scene of a brush fire. A founding member of the department, he had been an active firefighter for 21 years. Smith retired from Stockham Valve and Fitting, after 31 years as a machinist. He was a member and an ordained deacon at Calvary Hill Baptist Church in Montevallo.

Robert had four main things that he loved in his life: God, his family, farming, and helping others.

ARIZONA



Gary Archibeque, 39, volunteer firefighter, Show Low Fire Department, died June 19, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while working with a department-sponsored program to prevent forest fires in the community. He served with the department for two

years, fulfilling a lifelong dream to be a firefighter. He helped teach fire safety classes and worked as a transportation manager at Foxworth-Galbraith. Archibeque had been an accomplished high school athlete, playing football, and basketball and running track. He loved to fish and hunt.

My dad was a lovable, friendly, smart person. He was caring and considerate and loved to help.

ARKANSAS

James Harold Pennington, 63, chief, Unity-Frost Prairie Volunteer Fire Department, died March 28, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to a grass fire. A charter member of the department, he served as chief from 1984 until his death. He helped organize several other volunteer fire departments and was a charter member and Board member with the Crossett Rescue Unit, Arkansas Search and Rescue Association, Georgia-Pacific Paper Mill Rescue Team and Fire Brigade, and the Local Emergency Planning Commission. Pennington was a certified fire services trainer. Retired in 2004 from Georgia-Pacific, he was active in his church and several community organizations.



Harold was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a very proud and loving grandfather.

CALIFORNIA

Mario F. Cunha, 32, volunteer firefighter, City of Soledad Fire Department, died March 13, 2004, when he was struck by a vehicle while assisting at the scene of a car fire. He had been with the department for two years. Cunha worked as a driver for Foster Farms Milk and planned to become a full-time paid firefighter.

Mario was full of life and a joy to be around. He was extremely funny and positive. He always wore a huge grinning smile.





Daniel E. Elkins, 47, career captain, Los Angeles County Fire Department, died July 13, 2004, in a motor vehicle accident as he returned from an overnight shift fighting wildfires. A 20-year veteran, he was regarded as a leader in the department and his

community. Elkins was an elder in his church, crafted much of his family's furniture himself, and wrote and played songs for his wife and other family members. He enjoyed cycling, woodworking, reading, snowboarding, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Dan was so good about putting God and his family first. He was a faithful husband, father, and friend.



Jaime L. Foster, 25, career firefighter/paramedic, Los Angeles Fire Department, died August 14, 2004, when she was struck by a fire truck at the scene of a structure fire. She had been with the department for three months, fulfilling a lifelong dream. She

graduated in the top 5% of her recruit class and was assigned to Station 73 in Reseda. Before joining the fire department, she worked as a licensed vocational nurse in the ER at Antelope Valley Hospital. Foster held an associate's degree in Social Science from College of the Canyons, where she was captain of the volleyball team. She had earned a scholarship to attend California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Jaime was genuine. She will be remembered for her eagerness, endurance, and mental focus in achieving her goals and for her unconditional warmth, love, smile, and laughter.



Daniel P. Holmes, 26, federal firefighter, National Park Service, Kings Canyon National Park, died October 2, 2004, when he was struck by a falling tree as his crew participated in a prescribed burn. An avid outdoorsman and passionate about

preserving the wilderness, he began his career with the Park Service as a back country ranger and crew member at Mt. Rainier. He also spent time at Denali National Park as a volunteer member of a

search and rescue team. Holmes achieved another dream by summiting Mt. Rainier and Denali. Holmes held a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Johnson State College in Vermont.

People who knew Dan speak of his infectious smile or his laugh, the twinkle in his eye, his wonderful hugs. He drew people in and held on to them.

Raymond L. Peterman, 62, career captain, Los Angeles Fire Department, died January 17, 2004, from complications of bypass surgery performed when he suffered a heart attack after fighting a fire in July 2003. A 42-year veteran with the department, he had served as a captain since 1977. He received many department awards, including its highest honor, The Medal of Valor, for his efforts during the Northridge Earthquake. He was also named "Captain of the Year." One of his greatest honors was pinning on his son's badge when the younger Peterman became an LAFD firefighter. Peterman was planning his retirement and looking forward to traveling with his wife, building model ships, and reading books from his extensive library.



Ray was the tower of strength to everyone who knew him. He was an excellent leader, and nothing was too difficult for him.

Eva M. Schicke, 23, seasonal firefighter, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, died September 12, 2004, when her helitack crew was overrun by flames during a wildfire. She had four years of firefighting experience and had enrolled in nursing school with the goal of becoming a flight nurse. An accomplished athlete and musician, Schicke attended Stanislaus State University on a basketball scholarship and sang at her church from the time she was nine years old. Despite taking time off from school to help care for her terminally ill father, she graduated at age 21 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. She loved the outdoors.



Eva was a very talented young lady who excelled in many aspects of life. She was an incredible daughter, sister, friend, and love.

James E. Towell, 63, pilot, Western Pilot Service, Bureau of Land Management contractor, died March 16, 2004, when his tanker crashed while he was participating in training. An experienced pilot with over 17,000 hours of flight time, he had been involved with wildland firefighting since the mid-1980s and had served the Department of Interior through private contractors in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. Towell was also rated to fly helicopters and gliders. He was a pilot instructor at Hemet Ryan Airport and worked at Sailplane Enterprises.

His true love in life was flying. He was well-liked and respected in the aviation community.

COLORADO

Michael E. Lynch, 32, firefighter, Penrose Volunteer Fire Department, died February 3, 2004, when he was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Active with the department for only eight months, he was employed as a painter by LB&B at Fort Carson. His fellow firefighters called him "Scrappy," because he always wanted to be at the front of what was going on. He coached Little League and loved the outdoors, often packing up for a weekend getaway in the mountains to fish and camp.

Mike was always upbeat and high spirited. He died doing what he loved and is deeply missed by his family and friends.

Barrie Jon Niebergall, 56, career driver-operator, Red, White & Blue Fire Protection District, died March 16, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while participating in required physical training at the station. A firefighter for 24 years, he began volunteering with the Frisco Fire Department and retired as a career captain from the Lake Dillon Fire Authority. He was an engine boss every year on a wildland firefighting crew and was considered an expert in fire apparatus. Niebergall started BEAR Sales, which sold fire trucks, and taught

hydraulics classes at a local college for many years. He enjoyed riding his Harley, skiing, boating on Lake Powell, and the Rocky Mountains.

He brought laughter, sparkle, and wit into the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. He will always be remembered for his infectious laughter and hilarious "Barrie-isms."

CONNECTICUT

Robert A. "Rob" Griffin, 38, probationary firefighter, Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, died March 13, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while participating in a training exercise. With the department for less than a month, he had dedicated special effort to learning about Squad 3, a truck which the department had recently acquired. After his death, Squad 3 was dedicated in Griffin's memory. A former employee of SVG Lithography in Wilton, and a graduate of W. F. Kaynor Regional Vocational Technical School, his hobbies included computers, cooking, and fishing. He was a Jehovah's Witness.



Rob cared about people and was very protective of his family. He was very intelligent and had a great sense of humor.

FLORIDA

Robert Dean Heighton, 45, career firefighter/paramedic, South Walton Fire District, died October 20, 2004, when an air medical helicopter crashed en route to pick up a patient. The pilot and flight nurse also died in this incident. Heighton had worked in the emergency medical field for 24 years and had been with South Walton for two years. His duties included service as a flight medic with AirHeart. A Jehovah's Witness, he was baptized as an ordained minister in 1991. He met his wife while they worked together at the county ambulance station.



Whenever he saw a way to assist, he didn't hesitate; he just jumped right in and got involved.



Remembrances



Benjamin Matthew Lang, 22, career firefighter/EMT, Polk County Fire Department, died August 23, 2004, when an ambulance crashed while transporting a patient to the hospital. He joined the department in 2001 and was looking forward to becoming a paramedic. An avid weightlifter and gifted athlete, he enjoyed in-house competitions with the veterans at the fire station. Lang had a strong faith in God and was very proud to be a homeowner by the age of 20. He collected baseball and football cards, comic books, and action figures.

If you were his friend, you were his friend for life. Bigger than life, reserved and shy, Ben had such a gentle spirit.



David A. Mackie, 35, career firefighter/paramedic, Orange City Fire Department, died January 27, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack during firefighter training. A career firefighter for less than a year, he was working toward the completion of his fire

standards certification at the time of his death. He began his service at age 17 as a volunteer with Volusia County and served as the department's secretary. Mackie worked as a medic for EVAC Ambulance and the Daytona International Speedway for eight years. Nicknamed "The Mack Daddy" by his fellow firefighters, he was known for his humor and fun-loving attitude.

He will always be remembered for his kindness, thoughtfulness, and selfless doing for others. Memories of this wonderful man will live on in each of us.

Edward O. Peters, 40, career forest ranger, Florida Division of Forestry, died March 3, 2004, in a motor vehicle accident while on the way to conduct a controlled burn. A 13-year employee with the division, he began work as a fire tower lookout in the Cedar Key area and later served as a wildland firefighter. Peters was an avid sportsman.

Eddie was a faithful son. He was a loving, wonderful person with a big heart.

GEORGIA

Steven C. Brack, 36, firefighter, Allentown Volunteer Fire Department, died October 11, 2004, in a motor vehicle accident, as he responded to the scene of an earlier accident. With the department for three years, he was living the dream he'd had since he was a little boy. He was a licensed funeral director for 15 years and worked at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home. Brack served in the U.S. Navy Reserves and, just days before his death, he was sworn in as an Allentown city councilman. Known as a practical joker with a mischievous nature, he enjoyed sailing on Lake Lanier, driving in the mountains, and hunting deer in the woods near his home.



Steven was an incredible man with an enormous heart and capacity to love. He loved to be surrounded by family.

Willie J. Lacy, Sr., 47, career firefighter, Augusta Fire Department, died June 17, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack in the station after participating in training exercises. A 22-year veteran, he was known to coworkers as "Mr. Lacy" and is remembered for his positive work ethic and respect for other people. He worked for Sears Roebuck & Company as a service technician for 19 years.



"Mr. Lacy" was the heart of his family and friends. To them, he is noted for his engaging smile and warm heartedness toward everyone he met. To him, everyone was "good people."

James Larry Rogers, 55, career chief, Claxton Volunteer Fire Department, died December 13, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while returning to the station from a structure fire. A 30-year veteran with the department, he joined as a volunteer before serving as the chief and only full-time employee for 23 years. When the first countywide fire department was created, Rogers was appointed county fire coordinator and was responsible for organizing training and establishing policies and procedures.



The Bellville Lions Club posthumously presented its highest award to Rogers for his service to the community. It was the first time the award had been given to a nonmember.

Larry was proud to be a part of the brotherhood that exists among firefighters across our great nation. He was a wonderful person, and we miss him dearly.

Mike Ward, 55, pilot, Helicopter Express, Inc., USDA Forest Service contractor, died August 11, 2004, in a helicopter crash while transporting supplies to a wildland fire in Washington state. He was employed with Helicopter Express for four years. Ward served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He was a member of DAV Chapter 15 of Raburn County, the VFW, the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, and the NRA.

ILLINOIS



Jeffrey C. Bergstrom, 34, career firefighter/paramedic, Stone Park Fire Department, died April 27, 2004, when two fire trucks from neighboring departments collided as they responded to a fire call. During his 14 years with the fire service, he worked

for several ambulance services and fire departments. In addition to his part-time position with Stone Park, he was a full-time paramedic with the Chicago Fire Department. He was a previous Rookie of the Year for the Manhattan Fire Department.

Jeff is remembered as a good friend and a happy, easygoing guy who always had a smile on his face. He was living his dream and loved every minute of it.



Patrick J. Cramer, 51, career firefighter, Chicago Fire Department, died November 15, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to numerous calls during an overtime shift. A 22-year veteran with the department, he was his shift's

cook for many years and also did most of the

cooking at home. A substitute teacher before becoming a firefighter, he enjoyed teaching so much that he continued to substitute during his time off from the department.

Pat was a very outgoing, friendly, sincere person. He was quick with a smile and a kind word and was known for his wide Irish grin.

C. Michael Lehnen, 57, volunteer assistant chief, Bethalto Fire Department, died March 21, 2004, as a result of a stroke after fighting a structure fire. A 29-year veteran, he had been the department's assistant chief for 14 years. He was a member of the Madison County Firemen's Association. Lehnen was devoted to the young people of Bethalto, where he lived and worked, and was a fixture at local football and basketball games for many years. An avid collector of "everything from marbles to antiques," his greatest joy in the last few years of his life was his grandchildren, who called him "Poppyseed" and went with him to the firehouse, football games, and Dairy Queen.

Mike spent his whole life in service to others. He was interested in everyone and everything around him.

Kevin R. McIntyre, 45, career district chief, Rockford Fire Department, died April 18, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to several calls and attending a rescue drill earlier in the day. A 24-year veteran with the department, he rose through the ranks to become the department's youngest district chief. McIntyre held a bachelor's degree in fire science from Western Illinois University. He also worked for Bill Doran Co. and was very active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Crime Stoppers, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and his church.

Kevin was a devoted and loving family man. He was dedicated to his job, but always ready with a smile and a laugh.





Theodore A. Myhre, Sr., 73, volunteer firefighter, Bishop Hill Fire Department, died December 20, 2004, when he was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. He served with the department for five years and took

several of the young members under his wing. Myhre was a locomotive engineer with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad for 30 years and was active with several organizations related to railroads. He retired to the town of Bishop Hill, founded by his great-great grandfather, where he was a member of the Heritage Association and played the sousaphone in the Hi-Society Band. He served in the Iowa National Guard during the Korean conflict.

Ted was always willing to tell a story, share a smile, and lend a helping hand.

Kevin L. Slain, 47, career captain, Dixon Rural Fire Protection District, died September 14, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after being on standby at the station during an alarm.

IOWA

Donald N. Carlson, 60, volunteer firefighter, Ute Fire Department, died November 2, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack in the fire truck while responding to a call. A 19-year veteran with the department, he retired from farming in the early 1980s and also worked at Dunlap and Mapleton Sale Barns. Carlson was active with his church and enjoyed hunting, woodworking, flower gardening, and spending time with family.

*Don was always there.
You could always depend on him.*

KANSAS



Cordell W. "Cory" French, 44, volunteer firefighter, Towanda Fire/Rescue, died August 28, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after completing training at the station earlier that day. A nine-year member of the department, he had previously

served as a firefighter/EMT in Dodge City. French

was a Towanda EMS captain and was also active with Butler County EMS. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2001 and Medical Responder of the Year in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Known for his amazing mechanical skills, he was the owner/operator of Augusta Aviation Maintenance.

Cory was always a hard worker, dedicated to the EMS side of the fire service. He was always smiling and had a great sense of humor.

Jared Michael Moore, 19, volunteer firefighter, Fairmount Township Fire Department, died December 29, 2004, in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a call. He joined the department in August 2004, the realization of a lifelong dream. He soon decided he wanted to make firefighting his profession. Moore spent the last day of his life filling out an application for a paid position at the Harrison, Arkansas fire department. He loved "crotch-rocket" motorcycles.

Jared was genuinely kind, a hard worker who found joy in helping others. He assured us that living life to its fullest was far more important than living to an old age.



KENTUCKY

Barbara Bordenkircher, 52, volunteer firefighter, Wickliffe Rural Fire Department, died August 10, 2004, in a fire truck accident while responding to the scene of a grass fire. A firefighter for two years, she and her husband joined the department together. Bordenkircher was also a captain with the Barlow City Fire Department and a lieutenant with the Wickliffe City Fire Department and was active with the Ballard County Rescue Squad. She worked at a local grocery store and enjoyed fishing, baking, and making fancy birthday cakes.

Barbara was proud to be in the fire service and rescue squad. She could always be counted on to respond, day or night, when the tones dropped.





Brenda D. Cowan, 40, career lieutenant, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Division of Fire & Emergency Services, died February 13, 2004, when she was shot while assisting another shooting victim at a domestic incident. A 12-year member, she was

the department's first female African American firefighter and was promoted to lieutenant just a few days before her death. Cowan held a degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky, where she was a Wildcat Lodge little sister and an avid fan of the Lady Cats basketball team. Active with her church, she also served as a mentor for young girls.

Brenda radiated honor and pride whenever firefighters were mentioned. She would say, "I'm an ordinary person doing an extraordinary job."



Leslie Keith Gillum, 71, firefighter, Norton Branch Volunteer Fire Department, died April 14, 2004, from complications of open-heart surgery after suffering chest pains at the scene of an accident several days earlier. He joined the fire service in 1972, fighting

brush fires for the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and helped found the Norton Branch department in 1974. He served in all capacities with the department, including 13 years as chief. Gillum retired after 40 years as a sheet metal mechanic and welder and frequently helped people with all aspects of building and renovation projects. He served with the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict.

Leslie was a devoted family man, community oriented, and always there to offer a helping hand.



Joseph Scott Northup, Sr., 49, volunteer firefighter, Jessamine County Fire District, died April 1, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to a call. An 11-year member of the department, he had also served with the rescue squad, as

assistant director of Disaster and Emergency Services, and as an elected Jessamine County coroner. He held an Advanced Kentucky Coroner's Certificate and was awarded a State

Fire Marshal's Certificate of Valor and numerous awards for community service. Northup was a self-employed painting contractor and owned a private investigation business.

Perhaps the most prestigious honor he received was the friendships he acquired. Joe knew no enemies and held no grudges. He was a friend to all.

Lester Phillips, 72, chief, Sunshine Volunteer Fire Department, died August 4, 2004, after suffering a heart attack at a structure fire two weeks earlier. He founded the fire department in 1981 with three of his neighbors, beginning with the most basic equipment and a large dinner bell in his yard to call firefighters to an emergency. Over the years, private donations and support from the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the county government helped build a fully-equipped department. Phillips was inducted into the Southeast Kentucky Firefighters Hall of Fame in 2002. He was a past member of Harlan County's rescue squad and volunteer fire department. He owned Lester Phillips Excavating.



Everybody knew him. Everybody. He just liked to be happy and get things going.

Jason Todd Rowe, 30, volunteer chief, Elkhorn City Fire Department, died December 23, 2004, when an airbag struck him as firefighters installed snow chains on a fire truck. A 12-year member, he began serving as the department's youngest chief at age



23. Under his leadership, the department constructed a new building and expanded its fleet and membership. Rowe was named Fire Chief of the Year three times by the Pike Country Fire Fighters' Association, where he served as public relations officer. He was a past president of the Elkhorn City Ambulance Service and a Pike County deputy sheriff. Rowe was employed at American Electric Power and belonged to several fraternal and service organizations

Todd devoted every waking moment to community service, in hopes that he would make a difference in the lives of others, and he certainly did.



Remembrances



Kenneth Michael Temke, 45, volunteer firefighter, Alexandria Fire/EMS District #5, died March 25, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after responding to a car fire. A seven-year member, he was known as “Squirrel,” a reference to

someone who listens to the pager faithfully and sneaks into the firehouse in anticipation of a fire run. He was posthumously awarded his certificate for completing the 400 hours of training required to achieve Firefighter Level 2. He worked at Avis Rent-a-Car for 26 years. The life of the party at family gatherings, Temke enjoyed bowling, golfing, and spending time with his children.

With his sudden passing, Ken’s family and friends have learned a great life lesson: embrace each day and live life to the fullest. Ken lived his life that way.

Charles C. Webb, 63, lieutenant, Mayking Volunteer Fire Department, died November 6, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack on the fire engine while responding to the scene of a wildfire. A 20-year veteran with the department, he was known as “Little Man.”

He was a dedicated son who took care of his mother until she died. His whole life was firefighting.

MARYLAND



Connie C. Bornman, 56, firefighter/EMT, Middle River Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Company, died May 17, 2004, when she suffered a heart attack while assisting at an EMS call. A 5-year

member, she joined the department at the urging of her son and husband, who were volunteers with Middle River. One of the department’s top three responders, Bornman was training to be a paramedic, was in charge of fundraising for the department, and acted as a mentor to new firefighters. She enjoyed visiting schools to educate children about fire prevention and safety.

A stroke and breast cancer survivor, she was an inspiration to other women.

Connie was the heart of her family, her friends, her community and her fire department. She believed the sky was the limit and always had a smile on her face.

Richard A. Jones, 65, firefighter, Maryland Line Volunteer Fire Company #450, died January 15, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to an emergency call. A 48-year veteran with the department, he had served as its president, captain, and on the board of directors. His son and brother are members of the same department, and he made sure his wife and other family members were involved in fundraising events.



Dick was an amazing man. He always welcomed you with a smile and some sort of joking remark.

MASSACHUSETTS

Irwin “Buzz” Gross, 58, career firefighter, Brookline Fire Department, died May 3, 2004, from injuries sustained three days earlier when he fell from a fire truck while responding to an emergency call. A 36-year veteran, he was the department’s first EMT and first Jewish firefighter. He was named Firefighter of the Year twice, first by the Brookline Elks in the 1970s, and posthumously by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A member of the U.S. Army Reserve, Gross served in the Army Medical Corps. Later, he volunteered with the American Red Cross Disaster Service as a disaster responder, first aid instructor, and frequent blood donor. A master electrician, he helped several men pursue their careers by allowing them to apprentice under him.



His strong hands and unbounded heart will be greatly missed by his family and all that knew him.



Charles T. "Charlie" Hatch, 48, career firefighter/paramedic, West Bridgewater Fire Department, died January 22, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the station while the department provided mutual aid. A firefighter for 33 years, he began as an on-call firefighter with the Hanson Fire Department and later worked with American Medical Response. Active with West Bridgewater for five years, he helped establish the department's paramedic program. He was a licensed pilot and Cessna owner. Skilled in mechanics and engine repair, Hatch was founder and owner of Cyclops Power Equipment and president of the Cranberry Flywheelers antique engine club. He was a Mason and a friend of Bill W.

Charlie is remembered by family and friends for his off-beat sense of humor and his love of practical jokes. Everyone loves to share what our girls refer to as "Charlie stories."

MICHIGAN



Rick L. Wilbur, 56, volunteer chief, Eaton Rapids Township Fire Department, died March 28, 2004, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a brush fire. A founding member of the department, he served for 16 years, including four years as chief. Wilbur was a CPR and First Aid instructor for the American Red Cross and a certified Firefighter I and II instructor for the state of Michigan. He was a photographer who saw the beauty in everything, loved camping and the simple life, and was really starting to enjoy being a grandpa to his ten grandchildren.

Rick was the heart of his family, his friends, his community, and his fire department. He will live on in our hearts and memories.

MISSISSIPPI

Elliot Davis, Jr., 51, firefighter, Gloster Volunteer Fire Department, died February 22, 2004, from injuries sustained in a fire truck accident while responding to the scene of a fire. He was the fire commissioner for the town of Gloster and a Board member of Amite County Medical Services. An alderman in Gloster's ward 5 since 1993, he worked for the Amite County School District's maintenance department. Davis was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of Ezra Lodge #526.

He was kind and cared about the needs of others.

Terri L. Eiland, 40, lieutenant, Forts Lake-Franklin Creek Volunteer Fire Department, died March 21, 2004, in a fire truck accident while responding to the scene of a fire. A 4-year member, she was posthumously promoted to lieutenant. Certified by the state fire academy, she attended all training offered by the county. Her husband was also active with the department. Eiland was a member of the Joppa Shriners.

Terri gave her all for her community. She was very energetic, one of the most dedicated firefighters at the department.

Randy Rayford Henderson, 42, assistant fire management officer, USDA Forest Service, Bienville National Forest, died May 13, 2004, after he collapsed on the fire line at a Florida wildfire. A 24-year veteran with the Forest Service, he had served as a helicopter boss, squad boss, and on the Southern Area Red Team. He was also the assistant fire chief and training officer at the Homewood Volunteer Fire Department. Very involved in his church, Henderson was the music director and assistant Sunday school director at the time of his death. With his wife and daughters, he was active with church youth programs and the upkeep of the church's cemetery.



There were only two things Randy loved more than putting out fire: his Savior and his family.

MISSOURI

Steven W. Fierro, 40, career firefighter, Carthage Fire Department, died February 18, 2004, from injuries sustained when a roof collapsed during a restaurant fire. A 10-year member of the department, he was also active in firefighting with the U.S. Forest Service. He worked with the McCune Brooks Ambulance Service, Newton County Ambulance, and M.E.T.S. in Joplin. He was a former member of the Neosho Fire Department. Fierro was active in his children's Little League and softball activities. He enjoyed camping, selling things on eBay, and dabbling in taxidermy.

He was a people person, a wonderful man and a wonderful father. Everyone knew and liked him.



Gerald K. "Mac" McGowan, 57, career fire apparatus operator, Kansas City Fire Department, died September 5, 2004, from injuries sustained in an apparatus accident while en route to a structure fire. A 32-year veteran, he spent most of his years driving the pumper at one of the busiest fire stations in the city. His fellow firefighters have placed a permanent memorial to him in front of that station. One of his sons is also a Kansas City firefighter. A veteran of the Vietnam War, McGowan earned three medals while serving in the U.S. Army. He was an Eagle Scout and an avid sports enthusiast who coached Little League teams for many years. A few months shy of retirement, he enjoyed fishing, football, and spending time with family.

His memory lives on in ways we'll never see, through lives he has saved and fates he has changed.

MONTANA



Willie Grudzinski, 46, assistant chief, Bridger Volunteer Fire Department, died June 8, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after completing a pack test as part of training for wildland firefighting. A 12-year member, he was also a 10-year volunteer EMT with a

local ambulance service. Grudzinski worked at Kapor Lumber. He loved to hunt, fish, and relax on his boat.

He was a good fireman, husband, stepfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Willie will be greatly missed by his family and community.

Alan D. Toepke, 30, seasonal firefighter, USDA Forest Service, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, died April 24, 2004, when he was struck by a vehicle as he traveled home from fighting a Florida wildfire. He had been part of the Midewin Hotshot Crew for two years and had previously worked in wilderness-related positions in Minnesota and Montana and with the National Forest Service in Alaska. An avid outdoorsman, Toepke had a deep respect for nature and loved to teach people about camping, hunting, fishing, and snowboarding.

Al will be fondly remembered for his love of family and friends, his enthusiasm for living, his quick wit, and his many heart-to-heart conversations.



Wayne C. Turner, 58, pilot, New Frontier Aviation, Bureau of Land Management contractor, died June 17, 2004, when his aircraft crashed while dropping retardant at a Utah wildfire. In his second season as an aerial firefighter, he had maintained a commercial pilot's license for 40 years and owned and operated a flying service. He was also a volunteer firefighter for 29 years. He was very active in the community and schools of Big Sandy, and he and his wife hosted ten exchange students over the years. Turner had also served on the local city council and was active with the Masons and the Shriners. He loved the outdoors.

Affectionately known as "that crazy Grandpa Wayne," he was still a child at heart and was never too busy to have a good romp with his grandkids.



NEBRASKA



Bob Heminger, 39, volunteer captain, Wood River Fire and Rescue, died February 15, 2004, from injuries sustained in a structural collapse as he searched for an elderly resident during a house fire. Another firefighter and the resident also died in this incident.

A 20-year veteran, he recruited many new members to the department, including his father. Heminger was an Advanced EMT, a CPR instructor, and an instructor trainer. He received a Chief's Citation for exemplary service in 2002 and was a key member of the Wood River Rescue Squad when they were awarded the Nebraska EMS Provider of the Year Award in 1991 and 2002. He coached his son's baseball teams and was a Boy Scout leader.

Bob was a loving father and husband and a wonderful son, brother and friend. Both his kids have their dad's wonderful sense of humor and his love and respect for people.



Kenneth A. Woitalewicz, 38, volunteer captain, Wood River Fire and Rescue, died February 17, 2004, from injuries sustained in a structural collapse while searching for an elderly resident during a house fire. A 12-year veteran with the department, he was

honored as 1996 Firefighter of the Year and cited for bravery for a rescue effort during a confined space incident. Woitalewicz was a skilled automotive rescue technician who developed new techniques for crash rescue and designed and constructed numerous tools, hose appliances, and storage devices for the department's use.

He was known throughout the community for his radiating smile and the often heard honk of his pickup horn as he waved and drove by. He was always our hero, and now he's everyone's hero.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mark E. Miller, 43, career lieutenant, Laconia Fire Department, drowned March 11, 2004, while testing new dive equipment for the department. An 18-year veteran, he was the driving force behind the creation of a department dive team, and they have commissioned a water rescue boat in his memory. Named 1989 Firefighter of the Year, Miller received a posthumous citation from the Manchester Union Leader newspaper for his participation in water rescues. He worked with the local high school vocational media program producing films on safety. A lifesaving fund and a memorial scholarship have been established in his honor. He enjoyed attending his daughters' athletic competitions, cooking, fishing, scuba diving, and construction projects.



Love, loyalty, inspiration, devotion, compassion, and humor - Mark possessed all of those.

NEW JERSEY

Thomas J. Conway, 78, volunteer fire police captain, Haddon Heights Fire Department, died August 2, 2004, after suffering a heart attack several days earlier while directing traffic at an emergency scene. A 57-year veteran, he served as a firefighter for many years before becoming captain of the fire police. He answered almost every call with the department and often told his wife, "It's in the blood." He retired as Chief of Security from West Jersey Hospital in 1992. A member of the Haddon Heights Historical Society, Conway's knowledge of the older buildings in town was very helpful to the fire department.



Tom's greatest gift was his sense of humor. His day was not complete unless he made someone laugh.



James D'heron, 51, career deputy chief, New Brunswick Fire Department, died September 3, 2004, from burns sustained as he searched for residents in a house fire. A 27-year veteran, he received a Bronze Commendation in 1984 and the

Department Medal of Honor and the Grand Cordon Citation in 1995. He had served as president of the local firefighters' union and the fire officers' union. D'heron enjoyed steak and sushi and surfing in Long Branch and Deal. He had a special interest in the moon.

*Jimmy was one man,
but he was so much more to so many people.
The world and the people who were a part of his
life are all better for having known him.*

Glenn Galderisi, 52, firefighter, Pompton Falls Volunteer Fire Department, Wayne Company #3, died February 4, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to several calls. He was a 32-year life member of the department. He began as a junior member and later headed the reorganization of the department's junior firefighter program. Known as "Galdo," he was a former Wayne fire commissioner and a Wayne special police officer for over 25 years. Galderisi was owner-operator of G.A.G. Trucking. He served in the National Guard during the Vietnam War.

He was just overall a great guy.



Leslie W. Gant, Jr., 46, volunteer lieutenant, Winslow Township Fire Department, died January 8, 2004, as the result of a stroke after responding to an emergency call. A second-generation firefighter, he joined the department at age 16. During his 30

years in the fire service, he served with the Runnemede, Magnolia, and Sicklerville Fire Companies. Gant played an active part in fire house activities and taught fire safety and prevention in local schools and daycares. He also enjoyed playing Santa, bringing smiles to the faces of young children. He liked boating, fishing, watching sports on his big screen TV, being with family and friends, and good food.

*Les was an incredible person.
He put his life on the line every day to save
strangers and never thought twice about it.*

William J. Lightbody, 46, volunteer rescue member, Paramus Rescue Squad, died September 18, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after assisting at a motor vehicle accident. A 7-year member of the department, he was also a life member of the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Ambulance Corps, a founding member of the Ridgewood Ambulance Corps, and a past member of the Greenwood Lake Fire Department in New York. Lightbody was a past secretary and treasurer of the Paramus Rescue Association. His son was also a squad member with Paramus.



Joseph S. Pepe, III, 47, career firefighter, Springfield Fire Department, died March 26, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a call earlier in the day. A Springfield firefighter for 25 years, he served for 13 years as a volunteer before being hired to a career position. Pepe held a bachelor's degree from West Liberty State College in West Virginia. He and his brother co-owned Sneaker Mania and Sports in Watchung for 15 years.

*He will be missed by all who knew him for his
kindness and generosity.*



NEW MEXICO

Michael B. McAdams, 69, firefighter, Sapello-Rociada Volunteer Fire Department, died August 4, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to an emergency call the previous evening. A 15-year veteran, he faithfully attended training and business meetings and responded to as many fire and EMS calls as possible. He was especially proud of his role in locating a missing child during a search and rescue operation. He retired from the State of New Mexico Highway Department in 1989 and was active with the Lions Club. McAdams cared for his disabled wife and enjoyed spending time with family, gardening, and tending to wild birds.



Michael's love for his family and friends was marked by gentle strength and guidance. His love of life and sense of direction are a wonderful example.

NEW YORK



Ernest Heatherman, 45, volunteer fire police captain, Brisben Fire Department, died February 16, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a fire call. A six-year member, he was also active with the Chenango County Fire Police

Association. He worked full-time at Felchar Manufacturing. In his spare time, he enjoyed working on cars and trucks and spending time with his wife and four daughters. After his death, his oldest daughter joined the Brisben Fire Department and is studying to become an EMT.

Ernie was a great father and husband, but his next favorite place to be was his second home, the fire station, helping out wherever he was needed.



Jeffrey W. Howell, 42, volunteer firefighter, Sharon Springs Fire Department, died May 13, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a structure fire. He became a firefighter in 1994, after he came upon a burning home and assisted the

homeowners before the fire department arrived on the scene. He served with the Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department until 2003, before transferring to Sharon Springs. Passionate about the firefighter "brotherhood," Howell enjoyed marching in local and state parades. He owned a small sawmill and woodworker's shop and specialized in custom finish work. He enjoyed collecting crystals, minerals, and gemstones.

Jeff had a true love of life, living every day to its fullest and enjoying all things great and small. His good nature, sense of humor, and infectious smile will live on in all who knew him.

Bret E. Neff, 37, deputy chief, Harford Volunteer Fire Department, died February 23, 2004, when he was struck by a fire truck at the scene of a fire. He originally joined the fire service in 1985 with his father, older brother, and several uncles. A 3-year member with Harford, he had also served with departments in Spencer and Slaterville and had recently completed the New York State EMT course. He worked as an EKG technician at Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca. Neff served in the U.S. Navy from 1990-1996, and was a hospital corpsman.



Bret was a wonderful person, a jokester who always made people laugh. He got such great satisfaction in helping others.

Kevin M. Shea, 54, volunteer chief, Elsmere Fire Company, died January 24, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the firehouse after returning from a call. A 30-year veteran, he was appointed assistant chief in 1992 and became chief just before his death. He was instrumental in the creation of Squad 33, the first haz-mat service in the Town of Bethlehem, and was a member of the Governor's Task Force to bring 911 service to Albany County. He was also co-founder, coach, and member of the award-winning firematic racing team, The Wanderers. Shea was the head code enforcement officer for the town of Bethlehem and director of the Eastern States Building Federation. He loved cooking for family and friends and vacationing in the Outer Banks.



His friendship was binding, his loyalty unwavering, and his understanding unconditional.

NORTH CAROLINA

Harold D. Chappell, 53, volunteer firefighter, Arlington Fire & Rescue, Inc., died July 12, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a call the previous evening. Known as “Dean,” he served in the public service field all of his life. He owned Dean’s Auto Sales and was a member of the staff at Starmount High School. He was the co-owner of Highway 21 Shell for 13 years. He had many friends all over the United States.

He was a loving father and husband and was willing to help neighbors, friends, and strangers. If you needed something, you could call him and he would be right there to help you.



Phillip Stephen Hulen, 19, volunteer firefighter, Vann Crossroads Fire Department, died April 6, 2004, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while en route to a mandatory training class. A firefighter for only two years, he was named 2003

Firefighter of the Year at Vann Crossroads, was an EMT with the Newton Grove Rescue Squad, and had recently earned his red card to fight forest fires. A student at Johnston Community College, Hulen planned to transfer to North Carolina State University. He was an assistant manager at Smithfield Chicken and Barbecue and worked summers for Agri-Tech, collecting soil samples and checking crops for insects.

He touched the lives of many in his life and somehow managed to fulfill God’s purpose for his life in such a short time.

NORTH DAKOTA



George H. Raber, 69, volunteer crew chief, Hebron Fire Protection District, died July 31, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a prairie fire. A 41-year veteran and the oldest member of the department, he missed only one meeting during his many

years of service. Before the creation of the fire protection district, he served as a rural fire chief. A former mayor of Hebron, Raber was also president of the local school board for a number

of years and filled in as a substitute bus driver. He owned the local Ford dealership for 30 years and enjoyed hunting and trapshooting.

George was a devoted husband and father and a dedicated firefighter.

OHIO

Edward Patrick Conricote, 55, volunteer firefighter, Liberty Fire Department, died February 23, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while operating at the scene of a fire. A 15-year member, he had dreamed of being a firefighter since he was young and had a special love for his childhood neighborhood station, Engine 7 in Youngstown. An ordained Catholic priest, he served the Youngstown Diocese for over 15 years and was a fire chaplain in Youngstown, Alliance, and Warren. After leaving the priesthood, he continued to serve as a lector and Eucharist Minister in his parish. Conricote enjoyed collecting fire memorabilia. The department has established a scholarship in his honor.



He had an unassuming, non-judgmental approach and saw the good in all people. His funny laugh and big heart were open to anyone.

Donald Eugene Ward, 46, career firefighter, Columbus Division of Fire, died March 14, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to several calls during an overtime shift. A 12-year member of the department, he served as a firefighter, paramedic, haz-mat technician, and the Station 4 firehouse cook. He received three Awards of Merit for outstanding service and a Battalion Chief’s Commendation for an off-duty rescue. Ward began his service as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Beallsville. He owned a contracting business and built 1-2 houses a year in the community, with help from some of his firefighter buddies.



Eugene was a wonderful husband and father. I know he is in Heaven and I will see him again one day.

OREGON



Lawrence J. "Larry" Hoffman, 51, unit protection supervisor, Oregon Department of Forestry, died June 5, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while taking a pack test. A 28-year veteran, he managed fire crews and air support and did fire investigation for

some of Oregon's most notorious wildfires. Originally from Detroit, he found his passion as a forester and won the admiration and respect of colleagues, land owners, and fire agencies with whom he worked. His family, friends, and colleagues have established a memorial scholarship in his name through Oregon State University's School of Forestry.

He was an easy man to love and respect, and he gave that respect and love back without hesitation.

PENNSYLVANIA



William E. Bierbower, 72, firefighter, Fairmont-Hahntown Volunteer Fire Department, died October 15, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after responding to a call. A 45-year veteran and life member, he served in several officer positions, and

received the "Most Calls" award several times. His years of experience made him a leader within the department, where he was considered an excellent firefighter, role model, teacher, and friend. Bierbower retired from the West Penn Power Co. He and his wife were married for 50 years.

Bill worked hard for everything he had. He loved the Lord. He loved life, and he enjoyed every minute of it.



Charles G. Brace, 55, career battalion chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, died March 13, 2004, when a bell tower collapsed as a crew was conducting overhaul operations after a church fire. A second firefighter also died in this incident. A 30-year

veteran, Brace worked his way up through the ranks to become a battalion chief in 1997. Over

the years, he received several commendations for outstanding efforts. Believing that staying fit was the way to survive on the job, he jogged five to six miles a day. A quiet, private man, he loved music, the outdoors, and animals.

Charlie was our hero because of the way he lived his life and the contribution he made to our lives. He would want to be remembered as a compassionate, caring, and loving husband and father.

Herbert C. Caldwell, III, 49, volunteer firefighter, Newberry Township Fire Department, died December 17, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to the scene of a structure fire. A 35-year veteran of the fire service, he served with 12 different departments during that time and was a past chief. A retired police officer, he served with the boroughs of Shiremanstown, Lemoyne, and West Fairview. Caldwell owned B&B Communications, a company that specializes in sales and service of emergency rescue equipment. He enjoyed spending time with his family four-wheeling, riding motorcycles, camping, and boating.



Herb dedicated his life to public service. He was a very special person to many and will always be remembered and loved.

Thomas DeAngelis, 40, volunteer captain, Independent Hose Company No. 2, Stowe Township, died June 23, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after responding to a call. A third-generation firefighter and 25-year veteran, he helped organize and was an integral part of the department's Rescue Dive and Rapid Intervention Teams. He was also a member of the Board of Directors and had key administrative and fundraising duties. DeAngelis worked as an electrician and was known as the town handyman. Though he spent countless hours at the fire station, he always saved time for his family.



While we mourn his death, Tommy's dedication, leadership, and friendship will live forever in our memories.

Michael R. Dunlap, 47, rescue captain, Hydetown Volunteer Fire Department, died December 14, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to numerous calls earlier in the day. A firefighter for 26 years, he served with the Randolph, Champmanville, and Centerville Departments prior to serving with Hydetown. He was a CPR instructor with the American Heart Association and a state certified EMT. Dunlap had also been active with the American Red Cross, where he served as a First Aid and CPR instructor, a disaster volunteer, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Titusville Chapter.

Mike dedicated his life to helping others. He'd go out of his way to help family members, friends, and the entire community, and was known to drop anything to go to a fire call.



Keith Alan "Pook" Firment, 35, captain, Marguerite Volunteer Fire Company, died January 22, 2004, from cardiovascular causes after responding to a fire call. He was an 18-year veteran with the department and a third generation firefighter. He

worked as a heavy equipment operator for Unity Township Supervisors. Firment taught fire safety at the local elementary school and was very involved with his five children and their many activities. He played Santa for 18 years for the fire department, local families, and the mentally and physically challenged. He enjoyed hunting, golfing, and fishing.

Keith made simple things fun. What he has instilled in his children will be his legacy: his love, commitment, devotion to community service, and love of life.



Richard L. Gabrielli, 70, volunteer fire police, George G. McMurtry Fire Department #1, died February 23, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while directing traffic at a fire scene. A 36-year life member, he was a former vice president and assistant chief of the department. In 1981, he received an award for

saving the life of a fellow firefighter. Retired after 30 years as an accountant for ALCOA, he started an onsite fire department during his tenure there. Gabrielli was a former president of the Vandergrift town council, a CPR instructor and a key player in implementing the 911 system in Westmoreland County. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a member of the Sons of Italy, the VFW, the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and the Association of the Blind.

My father's life was a life of service. He died doing what he loved: helping others.

Jackson H. Gerhart, 65, volunteer firefighter, Chambersburg Fire Department, died December 5, 2004, from injuries sustained when he collapsed at a fire scene five days earlier. A firefighter for 41 years, he began his career as a fire apparatus driver for the Borough of Chambersburg. Gerhart retired after 32 years with the District of Columbia Fire Department. While with DCFD, he twice received the department's highest honor, the Bronze Bar of Valor, and was awarded two Silver Medals from the Mayor's Meritorious Award Committee. After his retirement, he remained an active firefighter in Shippensburg, PA, and received lifetime memberships in several local departments. Gerhart contributed articles about fire service history to many books and publications. He was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.



Jack is certainly missed and deeply loved. He was the rock of our family.

Derrick T. Harvey, 45, career lieutenant, Philadelphia Fire Department, died January 15, 2004, from burns sustained a week earlier while fighting a structure fire. A 14-year member of the department, he was a former instructor at the city's fire academy and had worked at the fire station at Philadelphia International Airport. He was known at the firehouse for his excellent cooking skills. Harvey volunteered for 10 years with the Hero Scholarship Fund Thrill Show and completed marathons to raise funds for the Leukemia



Foundation. He enjoyed playing keyboard and was a tuba player in a marching band.

He was a big, strong guy. He wasn't fearful at all.



Kenneth W. Lipyance, 46, lieutenant, Churchill Volunteer Fire Company, died June 30, 2004, as a result of a stroke suffered a week earlier after responding to several calls. An 8-year member and second-generation firefighter, he served as the

department's treasurer and 2nd lieutenant. He was elected to the Civil Service Commission and served as Churchill's Emergency Management Services Coordinator. Lipyance was an assistant controller for Vesuvius/BMI Refractory. He collected trains and toys, some of which were displayed at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art. He was looking forward to his wedding in September 2004.

Ken was a remarkable man and a child at heart. He had a sense of humor that was magnetic.

Lewis R. McNally, 42, assistant chief, Newmanstown Volunteer Fire Department, died November 1, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while returning to the station after responding to a call. Active with the Newmanstown department for one year, he was also a member of the Richland Fire Company and the Newmanstown Ambulance Association and a former member with several other local departments. McNally owned Shady Oaks Campground in Newmanstown. He enjoyed woodworking, hunting, fishing, and restoring a 1947 Willies Jeep with his son.

Rey Rubio, 42, career firefighter, Philadelphia Fire Department, died August 20, 2004, when he was trapped in the basement of a row house during a structure fire. A second firefighter also died in this incident. A 12-year member, Rubio served most of that time with Ladder 22, but had recently been transferred to Engine 28. He

received a unit commendation in 1994 for heroic action, evacuating residents as a fire raged in a nearby factory. He worked a second job at a pizza parlor and enjoyed playing basketball. Rubio served in the U.S. Air Force from 1981-85. He and his parents and eight siblings emigrated from Cuba on a Freedom Flight in 1968.

Firefighting was the only job he knew, and he gave it his all.

Richard A. Stefanakis, 51, career master firefighter, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, died March 13, 2004, when a bell tower on a church collapsed as the crew conducted overhaul operations after a structure fire. A 29-year veteran, he received commendations in 2000 and 1997 for heroic rescue efforts. A leader in the department, Stefanakis was preparing for retirement at the time of his death. He was known as a pool shark and a great cook and enjoyed playing softball and basketball.

Rich was a hard worker, fearless, dependable.

John J. Stoudt, 66, volunteer chief engineer, Diligence Fire Company #1, died December 25, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to a fire call. A 49-year veteran with the department, he had held all offices in the company except chief and was serving as treasurer at the time of his death. Known as "Jackie" or "Brother," he was named 1996 Firefighter of the Year in his 40th year of service. Stoudt was a member of the Four County Firemen's Association, a delegate to the Carbon County Firemen's Association, and treasurer of the Summit Hill Firemen's Relief Association. Retired from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission in 2002, he was active at his church and played percussion in several bands.



He was a wonderful husband and father. He always had a smile for everyone.



John D. Taylor, Jr., 53, career captain, Philadelphia Fire Department died August 20, 2004, when he and another firefighter became trapped in the basement of a row house during a structure fire. Taylor was attempting to free his fellow firefighter, whose gear had become entangled. A 32-year veteran, Taylor received the Heroism Award, the department's highest honor, for rescuing a man from a burning home in 1992. He served in the Army reserves and was a superior athlete who loved baseball and soccer.

John loved life and lived it with integrity, pride, and courage. He had a great heart.



David Edward Vinisky, 49, firefighter, Raccoon Township Independent Volunteer Fire Department, died August 25, 2004, from injuries sustained when he was struck by a fire truck at the station. A third-generation firefighter, he often responded to calls with his father and brother. Vinisky worked most department events, including fish fries, wedding receptions, and the annual firemen's fair. He was employed at Horsehead Industries (formerly St. Joe Lead Company) for many years and was an active member of Ducks Unlimited. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and doing things with his son.

What makes us feel certain he was a well-liked man was the number of people we did not know who told us how he was always there to help.

RHODE ISLAND



Richard O'Brien, 63, volunteer firefighter, Warren Fire Department, Mechanics Company #2, died September 10, 2004, after he collapsed at the scene of a structure fire at the home where he had grown up. A 40-year veteran with the department, he was a past officer and Deputy Chief. He was well-respected in his community, where he had served as a member of the town council and was actively involved in fundraising for local

organizations. He was especially well known for his love of organizing clambakes.

He said, "A bad day at a clambake is always better than a good day at work."

SOUTH CAROLINA

Michael Stokes Martin, 18, volunteer firefighter, Ebenezer Fire Department, died May 14, 2004, in a motor vehicle accident while responding to an emergency medical call. Active with the department for three years, he had been a first responder for over a year. Martin died a week before his high school graduation and had planned to pursue a degree in fire science and attend the state fire academy. He worked part-time at a local grocery store and enjoyed racing Motorcross with his dad, fishing with the guys, and drinking Mountain Dew.



Michael was an extremely caring, hardworking person, always giving of himself to help others. His testimony and memory will live on forever.

Edgar B. Rogers, 56, volunteer lieutenant, Chesterfield Fire Department, died April 22, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while assisting at the scene of a structure fire. A 28-year veteran, he was the department secretary and was also a founding member of the Lanes Creek Fire Department. He worked for 26 years as a supervisor with Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc., and taught for eight years at Chesterfield Elementary School. Rogers was an honor graduate of Wingate and Appalachian State Universities. He was an avid deer hunter and fisherman.

Dad had a saying: Some people make apple pies. Some people help little old women cross the street. Fighting fires is how I give back to the community.

Kenneth Sterling, 43, career firefighter/EMT, Westview-Fair Forest Fire Department, died April 10, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a call earlier in the day. A two-year member, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of Honor in 2002. He also worked part-time at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport

Fire Department. Sterling had nine years of previous service with the Greenville Fire Department and four years with the BMWFD. He was a graduate of Denmark College in South Carolina.

TENNESSEE



Grady Roy Austin, 74, volunteer captain, Henderson County Fire Department, died May 3, 2004, when he fell from the tailgate of a pickup truck while riding to a training exercise. A 20-year veteran, he was a skilled mechanic who maintained the

equipment at the station and was considered a second father by many of the junior members. Austin was a retired farmer who loved fishing and was active in his church. He served as a transport driver in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

We think of Roy every day. He touched our lives in so many ways and will truly be missed by us all.



Edward "Ed" Stallings, 71, volunteer chief, Carthage Fire Department, died August 1, 2004, from injuries sustained in a structural collapse while directing operations at a church fire four months earlier. A 47-year veteran, he served as the

department's chief for 12 years. He was also a charter member of the Smith County Rescue Squad, where he had served as both chief and president. His son is a captain with the department. For over 30 years, Stallings was a county coroner and a funeral director at Sanderson Funeral Home. A U.S. Army veteran, he was active in numerous civic and charitable activities. The fire department building has been renamed in his honor.

Ed was respected as a man of highest moral standards.

TEXAS



Gary Don Fox, 60, chief, Bluegrove Volunteer Fire Department, died July 9, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a call earlier in the day. An eight-year member,

among his proudest achievements were helping to establish the department and expanding it to include emergency medical services. He encouraged and arranged training for members and was himself a certified EMT. An accomplished mechanic, he worked in the oil field rebuilding and maintaining engines. Fox enjoyed restoring antique tractors and fishing. He served in the U.S. Navy.

He was always striving to make things better for our family and community, which were very dear to him.

Nito Rene Guajardo, 24, career firefighter, Baytown Fire-Rescue, died December 20, 2004, from smoke inhalation and burns sustained while performing search and rescue at a structure fire. After attending Southeast Oklahoma State University for a year, he came home and worked at a grocery store and as an electrician's and mechanic's helper. He excelled at and was proud of every job, but had been fascinated by firefighters since age two. Guajardo fulfilled a lifelong dream by serving with the Baytown department for almost a year. The oldest brother of fifteen siblings, he loved children and was known as a practical joker.



Nito LIVED life. He made life fun.

Kevin W. Kulow, 32, probationary firefighter, Houston Fire Department, died April 4, 2004, when he was trapped by a building collapse during a structure fire. Active for 13 years with the Sealy Volunteer Fire Department, he joined as a junior explorer and went on to serve as a captain and assistant chief. He also inspired his father and brother to join the department. Kulow achieved a life-long goal by graduating from the fire academy in November 2003 to become a career firefighter for Houston. His wife works for Austin County EMS.

Kevin was well respected at the fire academy. He was a wonderful husband and a great father and is greatly missed by all.



Gary A. Tilton, 58, career chief, Katy Fire Department, died October 20, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to a call. A 31-year veteran, he had been named Firefighter of the Year for the department, the Gulf Coast

Firefighters Association, and the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. He founded and served as coordinator of the Katy Area Vehicle Extrication School for 20 years and taught at fire training schools across Texas. Tilton won county and state level awards for his work as a fire instructor. An Eagle Scout and U.S. Army veteran, he served as a City of Katy Councilman for five years and belonged to numerous service organizations.

Gary was dedicated to his community and his fellow man.

VIRGINIA



Steven Michael Rosenfeld, 54, firefighter/EMS captain, Salem Volunteer Fire Department, died September 9, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while assisting at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A member for only two years, the

department instantly became his second home, and he encouraged his wife and two of his daughters to join. In 2003, Rosenfeld received the Chief's Award, was named EMT of the Year, and was one of the department's top ten EMS responders. He was honored during the 2005 National EMS Memorial Service in Roanoke. The department created an award in his name, presented annually to a dedicated member. Washington Homes, where he worked as a construction manager, has established a scholarship in his honor.

Steve was extremely dedicated to the department. He could make friends with absolutely anyone; he was very friendly and loved to tell jokes.

WISCONSIN

Michael J. Kilpatrick, 58, assistant chief, North Lake Volunteer Fire Department, died October 7, 2004, when he suffered cardiac arrhythmia while on standby at a neighboring department during a structure fire. His first experience with firefighting was as a rescue fireman on helicopters during his 1966-1970 service with the U.S. Air Force. He joined the North Lake department in 1971, became assistant chief in 1973, and served as the department's treasurer for eight years. Kilpatrick worked for Waukesha County as a golf course superintendent before retiring in January 2004. He enjoyed gardening, traveling, and spending time with his family.



Mike was really enjoying life. He was loved and respected by many people and is missed by everyone.

William Weborg, 42, volunteer assistant chief, Ephraim Fire Department, died September 26, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while responding to the scene of a boat fire. He was a 24-year veteran with the department. His father and brother were also members, and he considered his fellow firefighters his extended family. Active in the community, Weborg was a baseball coach and scout leader. He enjoyed photography and carpentry and outdoor activities including boating, camping, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing.



Bill was truly an example of a Christian man who loves his neighbor. There was just something about him that inspired you to trust him and motivated you to strive to be better.

FIREFIGHTERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

1981

TEXAS



Bob Boyles, Jr., 19, firefighter, Crosby Volunteer Fire Department, died March 19, 1981, in an apparatus accident while responding to a fire call. At age 12, he began serving as a “mascot” at the department, helping around the station, running errands

for the firefighters on his bicycle, and waiting until he was old enough to become a full-fledged member. Boyles was pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Texas A&M University. A new fire station was dedicated and named for him.

He may be gone from this earth, but he will remain in our hearts forever. We find some comfort in knowing that he left this earth doing something he loved.

1987

NEW YORK



George O. Sandfield, 70, volunteer firefighter, Congers Fire Department, died December 11, 1987, from complications of a heart attack suffered six weeks earlier while on standby at the fire department. A 44-year veteran, he served a term as chief in the 1950s and was an engineer for a number of years. He retired as a maintenance machinist from Federal Paperboard Company after 37 years of service to the village’s paper mills, where he was also a member of the fire brigade. A Navy veteran of WWII, Sandfield served aboard the U.S.S. Remus in the Pacific. He enjoyed fishing and was especially proud of a nine-foot blue marlin he landed while on vacation in Miami Beach.

George was devoted to the fire department.

1997

TEXAS

Thomas C. Gentry, 54, firefighter, Lagarto Volunteer Fire Department, died July 9, 1997, in a fire truck accident while responding to a call.



1998

TENNESSEE



Paul Parsons Satterfield, 60, career district chief, Nashville Fire Department, died September 29, 1998, when he suffered an aneurysm after performing command duties at a structure fire. A 27-year veteran with the department, he was instrumental in starting both the Burn Center at Vanderbilt Hospital and Camp Phoenix for burned children. He created a fund and organized volunteers to help families after devastating house fires. He was one of the first locally cross-trained first responders and helped to establish the First Responders’ Club. Satterfield was active in his church and created numerous fundraisers to support charitable endeavors in his community. He loved to hunt, fish, and eat.

Paul was strong in stature and spirit. Perhaps his greatest contribution was his never-failing willingness to listen, counsel, and extend a helping hand to anyone in need.

FIREFIGHTERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

2001

NEW YORK



Robert J. DeAngelis, Jr., 47, volunteer firefighter, Lake View Fire Department, died September 11, 2001, after assisting personnel out of the World Trade Center, where he served as a fire warden. A 25-year veteran, he was a former chief, a fire

commissioner for the West Hempstead Fire District, and an instructor with the Nassau County Fire Marshal's office. He held bachelor's and master's degrees from the New York Institute of Technology and co-founded the Asbury Short Film Festival. DeAngelis worked as a procurement manager for the Washington Group International. After his first wife died of breast cancer, he became a volunteer with the Breast Cancer Coalition at Adelphi University. The department has established a scholarship in his honor.

A man of uncommon integrity, honor, and valor, Robert was proud of and devoted to his two daughters.

2003

OHIO

Lawrence J. Sweetnich, 51, career firefighter, Garfield Heights Fire Department, died March 15, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at the station after participating in training. An 18-year veteran with the department, he was also an EMS instructor for the state of Ohio and a communications specialist for Metro Hospital's Life Flight. He coached children's baseball and softball and taught first aid and CPR classes. He loved to cook and was known among members of his family and his shift for making the best ribs in town. He enjoyed playing golf and fishing at Ladue Reservoir.



Larry was a sensitive and passionate man with a great sense of humor. He had such respect for people and nature. He could tell a story like no one else and was good at whatever he did.



To view full-length versions of these tributes, visit the Fallen Heroes section of the Foundation's Web site at www.firehero.org.





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.

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 quarterly newsletter and specialized grief resources. Our Web site provides information on Federal, State and local survivor benefits and other resources.

AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIRE SERVICE SURVIVORS

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

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. Departments receive extensive pre-incident planning support. Immediately after a death, a Chief-to-Chief Network provides technical assistance and personal support to help the department and the family.

WORK TO PREVENT LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

With the support of fire and life safety organizations, the Foundation has launched a major initiative to reduce firefighter deaths. Its goal is to reduce line-of-duty firefighter deaths by 25 percent in 5 years.

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.

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Sponsors of the Weekend & Other Foundation Programs

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And hundreds of others who have helped in many ways.

Special thanks to the members of the fire service who served as family escorts and the honor guard units that participated in the Memorial Weekend programs.





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