

**41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL**

# NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

**October 8-9, 2022**



**Emmitsburg, Maryland**



# *Fire Hero Family Flag*

On October 9, 2014, a special American Flag was presented to our **Fire Hero Families** by the **National Honor Guard Commanders Association** as a way of honoring the families of firefighters who have paid the supreme sacrifice to their community. This flag was requested through the **United States Congress**.

The flag was first flown over the **U.S. Capitol** on Flag Day, June 14. It then traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland, and was flown over the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial**. From there it went to **Arlington National Cemetery** in Arlington, Virginia; the **Wildland Firefighters Monument** in Boise, Idaho; the **IAFF Memorial** in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and finally, the **Department of Defense Firefighters Memorial** in San Angelo, Texas. These sites were selected as national representations of the agencies served by our fallen firefighters.

After this important and meaningful journey, the Fire Hero Family Flag returned to Emmitsburg—and has been on display in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel ever since. It is posted at the family hotel during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend and displayed at Fire Hero Family events throughout the year.

The **United States Flag** is a symbol of strength and unity. Its history parallels our national culture and represents the core values of the **American Fire Service**. These characteristics embody our **Fire Hero Families** and **honor guard members**, too. In this way, the dedicated and permanent Fire Hero Family flag at Emmitsburg represents the **companionship and resilience** we share as we remember—together.



*During today's Memorial Service, the loved ones of each firefighter on the 2022 Roll of Honor will receive an American flag that has been flown above the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and the U.S. Capitol Dome in memory of their fallen hero.*



# *We are here for you.*

October 9, 2022

This weekend, your loved one joins the more than 4,600 firefighters honored on the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. We are here to honor your firefighter for their service, their commitment, and their ultimate dedication to a higher calling.

The pages of this book chronicle a shared story of valor and courage. But they also tell us of the distinctive impact each individual firefighter had on those around them. The men and women honored in these pages are more than names and faces, more than firefighters. We recognize that they were everything to you—and as we read their stories, we come to feel the infinite magnitude of their loss.

When the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was first established by the United States Congress, our mission was to honor firefighters who died in the line of duty from across our nation and to assist their families in rebuilding their lives. Since then, our mission has expanded to include supporting their colleagues and organizations and working within the Fire Service to reduce preventable firefighter death and injury. We thank our staff and volunteers for their efforts each day to support that mission, and we thank our supporters whose donations help to fund the services we pledge to provide to you from today forward.

We know that the pathway for moving forward is different for everyone. However, the experience of loss is shared in many ways by other Fire Hero Families. Many of these families return to Memorial Weekend each year offering support as you navigate your grief journey. We hope you have had a chance to meet and talk with some of these Fire Hero Families this weekend.

Fire Hero Families will continue to be present for you in the coming days and will be there for you long after the weekend. I encourage you to stay connected with this special community. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and our Fire Hero Families stand ready to offer comfort, support, and camaraderie.



And if there is one thing I want you to take forward from today, it is this: We are here for you. So please, reach out and stay in touch.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy Markel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy Markel  
Chair, Board of Directors  
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

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# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Justin Robert Hansen

Central Mat-Su Fire Department – Alaska ★ Paid-on-Call Engineer ★ June 27, 2021 ★ Age 37



Justin was born April 16, 1984, in Logan, Utah, to Robert and Laureen Hansen. Justin is survived by his parents and three siblings, Christopher, Mia, and Brandon.

Justin joined the Marine Corps while still in high school and, upon graduation from basic training, was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California, as an infantryman. Justin was deployed to the border of Iraq and was among the first troops to invade Iraq. He worked as a gunner, manning a 50-caliber machine gun on an armored vehicle. After completing his service to his country, Justin returned home and took a job as an equipment operator at Kimberly Clark.

Justin's grandfather, Lavel Davis, often said Alaska was heaven. This idea must run in the family, as both Justin and his older brother, Chris, ended up living there. Justin lived in Alaska for nine years and rented a room in his brother Chris's home for much of that time. He was close to Chris's three children, and the family often joked that he was the third parent in the home.

Justin and Chris both joined the Central Mat-Su Fire Department and attended the same fire academy. Justin went on to become certified as a State of Alaska Firefighter 1 & 2, rescue technician, ice rescue technician, State of Alaska emergency medical technician, and State of Alaska fire apparatus driver/operator (engineer).

Justin also continued his formal education, obtaining a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Alaska in February of 2020. After completing his degree, he worked on a remote drilling rig in the interior of Alaska that following summer. He often spoke of going on to get his master's degree in geology and getting a job working with an Alaskan oil company.

Throughout his time in Alaska, Justin remained an active and vital member of the Central Mat-Su Fire Department, where he loved helping the community and the

members of the department, his second family.

Justin had a deep love for knifemaking, firearms, history, and geology. He was often a man of silence but found his comfort zone and true friends in the fire department. Justin was a loving son, brother, uncle, and an excellent firefighter.

He will be greatly missed and never forgotten!

# Scott William McClain

**Anchorage Fire Department – Alaska ★ Career Firefighter ★ October 23, 2020 ★ Age 45**

Scott was a truly selfless soul who received the most satisfaction by helping others. He died October 23, 2020, after battling an aggressive work-related cancer. Scott dreamed of becoming a firefighter since he was a young child. When Scott was about four years old, there was a fire on a neighbor's property, and Scott donned his red plastic fireman helmet and plastic Scott Air-Pack and proceeded to respond to the fire.

In 1986, Scott moved with his family to Chugiak, Alaska, where he joined the Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department as a junior firefighter when he was 16 years old. During this time, Scott also worked for the Division of Forestry, State of Alaska, fighting wildfire. Scott was an avid outdoor enthusiast, and working outside fighting fire was a dream. While working for the state, Scott earned his helicopter pilot license to become a helitack firefighter. In 2001, he joined the Anchorage Fire Department.

Scott had a heart for giving and for sharing his passions for boating, fishing, hunting, and fire training and safety. One of his favorite places to go out fishing was on the Knik River, and he loved to take along friends and family at any chance. He loved to share his knowledge as an outdoorsman. A favorite was teaching during Fire Prevention Week at the elementary schools.

Shortly before Scott's diagnosis and death, he had become an integral part of the Soldier's Heart Program. It quickly became a passion for him to help his friends and peers with service-related trauma for military and first responders.

Scott took pride in his desire to help others and had a true servant's heart whether on or off-duty. On a trip to Maui, Scott spent an hour searching for a woman's lost sunglasses at the bottom of the ocean (He found them!), as well as helped an elderly woman out of the water when he noticed her struggling in the surf.

As his wife, I am sad that his life was cut short, as ours, together, had just started. Family and friends who knew Scott said he had become a changed person the last few years before his death. He was at his happiest. This provides much comfort to his wife, Jennifer; his son, MacKenzie; daughters, Kaylee and Krystina; parents, Ruth and Bill; and many, many other family and friends.



# Kerry Davis

Phoenix Fire Department – Arizona ★ Career Firefighter ★ July 14, 2021 ★ Age 64



Firefighter Kerry Davis, age 64, of the Phoenix Fire Department, died on July 14, 2021, due to complications of liver cancer deemed by the State of Arizona to be in the line of duty.

Before his retirement in 2011, he served honorably with the Phoenix Fire Department for 26 years. He was a member of IAFF 10th District Local 493.

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IN OUR HEARTS



# Trevor C. Madrid

**Mesa Fire and Medical Department – Arizona ★ Career Captain ★ November 14, 2021 ★ Age 36**

Fire Captain Trevor Madrid, 36, passed away on Sunday, November 14, 2021, in Phoenix, Arizona, surrounded by his family and closest friends. He fought a battle for 971 days against synovial sarcoma, a very rare form of cancer.

Trevor loved serving his community as part of the Mesa Fire Department for 14 years. He loved his job and his department. They were truly his family.

Trevor loved all types of adventures and especially traveling. In his younger years you could find him on the track with his motorcycle, snowboarding, hiking, and off-roading. He loved traveling and went to over 20 countries, with a long bucket list he still wanted to accomplish. When traveling, he loved learning about other cultures and volunteering, especially to help underprivileged kids. His heart was one of the most beautiful things about him.

Of all the things Trevor loved, his family ranked the highest. He is survived by his wife, Angela; daughter, Mila (5); and son, Maverick (2). Trevor was an amazing husband, but there was nothing like seeing Trevor become a father. He devoted every moment to his children and showed them how loved they were daily.

During Trevor's battle with cancer, he vowed to share his story with the world and spread awareness for firefighter cancer. He created a TikTok, where he gained 250,000 followers from all ages and walks of life. He received many messages about how watching his battle gave others strength to keep fighting their daily battles as well. He inspired many and continues to do so through his videos.

Trevor valued time above everything, because when you get a diagnosis like his, everything gets put into perspective. He spent his time with his family and showed those who he loved how important they were to him. If Trevor were here and could give a message, I am sure he'd say, "Never take time for granted, make sure those you love feel valued daily, and nothing is more special than family."



# Matthew R. Miller

Falcon Executive Aviation, Inc. – Arizona ★ Seasonal Air Attack Pilot ★ July 10, 2021 ★ Age 48



Matthew Miller was born in Salem, Oregon, on March 5, 1973. After graduating high school, Matt attended Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana, where he obtained a bachelor's of aeronautical science degree, with a minor in business administration specializing in mathematics. He was a flight team captain with the National Intercollegiate Flying Association during his college years. He moved to Mesa, Arizona, in October 1996 to be a flight instructor with Superstition Air Service (SAS), which later became Falcon Executive Aviation Inc. in June 1999.

Matt's personal and work family were very important to him. He was very dedicated and cared deeply for his wife, Jacqy, aunts, cousins, and stepchildren. He would always rise to the occasion when asked for help. Matt loved to hike the Salt River area on the Tonto National Forest. Matt had many gifts, one being that he could make you feel calm and at ease.

Matt loved teaching students and held multiple positions in the flight school as well as within the 135 charter operations, including chief flight instructor (gold seal), advanced ground instructor, flight school manager, 135-line pilot, company check airman, safety officer, USFS air attack pilot, USFS air attack pilot instructor, and FAA designated pilot examiner. He holds a master CFI through the National Association of Flight Instructors.

Matt has trained hundreds, as well as issued licenses to hundreds as an FAA designated pilot examiner. He has natural talent for flying that he pursued with all his heart. He truly loved every aspect of the industry. His students and coworkers reiterated the sentiment that his knowledge, skill, and overall presence was one that made flight something they could love. He was always available 24/7 to answer questions, texts, and calls from students and professionals alike.

His love of flying USFS air attack missions was evident whenever you saw him on duty. His knowledge of Forest Service policies and procedures, tactics, fire behavior, and aircraft was at the highest levels. He was a walking aviation encyclopedia.

Matt is survived by his wife, Jacqy, and his two stepchildren, Ammon and Verity. Matt will be sorely missed by these loved ones and countless others whose lives he touched.

# Jeff Piechura

**U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest – Arizona**  
**Career Fire Chief/Air Tactical Group Supervisor ★ July 10, 2021 ★ Age 62**

Jeff's passion and love for the fire service, including wildland firefighting as an air tactical group supervisor (ATGS) for the U.S. Forest Service, spanned 42 years and three fire departments.

His career started at age 20 in Phoenix, Arizona, with Rural Metro Fire. He moved to Tucson in 1984 as a captain with Northwest Fire District (NWFD), whose services were contracted by Rural Metro Fire.

In 1988, he became their district chief and took on the task of transitioning out of contract services with Rural Metro, ultimately creating NWFD as their own governmental district. Jeff became their first official fire chief, a title he held for 24 years. After retiring from NWFD, Jeff took the fire chief job in Stockton, California, to assist them through their bankruptcy. Completing that task in three years, he then went to Sedona, Arizona, as an assistant chief for two years before being drawn back to Tucson.

Throughout his long career, he served on four separate NFPA committees, was a board member at the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), contributed significantly to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and was a fellow with the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE). Jeff was a founder of the Arizona Fire Service Institute (AFSI) and a respected leader of both the Arizona Fire Chiefs and Arizona Fire Districts Associations.

In 2005, he was the Arizona Fire Service Chief Officer of the Year.

He built the Ironwood Hotshot Crew, 2007-2015.

In 2015, he was inducted into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame.

"Chief Pie" was dedicated to excellence and had the commitment and drive to make the fire service a better and safer place for the men and women who serve.

Jeff "Pie in the Sky" tragically lost his life on July 10, 2021, when the aircraft he was flying in crashed while he was working as an air tactical group supervisor (ATGS) on the Cedar Basin Fire near Wikieup, Arizona. He leaves behind his "lovely bride" Donna, five adult children, and four beautiful grandchildren.

Jeff's entire mission and message was to serve, not yourself, not the badge or the patch, but the community. Mission accomplished!



# David J. Rehnke

Peoria Fire-Medical Department – Arizona ★ Career Captain ★ January 11, 2021 ★ Age 59



On January 11, 2021, Peoria Fire-Medical Department Retired Captain David Rehnke passed away. Captain Rehnke succumbed to his 10-year battle with renal cell carcinoma.

In 1961, David John Rehnke was born in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area. At 13 years old, he moved with his family to Phoenix, Arizona, where he graduated from Marcos de Niza High School. Shortly after, in 1985, Captain Rehnke began his public safety career as a volunteer with the City of Chandler Fire Department. He was hired as a full-time firefighter at the Peoria Fire-Medical Department (PFMD) on February 13, 1989. After seven years, he promoted to engineer and then to captain twelve years later. Captain Rehnke cherished his job; in particular, he enjoyed working on the rig, frequently helping to design and develop future generations of PFMD apparatus. Once he promoted to captain, he served to encourage and develop the careers of others in the department for the next seven years.

After his occupational cancer diagnosis on April 21, 2011, Captain Rehnke became training captain and would spend the remainder of his career designing safeguards for the next generation of Peoria firefighters. Captain Rehnke also served as a paramedic with the department for 25 years and took the lead in many other roles, including terrorism liaison officer, lead driving trainer, boat operator instructor, and lead preceptor for paramedic students.

Captain Rehnke believed in, and was truly passionate about, serving his community and colleagues. He was committed to making things better for those that followed him, leaving a memorable impact. Even after his cancer diagnosis, Captain Rehnke served as state director for the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, established new decontamination guidelines, and expanded firefighter presumptive cancer coverage in Arizona. In his career he was bestowed with many honors and ranks,

the most prestigious being the Johnny Valentine Award, which recognizes the best of the best in the Peoria Medical-Fire Department.

Captain Rehnke was a lifelong fan of the Minnesota Vikings, a passionate woodworker, and enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family. He is survived by his lovely wife, Brenda, and two children, Shannon and Dustin; his mother, Vera Bole, and her husband, Herman; and his stepmother, Jan Rehnke. Captain Rehnke will be truly missed, but he leaves a legacy which will live on forever in the paths he carved for future generations.



# David Stutzman

**Peoria Fire-Medical Department – Arizona ★ Career Captain ★ June 15, 2021 ★ Age 65**

Dad was and always has been my biggest hero and role model. Although losing him hurts more than I could have ever imagined, I really can't help but also come to terms with just how fortunate I was to be born from a man of such character.

My dad wore many caps, and I'm not talking about his fire helmet, sun hat, or even the royal purple leopard print cowboy hat he wore for Halloween. I'm talking about the roles he filled with great distinction to make sure Austin and I had every opportunity to succeed.

One of those roles was that of a teacher. To this day, I can still hear him telling me, "Treat others how they wish to be treated." and "It was only a real mistake if you didn't learn anything from it." My favorite was, "The best investments and bets you can make are on yourself and your family." He taught me principles that I will carry with me for the rest of my life and emphasized the importance of integrity and standing for what's right, regardless of the personal outcome.

Of all his lessons, I think his most powerful and moving one was something he didn't realize he was doing, the lesson he taught by example. We watched him work a full shift at the fire house, only to come straight home to 12-hour days under the Arizona sun on his farm. He adapted and streamlined his operation with every passing year. We watched him treat people with respect and genuine kindness, not because it was potentially good for business but because that was just his genuine authentic self. I watched him display toughness and strength time and time again, which ultimately is what pushed me towards a career in the fire service. I remember him pulling over to help strangers in car accidents we witnessed on the road without hesitation.

David was as tough as they come. Not many people go a week without realizing they were bitten by a rattlesnake, but hey, the plants needed water. He took that fighting spirit and that toughness with him in fighting cancer. He fought so hard that sometimes you really couldn't believe the condition he was in. To give you a point of reference, in September, after his brain surgery, the doctors said he would have a tough time making it to Christmas. But that wasn't for him. He got right back out there, hopped on his favorite John Deere, got back to work, and got his tomatoes planted in March. For a while, I didn't understand why he did it, why he didn't change his work habits given the circumstances. But I've come to realize it was his final lesson through example and probably the most important one yet. He showed true resiliency.



# Wesley E. Adams

Sedgwick Volunteer Fire Department – Arkansas ★ Volunteer Chief ★ December 7, 2021 ★ Age 61



Wesley E. Adams was born in Truman, Arkansas in 1960 to Loyd and Mary Adams. He lived in Bay, Arkansas all his life until he married. Wesley married the love of his life, Zelda, on January 1, 1979, and they had a very wonderful almost 43 years together. They started a family together, having two girls, Jennivy and little Zelda. Wesley worked as a farmer for many years and then went to being a “water man,” as his children called him. Wesley became a dedicated volunteer firefighter in 1986. He started at the Walnut Ridge Fire Department and then moved to the Sedgwick Volunteer Fire Department, where he became chief. Wesley loved his wife, kids, grandkids, church family, fire department family, and all his friends. He loved helping people out with anything and everything, from building stuff to working on automobiles. Wesley really loved hauling the equipment for the gospel singing group Hearts Desires, from setting it all up and running the sound to taking it all down. It was his passion, other than the fire department.

Wesley had such a wonderful passion for helping people that he would stop most of the time for anything. I remember one time that Wesley and I, along with our daughter, Zelda, and her baby girl were coming back from Jonesboro, and a car wrecked in front of us. Wesley stopped and said, “I got to help.” We said OK. Wesley got out and did what he was trained to do. Our daughter got out and stood by our car with wipes and hand sanitizer so he or anyone else that helped could clean their hands off if needed. Wesley told me one time that he stomped the fire on the side of the road out with his foot.

Wesley may not have finished school or even gone to college, but he taught himself everything he needed to know from working on cars and trucks and even farm equipment. He went to different weekend classes for water and wastewater and got certificates for it. He used to say he could run the whole plant if he wanted to, and the truth was, he could have. Wesley had classes at the fire department to teach the firefighters first aid and CPR and anything else that they needed to learn to be the best that they could be.

Wesley lost his life doing the one thing that he loved, and that was helping people. Wesley and his firefighters had just cleaned up after a three-vehicle wreck and were trying to turn the fire truck around. This is when a car didn't stop in time and hit him. His injuries were so bad that he lost his life.

# Aaron Scott Chassells

**North Little Rock Fire Department – Arkansas ★ Career Lieutenant ★ September 18, 2021 ★ Age 48**

Aaron Scott Chassells was born on January 8, 1973, and passed on September 18, 2021, at the age of 48.

Aaron was first and foremost a follower of Christ. He was a loving father to a forever 17-year-old son, an amazing husband, brother, uncle, and someone who cared deeply for his entire family.

Aaron was a veteran who loved serving his country.

Aaron started his firefighting career as a volunteer firefighter with Sherwood Fire Department in Sherwood, Arkansas, on June 20, 1995. While working with this department he went on to get his EMT certification and worked for several EMS services over the years. Aaron left Sherwood Fire Department on June 23, 2009, to be hired on as a full-time firefighter/EMT for the North Little Rock Fire Department in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He later went on to become a paramedic.

Aaron was the glue that held our entire family together. He was someone that always had a smile on his face, and he never met a stranger. If you were privileged enough to have ever meet Aaron, you knew you had a friend for life and someone you could always count on.

Aaron is greatly loved and missed by all that knew him.



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# Edward Louis Karriem Jr.

Little Rock Fire Department – Arkansas ★ Career Battalion Chief ★ February 13, 2021 ★ Age 41



Edward went above and beyond. He was an extremely loyal, dedicated, and devoted man to his children and the fire service. He died on February 13, 2021, during a house call, doing what he was driven and committed to: saving lives. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Edward grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. He joined because he had a yearning in his heart for saving lives and helping others. He served in utmost dedication a total of 17 years as a firefighter (7 years), engineer (2 years), chief (7 years), and battalion chief (1 year).

Although proud of his accomplishments, Edward was always humble and never boastful. Always one call away, he never met a stranger and would do without hesitation for others. He was constantly willing and able to lend a helping hand or financial support when needed. You only had to ask once, and Edward was right there to help fix the problem in any way he could. His qualities—including determination, hard work, and being extremely innovative and inventive—made him special and unique to so many people and appreciated by those who truly knew him. He was our family's own personal superman.

Edward opened his arms and heart to those he called his “brothers beyond blood.” He mentored and taught them to keep climbing the ladder in the department. He took the time and effort to contribute to what he felt was his purpose, while creating an unbreakable bond with them. He was vice president of a group that goes by the name HOTTAR, helping to lead in the fight against injustice, combating racism in the fire service while recruiting the minority.

As Edward's oldest daughter, I will always feel happily obligated to relive his memory wherever and whenever. I was and will always be his, benna. My dad deserved more years than he got. However, I keep my prosperous faith in the Lord and his timing. To me, my dad will always be one of a kind. As I watched him at

work, I realized that it was more than a job to him. He had found a forever second home, and he loved what he did every day. All the study sessions with me and him, teaching me things about the fire department that most don't know, and growing up in fire trucks will always be a part of my life.

Edward leaves in his remembrance his wife, Denise; his daughters, Kennedy, Kensley, Kensington, and Kaylor; his stepsons, Jurod and Reginald; his mother, Victoria Karriem-Ray; and many other family and friends, on and off the fire department.



# Lucas Brian Stephenson

**Mandeville Volunteer Fire Department – Arkansas ★ Paid-on-Call Assistant Chief ★ October 26, 2021 ★ Age 25**

Lucas was an extremely loyal man to both his family and fire family. He passed away on October 26, 2021, in a line-of-duty accident at the age of 25.

Lucas was born on December 22, 1995. He was a lifetime resident of Texarkana, Arkansas. Lucas was employed at Cooper Tire Rubber Company and a member of the United Steel Workers 752L. He served the citizens of Mandeville and all of Miller County as a certified firefighter since 2013. Lucas was promoted to assistant fire chief in 2019, He was also a master diver with the Miller County Dive Team.

Those that knew Lucas know he had one of the kindest, most caring hearts. You could always count on him. Lucas departed this life doing what he loved.

Lucas left behind a father and mother, Eddie and Michelle, and four siblings, Kalee, Alex, Trent, and Taylor. He had a nephew, Robbie, and a niece, Piper, who he loved dearly. He was survived by lots of family and friends.

Lucas enjoyed country music, scuba diving, and watching his favorite TV series when he could. Lucas's love and kindness will never be forgotten.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Tory Carlon

Los Angeles County Fire Department – California ★ Career Firefighter Specialist ★ June 1, 2021 ★ Age 44



Tory Carlon served as a Los Angeles County firefighter for 22 years. Prior to being hired on by the county in 2001, he worked as a wildland firefighter for Angeles National Forest. Firefighting was a true calling and passion for him. He became a paramedic with the county in 2004 and served on some of the busiest squads in his four years as a medic. In 2008, he promoted to firefighter specialist. He served in this position for the remaining 13 years of his career.

Though he loved his job, his true passion was being a family man. Tory and his wife of 18 years, Heidi, had three daughters together, Joslyn, Brynn, and Bree. Tory took great pride in being a “girl dad.” Coaching softball, teaching them how to ride dirt bikes, and boating at the lake with his family were his favorite pastimes.

Tory was a very gentle, mellow, and easygoing man. He was known for this, and for his favorite phrase, “Right on.”

Tory is survived by his wife, Heidi Carlon; daughters, Joslyn Carlon, Brynn Carlon, and Bree Carlon; his parents, Larry and Bonnie Carlon; and multiple siblings, nieces, and nephews.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# William Robert James

**Los Angeles Fire Department – California ★ Career Captain I ★ December 11, 2021 ★ Age 52**

William Robert James, of San Pedro, California, died from complications of lung cancer deemed by the State of California to be in the line of duty.

Born to Daniel and Mary Lou James, Bill graduated in 1987 from Miraleste High School, where he played football. Bill completed a degree in business administration at the University of Oklahoma in 1992.

Bill made a life in California, but part of his heart remained in Oklahoma. He loved the Sooners and attended every football game possible.

Bill is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Bill worked for many years at Catalina Express, starting as a deckhand and working his way up to captain. There he met Lisa Seelig, and they were married on April 20, 1996. Bill was most proud of his family. A devoted and involved father, he and Lisa raised two wonderful children, Mia and Joe.

Bill had a 21-year career with the Los Angeles Fire Department, where he achieved the ranks of firefighter and engineer and was promoted to captain in 2017. At the fire department, he was affectionately known as “Wild Bill” for his zest for life.

Bill cherished and cultivated relationships with his large family and was actively involved in every gathering, party, game, and sporting event. Bill loved sports, particularly mountain biking, running, boating, surfing, bodysurfing, and paddle boarding.

Bill had a quick wit and loved joking around and laughing. He was remembered as generous and giving, even-keeled and unflappable. He was the pillar of his family.

In addition to Lisa, Mia, and Joe, Bill was survived by his brother, Mark; sister-in-law, Patty; and niece, Rebecca; his two dogs, Lincoln and Sadie; a large extended family; and countless colleagues.

He was beloved and respected by all who knew him. He is sorely missed.



# Henry A. Munoz Jr.

Los Angeles Fire Department – California ★ Career Firefighter III ★ July 22, 2021 ★ Age 50



Henry A. Munoz Jr. was 50 at the time of his death. He became a firefighter in 2001 and achieved the rank of Firefighter III in his time with Los Angeles City Fire Department. Becoming a firefighter was a lifelong goal, and he was honored to serve his community. He loved his job and enjoyed the many opportunities it provided him.

Helping his community was always a priority. Henry coached youth football for seven years. He had played for the same team as a child and played football all four years in high school. His love of football motivated him to share his knowledge with kids of all ages. With his son Jacob, he worked with St. Baldrick's Foundation to raise money for children's cancer research. Henry also ran the LA Marathon to support the Widows, Orphans, & Disabled Firefighters' Fund of LA City Fire Department.

During his career, Henry was honored with a department commendation for saving the life of a man that was unconscious inside a house that was on fire. Had Henry not discovered this individual, the man would not have survived.

Henry had many hobbies. The most prominent of these was his love of driving and working on classic cars. Even before he got his driver's license, he had saved his money to buy a 1953 Ferrari Red Chevy truck. He favored Chevy vehicles, acquiring a 1967 El Camino, a 1968 Malibu, and a 1969 short-bed truck that he shared with his dad. The final classic he would buy was a 1968 Ford Bronco that he had planned to restore, but sadly was not able to finish. Henry enjoyed outdoor activities, especially motorcycle riding and boating, activities that he had done growing up and wanted to make sure his own family could also enjoy. He started the kids young, at age two, and they worked their way up to dirt bikes or larger quads. He decided to get a side-by-side ATV so everyone could ride together. The boat was another way to have everyone together enjoying the outdoors.

Henry was the oldest of three boys raised by his parents, Henry Sr. and Rosemarie. His brother Joe was two years younger than Henry, and his brother Manny was 16 years younger. Henry took his role as eldest very seriously. He married his wife, Kate, in 1998, and they had three children. Jacob was born in 2000, Jackie in 2003, and Julie in 2005.

Most people would say Henry was their best friend. That's how he made people feel. It didn't matter how long you had known him; he had a way of making everyone feel special. His smile and laugh were infectious. He is greatly missed.



# Jose M. Perez

**Los Angeles Fire Department – California ★ Career Firefighter/Paramedic ★ July 25, 2020 ★ Age 44**

Jose Melano Perez, also known as “Joser,” was an extremely loyal and dedicated man to both his family and the fire service. He died on July 25, 2020, in the line of duty at the age of 44. Jose’s career as a Los Angeles City firefighter/paramedic started in 2003, and he served the Los Angeles community for 17 years. He was well known throughout the city.

Jose taught many of us what it meant to serve others with compassion, diligence, and patience. He served in the most impoverished neighborhoods and busiest fire stations in the city. His dedication in serving the citizens of Los Angeles never wavered. He always did it with a smile, often with extended on-scene time from calls, but always with an immeasurable amount of humanity and understanding. Jose taught us that public service was noble and necessary, that one can serve with integrity and hold true to the important values of faith and family. He realized that giving to others enriched the giver’s soul, and Jose was one bright candle that lit a thousand more.

South Los Angeles is a promising and vibrant city that Jose added hope to, a place that faced many challenges. He was an optimistic man who truly cared about his community. Joser was an empathetic man who could relate to people from all walks of life. He valued character over pedigree. Jose looked for the good in people, and he usually found it. Jose’s heart was large. He had room for all people. He was generous to friends and patients he met on the job. He made sure that if there was a need, he would work hard to fill it. He was known for saying, “Hey, Buddy, I got you.” and “I got a guy for that!”

Jose’s life was full. He was happy doing what he loved, serving people! The Bible says this about serving others: *If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.* (Romans 12:8) Jose was a living example of this.

Jose will be sadly missed by his loving wife and three incredible children. His two sons and daughter are blessed to have had the time that they did with their heroic father, even though it was cut short.

Our hearts will always burn with love for our heroic firefighter and paramedic, Jose Melano Perez.  
December 9, 1975 - July 25, 2020



# George Roque

Los Angeles Fire Department – California ★ Career Captain ★ January 1, 2021 ★ Age 57



George Roque was more than just an LAFD captain. He was a husband, father, brother, mentor, family member, and friend to many! He dedicated 37 years to the fire service, serving the State of California, City of Loma Linda, and his last 22 years with the City of Los Angeles. He was always searching for ways to advance. Throughout his career in the fire service, he held the positions of fire officer, firefighter, and engineer. His ultimate goal was to work for LAFD, and after four long years on a waiting list, he was hired on in 1998 as a firefighter. He worked with honor, pride, and integrity. He would later promote to captain.

George believed in leading by example and always found time to train, teach, guide, and share words of wisdom with his crew that he treated like family.

During the academy and while promoting for LAFD, George was known for his relentless studying. He did not attend an event or family function without having a study binder, books, or flash cards to review. His family would often find him in front of a mirror rehearsing for his upcoming drill presentations and interviews. This commitment and the high expectations George held for himself showed how truly driven and dedicated George was to succeed for himself and his family.

George was a master of many skills. He enjoyed masonry, concrete, carpentry, tile setting, and farming in his citrus grove. His workmanship was outstanding. As hard as George worked, he always made time to enjoy his life. He loved hunting, camping, boating, and planning trips for his family and friends that became family. The memories of the trips and time together is what his family will always cherish.

George was someone that you went to if you needed advice, direction, a helping hand, or a dose of tough love. He believed that it's all about setting goals, working hard, being disciplined, and never giving up on yourself! These high standards are what he would instill in our four children. Family and togetherness meant everything to George.

My husband, Captain George Roque, made the ultimate sacrifice during his service to the people of the City of Los Angeles, contracting Covid-19 while on duty, then passing away due to complications of the Covid-19 virus. His sudden passing was a huge loss for his loving family and everyone who knew him.

George Roque's legacy of discipline and hard work will continue through all who he has mentored. To the world, he was a dad and husband; to his wife and kids, he was their entire world.

# John E. Ruedy

**Los Angeles Fire Department – California ★ Career Fire Captain II ★ May 22, 2021 ★ Age 54**

John Edward Ruedy passed away peacefully at his home on May 22 with his loving family by his side after a courageous and hard-fought battle with lung cancer. John was a man devoted to his wife, Michelle, and their two children, Paige (26) and Derek (23).

John was born on November 25, 1966, in Culver City, California to Gary Ruedy and Lucy Dennis. John grew up in Chatsworth, where he attended Chatsworth Elementary, Faith Baptist School, and Chatsworth High School. His family spent many summer vacations at the Colorado River, where boating became a part of his life. He learned to waterski at age five. He played baseball in his youth, but football stole his heart in high school. He wasn't sure what path to take after high school, so he attended junior college to do some soul searching. He took a fire science class and realized this was his calling.

He began his career with the Los Angeles Fire Department on July 9, 1989. He promoted to engineer in June 1999, achieved the rank of Captain I in August 2003, and became a Captain II in February 2016. He worked all throughout the city during his career, but his time as a Captain I at Fire Station 89 was where he found his fire family. John worked hard at classes and training to be at a USAR fire station, on a CAL Fire team as well as the LAFD FEMA Team. John's final years were spent as the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Unit commander, as well as the liaison for the LAFD's state and federal US&R task forces.

In November 2020, John was named LAFD Firefighter of the Month. Rick Najera described John to a T, "John was an honorable man with a strong work ethic, led his life with integrity, had a solid moral compass, and most importantly, he loved his family and always put them first. He was a great role model for me. I will never forget his quiet and patient demeanor. He led with presence and example; he never raised his voice."

John met the love of his life during the last week of July in 1992 after a softball game he was playing in; he was introduced to Michelle by mutual friends. They married on November 13, 1993 and moved to Simi Valley to begin their journey together. They were blessed with two amazing and beautiful children, Paige and Derek. They spent their summers on the lake and the rest of each year cheering on Paige and Derek in whatever sport they were involved in. They loved traveling as a family and were blessed to see many wonderful places together. John touched so many lives as the amazing husband, father, son/son-in-law, brother/brother-in-law, uncle, nephew, cousin, and friend that he was.



# Christopher George Yock

San Francisco Fire Department – California ★ Career Firefighter ★ June 8, 2021 ★ Age 57



San Francisco Fire Department Firefighter Christopher Yock died on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, after fighting a large fire at the San Francisco International Airport parking structure. Unfortunately, after returning home from the incident he suffered a medical emergency and passed away. He was 57.

Christopher was born to his beloved parents, Jimmy and Anita Yock, on December 27, 1963, in San Francisco, California. He grew up in the Westborough neighborhood of South San Francisco. Family was the priority of his life.

Christopher began his journey in the fire service as a firefighter at the Alameda Naval Airbase Station, followed by the Presidio Fire Department, before finally achieving his dream career as a firefighter for the San Francisco Fire Department, beginning on April 17, 2000. He spent most of his career at Station 10, serving the Richmond District. In January 2019, Christopher transferred to the San Francisco International Airport. Christopher loved his career in the fire service and was a beloved firehouse chef who prepared excellent meals with infectious happiness.

Anyone who knew Christopher knew his immense happiness and passion for traveling, cooking, photography, and music. Christopher was a seasoned world traveler, with some of his favorite destinations being Palau, Porto, Maldives, Tahiti, Bali, and numerous Maui family trips. But for all his passions in life, Christopher's greatest happiness and source of pride was his son, Cayden Yock. Christopher was known for always proudly referring to Cayden as "my son" with a beaming smile. Christopher and Cayden loved to spend their time together riding mountain bikes, going to swim meets, taking road trips, and weekend drives in Christopher's beloved Alfa Romeo Spider.

Christopher lived life to its fullest and was loved by family, friends, and fellow firefighters. Christopher was the DJ with a never-ending playlist at every family gathering, along with a cooler filled with an eclectic mix of culinary treats and drinks. His photographs captured countless family memories and will be cherished by his family for generations to come.

Christopher is survived by his siblings, Jeffery Yock and Jennifer Yock-Lanthier; his son, Cayden Yock (Nancy Galvin); his brother-in-law, Sean Lanthier; and his nephew and nieces, Danielle Gracia, Alyssa Sozio, Adam Lanthier, and Ashley Yock.

The family and the San Francisco Fire Department extend their gratitude to the San Rafael Fire Department E-57C for their heroic efforts.



# Jeffrey J. Billingsley

**Denver Fire Department – Colorado ★ Career Technician ★ September 20, 2021 ★ Age 42**

How many people do you know that from an early age knew what they wanted to be when they grew up and then actually did it? Jeff Billingsley is one such person.

Jeff was born on September 14, 1979, in Omaha, Nebraska. At age four, Jeff's uncle, the chief with the Ralston Volunteer Fire Department, let him sit in a fire truck for the first time. Jeff was elated. From that moment on, he was certain that he would be a fireman.

Growing up, Jeff went through Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He loved the outdoors, camping, and hiking.

In 1998, while a senior in high school, Jeff joined the Lewis Township Volunteer Fire Department in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and began his firefighter career. Jeff completed his EMT training in December 1998. He attended Iowa Western Community College and earned an associate degree in business administration in May 2001. He was certified as Fire Fighter I in July 2001.

In the fall of 2001 Jeff was hired with the Denver Fire Department. He fell in love with Denver and all it had to offer. Colorado became his home. In April 2003 he was certified as a Firefighter II. In February 2005 he completed the Emergency Responder HAZMAT Technician Course. In June 2005 Jeff was certified as a Fire Instructor I and in July 2005 he was approved for Technician status.

Jeff flourished in the relationships he made, the skills he learned, and the hobbies he took on. When something interested Jeff, he found a way to learn about it. Mostly self-taught, he loved working with wood, tinkering with his Toyota Land Cruiser, and leather crafting. Music became a big part of Jeff's life after he moved to Colorado. He loved a wide variety of musical genres and attending concerts. Jeff became a drummer with the Local 858 Denver Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums and the Colorado Emerald Society. He was ecstatic to have performed at Red Rocks.

Jeff met his soulmate, Lindsey Foster, in 2020. They hunkered down during the height of the COVID pandemic and quietly made plans for a life together. They had dreams of traveling, buying land, and caring for Jeff's dogs, Barnes and Murphy. Tragically, these plans never came to be. Jeff died from an aortic aneurism while on duty six days after his 42nd birthday.

Jeff is survived by his soulmate, Lindsey Foster; his parents, John and Margaret Billingsley; sister, Lisa Scheve (husband, Joe, and son, Henry); and brother, Matt (wife, April, and daughter, Layni). He is loved and greatly missed.

Denver Fire Department took a young man from a small town and developed him into the professional firefighter who is being honored here today.



# Christopher D. Carneal

Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services – Colorado ★ Career Captain/Paramedic ★ November 30, 2020 ★ Age 47



Chris was 47 years old when he passed away from occupationally caused renal cell carcinoma on November 30, 2020. When Chris was diagnosed in September 2018, he was given two years to live. He fought so hard and made it two years and two months. He was a fighter to the very end. At the time Chris passed away, he was a medically retired fire captain and paramedic for Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services. Before joining Fort Carson Fire, Chris was a police officer and a fire captain for the City of Fountain, where he grew up.

Chris significantly impacted the EMS, wildland, and hazmat programs at Fort Carson. He made sure that they were running well and that safety was of the utmost concern with each of the programs. It did not matter if Chris was on shift or off; he was available to answer questions about work. He wanted to make sure that his crews were given the appropriate knowledge and resources they needed to do their jobs well.

Throughout his almost 30 years with the fire service, Chris received several awards, including lifesaving awards and unit citations. His most recent lifesaving award came from a structure fire he was on with his crew. Chris was so humble that he did not want to be recognized for this action. He would always say that he is just “Joe the Fireman” and was not anything special. All his guys and gals would certainly beg to differ. He was SO special. He brought so much to the job. He was constantly teaching and was constantly keeping people laughing.

Chris was an avid hunter. He was also a talented woodworker and welder. He welded things that he and one of his coworkers thought were needed at the station houses or at the training center. They were always on the hunt for things to build to improve the stations for the guys and gals, and they both put in a lot of work for those improvements.

When Chris passed away, he and his wife, Dana, had been married for ten years. Chris and Dana had a beautiful blended family. Chris brought a daughter and a son to the family, Katelynn and Garrett; and Dana brought two daughters, Delaney and Riley (Cross). Besides his wife and four children, Chris was survived by his mother, Bonnie; his sister, Heather; her husband, Jeff; and their three daughters. Chris had a very large family, and he was survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Chris was preceded in death by his father, Albert, as well as his grandparents.

# Darold E. “Bud” Hills

**Aurora Fire Rescue – Colorado ★ Career Lieutenant ★ November 13, 2021 ★ Age 74**

Bud was a dedicated public servant for the Aurora Fire Department in Colorado for 31 years. Bud passed away after a battle with cancer which resulted from years of exposure while responding and mitigating thousands of calls for service. Bud was a consummate professional and highly respected as a person you wanted on an emergency scene. Bud’s command presence as a company officer, coupled with a pragmatic approach, ensured all calls for service would be mitigated effectively and efficiently.

After being honorably discharged from the United States Army and serving in Vietnam, Bud came back to Denver, Colorado, and answered an ad for the Aurora Fire Department. Bud was hired on May 1, 1973, and after spending years as a firefighter and chief’s driver, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1983. During his tenure as a lieutenant, he served on various truck and engine companies, serving the citizens and fellow firefighters. Toward the end of his career, Bud accepted a request to be the lead instructor at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy to ensure newly hired firefighters gained his perspective and experience. The transference of his institutional and anecdotal knowledge to the next generation produced a legacy of competent firefighters for years to come. Bud truly loved the profession and consistently commented on how lucky he was to be an Aurora firefighter.

Bud was a staunch family man. He was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. Bud enjoyed golfing, riding his Harley, and spending time at his cabin in Grand Lake, Colorado, with his wife, Cherry. Bud is loved and cherished by so many people that had the honor of knowing him. He will never be forgotten and always remembered as one of the “good guys.” The Hills family will honor Bud by continued progression through accomplishments, dedication, ethical and caring behavior, which has always been the foundation for his actions. Bud Hills will truly be missed by so many, but never forgotten.



# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Marc T. Olson

Colorado Fire Aviation – Colorado ★ Seasonal Air Tanker Pilot ★ November 16, 2021 ★ Age 59



Marc “Thor” Olson died when the single-engine airtanker he was piloting crashed in Hermit Park, near Estes Park, Colorado, while dropping water on the Kruger Rock Fire.

Growing up in Texas, he knew from a young age that he wanted to fly. He became a licensed pilot at age 17 and enlisted in the Army as a helicopter mechanic. After attending Army Officer Candidate School and Embry Riddle, he became a helicopter pilot and transitioned from the Army to the Air Force.

Olson was a highly decorated veteran of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force, with 32 years of combined military service. A pilot for 42 years, he had more than 8,000 flight hours, including over 1,000 hours flying with night vision goggles in combat and civilian settings.

Thor was passionate about flying and loved to share that passion with others. He was remembered by colleagues as a straight shooter, meticulous, knowledgeable, and highly skilled. Friends recalled his reputation as a prankster, as well as his generosity and thoughtfulness.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Chester M. Riley

**Nucla Naturita Fire Protection District – Colorado ★ Volunteer Chief ★ March 20, 2021 ★ Age 56**

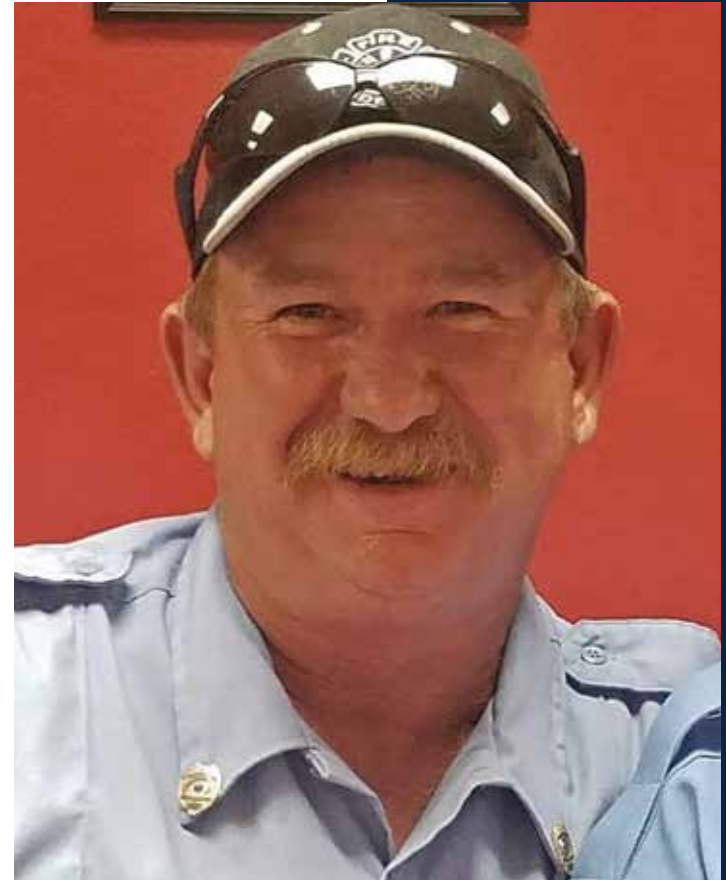
Chester “Chet” Riley, a longtime resident of Naturita, Colorado, first moved to western Colorado while a very young boy with his parents and siblings. Chester attended and graduated from Nucla High School in 1984, after which he graduated from Wyoming Technical College as a certified mechanic. Chester eventually found his way back to Naturita and joined the Nucla Naturita Volunteer Fire Department on Christmas Day in 1986, as a volunteer fireman. He served for 10 years before leaving the area after seeking employment out of town in 1996. Chester returned in 2005, resuming his duties as a volunteer fireman, as well as serving as a volunteer on the Montrose County Sheriff’s Posse. Chester had a passion for fighting wildland fire, spending countless hours battling many of Colorado’s wildfires over the years. In 2014, he was appointed chief of the fire department.

Chester loved all manner of outdoor activities—hiking, hunting, fishing, panning for gold, or simply walking in the wilderness. He was most happy with the sky overhead instead of a roof. The only thing Chester loved more was his family, which included his wife, Shantel; daughters, Melissa, Kindra, and Melinda; and son, Morgan. And, of course, he loved being a grandpa, brother, and uncle. Chester was preceded in death by his mother, Alma. He is survived by his father, John; brothers, John Jr. and Cameron; and sister, Elizabeth, who all miss him daily.

Chester was a kind, giving person. He made friends with everyone he met. His infectious smile and laugh left a lasting impression on everyone who met him.

On March 20, 2021, Chester responded to a motor vehicle accident to assist with rescue and EMS operations. While on scene, Chief Chester Riley collapsed, unresponsive. Efforts to revive the chief were not successful, resulting in a fatal cardiac arrest. Chief Chester Riley’s End of Watch came while he was in service to others, helping his fellow man. He died doing what his soul directed him to do, helping others.

Chester left his mark on the world, teaching all of us to be better human beings by the example he set for us all to follow. He will live on forever in our thoughts and in our hearts.



# Darcy Steven Stallings

Yuma Volunteer Fire Department – Colorado ★ Volunteer Captain ★ October 21, 2021 ★ Age 34



Darcy was born and raised in Yuma, Colorado. He joined the fire department on April 18, 2012 and became captain on January 1, 2019. He died in a line-of-duty accident responding to a call on October 21, 2021, at the age of 34. Darcy's firefighting calling came after The Heartstrong Fire of 2012. He was not yet on the department but volunteered by helping the farmers and firefighters combat this large grass fire. He always wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, who served as a volunteer firefighter for 27 years. Darcy was not as easily able to become a fireman because of his dyslexia. He felt this would hold him back and limit his capabilities. With help from his fellow firefighters, he was able to become a first responder. Darcy took great pride in his accomplishments, despite his reading disability.

Not only was Darcy involved in the rescue aspect of firefighting, he loved anything fire related. He participated in the annual firemen's races held during State Convention, which he looked forward to every year. He even attempted his hand at fireman's dodgeball in Imperial, Nebraska. Darcy touched many lives through simple acts of kindness, from stepping up to be a partner or teammate of a new fireman to inspiring a younger generation to follow in his footsteps.

Darcy was known for his willingness to help others and his incredible work ethic. These attributes led to his numerous positions within the community, including County Fair Board vice president, volunteer fire captain, and a man anyone could call on for assistance.

From a young age, Darcy was an entrepreneur with everything from candy vending machines and lawn mowing businesses to most recently running a successful rental business/tree moving operation. He did all of this while maintaining a full-time position as a diesel mechanic alongside his father in the

family mechanic shop. Darcy took pride in all his accomplishments but was never boastful. He was a true service man to his community and everyone around him.

Darcy touched the lives of everyone he met, especially his family. He made it a priority to spend time with wife, Mickie; son, Owen (5); and daughter, Keiley (1). They took weekend trips to Denver to go to the zoo and museum. They also loved camping with his friends and extended family.

Darcy gave his all until the very end. He and his fellow firefighter spent his last day servicing all ten fire vehicles, and he died while responding to his last call.

# Larry Gene Wyant

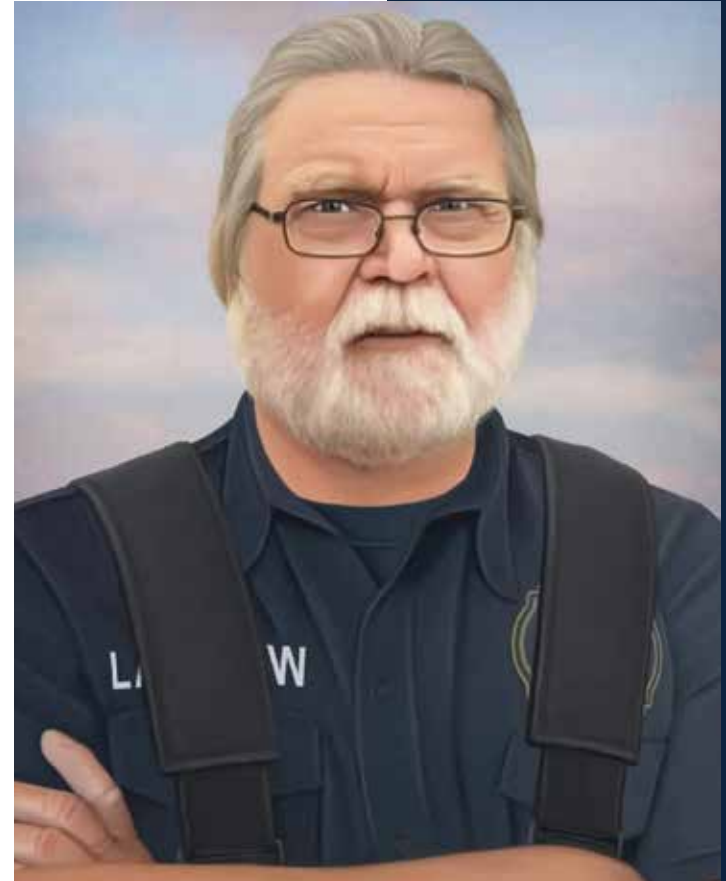
**Joel Volunteer Fire Department – Colorado ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ October 26, 2021 ★ Age 67**

Larry Gene Wyant was a father to one daughter and a son-in-law. He was a grandfather to four grandchildren and a great-grandfather to three children.

My father was an amazing man. He loved his family and friends and would do anything for them. Larry also loved his motorcycles and fishing. He was a talented, amazing leather worker and really enjoyed practicing that craft.

I have so many memories of my father. He loved to joke and play games on you. There are two fishing stories I most remember. One time, we went fishing with my grandparents, and my grandmother's pole went into the water after something got the line. My dad didn't even think twice; he took off into the water after it but never found it. Another memory I have of my dad is when he and I went fishing, and I got a hook stuck in the top of my nose. He laughed and said, "You can't use yourself to fish with!"

All the memories I have with my father are wonderful. The best memory of all that I have of my father is how much we loved each other.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Colin J. McFadden

**Burlington Volunteer Fire Department – Connecticut ★ Volunteer Firefighter/EMT ★ August 12, 2021 ★ Age 26**



In the early morning hours of August 10, 2021, Colin and fellow firefighters from the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department responded to a mutual aid call from the nearby town of New Hartford. A building in the town center was engulfed in flames, and 29 departments responded. Colin and his department helped clear the building, and Colin took up working the lines. During a recovery break, he suffered a massive brain hemorrhage and collapsed. He died two days later with family and firefighters at his side.

Colin was born and raised in Bristol, Connecticut. At the age of seven he was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, a type of autism. His family immediately began seeking supports to help Colin grow and learn, despite his disability. A year after his diagnosis, he appeared on a nationwide talk show, poised, confident, and smiling broadly as he was presented with an assistance dog he named Stitch. Colin struggled in his early school years but found his path as a teenager, supported by family, teachers, friends, and the community.

As an adolescent, Colin began advocating for people with autism, sharing his story with large groups as part of a panel with other autistic youth. In his later teens, he gave speeches to legislators at the state capital, championing the value of programs to help those on the autism spectrum.

His community service began in Boy Scouts, and he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. While still in school, Colin worked with Habitat for Humanity and became a licensed amateur radio operator. He joined a Hartford area radio club and provided communications for community events. His call sign was KB1YYG, and Colin was the club vice president at the time of his death. He joined the Bristol Community Emergency Response Team and managed traffic for COVID testing, distributed food for the community during the pandemic, and provided safety support for community events.

Colin joined the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department in 2015, at age 20, and completed the Connecticut firefighting training while working and attending school. The fire service meant the world to him, and he gave it all the time and effort he could. He later became an EMT, serving with the department's emergency medical services. He helped save the life of a child shortly before he died.

Colin found a career combining his interest in electronics and fire safety as a fire alarm technician. Through these interests, he made friends across the country. He published weekly videos demonstrating alarm equipment on YouTube. He started a new job the day before the fire.



# Ricardo Torres Jr.

**New Haven Fire Department – Connecticut ★ Career Firefighter ★ May 12, 2021 ★ Age 30**

Ricardo Torres Jr. had a passion for life and for giving back to those in need. He was ambitious, hardworking, and powered through any and every obstacle that would come his way. He was never one to give up.

From the time he was a little boy, he dreamed of one day becoming a firefighter, and in July of 2019 he was accepted into New Haven's newest recruit class. Ricardo started his career at his first choice firehouse, Engine 6, Dixwell Station. During his time at Dixwell Station, Ricardo built a reputation for himself as a man with fierce drive and a strong work ethic. It was here that he experienced and enjoyed the camaraderie of his second family and realized his dream since he was two years old.

An amazing son and brother, Rico grew up in West Haven and loved playing hockey, going fishing, and snowboarding. During his free time, Rico enjoyed being with his family, working on his garden, and catching up on sports. He was a loyal fan to the New York Giants, New York Yankees, and the Philadelphia Flyers.

Ricardo leaves behind his wife, Erica; sons, Oliver and Crew; his mother, Cathy; stepfather, Armand; sister, Cayla; and many other family members and friends.

Ricardo's legacy will forever carry on as we remember him for who he was—a loving and proud father, an adoring husband, a loving son and hero.



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# Laura L. Madara

Selbyville Volunteer Fire Company – Delaware ★ Volunteer Fire Police Officer ★ April 9, 2021 ★ Age 56



Laura L. Madara died in the line of duty on April 9, 2021, while serving as a volunteer fire police officer for the Selbyville Volunteer Fire Company in Delaware.

Laura was born on September 25, 1964, and grew up in the small town of Selbyville. As a child, she developed a love of nature and animals that would shape her future career. During her school years she took a particular interest in the local 4-H club, where she excelled as a member. After high school she went on to pursue a career in law enforcement, with an aim to work for Delaware State Parks. She graduated from the University of Delaware and went on to complete training at the Delaware State Police Academy. She realized her dream of working for the state park system, first as a park ranger and later as assistant superintendent at two park locations.

Laura was always dedicated to her work and gave much of her time to projects outside of the state parks, such as CPR training, safety programs, and Delaware State Fair culinary judging. She was also a member of the Cheswold Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, then later a member at Selbyville.

After many years serving for the State Park Service, Laura retired and moved back downstate to her hometown of Selbyville. Laura stayed busy even in retirement. She loved tailgating and going camping to NASCAR events. She loved her Jimmy Buffet concerts and enjoyed surf fishing, kayaking, and bicycling. She loved doing crafts and sewing and getting together with friends and family and cooking.

Laura joined the Selbyville Fire Company and completed training to become a fire police officer alongside her dad, Ken Madara, who has been a Selbyville fire police officer for many years. She has always been a very civic minded person, wanting to make her hometown all that it can be. She always had a knack for motivating people to accomplish greater things. She served as president of the Selbyville

Ladies Auxiliary until the time of her passing. She was always quick to volunteer her time while still devoting time to family and friends.

Laura will be missed by many. She impacted many lives along the way and lived a life to be proud of. She leaves behind her mother, father, sister, and her beloved dog, Angus. She will always remain in our hearts and memories. Rest in peace, Laura. We love you.

# Scott Edward Allender

**City of Melbourne Fire Department – Florida ★ Career Driver Engineer ★ August 3, 2021 ★ Age 51**

Scott Allender passed away in Palm Bay, Florida, on August 3, 2021.

Scott was born December 19, 1969, in Akron, Ohio. His family moved to Palm Bay, where he grew up and was a 1988 graduate of Palm Bay High School. After high school, he spent four years serving our country in the United States Marine Corps, which he was very proud of. Scott received the Navy Achievement Medal by General Gray for his outstanding accomplishments during a joint service exercise.

Scott spent 22 years with the City of Melbourne Fire Department as a driver engineer and a firefighter/paramedic, where he received many accolades for his public servant position. With his years of experience as a medic, he also was a preceptor and helped train the incoming newbies, getting them ready to be solo medics with the city.

He really enjoyed teaching. He was a hard worker who worked a second job for many years with Rural Metro Ambulance in Orlando. Scott was a very talented fisherman and loved his time spent at the Stick Marsh and many other lakes across the state. He fished many state firefighter tournaments, Palm Bay Bass Masters tournaments, and numerous charity tournaments.

Scott is loved by so many and had a heart of gold. He would do anything for his family, friends, or anyone really. He had a tough exterior but was a gentle giant. His wife called him a big teddy bear. He was passionate about his job but loved his time on the lake. He enjoyed bass fishing, motorcycling, four-wheeling, playing Clash of Clans, and watching the Florida Gators play football.

Scott was the leader of his family and loved them more than anything in this world. He was a believer in Jesus Christ, and his favorite scripture was Matthew 5:16 (NIV): *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

His family and friends would attest to him letting his light shine. We're certain he is looking down, watching over us and wishing he was here to hold and comfort us. Although we heard the last call, we keep waiting for him to come home from his shift. Scott was the rock of our family's foundation.



# Thomas M. Barber

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department – Florida ★ Career Captain ★ June 14, 2021 ★ Age 51



Thomas M. Barber was born on April 3, 1970, in Jacksonville and was raised just outside of Jacksonville in Baker County, Florida. He was a loyal and dedicated husband, father, son, brother, and friend. He was dearly loved by all who knew him. He died in the line of duty on Monday, June 14, 2021, at the age of 51.

Thomas joined the United States Navy in 1988 immediately after high school. He proudly served in the Gulf War and was honorably discharged in 1992. Captain Barber's post-military career path began with the Florida Department of Corrections. He then became a volunteer firefighter with the Baker County Fire and Rescue. As a volunteer firefighter, he learned of his love of firefighting and serving others in this capacity. Ultimately, he earned certifications for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and EMT.

He first served as a firefighter with the Cecil Field Navy Base Fire Station. He then transferred to NAS Jax Fire Station before joining the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, which he served faithfully for 21 years. Tommy was a member of IAFF Local Union 122 and was promoted to captain with Jacksonville Fire and Rescue in 2019.

Thomas loved to hunt, fish, and cook. He brewed his own beer and was a huge gun enthusiast. He was a devoted husband to his wife of 22 years, Malissa, and an adoring father to their children, Garrett, Caroline, and Olivia. He was a Christian man who dedicated his life to serving others. Thomas was a wonderful protector and provider for his family, a hero to many, and a friend to all. He was known for his generosity, selflessness, kind heart, compassion, loyalty, courage and, most of all, his unforgettable smile.

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# Michael Lee Freeland

**Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department – Florida ★ Career Engineer ★ November 11, 2021 ★ Age 36**

The life of Michael Lee Freeland, affectionately known as “Mike,” began on February 19, 1985, in Jacksonville, Florida. He was born to Michael Steele and Terona S. Freeland. He attended the local public schools of Duval County, graduating from Edward White High School, Class of 2003.

Furthering his education, Mike attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. During his tenure, doctors discovered he had a rare form of cancer in his finger, which would later require amputation and his unenrollment. This was a very challenging moment in Mike’s young life but, because of his determination, he didn’t give up and still pursued life. He continued his studies and later earned a Bachelor of Applied Science with Supervision in Management degree from Florida State College at Jacksonville.

At an early age he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He was a member of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, where he served as a member of the Health Ministry and Parking Lot Ministry.

Mike always had a desire to work. He was afforded the opportunity of working for several companies, including Winn-Dixie, Foot Locker, the United States Postal Service, NAPA Auto Parts, ADT, Caliber Patient Care, and Agape Community Health Center.

Mike’s childhood dream was to one day become a racecar driver. He had a love and passion for vintage cars and would frequently attend car shows. Mike owned an array of cars and tennis shoes.

The mission of Mike’s life began when he became employed by Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department as a firefighter. This was a decision he made to model the life of his fireman uncle, George. Above all, Mike was dedicated to helping others. He excelled with great job performance in his career, earning certification as a paramedic. This profession gave him the rights of passage to be a modern-day hero, as he would show true by exemplifying his unwavering courage and commitment to service.

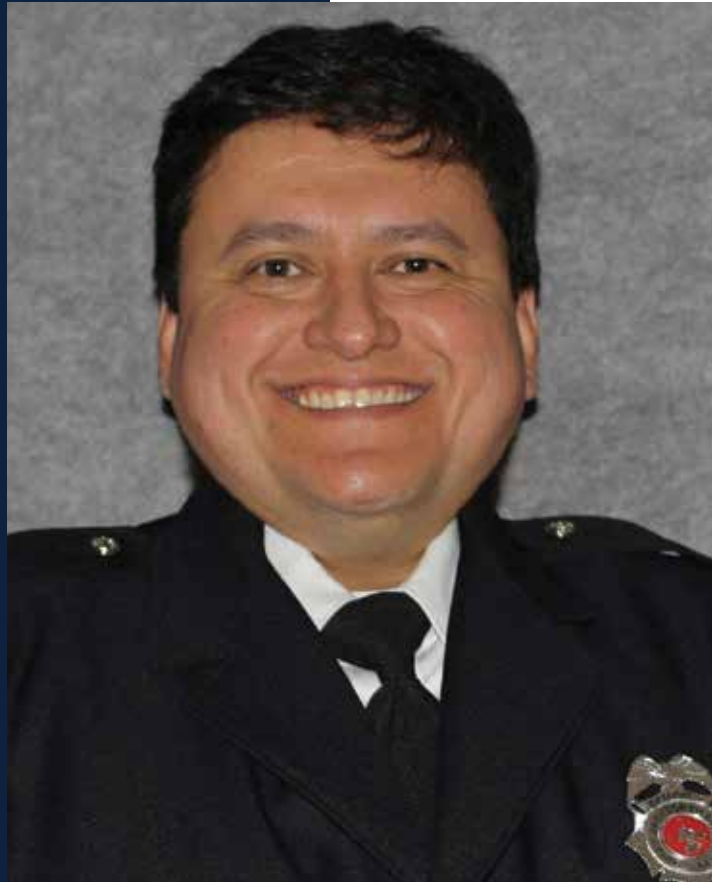
He received numerous commendations for his heroic efforts, including certification in aircraft, rescue and firefighting. In the spring of 2019, Mike was promoted to engineer and was studying for the lieutenant’s exam. Other affiliations include being a member of the MOBB Jeep Club.

The purpose of Mike’s time on earth was shown to his community and to the world as he sacrificed his own life for the lives of others. On November 11, 2021, while in the line of duty, Engineer Michael Lee Freeland went home to be with the Lord.



# Mario John Moya

**Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department – Florida ★ Career Lieutenant ★ August 17, 2021 ★ Age 51**



Mario was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1970. He attended the local public school and upon graduating enlisted in the Navy. Mario had an amazing love of serving his country and community. He proudly served his country during Desert Storm on the USS Forrestal.

On February 25, 1993, I was blessed to marry my best friend and love of my life. We spent the next 28 years raising three wonderful children. Mario loved his family with all his heart and would spend all his time off with us. He was extremely proud of his children, Mario J. Moya III (age 28), and his twins, Isabella and Roberto (age 17). We all loved spending time playing games, watching movies, and going to Disney World together. Mario loved building and flying drones.

Since Mario was a young child his dream job was becoming a fireman. In March 2004 his dreams came true, and he joined the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. He was assigned to Station 42, in our community. Mario loved serving in the same community in which he lived.

Mario continued his education and was certified as a paramedic and earned his associate degree in fire science. Over the years, Mario rose through the ranks to become a lieutenant and eventually was assigned back to his rookie assignment, Station 42.

Mario spent his career serving others. He became a member of the JFRD's Peer Support Team assisting fire department members and their families in their time of need. Mario enjoyed serving his community and neighborhood. He was an active member and volunteer of his church, St Joseph's Catholic Church. Mario knew no strangers, and firefighters who worked alongside him remember him for his caring attitude and gregarious smile.

In addition to his fire department duties, Mario worked as a part of the Federal National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) on a Disaster Medical Assistance Team, DMAT FL-4. He worked several election cycles as a poll worker for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections. Mario also worked for the past ten years with the Chemical Dependency Counseling Center.

On August 17, 2021, Mario suffered a line-of-duty death from complications of COVID-19. My children and I are sad that Mario is no longer with us, and we miss him not being here with us daily. We know that Mario loved being a firefighter, and he understood the sacrifice that many firefighters make every day to serve their communities.

# Jimmy D. Riley Jr.

**Plant City Fire Rescue – Florida ★ Career Driver Engineer/Paramedic ★ February 24, 2021 ★ Age 40**

Firefighter Engineer Jimmy Dale Riley Jr., age 40, of the U.S. Marine Corps and Plant City Fire Rescue, passed away on February 24, 2021, after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. Born on July 23, 1980, Riley was a native of Bartow, Florida.

Riley served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a military police officer. Once his enlistment ended, he returned to Florida and became a certified firefighter/paramedic. From 2004 until his retirement in 2021, he worked as a firefighter, driver engineer, and paramedic with Plant City Fire Rescue. Leaders there describe Riley as an “amazing guy who always gave his all. He would do anything for anybody.” Because of Riley’s diagnosis, Plant City Fire Rescue has introduced new protocols to mitigate illnesses caused by firefighting. In addition to his service as a firefighter, Riley was an instructor at Hillsborough Community College. He served his community selflessly and with love, and they loved him back!

Above all else, Riley was a devoted husband and father who put his beloved wife and daughter first. He had a great smile and enjoyed most outdoor activities, including hunting and fishing. Riley was optimistic about his health challenges and made a positive, lasting impression on everyone who met him. He holds a special place in many hearts and is deeply missed. We stand with his loved ones in honor and remembrance of a remarkable man.



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# Otis Wayne Chupp

**Cartersville Fire Department – Georgia ★ Career Chief ★ July 12, 2006 ★ Age 61**



Otis was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who was guided by the principles instilled in him over a lifetime of service to others. As one of ten children, he knew the value of hard work and dedication to others. After losing his mother at age twelve, he learned the values that would guide him in life by helping to raise his younger siblings. Those values would lead to six years of service in the Army Reserves and ultimately to his own family. He married Evelyn Forsyth in 1967. By 1984, the family had grown by five sons, Randall, Jody, Jason, Dustin, and Quincy.

Otis showed his love for family and community through various acts of service. He served as president of the Cartersville Exchange Club and the Cass High Booster Club. He led youth programs for football, Cub Scouts, and baseball, serving as president of the Cartersville Little League, for which many still remember him fondly. Stories are often told of Coach Chupp, selfless with his time, shuttling kids to and from the park, always ready to coach.

In 1986, Otis became the public safety director of Cartersville, overseeing fire and police departments, and over the next decade improved departments both in process and budget. He became a POST-certified peace officer, and his work resulted in being awarded the American Police Hall of Fame President's National Medal of Patriotism in 1993.

In 1996, Otis became chief of the Cartersville Fire Department. He was a certified NPQ Firefighter 1 and member of both the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Under his leadership, Cartersville's ISO ranking improved from Class 4 to Class 3, helping to pave the way for Cartersville to rank in the top 1% nationally as one of 388 departments to achieve a Class 1 ISO ranking. With Bartow County Fire Department, he helped with plans for a joint training facility inside the city. He was named Georgia Firefighter of the Month in

September 1996 and worked diligently on the FIRE Act of 2001. Upon its passage, he received a personal letter of gratitude from President George W. Bush for his efforts.

His support of the Georgia Burn Foundation was regularly on display during the "Give Burns the Boot" drive. He was a strong supporter of organ donation and was a donor himself. He mentored students as part of the city school youth program and adopted needy families at Christmas to provide clothes, food, and toys out of his own pocket.

With five daughters-in-law, ten grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, he leaves behind a legacy that his family is extremely proud of.



# Richard Knight

**Winterville Fire Department – Georgia ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ August 23, 2021 ★ Age 54**

Richard was the very definition of dedicated. He fully devoted himself to “the three F’s”—faith, family, and his fire department. He was an extremely hard worker and held down a full-time job on top of two side jobs to support his family. Tragically, Richard lost his battle with COVID-19 on August 23, 2021, after a lengthy battle. He was a devoted husband and would have celebrated his 35th wedding anniversary on August 31, 2021, just seven days after he passed away. He and his wife, Lisa, have two amazing sons and four beautiful grandchildren. His family was truly his greatest joy.

Richard began his career as a volunteer firefighter with the Union Point Fire Department in Georgia. He spent over a decade on that department and continued to show his dedication by taking every opportunity to seek advanced training and certifications while there. He selflessly moved to the Athens, Georgia area in 2018 to support his wife in her new position as an RN. He never questioned this decision, even though he knew he would have to leave the volunteer fire department that he had been a part of for so long. He discovered the Winterville Fire Department in Winterville, Georgia, and quickly became an active member of that department. Richard continued to show his dedication and loyalty to his new department. In 2019, he was given the award for having run the most calls with the fire department. In 2020, his hard work and devotion were rewarded as he was named safety officer for the department.

The expression “He would give you the shirt off of his back.” was created with Richard in mind. One day on his way to work he saw a young woman and child broken down on the side of the road. He pulled over to the side of the road to assist the young mother and noticed she was shivering. Seeing this, Richard literally took the shirt he was wearing and gave it to the woman so that she would not have to be cold. He never expected or asked for recognition for any of the many good deeds he did throughout his life.

Richard enjoyed researching genealogy in his spare time and spent many hours tracing back his family ancestry. He enjoyed discussing politics and had no problem expressing his views and beliefs on the matter. Although his loss is felt deeply throughout his community, his family—which includes the members of the Winterville Fire Department—is comforted with the knowledge that he is at peace and that his legacy lives on.



# Efren Medina

St. Marys Fire Department – Georgia ★ Career Firefighter ★ April 17, 2021 ★ Age 21



Firefighter Efren Medina, 21, passed away April 17, 2021, while on his first shift. Efren was born on October 15, 1999, in Redlands, California, to his loving parents, Elsa and Efren Medina. He was raised in Bloomington, California, with his two sisters, Jacqueline (Jackie) and Estefania (Tefani).

While in high school, Efren was very hardworking. He helped his mother at her restaurant and his father at his construction job, while also doing track and field and cross country. After he graduated from Bloomington High School in 2017, he continued to work with his father in their construction business and attended college to become EMT certified.

On December 23, 2019, Efren married his high school sweetheart, Brittany Vasquez. Due to his wife being in the military, Efren moved across country to Georgia to live with her and start their lives together. He soon joined a private EMT company and enjoyed every minute of his job, but he wanted more as a career. He wanted to become a firefighter.

Efren began applying to multiple firehouses but kept getting turned down due to a previous medical condition he had. He was soon accepted into the Saint Mary's Fire Department and was thrilled to start his new career. During his first 24-hour shift, Efren passed away in his sleep due to unknown circumstances.

Efren loved exploring and creating new experiences and memories. He always wanted to try something new, whether it was a restaurant or a new hobby. He loved to play the guitar, go camping, and just be outdoors. He was always laughing, making jokes, and having a good time. If you were around him, you could never be sad; he would always find a way to cheer you up somehow. Efren was a loving and faithful husband to his wife; all he ever wanted to do was make her happy. He

was devoted to helping anyone he met and was always striving to become a better man and person. He was very compassionate, loving, dependable, and cheerful.

Efren is survived by his wife, parents, and two sisters. Even though his life was cut short, he cherished every moment he could with his friends and family, and he will be forever missed.

# Mehdi Mourad

**Wabash Fire Protection District – Illinois ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ June 27, 2021 ★ Age 21**

Mehdi Mourad was born in Morocco. He was a fun big brother and well loved by everyone he met, largely due to his desire to really know you. He could always be counted on for lending a helping hand, giving protection to anyone who needed it, and for lots of fun.

He loved dogs and he loved cars. From a young age he could tell what car was coming by the sound of it. His favorite was the Ford Mustang.

He was an international exchange student attending Lake Land College when he decided to be a volunteer firefighter. He was so excited to join the Wabash Fire Company in Mattoon, Illinois. He wanted to be a part of something that gave back to the community he was residing in, and he was very excited to know he'd have blue flashing lights for his car.

He was a typical car-loving young man, so he raced cars for Lake Land College at the local track and would always be looking for legal ways to improve his ride or increase the sound of it.

He had a big heart for others and would offer you the shirt off his back if you needed it. Although he was struggling himself with making ends meet to pay college tuition and working a couple jobs, he never forgot those back home who needed some help and would send what he could to help out friends and neighbors that were struggling. He did not forget where he came from. He had a love for family and often called home to chat with his brothers and sisters and to encourage them in doing what was right. He called his best friend, his dad, daily.

He loved meeting new people. If you exchanged numbers with him, be assured he would call or text, and you became part of the people that he cared for.

He was able to do so much in his short 21 years on earth. He fulfilled his dream of coming to the US to study mechanics, he owned his own Mustang, and he left his fingerprint on so many hearts that will never forget his love, kindness, and goofiness.

He was just a kid who grew into a man who loved Jesus and loved others. He was an ordinary guy who had an extraordinary love for people. To know Mehdi was to love and be loved by Mehdi. He had a warm personality, a goofy playful teasing side, and a servant's heart. He stood up for what he believed and had strong opinions, but he did not allow that to sever his relationships. He lived his life with intention. He followed Jesus with joy and fun! He showed how Jesus's love is still relevant today.

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35*





# Mashawn Jermaine Plummer

Chicago Fire Department – Illinois ★ Career Firefighter/EMT ★ December 21, 2021 ★ Age 30



Mashawn Jermaine “Shawn” Plummer was born June 21, 1991. He attended Oliver Wendell Holmes, a Chicago Public School, for his elementary education. Mashawn loved comic books, especially Marvels; Iron Man and Spiderman were his favorite. For three years, he attended Hales Franciscan Private High School, one of only two all black male high schools in Chicago at that time. At Hales, the school creed was “Unto Perfect Manhood.” Mashawn would come to seek and strive every day to fulfill those words.

After leaving Hales, he attended Eisenhower High School in Blue Island for one year to become a stronger football player. He played football for and graduated from Quincy University. Shawn was a diehard Chicago Bears fan; win or lose, he was riding with the Bears. He was a deep thinker and mature beyond his 30 years. He was our hero! Shawn loved family and showed his love every time he could. He was that ray of light that brightened any room. He was a momma’s boy and didn’t care who knew.

Mashawn always knew he wanted a career of service, and that led him to the Chicago Fire Department. He truly loved being a firefighter/EMT. He passed the firefighter/EMT exam in his third year of college and waited patiently for over six years to be called to service. During those years he worked in logistics management. At the fire academy, Mashawn helped many fellow candidates study for their exams and motivated them mentally and physically to not give up during their training. Although his career ended far too soon, he was a hero to many and will never be forgotten.

December 1, 2021 was his one-year anniversary; he was so proud. He told his mom and dad that he was finally doing a job with purpose and giving back by making a difference through his service as a firefighter/EMT. Mashawn was tragically injured

on December 16, 2021 and succumbed to those injuries five days later. He had a goal to work hard and someday rise to the rank of chief. Mashawn also planned to start a football program that would mentor disadvantaged boys on the southside of Chicago and teach them about careers as a first responder.

Mashawn leaves to cherish his memory a deeply grieving family and many friends that miss him dearly. Life will never be the same without him, but we all take solace in knowing he was happy being a firefighter. CFD allowed our Superhero to do what he loved. Mashawn coined the phrase MTAP: Make Them All Proud. He did just that every day of his life!



# Garrett E. Ramos

**Sterling Fire Department – Illinois ★ Career Captain ★ December 4, 2021 ★ Age 38**

*We have the best job in the world.* –Garrett E. Ramos

Garrett loved being a firefighter and would not have wanted to dedicate his life to any other profession. On December 4, 2021, Garrett gave the ultimate sacrifice when he died fighting a house fire.

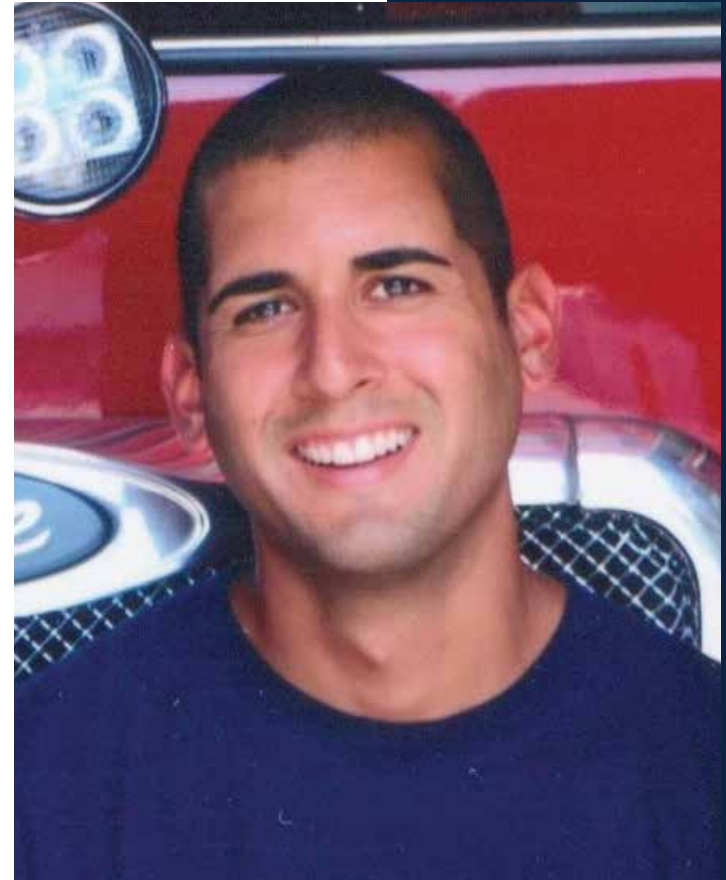
Following in his father's footsteps, Garrett began his career at the North Charleston Fire Department in Charleston, South Carolina, a place he had loved since vacationing there with his family as a child. He was drawn to the beauty of the area, surfing the beaches every chance he had. In 2012, he returned to his hometown, where he served his community at the Sterling Fire Department and built a life centered around what mattered most to him, his family.

He married his best friend, Brittney, and they traveled around the world together before the birth of their daughters, Ruthie and Keba. A devoted and loving husband and father, he relished every moment with his girls, whether painting their nails, taking them to park, or caring for them when they were sick. His patience, unconditional love, and humor made him the best husband and father.

Being back in his hometown allowed Garrett to spend more time with his parents, Ed and Jeannie, and his sister, Jennifer, along with his nieces and nephew. He valued any time he was able to spend with them, especially weeknight dinners or attending his niece's play performances or nephew's baseball games. As his niece told him, Garrett was the unicorn among the horses of uncles.

Garrett started each day with a positivity and happiness that others wanted to emulate. He appreciated the small things in life—a round of golf with friends, a relaxing day at home with his girls, and evenings sitting on our patio listening to music and watching the sunset. He embraced every person that came into his life—neighbors, coworkers, or someone he just met. He was endlessly generous with his time. In addition to nearly ten years of service at the Sterling Fire Department, he served as the union president for Local 2301, where he created a local scholarship for high school students and coordinated many fundraising opportunities. Garrett was motivated and excited to further his career, recently attending Fire Officer I training. His leadership, knowledge, and positivity are missed daily by his coworkers. Having served as acting captain for the past year, he was posthumously promoted to captain.

To know Garrett was to love him. His smile was contagious, and his laughter was infectious. The joy and humor he brought to every situation is deeply missed. His light in this world will continue to shine through his daughters.



# W. Todd Werner

South Roxana Fire Protection District – Illinois ★ Paid Chief ★ July 1, 2021 ★ Age 48



William "Todd" Werner was born September 9, 1972, in Carlinville, Illinois, the son of Josie and William "Bill" Sparks. He married the love of his life, Sonja (Krotz), on August 26, 2006; she survives, along with their three sons, Christopher, Devin, and Austin Moore. Todd passed away on July 1, 2021, after being declared brain dead as a result of a massive heart attack suffered within hours of leaving the scene of a call on June 27, 2021.

Todd dedicated his entire life to the service of others. He was a man of true character and integrity who wanted better for his community. He began his career as a first responder as a teenager, starting out in a Police Explorer program for Bethalto Police Department, and continued this path working as a police officer for multiple agencies, including South Roxana Police Department and National City Police Department. He worked as a paramedic for agencies including Abbott Ambulance and Alton Memorial Hospital. After 25 years of working on the ambulance, he became a telecommunicator for Madison County Sheriff's Office, where he worked at the time of his passing. Todd served in the fire service for 31 years. He proudly served for National City, Fosterburg, and Cottage Hills before coming to South Roxana Fire Department in 1996, where he worked his way through the ranks, becoming chief in 2013 and serving in that role until his death.

Todd served as a trustee for the Village of South Roxana and Choteau Township and as a member of the Madison County Emergency Management Association, among many other groups and organizations. Todd had many accomplishments and awards bestowed upon him over the years of service but was never boastful. Fellow firefighters remembered times where, without hesitation, he returned to the scene of an EMS call to help an elderly man by mowing his yard or repairing a porch because it was unsafe. He had the uncanny ability to make everyone laugh

and feel comfortable. In the worst of times, he was the calm in the storm. Todd's final act of service was to be an organ donor to continue helping others even after he was gone. He embodied the true meaning of selflessness and touched the lives of many, dedicating his life to teaching others and saving lives.

His love of service holds no candle to his love for his wife, his boys, and his extended family. He loved being a dad, an uncle, a son, a brother, and a husband to Sonja. His true dedication to his family was untouchable. His legacy, life, and the gifts he shared with his community will continue to be celebrated and honored.

# Timothy D. Medsker

**Mooresville Fire Department – Indiana ★ Career Chief ★ July 13, 2020 ★ Age 53**

Timothy D. Medsker (Tim) was born July 29, 1966, in Danville, Indiana. He was the youngest of seven children and came from an extremely close and supportive family. That closeness carried on into his adult life and was a major factor in why he remained in the community of Mooresville, Indiana, where he was raised.

Tim graduated from Mooresville High School in 1984 and was part of the Volunteer Explorer Program during his youth. He was a dispatcher for Mooresville and Plainfield Fire Territory in Plainfield, Indiana, prior to beginning his official firefighter career at the Mooresville Fire Department in February 1994. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1997, captain in 1999, and chief in 2009. He was named Firefighter of the Year twice during his tenure at the Mooresville Fire Department. He dedicated his life to public service, and his firefighting career spanned over 31 years.

During Tim's eleven years as the Mooresville fire chief, he implemented a paramedic program, worked with the Mooresville Town Council to purchase a new E1 Engine and E1 Ladder, and was an active member of the entire county. He wrote multiple grants and secured funding to help the Town of Mooresville purchase needed equipment and hire additional personnel. His focus was always on the firefighters under his command and the betterment of Mooresville's community as a whole.

Tim held his position as Mooresville's fire chief in such high regard and always tried to learn how he could improve as a leader. He read multiple books and continuously researched to ensure he was doing his part as times changed. He was a humble and well-respected leader who is remembered by his quick wit and unmatched sense of humor.

Tim was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church and had a strong, unwavering faith. He married his best friend, Tammy, on April 29, 1995, and raised two children, Baron and Payton, in Mooresville, Indiana. He was a loyal, dedicated family man who enjoyed coaching his children's athletic teams as they were growing up. He loved to travel, especially to his favorite place, Panama City Beach, Florida. His plan was to retire there, but he unexpectedly passed away on July 13, 2020, at the age of 53. He had such a big presence in everyone's life that the void his passing left will always be felt by his family, friends, department, and Mooresville's community.





# Gary Southerland

Westfield Fire Department – Indiana ★ Career Deputy Fire Chief ★ January 12, 2020 ★ Age 68



Gary L. Southerland, 68, of Westfield, Indiana, went to be with the Lord on January 12, 2020, after living courageously with occupational cancer for many years. He was the real deal: a proud husband, father, grandfather, friend, and dedicated servant of his community.

Gary started as a volunteer firefighter in 1974. Westfield Fire Department hired him as the second full-time firefighter (unit number 102) in 1978. He continued to serve for 34 more years. Gary had many titles throughout his career—lieutenant, captain, chief—but most just called him “South.”

He was married to his bride and the love of his life, Tamra, for 41 years. His love for God, Tamra, family, friends, and community defined him. All that knew him felt that love.

Gary looked for and embraced joy in the typical day-to-day activities. He had a quick wit and enjoyed pranking his friends. Gary was a jack of all trades and could fix and build anything, always while whistling. He made many ideas come to life over the years while working in his workshop. Gary was always one phone call away from helping anyone who asked. His heart was kind, and he truly believed in living in that kindness and love.

Gary was known for inviting the policemen to stop by the firehouse for a homecooked meal and fellowship on holidays, knowing they were also away from their families. He would hold important meetings with these same police officers and other firefighters that consisted of playing pool, calling them “Community Relations Meetings.” That was just another example of how he supported and loved people.

His sons Nick and Josh have followed their father into the fire service, and his daughter Brooke is serving in the medical field. He was so proud of them. Gary could often be found at breakfast or lunch with a friend, telling them about his family with pride.

Gary was a loving grandfather to five granddaughters, Kennedy, Addison, Makayla, Casey, and Reese. He found joy in playing, laughing, and riding in the annual 4th of July tractor parade. He loved his granddaughters fully and completely.

Our hearts grieve for him every day, but we continue to feel his presence in the sound of someone whistling, the sight of a red tractor, the look and smell of a fresh cut lawn, and connecting with those around us. We will honor his legacy through living and loving by his example of love and service to those around us.



# Brad Tendall

**Nevada Fire Department – Iowa ★ Volunteer Assistant Chief ★ October 10, 2021 ★ Age 43**

Brad “BT” Tendall was born and raised in a small rural town in Iowa. His service in the fire department began at a young age, as a little boy following in his dad’s footsteps. Once BT was old enough to officially join the Nevada Fire Department, he stayed there for 24 years and served with his family. Upon his passing, Brad was promoted from captain to assistant chief.

Brad’s life can easily be defined by his investments. He worked as an engineer in his county, but this was secondary to his true passions. BT invested his heart and soul into his 20-year marriage to his best friend and into the lives of their two boys, ages 11 and 13. He was, without a doubt, a family man. One of his favorite things to do was to instill his passions for hunting, camping, building, and serving others into his sons. And like him, his boys grew up in the fire service. They are both members of the same fire department, and when they reach the required age, they will carry on in their dad’s fire boots within their community.

BT leaves a legacy of authenticity. He had a servant’s heart and invested his time into training the next generation. He was more than a friend; he was a brother. Brad was a master at fixing and building things and was often found helping friends, neighbors, and strangers. Brad was someone worthy of being looked up to, but he never positioned himself above others. Everyone who knew BT will carry with them memories of an irreplaceable soul, memories of a man who loved well, lived well, and served well. The weight of his loss will be felt for lifetimes, and the gifts he has given to others will be handed down for generations.



# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Malachi Abraham Brown

**Baxter Springs Fire Department – Kansas ★ Volunteer Lieutenant ★ November 10, 2021 ★ Age 32**



Lieutenant 905 Malachi Abraham Brown was born September 11, 1989, and from that day forward he had such passion for life. He was, a son, a brother, a great father, and a loving husband. Malachi never met a stranger and had a passion for helping those he could. Firefighting was his calling, and he answered that call with honor and dignity. Malachi joined the Baxter Springs Fire Department in 2010. He kept learning and training to be the best he could be and climbed the ranks to lieutenant. He took pride in his certifications and accomplishments and passed on what he had learned to his brothers and sisters in the line of service.

Although firefighting was his passion, Malachi was more than that. He was a man's man. He was hardworking, genuine, kind, smart, witty, and sarcastic. Malachi could operate any heavy equipment machine without even blinking. You never knew what he had up his sleeve. Regardless of the circumstances, he could get the job done. Malachi had a true desire to help others, whether a friend in need or a fellow citizen of his town. He was the first to step up, usually without being asked; he had a true servant's heart. Malachi enjoyed a challenge and pushed himself to the limits. He enjoyed spending time with family, going to the gym, boxing, and weight training and was dedicated to being his best self.

Malachi was active in his community and department. He was committed to the training and strengthening of his department and hometown. He attended fundraisers, trainings, and meetings to ensure that he and his department were the best they could be. He spent hours at the station, where he could be found training, working on equipment, or outside letting neighborhood children look over equipment and engines.

Malachi responded to his final call on October 15, 2022, a structure fire in his hometown of Baxter Springs. During that call, Malachi sustained life-threatening injuries, severe third degree burns covering 27% of his body. Like the fighter he is, Malachi fought hard to overcome those injuries and complications for nearly a month. On the evening of November 10, 2022, Malachi passed peacefully with his wife by his side.

There are two things Malachi enjoyed above all else. He loved being a dad to his three children and a husband to his wife, Jessica. There isn't anything he wouldn't do for them. Malachi's children know their father is a hero, and his family is so proud of the man he was. While Malachi's passing is a tragedy and we prayed for a different outcome, Malachi gave his life doing what he loved and what he was called to do.

# Joshua Schwindt

**Morton County/Rolla Volunteer Fire Department – Kansas ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ August 15, 2021 ★ Age 42**

Josh was the son of Daryl Eugene and Lela Faye Schwindt. He was born September 20, 1978, in Boise City, Oklahoma. Josh married the love of his life, Shawn Marie Miller, on July 3, 1999, in Rolla, Kansas. He was a loving husband and loved Shawn dearly. Of all things, Josh's biggest compassion was his family. He considered a lot of people family, but his children are Karessa, Jordan, Deserae, and Jaxon. He was also blessed to have four grandchildren, Reaghann, Drake, Gracie, and Jameson.

Josh loved living in Rolla, where his family has lived for over 20 years. He always loved helping people in the community with whatever they needed done. He was everyone's fix-it man. He loved farming. He was a hardworking farmer for Light Farms for many years. During those years he also started volunteering with the Rolla Fire Department.

Josh was the type of guy who wanted to provide for everyone. He always taught his children many things they would need to know, but he made sure they knew how to change a tire and be self-sustainable. Of his many talents, grilling and providing scrumptious meals was on top of the list. He enjoyed cooking at home on the grill and loved cooking while camping. He was always willing to help anyone, which made it hard for his family and the community after his tragic death. On Sunday, August 15, 2021, Firefighter Joshua Schwindt responded to a vehicle rollover accident. While searching for victims, he came in contact with downed power lines and was electrocuted.

*After the tragic loss of my husband in the line of duty, my family has been lost. Josh was such a huge part of everyone's life; having him gone has made me not know where to even begin to start feeling that void for my kids and grandkids. I know I will never be able to fully do everything that Josh did for our family, but I sure will try. I know that is what he would have wanted. –Shawn Schwindt*





# Ronald C. Ingram

Woodford County Fire Protection District – Kentucky ★ Volunteer Captain ★ March 3, 2021 ★ Age 72



Captain Ronald Ingram, above all, would want to be remembered as a man of God. Along with his faith, Ron's life was dedicated to extensive service—to his family, his country, his community, and his department. Ron married the love of his life, Beverly, on July 5, 1969. They had four children and chose to spend their life together in Versailles, Kentucky.

Ron was a member of the U.S. Air Force. Following his service, he worked at Georgia-Pacific Dixie Products in Lexington, Kentucky, where he retired in 2014 after 42 years as the safety manager. He was given the nickname "Chief" by the employees at the Lexington Dixie Plant because of his coexisting duty to the Woodford County Fire Department. Ron was selected by Kentucky Governor Martha Lane Collins to become a faculty member of the Governor's Safety and Health Conference in 1983 and functioned as so until 2014.

Ron's public service career began as a member on the Woodford County Rescue Squad before becoming a member of the Woodford County Fire Department in 1979. He held the rank of captain and titles of chaplain, dispatcher, state fire trainer, and secretary on the Fire Board. He gained many certifications and invested a great deal of time in training new generations of fire safety and rescue members across the state of Kentucky. After 42 years of duty, he passed away while responding to what would be his final fire dispatch.

His adamant service to his community was also exhibited through his enthusiastic participation in the KY/IN WHAS Crusade for Children fundraising event. Abundant donations made in Ron's name after his passing allowed the WCFD to collect the highest amount in their department's history of fundraising, and our family was touched by the generous display in his honor.

Along with his full-time work, fire duties and family responsibilities, Ron's accompanying accolades and extracurriculars included 25 years as a Woodford County 4-H Leader, 4-H Camp A.C., and fishing instructor. He held the offices of president, secretary, and treasurer on the Carlisle, KY 4-H Camp Improvement Committee Board.

As a man of deep conviction, Ron spent his time as an active member and deacon at the New Hope Baptist Church and was ordained by the Versailles Baptist Church on July 11, 1984.

Ron lived a life as big as his laugh. The sound will remain ingrained in the memory of his family and friends, as it was distinct and plentiful. He was known for telling jokes, playing pranks, and sharing stories with anyone who would lend an ear. He also was known for belting out a hymn or two whenever he saw fit.



# Garry L. Key

**Zoneton Fire Protection District – Kentucky ★ Volunteer Battalion Chief ★ February 13, 2021 ★ Age 70**

Garry Lee Key was born in Paintsville, Kentucky, to the late James and Kathleen Key on March 1, 1950. Garry was a dedicated public servant. He was a proud United States Army veteran, having enlisted in December 1969, serving a tour in Vietnam, and retiring in 1999 after 29 years of valiant service. After his military service Garry continued his public service, joining the Zoneton Fire Department.

He was a dedicated part of the department for 36 years, 25 of those years as a major and acting chief, when he passed away on February 13, 2021. Additionally, Major Key served the community as a special Bullitt County deputy sheriff and as a court security officer in the Bullitt District Court and Bullitt Family Court. Major Key was an award-winning fire protection officer, having earned awards for safe driver, life safety, and CPR saves.

Major Key was a devoted and loving family man, leaving behind his wife of nearly 50 years, Linda Key; children, Tracey Key (son) and Dawn Key (daughter); grandchildren, Makala Williams, Garry Key, Kati Key, Alex Key, JR Foster, and Nicholas Craft; and great-grandchildren, Charlotte Williams, Anaya Williams, and Carson Key.

Garry loved being in the car, listening to good music and using the steering wheel as a drum set. His head would be nodding along with the song while he sang his heart out. If he needed to know directions, he had to turn the music down so he could see better. He took great pride in taking care of his family, whether through support and encouragement or tough love that everyone needed occasionally. You could always go to Garry when you needed good life advice, because he wouldn't be afraid to tell you his opinion. Usually, he was right.

He had this chair in his house, when you went over, the grandchildren always wanted to sit in it. Papaw never got to sit there until he made you get up. We all wanted to feel his love and comfort when we sat in the chair and ate his snacks or strawberry cake. Now whenever someone needs to reminisce with him, they are always welcome to go sit in his chair and have a handful of snacks that will always be there.

Garry departed this earth on a high note, doing something he loved, serving his community. This has been a great comfort to his family and friends that miss him dearly but know that he rests in perfect hands.



# Timmy R. Manning

Calloway County Fire-Rescue – Kentucky ★ Volunteer Assistant Chief ★ January 18, 2021 ★ Age 53



Timmy was dedicated to helping his community. He passed on January 18, 2021. He was 53, with so much to give. To say Timmy loved Fire-Rescue would be an understatement. Although it was strictly volunteer for him, he dedicated himself to the department as much as if not more than if he were being paid.

As a boy, Timmy was always drawn to police and first responders. From watching Squad 51 to winning a school art contest with a police car pulling over a truck, Timmy knew that was all he wanted to do. At 18 he joined Fire-Rescue, and at 21 he joined the sheriff's office as the youngest deputy in the state of Kentucky.

He had a dream to be a full-time firefighter or state trooper, but due to his medical condition he feared he would not be able to pass the required physicals, so he poured his passion into being a part-time deputy and volunteer firefighter. Timmy was born with a rare medical condition called X-linked agammaglobulinemia, which is a problem with the immune system in which the blood does not produce enough gamma globulins. As a result, he had to take weekly infusions to keep his immune system healthy.

Timmy was a member of Calloway County Rescue for 33 years. At his passing, he was assistant chief. His passion was to help others and the community. He served his community as a sheriff's deputy from 1988-2003, as well as his most recent position as constable since 2003. Timmy loved every aspect of the fire department. On a stormy day or night, he was out clearing roads of fallen trees for safe passage. You could always find him driving a truck in our small-town holiday parades. He loved to smile and wave and see the joy and respect the community had for the fire department. One of his biggest passions in fire rescue was recruitment. Timmy was always finding new members to build the department. Along with others, he would set up at events and hand out information about becoming a volunteer.

Timmy was a huge sports fan. If he wasn't watching a game on TV, he was listening to it on the radio or attending games. In high school he was on a state championship track team. Later he went back to his high school and volunteered as an assistant coach.

He was one of his son's biggest fans, whether at wrestling meets or football games. Timmy loved his family wholeheartedly. Timmy left behind a son, wife, and four stepdaughters he loved as his own.

Timmy will be remembered for living his life to help others. He shall never be forgotten for all the many wonderful things he did and all his time he sacrificed to help others.

# Robert Lee Orkies

**Zoneton Fire Protection District – Kentucky ★ Career Chief ★ December 11, 2020 ★ Age 55**

Rob Orkies was destined to be a hero. He was born April 8, 1965, the middle child and only son, to William and Patricia Orkies in Louisville, Kentucky. After losing his own parents early in life, Rob learned to cherish family bonds, to love deeply, and to live life to the fullest. Chief Orkies succumbed to his dual battle with occupational cancer and Covid-19 on December 11, 2020.

He was lucky enough to have found his lifelong love, Billie Jo, when he was a teenager. He adored his bride, his son Patrick, his daughter Trish, their spouses, and his granddaughters, Preslie and Rylee. Nothing in his life came before his family.

But if you knew Rob, you knew his heart was big enough to love more than just one family. His passion for firefighting started in 1984 and never left him. Chief Orkies began his fire service career at the Okolona Fire Department immediately after graduating high school, rising to the rank of captain. He returned to his home community of Zoneton Fire, joining the fire district there in 1994 as a volunteer, and soon became volunteer chief. He was hired by the former Edgewood Fire Protection District as its fire chief. He was later hired as full-time Zoneton fire chief in 2003. During his career, Chief Orkies led command on multiple major disasters, including a tornado, plane crashes, and Kentucky's largest train derailment, for which he was nationally recognized for his leadership and was requested to speak in Washington, DC.

Rob believed in community service long before this became a fire service mainstay with many community outreach programs. His passion for public service was unrivaled, with his goal to make his community a safer, more enjoyable place to live. He made helping Kentuckiana through the Crusade for Children a priority where firefighters learned to work together for the good of others. He was well known as the local Santa on the yearly fire truck visits. He touched more lives than ever anticipated. His crew, colleagues, and firefighters respected Chief Orkies for who he was and loved him for who they strived to be.

Rob never met a stranger and was a friend to all. He was highly respected for his fire service leadership. Most importantly, he will always be remembered as a kind, gentle, caring, and generous person that could light up any room with his warm smile and kind heart. If you spent one minute with Rob, you left a little happier and a little more loved than when you came. His silly sense of humor is irreplaceable, and his compassion was indisputable. For his many friends and family, his loss is immeasurable.



# Joey Wright

Nichols Fire Protection District – Kentucky ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ September 24, 2021 ★ Age 39



Joey Wright was a firefighter for Nichols Fire Protection District for six years. He was also on the board of Nichols Fire District as a secretary. Joey took pride in his truck. He started as a rookie firefighter and worked to become an engineer. One thing always remained the same. No matter what, he always had his fellow firefighters' back in any given situation.

The firefighter who drove Joey's fire truck to bring Joey home from the coroner's office said all the light came on inside and outside the truck, and the inside lights turned off immediately upon arrival at the destination. This also happened on the way to the cemetery after the funeral. We said, "Joey's here." Joey will always watch out for us, his friends, fellow firefighters, and whoever drives his truck.

Joey was active in Cub Scout Pack 81 for many years. When our son crossed over into Boy Scouts, Joey became the assistant scoutmaster of Troop 81. He was very eager to help these young men become responsible Eagle Scouts. He was also involved with scout camps as a merit badge counselor for CPR, first aid, and emergency preparedness.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Eric A. Bacon

**Jefferson Parish East Bank Consolidated Fire Department – Louisiana**  
**Career Fire Prevention Chief ★ December 29, 2020 ★ Age 52**

Eric Andre Bacon died in the line of duty on December 29, 2020, due to complications of COVID-19.

After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Army National Guard as a private first class.

Eric was a career public servant with over two decades of fire service. He previously served as a reserve police officer with the City of Westwego Police Department. Eric began his fire career with the Lafitte, Barataria, Crown Point Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter/operator. Eric also worked with the Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department as an operator/firefighter, fire prevention chief, and PIO.

In 2006, Eric was hired by the Jefferson Parish East Bank Consolidated Fire Department as a fire investigator. He pursued extensive training and received numerous professional certifications. He was promoted to investigations supervisor, then ultimately to chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Eric was an active member of the International Association of Arson Investigators. He served as a board member and was the Louisiana state chapter president from 2015 until his death. He was a member of the National Association of Fire Investigators, the Louisiana State Fireman's Association, and the International Association of Property & Evidence. He was awarded Operator of the Year by the Lafitte, Barataria, Crown Point Volunteer Fire Department in December 1999 and Cyttec-Firefighter of the Year by the Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department in 2001 and 2002. Eric was an instructor in fire/arson investigation and workplace fire safety and a guest lecturer at the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Recruit Training Academy.

In 2018, Eric was instrumental in creating legislation in Louisiana called the Negligent Arson Law. Known for his outstanding professionalism and unwavering dedication to public service, Eric always strived to better himself and others around him. He pursued knowledge of both the fire industry and criminal law and worked tirelessly to combat arsonists. Eric's love for his brothers and sisters in fire service and law enforcement was unconditional; he was a true partner, friend, brother, and mentor to us all.

He was survived by his beloved wife, Stacie Dupre Bacon; his daughter, Kandace Richardson (Joseph); grandchildren, Hayden, Adalaide, and Logan Richardson; his siblings, Cindy Bacon, Bruce Bacon, and Sandra Dufrene (Randy); his honorary daughter, Taylier Boudreaux; and extended family.

He put his family and friends first. Eric will be missed by many and will be with us forever.



# Christopher Glenn Lenard

Ouachita Parish Fire Department – Louisiana ★ Career District Chief ★ October 27, 2020 ★ Age 55



Christopher Glenn “Chris” Lenard was from Calhoun, Louisiana, and was much more than a firefighter and district chief. He served his community in many other ways as well. He taught classes at the fire department for upcoming firefighters, he was a paramedic, and he unselfishly put his own life on the line with no pay as a volunteer deputy for our sheriff’s department.

He attended church at The Pentecostals of the Twin Cities. Chris had many friends in his hometown, along with close friends in other states. He loved to travel, fish, and hunt, but most of all, he loved to spend his free time with his grandkids, Nathan Glenn and Clair Jade. Chris had one child, a daughter, who he personally named Alisa Nicole.

After his passing we learned so much more about his character. He gave to many charities and helped friends and strangers any way he could, all with a smile on his face that displayed his big, beautiful dimples.

He was an amazing daddy, pawpaw, son, brother, and hero that will be greatly missed. We know he is still always protecting us from heaven.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Nicholas C. Finamore

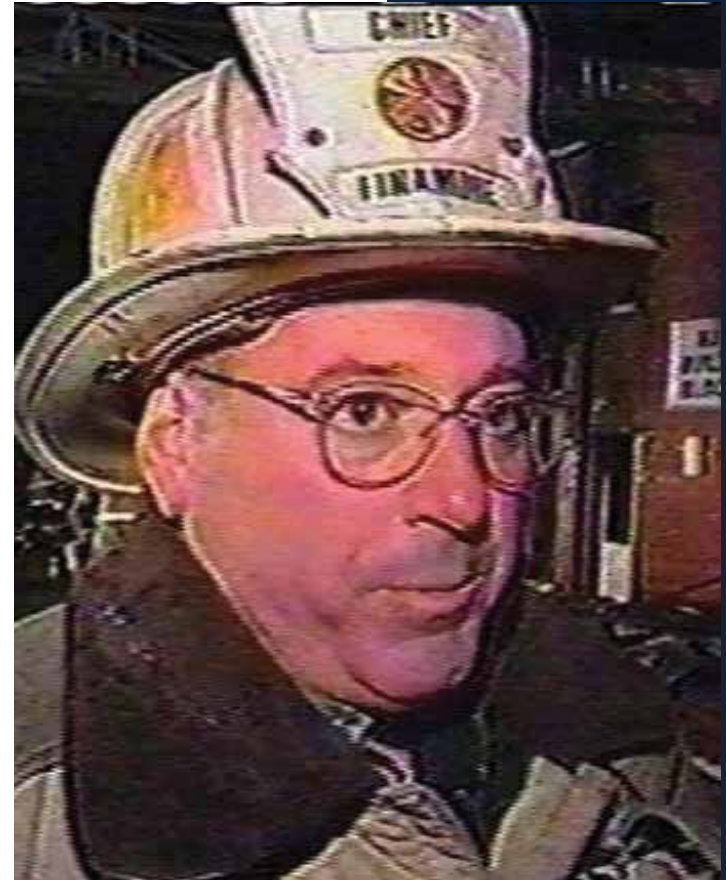
**Prince George's County Fire/ EMS Department – Maryland ★ Volunteer Fire Chief ★ January 5, 2021 ★ Age 75**

On January 5, 2021, Prince George's County Fire Department lost one of its own. Chief Nicholas C. Finamore, an active-duty member, passed away due to complications from COVID-19. He was affectionately known to his friends and family as "Nick." Chief Finamore was a 53-year veteran of the department who served in both career and volunteer capacities. After retiring as a career deputy fire chief of operations in 1989, Nick became the chief of the Allentown Road Volunteer Fire Department. He held many leadership roles within the department, most recently as volunteer operations commander for the Prince George's Fire Department, where he served until his passing. He was well known in the fire service and well respected by all that had the privilege to know and work alongside him.

Chief Finamore was considered a pioneer in the Prince George's County Fire Department, a true leader and the epitome of the perfect firefighter. He was recognized for bravery several times throughout his distinguished tenure. Early in his career, Nick was awarded the PGFD Gold Medal of Valor for rescuing two children from a house fire.

There was never a shortage of stories about Chief Finamore and his love for the job; however, the true love of Nick Finamore's life has always been his family. It's ironic how the people he encountered were cared for in the same fashion as he cared for his family. From his humble beginnings in Washington, DC, to his journey throughout the fire service, to his tightknit community in southern Anne Arundel County, Dad's core value was to ensure the foundation of family was unwavering. Before his untimely passing, Dad's primary pursuit in life was simply to care for and ensure the happiness of his five wonderful grandchildren, Sophia, Eddie, Nicholas, Brody, and Paul. Day after day, Dad's life revolved around what he could do next to make the gang happy.

When you hear stories and reference to Chief Finamore's life, many people use the term "legend." What makes a legend? Is it what they accomplished in their lifetime or how they are remembered when they are gone? I believe this legendary status transcends any fire department accomplishments. It was his selfless nature. It was his unwavering positive approach to tackling any of life's obstacles. It was his uncanny ability to adapt to change. It was his unique ability to make a story come alive. It was the relentless loyalty to his men, his department, and to tradition.





# Joshua D. Laird

**Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services – Maryland**  
**Career Battalion Chief ★ August 11, 2021 ★ Age 46**



Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services Captain Joshua David “Josh” Laird died in the line of duty on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, while battling a house fire in Ijamsville, Maryland. He was a 21-year veteran of the department and was assigned to Green Valley Fire Station 25 in Monrovia, Maryland. Captain Laird was posthumously promoted to battalion chief.

Josh loved the fire service. His career started at 16 with Mont Alto Fire Department in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. At the age of 18, he became a paramedic and was the youngest in the state of Pennsylvania at that time. He volunteered and worked for numerous departments in Franklin, Fulton, Cumberland, Adams, and Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Finally, in 2000, his dream to become a career firefighter came true when he was hired by the Frederick County (Maryland) Department of Fire and Rescue Services.

During his career, Josh received a Silver Star of Bravery and numerous accolades for exemplary service. Josh took the opportunity to mentor those new to the fire service very seriously; he was known for saying, “Just do the right thing.” Additionally, he was a COVID-19 Incident Management Team member, a car seat technician, and read to kids at the local elementary school.

Josh’s passion for service extended outside of work to his local community. He served on the School Board of Fairfield Area School District and was a member of the Adams County Democratic Committee.

Above all else, Josh’s favorite title and greatest accomplishment was being a dad to his daughters, Erin and Madelyn. He was a doting father and loved his girls more than anything else in the world. He willingly volunteered to have his nails painted, was a cheerleader at softball and basketball games, and baited many hooks while fishing. He was proud of both of his daughters and all their accomplishments.

Josh and his wife, Sara, were married for 20 years. He was Sara’s biggest fan, greatest supporter, and best friend. They were a team in all things.

Josh was a huge personality and was known for his pranks at home and work. He loved traveling and learning about other cultures, especially Mexican culture and food, and anything spooky, scary, or Halloween-related. Over his lifetime, he had many hobbies, including rock collecting, golf, metal detecting, fishing, hunting, coin collecting, and ghost hunting. Josh was a loyal friend to many and was always willing to support and care for those in need.

The world is a better place because of Josh’s contributions, and he leaves a void that will never be filled. His wife and daughters miss him desperately.



# Brad A. Scott

**Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services – Maryland**  
**Career Lieutenant ★ May 31, 2020 ★ Age 43**

Brad's career started as a 14-year-old junior member of the Linwood Fire Company in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. At the age of 23, he married and moved to Claymont, Delaware. Brad and his wife, Charlene, have three daughters. At that time, Brad also became a member of Claymont Fire House in Claymont, Delaware, where he served as treasurer. Brad realized a lifelong dream and was accepted into Recruit Class 23 for Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services in Maryland.

After nine years on the job with Howard County, at the young age of 39, Brad was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. Brad faced his battle with cancer head-on. He didn't feel sorry for himself, nor did he want anyone feeling sorry for him.

Ultimately, at the time of his passing, Brad had 28 years of service to the Linwood Fire Company, 20 years of service to Claymont Fire Company, and 13 years on the job with Howard County as a firefighter/heavy vehicle operator. He spent most of his career at Banneker Station 7, where he was responsible for driving Engine 71.

After years of fighting Howard County over workers' comp and insurance benefits, the IAFF had eight different types of cancer recognized to be from work-related issues. Although we are all saddened by his loss, we are happy to report that colon cancer was one of those recognized.

Brad lost his battle on May 31, 2020. Howard County announced that his death would be recognized as a line-of-duty death, and he was buried with full departmental honors.

On January 19, 2019, Howard County Fire and Rescue Services presented the Bronze Medal of Valor for preserving life and rescuing a resident trapped on the second floor of a house fire under strong smoke conditions in Columbia, Maryland. In 2021, Brad was awarded the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Firefighter of the Year Award, as well as New Castle County Firefighter of the Year Award.

Although Brad didn't hold any county or state offices, he was truly a fireman's fireman. It should be noted that Brad earned the title of lieutenant and was promoted posthumously. As such, he shall forever be known as Lt. Brad Scott.



# William Andre Sheffield

Baltimore City Fire Department – Maryland ★ Career Lieutenant ★ January 27, 2021 ★ Age 60



William “Dre” Sheffield was born in Lynn Haven, Florida, on November 3, 1960. At the age of 18 he moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to begin his career. Upon graduating from the fire academy in 1993, Firefighter William Andre Sheffield was assigned to Truck #6. In 1999, he was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to Engine #23 for a brief time before transferring to Engine #35, where he remained until his passing. Throughout his career, he served both as a fire investigator and as a safety officer. In both capacities he was highly respected by his supervisors, peers, and most of all by those who served alongside him. He received numerous commendations as evidence of unwavering dedication to his career and to the citizens of Baltimore.

He had a deep love, dedication, and loyalty to his family, whom he protected and served. His grandchildren, Teyon Jr. and Amauri, were his pride and joy. He doted over his wife, children, mom, and siblings. His love for football was unmatched, as well as his love for golf. He enjoyed traveling, cooking, and grilling. His all-time favorites were oysters, seafood, and steak.

Andre was very passionate about education, history, storytelling, mentorship, and “dropping jewels” (knowledge) on those he loved and adored.

Andre was loved and highly respected by so many in the fire department, as well as family and friends. His untimely death occurred on January 27, 2021. Fallen hero William A. Sheffield was 60 years old and had served in the Baltimore City Fire Department for 28 years. He is survived by devoted wife, Tesa Y. Sheffield; daughter, Kierston; and son, Darian; as well as his two grandsons, mother, and siblings.

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# Thomas M. Szpila

**Easthampton Fire Department – Massachusetts ★ Career Captain ★ July 16, 2019 ★ Age 64**

Tom was born on February 1, 1955. He was one of five children. He lived his entire life in Easthampton, Massachusetts. After graduating from high school in 1973, Tom worked in construction, building log homes throughout New England. He soon understood the importance of obtaining a job with benefits to support his family. Tom's interest in a fire service career began with his wife's uncle, a firefighter in Easthampton.

Tom became a certified EMT in 1977. He became a provisional firefighter in 1979, a permanent firefighter in 1980, and a captain in 1995. He completed an associate degree in fire science in 2002. Tom's firefighting career spanned 33 years, retiring in 2010.

Tom was a talented mechanic and could fix anything, including fire trucks and ambulances. In fact, he acquired a secondary title as EFD's mechanic. He played a key role in the department's fleet design and replacement program. He achieved certifications in hazardous materials, radiological monitoring, and pump operations. He attended many FEMA and tactical trainings. Tom mentored many young firefighters and trained captains and chief officers alike.

Tom was a humble, reserved, and stoic man, never boastful about his accomplishments. He was devoted to both his family and the fire service. He enjoyed helping others, was a sincere listener, and loved to offer advice to family and friends. Tom was affectionately known to his fellow firefighters as "Zip." According to one of his chiefs, "His presence at a fire made those who worked with him better firefighters, and you never wanted to let Zip see you quit."

Tom was a member of the National Street Rod Association and enjoyed building his own street rods. He was an avid skier who often joined fellow firefighters on Okemo Mountain in Vermont. He also enjoyed "shopping" in junkyards and watching collector car auctions. After retiring, he spent his final days enjoying his eight grandchildren, who were his pride and joy. In his memory, one of his daughters opened a salon and spa in Easthampton called "The Fix," to honor her father who loved the challenge of fixing everything.

Tom departed this life after a long and valiant battle with occupational cancer. He left his wife, three daughters and sons-in-law, eight grandchildren, and countless friends. He served his community selflessly with integrity and moral character. A "good Jake," he represented the fire service with the highest standards.

Tom impacted many lives in his community and loved his family deeply. His memory lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.



# Jeffrey A. Brozich

Madison Heights Fire Department – Michigan ★ Career Captain ★ March 1, 2021 ★ Age 57



Captain Jeff Brozich passed away after suffering a fatal heart attack while on duty on March 1, 2021.

Jeff was a loving father, stepfather, and devoted husband. Jeff was the second son of Rich and Marion (Beth) Brozich, brother to Bob and Rick Brozich. Jeff had a contagious laugh and a big heart. Everything he did in his life was to help a friend or family member. He enjoyed seeing others happy.

Jeff was hired by the Madison Heights Fire Department in 2000. Over his 20 years of service, Jeff received several commendation awards. The biggest achievement in his career was his graduation from Eastern Michigan University School of Staff and Command. From 2003 to 2008, Jeff served as a SWAT medic for the Oakland County SWAT team. Jeff was promoted from firefighter to sergeant in 2011, lieutenant in 2016, and captain in 2019.

From 2000-2020, Jeff responded to approximately 10,121 calls for service, which includes medical and fire runs. He commanded several fire scenes and made numerous lifesaving decisions within seconds of arriving on scene. Jeff was truly a decorated fire captain and is missed at the firehouse every day.

At home, Jeff was a father to his beautiful daughter, Brianna, stepfather to Lucy and Milo, and devoted husband to his wife, Lindsay. He loved being a dad. He always made sure he spent time with Brianna. In a paper Brianna wrote, she mentioned memories of playing board games, swimming in the pool, and riding bikes with her dad. Jeff enjoyed coaching Bri's softball team and working on pitching with her as often as he could. Brianna was the light of his life.

Jeff loved Lucy and Milo, too. He would make them laugh by launching them in the pool and doing what they called "Frankenstein" every night at bedtime. He taught

Milo how to ride a bike and worked with Lucy on her hitting and pitching skills in preparation for softball. Lucy would dance on his feet in the kitchen, and Milo would play board games with him.

Jeff was recently married to his wife, Lindsay, on November 1, 2019. He was a loving and devoted husband. Jeff and Lindsay talked a lot about travel and hiking. Date nights often consisted of shooting pool (where Jeff usually won) or heading downtown to the casino. Jeff and Lindsay enjoyed life together.

Jeff's infectious laugh and smile is missed every day by all his loved ones. His memory will live on forever in our hearts, and we will continue to honor him every day. He will be remembered for his big heart and endless love.



# Michael J. Paidar

**St. Paul Fire Department – Minnesota ★ Career Captain ★ August 26, 2020 ★ Age 53**

Mike was born on January 31, 1967, to Joe and Donna Paidar. He grew up in Mechanicsville, Iowa, across the street from the fire station. He had a lifelong passion for firefighting that began at a very early age. Mike would pretend to be Paramedic Johnny Gage from his favorite show, *Emergency!* His dad even made him a homemade biophone so Mike could “call in” to Rampart General. Mike’s path to becoming a career firefighter paramedic was out of the ordinary but provided many entertaining stories at the fire stations.

Mike played basketball for St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa; he had fun with his teammates, and they enjoyed two National Tournament appearances. After college, he pursued a journalism career as a TV photojournalist for WQAD-TV Moline IL, KCRG-TV Cedar Rapids IA, and KSTP-TV St. Paul MN. Throughout his career, Mike covered many stories nationally and internationally. At KSTP, he won multiple Emmy Awards and was on staff when they earned NPPA’s Station of the Year in 1999.

Despite being an award-winning photojournalist, Mike knew his true calling. In 2005, he joined the Maple Grove Fire Department as an on-call firefighter. He completed the University of Iowa Paramedic Program in 2008 and joined the St. Paul Fire Department in 2011. It meant the world to Mike to have his father, a 22-year volunteer firefighter, pin his badge at the St. Paul Firefighter Academy graduation ceremony.

At 6’ 9” tall, Mike physically made an impression on everyone. But it was more than just his tall stature that made him memorable; it was his love for his wife, children, and family, his faith in God, his meaningful friendships, humor, quick wit, culinary skills, and his enthusiasm for the fire service.

Mike was an incredibly good man with a huge smile and an even bigger heart. Whether parenting, coaching, mentoring, or teaching, Mike encouraged everyone to do their best, to enjoy the moment, and to see their full potential. He positively touched so many.

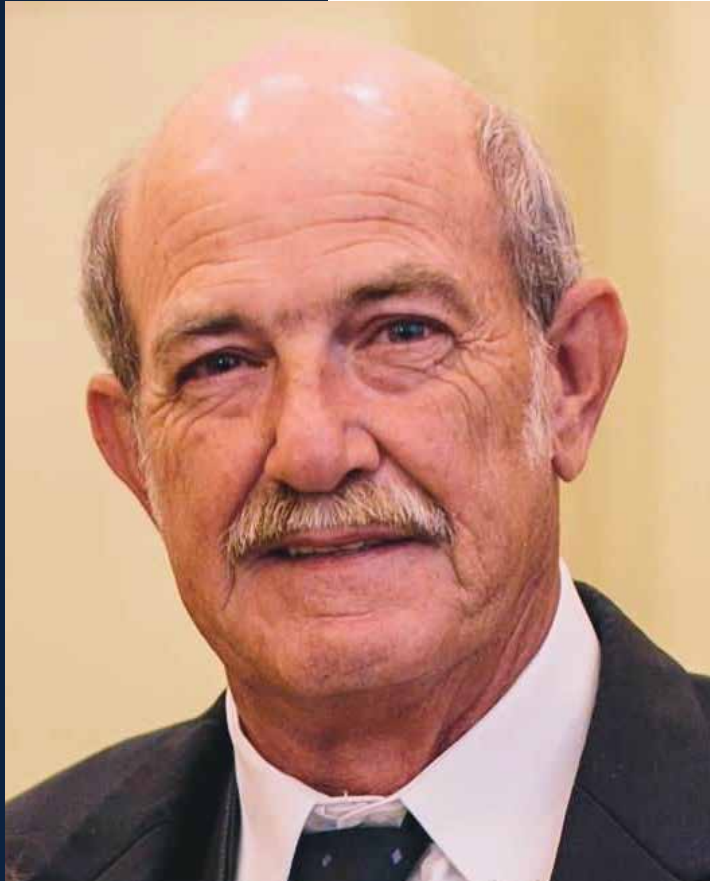
Mike was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia on Valentine’s Day 2020, with his wife by his side. For six months, he courageously battled AML, always maintaining his optimism, his sense of humor, his love for family, and his desire to get back on shift at the fire department.

Mike passed away on August 26, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Julie; son, Matthew Paidar; daughter, Meghan Paidar; parents, Joe and Donna Paidar; sister, Susan (Darrell) Henricksen; nieces, Maddie, Danielle, and Katie Henricksen; in-laws, Bob and Joyce Hansen; brother-in-law, Kevin (Bobbi) Hansen; and nephews, Kyle and Seth Hansen.



# Larry Dean Adams

**Yazoo County District 3 Volunteer Fire Department – Mississippi**  
**Volunteer Lieutenant ★ August 8, 2021 ★ Age 65**



Born and raised in Yazoo City, known as the “Gateway to the Mississippi Delta,” Larry was well known for his loyal service to his small-town community. He began his career as a dispatcher for the Yazoo City Police Department after serving on their police reserves for many years. Having previous communications experience, the department soon relied on him to be their communications expert, in addition to his full-time position as a dispatcher. When a new patrol vehicle was purchased, Larry would wire and install its lights, sirens, and radio equipment. This was often accomplished after his regular shift hours and during his free time. Larry never hesitated when an officer would call in the early morning hours to report radio or light trouble in patrol cars. Larry was dependable and always willing to assist his fellow officers. In 2008, he retired as E-911 Dispatch Supervisor, after 25 years of devoted service.

After retiring, his willingness to give of his time and talents never wavered. He traded blue lights for red lights when he joined the Yazoo County District 3 Volunteer Fire Department after its inception in 2015. Larry served the volunteer fire department for six years and received the Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Year award in 2020. His love for the fire department was demonstrated by his response to calls, attending fire meetings, attending training exercises, and endless other duties to help maintain the department’s trucks and firehouse.

Larry was a loving husband to his wife, Janet, for nearly 40 years. He was a doting father to his two children, Chris and Heather. Having practiced as a notable “grill master” over the years, Larry became affectionately known as “Bam Bam”—derived from Chef Emeril Lagasse’s catch phrase—by his five grandchildren. His love for grilling served him well at the fire department, too. He would help by cooking in the volunteer fire department’s concessions booth at the annual Yazoo County Fair.

Larry would begin his preparation for the fair with eagerness and anticipation months in advance. He treasured the times he could fellowship with his fire department family.

Although our family misses him beyond measure, we find comfort in knowing he lost his life while doing something he truly loved and enjoyed. He was helping protect others in need while serving his community. Larry willingly answered all types of calls for assistance with a helping hand and, most importantly, a serving heart!

# Jack DeWayne Griffin Sr.

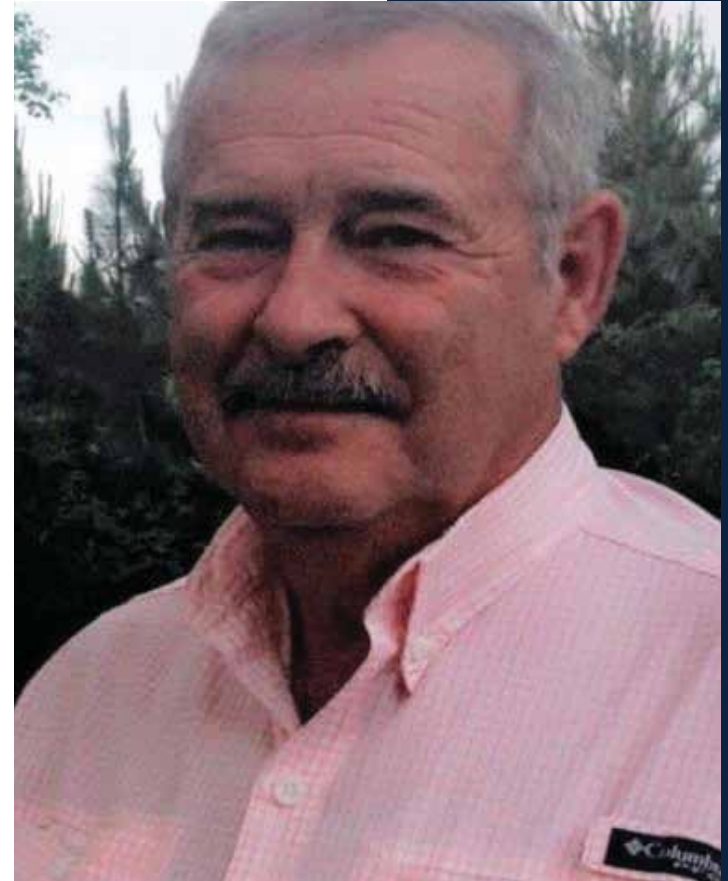
**Ruleville Volunteer Fire Department – Mississippi ★ Volunteer Chief ★ September 21, 2020 ★ Age 67**

Jack was an extremely loyal and dedicated man to both his family and friends. He was born in Ruleville, Mississippi, where he was a lifelong resident. He passed on September 21, 2020, while battling COVID-19. Jack was 67 at the time of his passing.

He worked for Ruleville Manufacturing for 35 years as a machine mechanic. He served with the Ruleville Volunteer Fire Department in Mississippi for 40 years, the last five years as chief. He served his community with unsurpassed bravery, dedication, and passion.

Jack was single with a very big, caring heart. He could make just about anything out of things he had around the house. Jack was a hard worker and was always willing to help someone that needed help. Jack loved to go hunting (almost any kind), fishing, and spending time with family and friends. I miss my dad every day and struggle with his loss to this virus.

Jack is survived by his daughter, Jackie Williams (Jeremy); son, DeWayne Griffin; grandsons, Ezra Smith, Wyatt Williams, and Django Griffin; granddaughters, Destiny Miller, Gypsy Griffin, and Gemma Griffin; sisters, Coralee Morris, Nina Faye Poe (Oscar), and Eloise McGowan (Earl); brother, Billy Joe Griffin (Faye); and a host of nieces and nephews that miss him dearly. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Alton and Merle Griffin; brothers, James Griffin and Huey Griffin; and sister, Joan Griffin.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Hugh L. Hollowell Sr.

Watson Volunteer Fire Department – Mississippi ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ October 22, 2020 ★ Age 69



On October 22, 2020, Hugh Hollowell passed away at age 69 from COVID contracted in the line of duty. Except for his four years of service in the Air Force right after high school, he lived in Marshall County, Mississippi, his entire life. It was there he married his wife of 51 years, Pat, and had three sons, Hugh Jr., Neal, and Jimmy. He loved tinkering with things and spending time with his grandchildren.

He had been a member of the Watson Volunteer Fire Department since its inception in the late 1970s. Over his long career, he spent seven years as the fire department's chief and had numerous certifications and awards as a result of his service. At the time of his death, he was president of the fire department's board of directors and an active firefighter in good standing.

In his professional life, he had been the emergency management coordinator for Marshall County, Mississippi, since 1996. He spent the pandemic working long hours, coordinating the procurement and delivery of personal protective equipment for the county's first responders and EMS personnel, often delivering the equipment himself late into the night.

Hugh was supposed to retire in June of 2020. He and his wife, Pat, planned to travel west and see the wide-open spaces he had dreamed and read about for years. When the pandemic hit, however, he decided that he could not retire ethically in the middle of a crisis.

After a lifetime of commitment to his community, Hugh died trying to ensure that it was protected. He would not have wanted to be called a hero for doing his job, but those who knew him know the truth.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Bryant Gladney

**Boone County Fire Protection District – Missouri ★ Career Assistant Chief ★ December 22, 2021 ★ Age 58**

Tragically, in the early morning hours of December 22, 2021, Bryant Gladney, age 58, responded to a call on the interstate, and his life was cut way too short.

Bryant was a father, husband, teacher, and coach. The community lost a selfless amazing man, and I lost my best friend and the father of my boys.

Bryant was born in Tucson, Arizona, and grew up in Centralia, Missouri. While growing up, and to the day he died, his passions included trains (including model trains) and baseball (St. Louis Cardinals).

Bryant has two sons, Shaun (28) and Jack (12), daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and wife, Jamie.

Throughout Bryant's 30+ year career, he was a member of various fire and EMS organizations. He managed multiple ambulance services, worked as an EMT and medic, and ultimately served as the assistant chief of the Training Bureau for Boone County Fire Protection District in Columbia, Missouri.

Bryant's real passions were teaching and coaching. He was always looking for ways to help others and make things better. Everything he did in life, at work and home, was to help someone else. There are countless EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters who were trained by Bryant. There are also countless kids who were coached in baseball and basketball. He left a legacy that will go on for many years.

Bryant was dedicated to helping "Mrs. Smith." (He referred to all customers as "Mrs. Smith," because the person in need was someone's mother, sister, grandmother, or wife, and should always be treated with respect.) He was also the proudest dad.

If Bryant didn't know something, he educated himself on the topic. When his younger son, Jack, was told that his dad was gone, he said, "Daddy taught me so much, and now he won't ever be able to teach me anything again."

A quote from Bryant's older son, Shaun, from his eulogy:

*He showed me what a loving marriage looks like and why it's good to spoil your kids. He showed me what it looks like to be at your worst and then, more importantly, how to pick yourself up and climb out of that hole you are in. He taught me to work hard, to live below my means and, most importantly, to help others whenever I could.*

If Bryant could speak to anyone who reads this, he would say: Love your family and friends. Work hard. Be honest with each other and especially yourself. Always respect Mrs. Smith, and be a good and giving person. Good is never good enough; strive to be better in whatever you do.



# Rodney L. Heard Sr.

St. Louis Fire Department – Missouri ★ Career Firefighter ★ June 15, 2021 ★ Age 56



Rodney was born to John and Ardelin Heard on December 17, 1964. He was the eighth of ten children born to this union. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, and sisters, Denise and Vickie.

Rodney confessed Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age. He was a graduate of Cleveland High School and attended Lindenwood University.

Rodney was united in Holy Matrimony to Melissa “Lisa” on May 18, 1996. To this union, six children were unified.

Rodney became a St. Louis firefighter on March 1, 1999 and loved to protect and serve his community. Throughout his life, he loved to help others. He was a devoted family man, always willing to lend a helping hand.

Rodney was soft-spoken with a laid-back demeanor and always greeted people with a smile. He had a gentle heart and special love for his grandchildren, teaching them about the responsibilities of being a fireman, long talks about being safe, and what to do if they were ever caught in a fire. Whenever possible, Rodney loved to dance and show off his moves. He was a great dancer and could really get down!

Rodney’s gentle soul was called home on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at St. Mary’s Hospital.

Rodney leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife, Melissa “Lisa”; six beloved children, Mark, Arriel (James), Dorion, Marissa (Anthony), Rodney Jr., and Roderic (Chaquanta); 29 grandchildren; four brothers, Johnny, Robert (Pamela), Shune, and Emmett; three sisters, Sharon (Roy), Olivia (Jessie), and Felicia; two godchildren, Traviona Terry and Leon Hays; special nephew, Dwayne Moore; and a host of extended family members, friends, and his firefighter family.

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# James Dale “Jimmy” Jenkins

**Belgrade Volunteer Fire Department – Missouri ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ December 3, 2021 ★ Age 74**

James Dale “Jimmy” Jenkins was a lifelong resident of Belgrade, Missouri. As a young boy of nine, he watched as the Belgrade Volunteer Fire Department arrived at his home in a brand new fire truck for its first call. He never forgot the service and dedication of those volunteers as they strived to save his family home and belongings.

Jimmy served in Vietnam in 1968 as a lineman and radio operator. Shortly after returning home, he joined the fire department, where he spent the rest of his life as a dedicated, active member. He spent countless hours working on vehicles, fundraising events, and as an officer within the organization. He was a dedicated supporter and advocate for more than 50 years. He served as assistant chief for over 20 years.

Jenkins also served as a member of the honors team for the Bismarck VFW Post 6947, where he participated in numerous ceremonies for his fellow veterans. Jimmy received full military honors from his own honors team members and was recognized by the Firefighters Association of Missouri for years of faithful service.

Jimmy suffered a heart attack and died shortly after returning home from a structure fire. As a result, his death was ruled to be in the line of duty.

Jimmy Dale dearly loved his wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren. He worked for most of his adulthood as a heavy diesel mechanic in a local mine and two quarries. He spent time over the years advancing his knowledge and skills in the trade, becoming a master in the field. He enjoyed NASCAR and sprint car racing, traveling, restoring vehicles, gold panning, and oftentimes helping friends and neighbors with his mechanical knowledge.

Jimmy Dale Jenkins was a self-made man with a variety of hobbies and interests. He spent his final years owning and working on the family farm where he had witnessed, many years earlier, the Belgrade Fire Department fighting a fire to save his home.

He was loved and admired by many. He will be missed.



# Ivan D. LaGrand

Cape Girardeau Fire Department – Missouri ★ Career Captain ★ December 1, 2021 ★ Age 54



Captain Ivan LaGrand was a dedicated public servant for his entire adult life to the Southeast Missouri community. Like his father and godfather before him, public safety was his passion. In 1987, at a mere 20 years old, Captain LaGrand started his career in emergency medical services with North Scott Ambulance District and worked as a full-time paramedic until 2005. He was then hired as a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the Cape Girardeau Fire Department in 1996, serving the community he was raised in. His desire to serve did not stop there. After moving just south of Cape Girardeau, he joined his local volunteer fire department, NBC Fire Protection District, in 1990 and rose through the ranks, retiring as chief of the department in 2012.

In 2000, Captain LaGrand also played a pivotal role in educating young minds to become emergency medical technicians as an instructor for the Career and Technology Center in Cape Girardeau. His commitment to molding the minds of new EMTs through the program gave many a pathway into the medical field, and many went on to become paramedics, nurses, and even doctors. In 2001, he felt the calling to become a part-time DPS officer with SEMO University, following in his father's and godfather's footsteps. Captain LaGrand retired from SEMO DPS and the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center in 2011, after being promoted to fire inspector. Captain LaGrand was a founding member of Seniors and Firefighters Engaged (S.A.F.E.) that assisted promoting fire safety within our senior community. Ivan was a member of the Missouri Fire Marshals Association and the Jefferson County Fire Marshal's Association. He served as a reserve deputy and emergency dispatcher for the Bollinger County Sheriff's Office until his untimely passing.

Captain LaGrand is remembered for his gruff personality and dry sense of humor. Although he was serious about his work and saw the value in fire prevention and

education in the Cape Girardeau community, he loved to listen or tell a good joke. His thunderous laughter made those who were near him smile. Just a few years before his passing, Ivan bought a mini farm and enjoyed riding horses, playing with his dogs, Bo and Truckie, shooting his arsenal of weapons, and taking a ride in his Jeep. He enjoyed the peace and tranquility the rural area had to offer.

Ivan touched many lives in his short time with us in this world. We are all thankful for the opportunity to have him as our caregiver, coworker, family, and friend.



# Robert J. Rocha

**Kansas City Fire Department – Missouri ★ Career Captain ★ November 21, 2020 ★ Age 59**

Captain Robert “Bobby” Rocha will long be remembered by those who knew him. May his example raise the bar on how we treat others and life.

His career included time working for various manufacturing facilities and driving for Yellow Freight before he was accepted by the Kansas City (Missouri) Fire Department as a cadet. He was among the first who also had to qualify as an emergency medical technician. He soon grew to love his job, both because of the excitement of fighting fires, and because of his great compassion for those in need. His outlook and perspective on life were profoundly altered as he entered the world of first responders. His career path took him to the position of captain on May 5, 2013.

Achievements can be categorized and dated. However, it would be shortsighted and negligent to create such a list. Captain Rocha, Bobby Rocha, impacted lives on and off duty. He would visit patients he took to the hospital because of his love of people, true love. He was a great friend and had literally thousands of friends across the country. His friends would sacrifice themselves for Bobby because they knew, they know, that he would do the same. No cost was too great.

Captain Rocha’s hobbies were a big part of his life. He began riding motorcycles at about 12 years old. It began a life of hundreds of thousands of miles on two wheels. Many friends were made because of his two-wheeled life. Another of his great loves was music. He would sing, loved to sing the songs he loved at karaoke, and was one of the best. He sang as he lived, from his heart and soul.

Robert believed the words of the gospel of John, chapter 15, verse 13:  
*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*



# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Marvin F. Shaffrey

Cedar Hill Fire Protection District – Missouri ★ Volunteer Battalion Chief ★ November 2, 2021 ★ Age 55



Marvin Shaffrey joined the Cedar Hill Fire Protection District on October 1, 1979, as a junior firefighter, at the age of 13. At 18, he became a senior volunteer firefighter and was promoted to engineer just two years later in 1986. Marvin was hired by the Cedar Hill Fire District as a full-time firefighter on May 15, 1991, and was promoted to lieutenant that same year. He was named captain in October 1995. Marvin stepped down from being a full-time firefighter on January 17, 2002, but remained an active volunteer with the rank of captain. Marvin was promoted to volunteer battalion chief in February of 2018. He passed away in the line of duty on November 2, 2021.

Marvin was the perfect firefighter. He always had a great positive attitude. He took great pride in everything he was involved with, and it had to be perfect. Marvin had a memory like no other. His mind retained information that many people rely on a computer for—all the department's equipment, when and where something was purchased, and dates and locations of many calls.

Over his 42 years as a member of the Cedar Hill Fire Protection District, Marvin has received two letters of commendation, placed on the Fire District's Honor Roll, served on several committees, run thousands of calls, saved numerous lives, and been a teacher, mentor, and friend to all. On November 10, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Cedar Hill Fire Protection District passed a resolution declaring November 2nd as Battalion Chief Marvin Shaffrey Memorial Day. Every year on this date, the Cedar Hill Fire Protection District will take time to reflect on Battalion Chief Shaffrey's legacy and to honor him.

Marvin served his family the way he did the department, with lifelong commitment. He married his high school sweetheart, Anastasia, on November 28, 1987. The only thing better than the fire service in Marvin's eyes were his wife and his two

daughters, Lily and Ella. Ella joined the department as a junior firefighter on her 14th birthday to honor her father's legacy. Along with camping, Lily and Ella's activities were Marvin's hobby. He instilled into Lily and Ella his sense of humor, work ethic, dedication, grit, and commitment.

Marvin loved to make people laugh. He always had a smile on his face. If Marvin met you once, you were considered "a really good friend of mine." He was a selfless man who touched more lives than he ever knew. His dedication to his family, friends, and the fire service was unmatched. His legacy will live on for years to come. He will be greatly missed.

# Craig S. Shormas

**Monarch Fire Protection District – Missouri ★ Career Firefighter/Paramedic/Engineer ★ April 21, 2020 ★ Age 59**

Craig Steven Shormas died from complications of metastatic prostate cancer, deemed by the State of Missouri to be in the line of duty.

He served as a firefighter in the St. Louis area for more than 30 years, including 12 years with the Maryland Heights Fire Protection District and 19 years with the Monarch Fire Protection District. He was a member of the Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri, Local 2665.

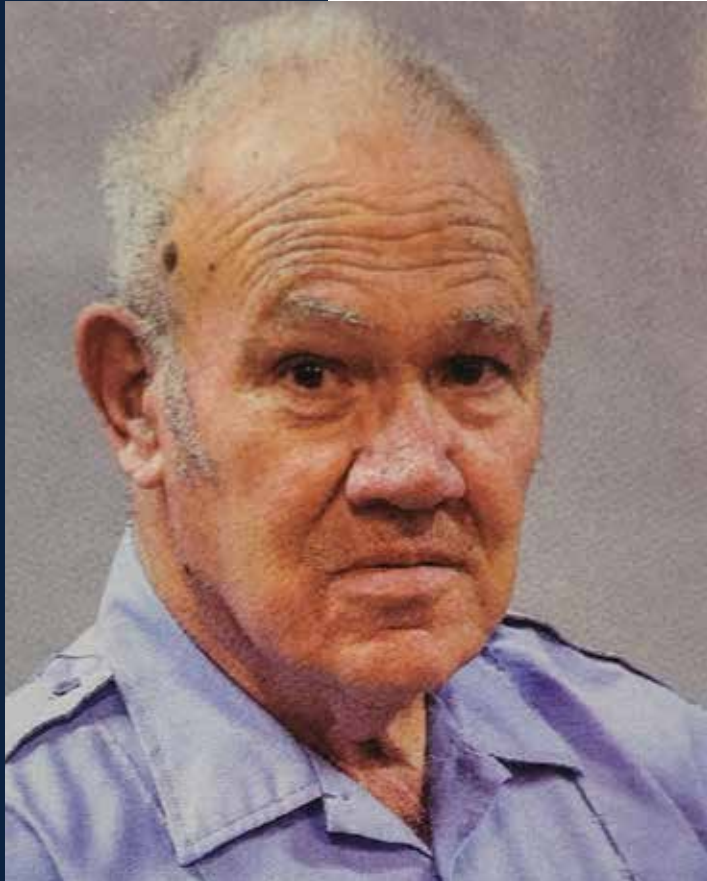
Craig Shormas was survived by his wife, Shelli; his daughters, Sarah (Jordan Cechin), Sophia (Luke Greenemay), and Madeline Shormas; his parents, Joseph and Joyce Shormas; his sister, Lori Kieffer; and his grandchildren.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Dennis M. Bender

**Ponca Hills Volunteer Fire Department – Nebraska**  
**Volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic ★ March 10, 2021 ★ Age 78**



Dennis Bender dedicated 50 years to Ponca Hills Volunteer Fire Department. He died March 10, 2021, while working in support of crews battling a large brush fire. He lived his last day much as he did his 78 years, helping others.

Born and raised in Omaha, the oldest of eight children, Dennis began his life of service as a young man. At age 21, he helped support his family when his father died, becoming an electrician and encouraging his siblings to learn a trade or get an education.

Dennis married the love of his life, Patricia, in 1967, and for 52 years the Benders lived in Ponca Hills. They built a good, full life with their children, Shelly, Scott, and George, with commitment and service as their cornerstone. His two grandchildren, Xander and Bryanna, were his pride and joy. He loved to take them to the station, to the flying field, and on family vacations.

An Eagle Scout, Dennis was actively involved in Boy Scouts for over 50 years. Along with Patty, he served as a Scoutmaster and Boy Scout commissioner. After no longer leading troops, they continued to supply meals during camping trips, cooking delicious food in all kinds of weather, and to advise, guide and support boys earning their Eagle badges.

Dennis had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. He graduated at 16, near the top of his class. He owned an electrical business and got his real estate license. In retirement, he became enthusiastic about remote control planes, joining the local club to learn about flying and teaching his grandchildren and other family members to fly.

His greatest passion, however, was paramedicine. The 24th paramedic to become certified in Nebraska, he was a medic/paramedic for 45 years. To gain skills and increase his knowledge to provide the best care to those he served, he volunteered at a local hospital for 18 years and never missed an opportunity to learn about administering emergency care.

At his core, Dennis loved people and wanted to help them. He participated in all facets of the PHVFD and freely shared his knowledge, time, and energy. Living just a block from the fire house, he seldom missed a call—day or night, holidays, or during family celebrations. He never saw it as an inconvenience or burden to provide whatever aid he could.

Dennis was one of the greats, a man of many talents. His family and friends continue to grieve his loss, remember his compassion, and strive to serve their community with the same dedication and heart.



# Bob J. Kneifl

**Ponca Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department – Nebraska**  
**Volunteer Firefighter/EMT ★ December 7, 2020 ★ Age 64**

Bob was born in 1956 and grew up on the family farm in rural Nebraska. He was the youngest of 12 and from a very early age was known for his kind heart and jokester personality. He graduated from high school in 1974 and went on to receive a degree in auto mechanics. In 1982, Bob started Husker Service in Ponca, Nebraska and was still operating his business when he passed away.

In 1994, he saw that the local fire department needed volunteers so thought, “Why not?” and joined. That decision led to him being a dedicated member for over 26 years. He served as both an EMT and firefighter, earning numerous awards for Fire/Rescue Person of the Year for all of his hard work. He was also the department rescue captain for 22 years, ensuring that fellow EMTs had the tools, resources, and training they needed to safely serve our community.

Bob’s true passion, though, was fire prevention. He served as Ponca’s fire prevention officer for over 20 years, as well as president of the Northeast Nebraska Fire Prevention Co-op. He brought several new resources to our community, including Fire Pup, his fire prevention puppets, and Fireman Spongebob, a whimsical clown character he came up with after attending State Fire School. Fireman Spongebob was a staple in our community. Everyone knew him and looked forward to seeing what new fire prevention tips he had to share.

Bob was a trusted businessman, a dedicated fireman/EMT, but most importantly he was an incredible husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He and his wife, Kim, were married for 39 years, and he had three daughters and nine grandchildren who all thought the world of him. He would do anything for anyone and was a great friend to many.

Bob knew the risks associated with being a fireman/EMT. He trained many members on how to be safe while serving our community. Despite taking all of the precautions he could, Bob contracted COVID. He fought a hard battle, but his body grew tired, and God called him Home on December 7, 2020.

His loss hit us all hard—his family, his friends, and his fellow fire department brothers and sisters. This was evident by the outpouring of love and support they showed us during his illness and how they honored him after his death. COVID meant there were limits on how many people could be at his funeral, but that didn’t stop them from helping us give him a proper send off. Fire trucks from ten area departments, fellow firefighters, community members, friends, and neighbors lined the streets and sidewalks as he was given one last ride throughout town in his beloved fire prevention trailer.



# Richard Jeffrey “Rick” Feldman

Sparks Fire Department – Nevada ★ Career Driver/Operator ★ January 21,2020 ★ Age 57



Being a firefighter was not just a job for Rick; it was a calling that continued the family legacy of his father.

When Rick became FAO, he said he had the best job ever! He enjoyed constantly learning new fire safety techniques and training. Rick was on the regional HAZMAT team, confined spaces, original member of the technical rescue team, and SCBA fit test technician.

The fire chief said there is not a friendlier person in the fire house than Rick; he would give you the shirt off his back and was a pleasure to work with. Rick tried to do his best on every call he responded to; he took his FAO responsibilities very seriously.

Rick was a people person and made friends easily. He enjoyed trying to make someone's day a little better. He enjoyed cooking, taking cooking classes, and sharing what he made with others. Rick enjoyed camping, sailing, and going to baseball games with family and friends. As a family we enjoyed traveling, spending time at our cabin, and going to the lake.

Everything changed for us when Rick was diagnosed with a rare blood disease, angioimmunoblastic T cell lymphoma. During the 11 months he fought this disease, he took advantage of opportunities to spend time with his family and brothers from the fire department. When he couldn't go outside, he enjoyed playing the piano and watching movies and baseball games together, creating as many memories as he could while he still had time.

Rick fought. He fought for the opportunity to make more memories with his children. Through his treatment, he never complained or gave up hope. He fought with a smile until the end. Growing up, my dad was always our hero and our biggest fan when we played sports or any extra school activities. My dad was the best man I knew and my

best friend growing up. No matter what we were doing—camping, watching movies, or cooking together—we always had the best time.

He sometimes doubted whether he was a good dad, but to us there was no question. He was the best dad we could ever ask for. He taught us to be kind, work hard, and have a caring heart. To me, that is the best thing a dad could teach his kids. He wanted us to go into the world and spread kindness, and we try to be just like him.

He had so much he wanted to do with his children—teach them, watch them fall in love, and welcome their spouses into the family. He won't have that opportunity. That is why Rick's name being added to this memorial means so much to our family. This is a place his children and future grandchildren can see that his sacrifices to serve his community mattered. Rick mattered and will never be forgotten.

# John A. Jonker Sr.

**Erskine Lakes Fire Company #1 – New Jersey ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ February 10, 2021 ★ Age 80**

John Albert Jonker was born on April 7, 1940, in Prospect Park, New Jersey. After some time, John, along with his wife of 62 years, Amelia Jonker, moved to Hawthorne, New Jersey, where he began his career in the fire service. The Jonkers later moved to Ringwood, New Jersey, where they raised a family and John served as a 55-year member of the Erskine Lakes Fire Company #1. John Jonker passed away on February 10, 2021, after returning home from a drill night at the firehouse.

If there was one thing John loved just as much as his family, it was serving the community as a volunteer firefighter. After swearing the oath to serve and protect the community of Ringwood, John held almost every position, administratively and firematically, at the Erskine Lakes firehouse, including a number of years as the department's fire commissioner.

Despite all these great achievements, his greatest pride was having his family serve alongside him. His son, John Jonker Jr., is the current fire commissioner of Erskine Lakes Fire Company #1 and has been a member of the fire department for 42 years. Like his father before him, he has also held almost every position within the department. John Sr.'s grandson, Daniel Jonker, joined the ranks of the Erskine Lakes Fire Company #1 about ten years ago and has begun to follow in his grandfather's footsteps by holding positions administratively and having the privilege of being a lieutenant. John Sr.'s granddaughter, Cortney Jonker, has also served alongside her grandfather as a volunteer, joining the department about six years ago. After Daniel joined, the Jonkers made history by being the first family in Erskine Lakes Fire Company #1's history to have three generations of family members serving side by side.

Nothing made John Sr. prouder than having his family join him in something he was so passionate about. He was eager to teach the trade and tradition, volunteer his time, work hard, and was the very definition of what "service to others" and "brotherhood" was all about. To this day, new members of the Erskine Lakes Fire Company #1 are told stories of his character, respect, kindness, and honor. His gear and awards still hang proudly within the walls of the firehouse as a reminder to old friends of his dedication to the community and his fellow brothers and sisters, and as a lesson to new members about pride for this trade and all its traditions. Our hero may be gone, but he will never be forgotten.



# Nicholas A. Prioli

**Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company #1, Station 55 – New Jersey**  
**Volunteer Safety Officer ★ October 23, 2021 ★ Age 89**



Nicholas was born in Newark, New Jersey and grew up in Maplewood. He attended Michigan State University, the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He married Helen Claire Gayda in the early 1950s and resided in Newark. He served in the Army Reserves while starting a family and attaining his degree. In 1955, he went to work for Schering Plough Corporation in Bloomfield, New Jersey, as a pharmacologist doing research and development in the area of cardiovascular medications. In 1963, he moved to Jackson with his family. He remained with Schering Plough until his retirement in 1999. Nick had nine children and countless grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nicholas served on the Schering Plough Fire Brigade from the 1970s until his retirement in 1999. He took all available fire training and served as an officer. He was a qualified CPR first aid instructor and medic with the Schering Plough Fire Brigade.

Nick was a communicant of St. Veronica's RC Church in Howell since 1963. He had served in the Holy Name Society as president and treasurer, was an usher, and worked with the finance office as a collections counter.

Helen passed away in 1993 after a struggle with cancer. Nick was her primary caregiver around the clock for more than two months.

Nicholas joined the Jackson Township Fire Company #1/Station 55 family in late 1994. He became "Pop" to the company. He served as the hall rental manager. He had served as the CPR and first aid instructor, company vice president, treasurer "for life," safety officer, and was an honorary chief. He spent countless hours at the firehouse and was a fixture.

He also served on the Howell Township First Aid Squad from 1994 to the time of his passing. He offered CPR and first aid training for the First Aid Squad and various other first responders in the area.

On February 11, 2020, the Jackson Township mayor and council issued a proclamation declaring, "In honor of his many years of exemplary service to Jackson Fire Station 55, for the unlimited amount of help he is always there to give, and for the friendship that he has extended to all of us throughout the years, we do hereby proclaim February 11, 2020, as Chief Nicholas Prioli Day in Jackson Township." The council session took place on Nick's 88th birthday.

Nicholas "Pop" Prioli passed away on the morning of Saturday, October 23, 2021, just after having responded to a motor vehicle accident in Jackson Township. It was his last call.



# John T. Ruddy

**Jersey City Fire Department – New Jersey ★ Career Battalion Chief ★ December 8, 2021 ★ Age 49**

John T. Ruddy was born September 20, 1972, to loving parents John and Grace Ruddy.

As little brother to his sweet sister Kelli, John and his family stayed in Jersey City for a number of years before moving to Rutherford, New Jersey. John graduated from Rutherford High School and then attended Rutgers University, where he majored in both fine arts and religion.

After graduating from Rutgers University, he moved back to Jersey City and followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Jersey City Fire Department. He was the youngest member to be promoted to captain and then to battalion chief. He served on the department for 28 years.

His passion and dedication extended beyond the firehouse to his love of art, travel, and linguistics.

He was an intriguing member of the Jersey City arts community and helped to beautify his neighborhood by creating murals throughout the city. He promoted his passion of art by establishing a number of art studios. John curated many art shows in order to shed light on local artists while exhibiting his own paintings.

John gave back to Jersey City not only through beauty but also by serving its community selflessly for over two decades until he was called to serve a higher purpose and transitioned on December 8, 2021.

His love, compassion and most perfect creation live on through our daughter Asha.

It has been my honor and privilege to have spent 23 years together with the love of my life.

John was a loving husband, father, son, brother, coworker, and friend.

His light will continue to shine on, and he will be forever missed.



# William “Billy” Shaffer

Hillsborough Volunteer Fire Company #2 – New Jersey ★ Volunteer Assistant Chief ★ July 14, 2021 ★ Age 53



On July 14, 2021, Chief William J. “Billy” Shaffer made the ultimate sacrifice while operating at a fire in Hillsborough Township, New Jersey. At the time of his death, Billy was recently reappointed as an assistant chief after completing his term as chief of the department. Chief Shaffer was a lifelong resident of Hillsborough, son of the late William and Lillian Shaffer.

He graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1987 and went on to obtain his first job at ShopRite Supermarket, where he worked for over 36 years. Billy was the manager of the non-foods department; he was well known and respected by store management and his coworkers.

On February 28, 2019, he, along with two other individuals, saved the life of a ShopRite employee and was recognized by Wakefern (parent company of ShopRite) and Hillsborough Township for his heroics. Billy was very dedicated to his work family and continued that by being a great employee and friend of many at ShopRite.

Chief Shaffer joined Hillsborough Volunteer Fire Company #2 in 1983 at age 16. From the very beginning, he gave countless hours to the community in a volunteer capacity. Billy was the top responder in the fire company for 34 of his 35 years of service. He served in every rank of the fire company and served as chief of the department for calendar years 2018 and 2019.

Chief Shaffer was named Firefighter of the Year twice during his career. He went to daycare centers and schools to teach children about fire prevention and attended local events to support the community youth athletic programs. Chief Shaffer was always looking to expand his knowledge and skills in firefighting/rescue, taking courses and attending drills on a wide range of topics. He faithfully and

unconditionally served his community 24/7, 365 days a year. His knowledge and experience were second to none.

Chief Shaffer touched many lives through his involvement in the fire company. He did random acts of kindness every day, both at his job and as a firefighter. Billy was always professional, caring, and showed compassion to those affected by loss and adversity. He never put himself ahead of anyone else and never wanted to be the center of attention.

Billy is survived by his wife, Marian, the love of his life; they were joined in marriage on August 1, 2009. He is also survived by twin daughters, Rebecca of North Carolina and Stacey of Hillsborough; his son, Thomas, of Hillsborough; and his beloved dog, Molly.

# Dennis Bruce Shennard

**Kingston Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 – New Jersey ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ June 26, 2021 ★ Age 70**

Dennis Shennard was born in Trenton, New Jersey, and was a lifelong resident of the small town of Kingston, New Jersey.

He joined the Kingston Volunteer Fire Company in January of 1969 and was a constant presence at the firehouse for the rest of his life. During his years of active membership, he served in different positions as both a line officer and executive officer and was serving as a trustee at the time of his passing. You couldn't stop him from going to a fire call. At times, it felt as if his truck would turn into a 747 in his hurry to get there.

Dennis truly dedicated his life to firefighting. We lost him on June 26, 2021, while he was training with his fellow firefighters during a live burn drill. He had just turned 70 years old two weeks prior.

Besides his love of firefighting, Dennis loved camping and motorcycle riding. He was an active member of the New Jersey Red Knights Chapter 22. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors. Most people will also remember for him for his love of eating. When ordering pizzas for the firehouse, it was always recommended to order another pizza pie just for Dennis.

In 2019, Dennis retired from Global Terminals, where he worked on the docks in Bayonne for 25 years. One of his most remarkable memories from working in Bayonne was that he witnessed the planes flying into the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.

Prior to his time on the docks, he was a welder and mechanic for Princeton Nurseries in Kingston for 27 years. He loved to fix things and enjoyed a challenge—so much so that things around the house were put aside while he was helping someone else with something more interesting to work on.

He will be missed by all that knew him, especially his family: his wife of 52 years, Patti Kay Shennard; his son, Dennis B Shennard II, and his wife, Louise Shennard; plus his two grandchildren, Michaela and Joseph Shennard.



# Israel Tolentino Jr.

Passaic Fire Department – New Jersey ★ Career Firefighter ★ March 31, 2020 ★ Age 33



Israel was an amazing man, an awesome father, a wonderful husband, and a great son and brother. His family was his pride and joy. Israel knew at a very young age that he wanted to be of service to others. As a young boy, trying to help put out a small fire in his home in Puerto Rico, that was all the confirmation he needed that this is what he was born to do.

Israel loved helping people, regardless of what the need was. He served his community with pride and dignity, and his community loved him. Everyone cherishes all the laughs and lessons that he shared with them. His personality just pulled you towards him, and his laugh was infectious. I remember thinking that he could save a life with his smile. Israel had a heart of gold, and he didn't like seeing injustice. He made sure to stand up for those who weren't able to. He was their voice and their advocate. Many found their voice because of him.

On his time off he enjoyed being out on the open road riding his motorcycle. He was known as the fun uncle who enjoyed wrestling with all his nieces and nephews or just being at home enjoying quiet time. Israel was a man of many talents. He enjoyed playing his guitar. Music was one of his first loves, and he was an amazing self-taught musician. He was a wonderful leader and patient when working with others. When he wasn't playing his guitar or out on the open road, you could find Israel fishing or camping. He enjoyed being in nature.

Israel began his journey with Passaic Fire Department in 2019. This was his ideal dream, and he was so excited. He continued to volunteer for CERT but couldn't wait to continue being of service in this new place he was in life. He always put his uniform on with pride on the morning of his shifts and always left the house with a smile, ready for what the day would bring.

He and his brothers knew the sacrifice, but together they continued fighting in the midst of this pandemic. When answering a call, Israel was exposed to this deadly virus. He was a strong young man who fought. He was adventurous, and he loved life. He accomplished everything he said he wanted to do and, at the young age of 33, he left nothing undone. At times he didn't realize the great power he possessed and how he touched so many lives. He was the light we all needed in our dark times.

His light will never be dimmed. His memory and his legacy will always be kept alive. He lives every day in his children, Ailani and Israel III. He lives in his brotherhood, the impact in his community, and in who I am as his wife. He is truly missed and will always be in our hearts.



# Donald J. Trout

**Middlesex County Hazardous Materials Unit – New Jersey ★ Career Lieutenant ★ August 27, 2021 ★ Age 53**

Donald was an extremely loyal and dedicated man to his family and to his brothers and sisters of the fire service. He was born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on August 22, 1968, where he resided with his loving wife of 14 years, Charlotte, and his two amazing children, Gabriella (12) and Gianni (5), until his line-of-duty death on August 27, 2021.

Donald was overjoyed when he and his wife welcomed their firstborn, their daughter Gabriella, in 2010. Seven years later they welcomed their second child, Gianni, born in May 2017. His family was complete with their black Labrador, Bella, who they rescued from a shelter 10 years ago.

Donald enjoyed taking family vacations and always went along with his wife's crazy ideas. Donald referred to her as Lucy (Lucy Ricardo), and she referred to him as her Ricky. There is nothing Donald wouldn't do for anyone, especially his family, friends, and extended family. Donald always wanted to do the right thing. Countless times when out with family or coming back from one of many vacations, Donald would stop to help someone, whether it was an accident on a highway, helping someone carrying groceries, or literally helping the elderly cross the street.

Donald started his career at the young age of 16 as a volunteer EMT for the Perth Amboy First Aid Squad. At age 18 he joined the Protection Fire Co No 1 of Keasbey, New Jersey. Through the years, Donald developed his firefighting skills and took part in developing and leading the company's special operations team. Donald advanced through fire officer ranks and eventually served a double term as fire chief. He was an exempt member at the time of his passing.

Donald also started his own company, called All Hazards Training, and he was very proud of it. He taught CPR, AED, first aid, confined space rescue and awareness, emergency response to terrorism, first responder awareness for OSHA, and HAZWOPER courses.

Donald took pride in helping others. He was among the many who responded to the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 and stayed days after. Donald was always furthering himself, taking classes and traveling for courses to advance in his career. In 2002, Donald was employed by the Middlesex County Hazardous Materials Unit. He was proud to serve as the supervising lieutenant for the "A" shift crew. He was also named the unit's training officer and always looked forward to sharing his knowledge with his work family.

Donald loved traveling and cooking. He had planned on retiring and moving to South Carolina in three years with his wife and children and buying a food truck.



# John Van Dorn

Clifton Fire Department – New Jersey ★ Career Lieutenant ★ August 8, 2020 ★ Age 66



John was a loving father, a dedicated fireman, and a remarkable man. John joined the police force in 1977 and moved on over to the fire department in 1981. He spent almost three decades serving his city. He was named Fireman of the Year in 1994 and promoted to lieutenant in 1995. John served with honor until his retirement in 2009.

As a young father of four he worked many hours to provide for his family, never missing a single baseball or football game, even if he came with the engine. His love of sports and the New York Jets has been passed on to all his children.

Along with his heroic fire career, John started a successful landscaping business that endures as a family business to this day. His love of the outdoors defined his life, and winters meant skiing. Whether it was taking his family and their friends to Vermont or competing with his fellow firemen, John loved the slopes.

The summer was his favorite time of year, His love of the water came from his father. Boating was a must in the Van Dorn family. Once again, John would take his family and all their friends on his boat. "Lifelong memories are made on the water," he always said, and he was right.

Brave is a word that is reserved for a certain few. John was not only brave for his actions on the fire department but for his bravery in fighting cancer. He showed us a strength we never knew existed and was a hero who fought until his last breath.

Every day his children—Kelly, Will, Ryan, and John Jr.—see someone whose life was made better by their father. The stories, memories, and tears are a welcome reminder of the great man he was. With all those memories, one thing always comes to mind. To steal a line from a movie that he watched 100 times, in the end, "I guess I just miss my friend."

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Janet K. Tracy

**Caballo Volunteer Fire Department – New Mexico ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ July 20, 2021 ★ Age 59**

Janet Kay Tracy died after being struck by fire apparatus while assisting at the scene of a vehicle accident. She was a volunteer firefighter and served as secretary of the fire department.

Janet's community service stretched beyond the fire service. She volunteered with many community organizations, including Toys for Tots, Jammies for Veterans, the VFW, the American Legion, and the Moose Lodge. She found happiness helping those in her community, where she left a lasting legacy.

A loving wife, mother, sister, and friend, she was survived by her wife, Anita Palladino; her four children, Joe (Crystal), Mallorie (Brian), John IV (Kristina), and Elizabeth (Brittney); her grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Joseph M. Boyle

Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ March 10, 2021 ★ Age 62



Firefighter Joseph M. Boyle, 62, of the Fire Department of the City of New York, died on March 10, 2021, from illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He joined the FDNY in 1979 and retired in 2007 after serving for 27 years. He was assigned to Engine 38/Ladder 51, known as "The Dawg House." He was respected by his fellow firefighters as a leader who balanced the seriousness and levity the job required. He was proud of his house and competitive, helping to win multiple firehouse softball championships over the years.

He was survived by his children, Joey and Jen, and by his brother, John, who was a retired FDNY lieutenant. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Judy.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Joseph P. Colleluori Jr.

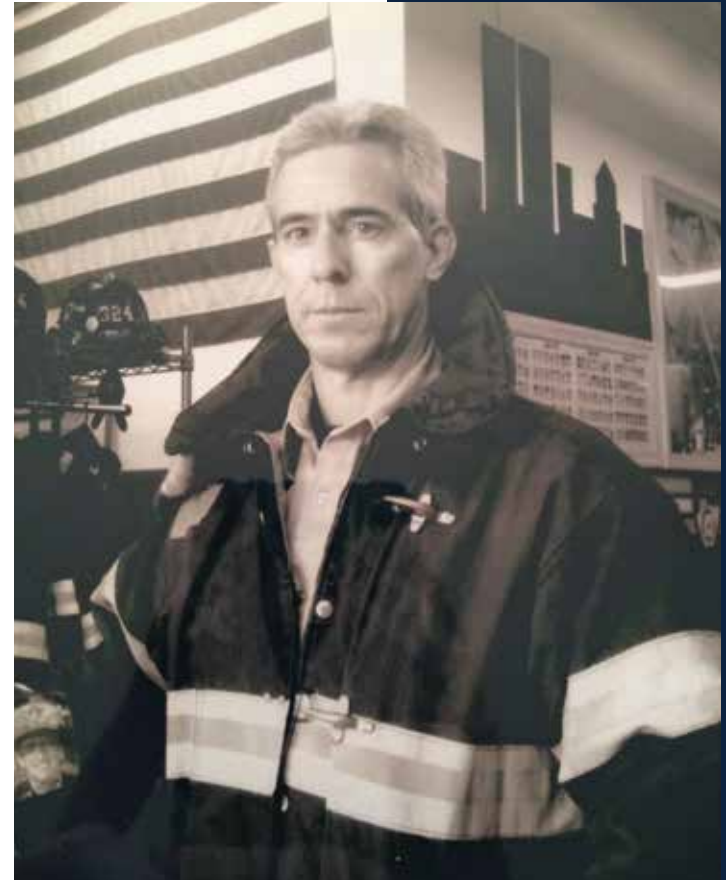
**Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Lieutenant ★ January 4, 2007 ★ Age 52**

Lt. Joseph P. Colleluori Jr., 52, of the Fire Department of the City of New York, died on January 4, 2007, from brain cancer related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Appointed to the FDNY in 1983, he served for 23 years. He was first assigned to Engine 45 in the Bronx, where he served until his promotion to lieutenant in 1995. He was assigned to Engine 324 in Queens for his final ten years.

He was an active member of the Bethpage, Long Island community, where he had served as president of the Bethpage Dads Club.

He was the beloved husband of Coleen M. Colleluori and the devoted father of Brian (Joeline), Melissa (Peter), Diana, and Kevin (Melissa) Colleluori. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Saige, Joseph, Jax, Lexi, Payton, Andrew, Avery, and Sophia.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Joan Daley

Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ September 27, 2009 ★ Age 55



Firefighter Daley was an amazing woman. She was hired by the FDNY in 1982, as one of the first females in the department. She served her community and made sure to keep her neighbors safe. She was not only a role model for women, she was a hero for those who felt they didn't belong.

Firefighter Daley was a single mother to two beautiful daughters, Joanna and Arlene. She raised them to be hardworking women, while she worked a career full of challenges and difficulties.

In 2001, when the Twin Towers fell, Firefighter Daley participated in the recovery efforts. Sadly, it was these long days that would cause her to become ill and ultimately pass away from cancer. In a career that is dominated by men, Firefighter Daley broke ground until her retirement in 2009.

Even though she is physically gone, her memory lives on in her daughters. It is because of her strength and fight that her daughters have careers of service and dedication to their community. In 2006, Joanna became a New York City police officer, and in 2021 she was promoted to detective. Arlene would also follow a path of service, enlisting into the Navy after graduating from Binghamton University in 2016. She continues to thrive in the military as an engineer, protecting the seas and coasts of the world. Firefighter Daley would also have an amazing grandson, Kyle. Although he was born in 2016, long after her passing, he has her personality and spunk.

In addition to her daughters and grandson, Firefighter Daley was survived by her sister and best friend, Joann; five brothers, Keith, Mark, Glen, John and Earl; and several nieces and nephews. We may not have her physically, but her legacy definitely lives on. Firefighter Daley was such a humble and dedicated woman to

her loved ones, neighbors, coworkers, and friends. Although she is missed dearly, we know that her groundbreaking work and service still live on.

# Joseph A. Ferrugia

**Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ January 31, 2021 ★ Age 61**

My dad, Joseph Ferrugia, was a brave firefighter not just at work, but also at home. One night when I was young, our toaster caught on fire, and my dad grabbed it and threw it outside into the snow to save the day. At my school each year there would be fire safety assemblies and contests for drawing a fire escape plan, and without a doubt, every time, my dad helped me win first place and get a cool shirt or prize.

My dad started his 30-year firefighting career at Ladder 142 in Ozone Park, Queens. During his career he was cited twice for bravery, at a fire on July 3, 1999, and again on November 3, 2012. On the morning of September 11, 2001, my dad was working his side job as a painter and was called in to respond at the World Trade Center. He quickly responded and arrived at the site just as Building 7 started to tumble. He ran into a deli to take cover and quickly called my mom to tell her and the children that he loved us. He didn't think he was coming home that day. My father then spent 24-hour shifts for the next few months on the recovery mission.

After 9/11, my dad was called to be part of the new Rebreather 1 Company located at Ladder 20 in Manhattan. There he served in a critical support role, training members and responding to incidents where firefighters would take part in extended emergency operations underground and in tunnels. Rebreather masks absorb carbon dioxide from the user's breath and recycle unused oxygen, which makes them essential for emergencies that may take hours to resolve. During a shift in January 2021 my dad became ill with COVID-19 and was the first active FDNY firefighter to die due to the virus.

My dad loved sports, especially wrestling, tennis, golf, and paddleball. He was always teaching me and my siblings, Allie and Matthew, how to ride bikes, throw a perfect pitch, or a Tiger Woods golf swing. His friends at Ladder 142 called him "Bo Knows" because he was proficient at every sport he picked up. He played ice hockey with the FDNY hockey team and coached wrestling at Massapequa High School for many years with great success. My dad loved music, especially Meatloaf, Neil Diamond, and Cher. Every time my siblings and I would pile into his car to go out for mini golf or a family dinner, we would all sing along to his CDs. My dad was the friendliest man alive, and almost everyone in town was someone he knew and could converse with for hours. He will be greatly missed and remembered forever. As my father's oldest child, I am honored to represent him and tell his story. Love, Carly



# Irving Alan Isenberg

Getzville Fire Company – New York ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ November 1, 2019 ★ Age 55



When Irv Isenberg was eleven years old, he approached a firefighter named George John and asked him what he was doing at a football field in Williamsville, New York. John told him he was there to take care of any football players that got hurt. Irv asked if he could help, and every week that summer he carried John's medical bag. That was Irv's introduction to emergency medical service, and it would become his lifelong passion.

Irv was a member of the Getzville Fire Company in Getzville, New York, serving just shy of 30 years. He held several ranks, including fire chief and president of the company. Growing up in western New York, he served with several ambulance companies in the area, including Twin City, Tri-Town and Gold Cross. In that time, he rendered aid to countless individuals. His friends and family described him as being an "EMT Extraordinaire."

In 2001, Irv was one of four Getzville firefighters that deployed to New York City in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. He was part of a team that rescued three individuals from the rubble around Albany and West Streets, using a map ripped out of a phone book to help guide them to nearby hospitals.

Sixteen years later, Irv was diagnosed with multiple cancers linked to time spent at Ground Zero. He died on November 1, 2019. He was 55.

Three months before he passed, Irv was interviewed by a reporter in Buffalo about his time at Ground Zero. "I was overwhelmed, it was very emotional," he said. "Just to be able to help our fellow brothers and sisters down at FDNY... it was a great honor."

Irv loved his family, especially his wife, Lisa. He had a granddaughter, Olivia, whom he adored, and one month after Irv's passing, his grandson, Emerson Alan, was given the same middle name in honor of Irv. Irv had a tremendous heart for animals, including his dogs and cats. He led a successful career in information technology and owned a firearm business.

Irv was a selfless leader and mentor. His professionalism was second to none. He always kept the momentum of those around him going. As if to honor what sparked his lifelong passion for EMS on that Williamsville football field, Irv loved to say goodbye to his fellow first responders by leaving them with his favorite saying: "Keep moving the chains."

*To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.* –Ralph Waldo Emerson



# Christopher J. Jackowski

**West Sayville Fire Department – New York ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ March 20, 2020 ★ Age 56**

Christopher was a very dedicated husband, father, and friend to both his family and community. He died on March 20, 2020, at the age of 56, due to COVID-19 complications.

Christopher's fire service career started in 1991, shortly after getting married and moving to Oakdale in Suffolk County, New York from Sunnyside, Queens. He moved to Oakdale and became a volunteer firefighter for the West Sayville/Oakdale Fire District.

Christopher had a deep passion for helping people, especially in his own community. Despite being new to the area, he quickly developed relationships with his fellow firefighters and his neighbors. He was very well known and well loved for his uncanny sense of humor.

Throughout his fire career, Christopher received numerous accommodations and awards. In 1998, he was selected as Firefighter of the Year for Engine Company 2. In 2002, Christopher was issued a commendation award for actions taken at a dangerous brush fire. In 2020, shortly after his death, he was posthumously given the Chief's Award.

Christopher took great pride in his accomplishments. Although his life was cut short at the age of 56, his goals and dreams of helping those around him were fulfilled to the fullest extent. The influence of his humor and personality still deeply resonates within the community and the people he has helped to this day.

As Christopher's wife, I grieve the loss of my husband every day. However, seeing his friends, fellow firefighters, and family over the past two years has helped me recognize the importance of emergency responders and their role in helping the community, especially in times of major hardship.

My oldest son, Kyle, is now a firefighter and member of the West Sayville Fire District. He hopes to follow his father's footsteps and honor his name.



# Jared C. Lloyd

Spring Valley Fire Department – New York ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ March 23, 2021 ★ Age 35



It takes a special kind of person to sacrifice their life to save others, and that person was Jared.

Jared was an only child who was a selfless human being, a devoted dad, a trusted friend, and a dedicated firefighter who lost his life in the line of duty on March 23, 2021.

Jared was born and raised in Queens, New York, where he attended NYC public schools. A move to Spring Valley, New York, in 2000 was where his passion to help others accelerated. After graduating from Spring Valley High School and some college at SUNY Morrisville, he was employed at Altice (Optimum) Cable as a technician. He received numerous “Technician of the Month” awards for his excellence in customer service. However, this path of service as the ‘cable guy” was not enough for Jared. His lifelong calling was to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter.

Jared joined the Columbian Fire Engine Co. # 1 in Spring Valley in April 2005. During his 16 years at this firehouse, he proudly held the positions of 2nd lieutenant, 1st lieutenant, and treasurer. He rarely missed a drill or a fire service training. He was always one of the first to arrive on the scene of an alarm call, but tragically, March 23rd was his last alarm.

Jared was the president of the softball league and regularly played on the bowling and football leagues against other firehouses. He was a diehard fan of the New York Mets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Jared enjoyed traveling and spending most of his time with his sons, Logan and Darius.

Although Jared was taken away from us too soon, his 35-year journey through life has left footprints wherever he went. Those footprints of kindness, love, compassion,

humor, faith, inspiration, leadership, and courage will always be a guide for his family and friends to follow.

The impact of this tragic loss has left holes in so many of our hearts. However, Jared’s gentle spirit, his infectious smile, and his exemplary work as a public servant will forever live through his mom, dad, stepdad, sons, the moms of his sons, grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins, godmother, friends, his Columbian brothers, all the firehouses he supported, and the Rockland County communities he served.

In honor of the dedicated service that Jared provided as a firefighter, his name has been added to the building entrance of the Columbian Fire Engine Co. # 1 firehouse in Spring Valley, New York.

Jared is our hero, and his legacy will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, our angel!

# Joseph W. Maiello

**Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Lieutenant ★ December 26, 2021 ★ Age 53**

Lt. Joe Maiello, 53, was a family man first, a 22-year veteran firefighter, friend, and bartender with a smile for everyone.

The 22-year member of the FDNY lost his life on December 26, 2021, after suffering a heart attack while on duty in his firehouse, leaving behind Irene and their two children, Jake (17) and Cecilia (14); his mother, Eileen Maiello; his brother, James (wife Sarah); his sister, Gina (husband Chris); and his five nieces and nephews, Kaila, Jack, James, Michael, and Anthony. His father, Joseph Maiello, passed away in June of 2020.

Born in Brooklyn, Maiello was a graduate of Xaverian High School in Brooklyn. He attended Brooklyn College and Brooklyn Tech and earned a bachelor's degree. He began his career as a teacher at PS 205 in Brooklyn, like his parents, who were both teachers, and his father, who was a principal.

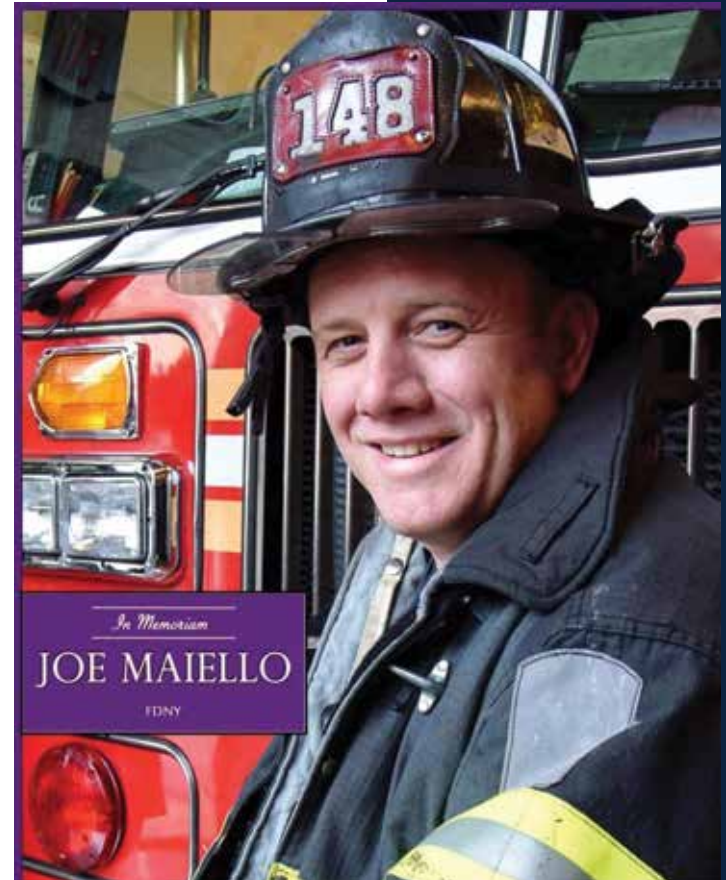
Joe joined the FDNY in August 1999. As a probie he started at L148, then rotated through E325/L163 in Queens, which is where he was working the day of the fatal Father's Day Fire in 2001, and then three months later on 9/11, where he survived the collapse of the North Tower. He spent most of his career at L148/E282 in Borough Park, Brooklyn. He was promoted to lieutenant from L148 in February, where he served as a firefighter, mentor, and company union delegate for many years.

He grew up with the ambition to become a firefighter, and he loved every aspect of the job—helping others, giving back to the community, and the camaraderie within the firehouse.

When he was a little boy, his mom would take him to the local firehouse in Brooklyn so he could ride the poles. They would stop every day, and he always loved it. If he was home and heard a siren, he would get up and go follow it as far as he could. It was his dream to become a fireman.

When not working at the firehouse or his second job bartending at the Staten Island Hilton for events, Maiello spent time volunteering at both PS 30 in Westerleigh, when his children were students there, and at IS 51 or taking one of our many road trips, local and not local, always exploring new areas.

"Joe was as dedicated to his profession as he was to his family," said his wife, Irene. "He was a wonderful husband, father, son, brother, colleague, and friend. He was loved by all who knew him. He always had a smile and an insightful comment; he was just that type of guy. We are heartbroken by this loss."





# Vincent L. Malveaux

Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ December 3, 2021 ★ Age 31



Firefighter Vincent Malveaux died after suffering a medical emergency during training at the Randall's Island FDNY Fire Academy.

Born in Manhattan, he previously served as an EMT in the Bronx. He was sworn in to the FDNY in October 2021, fulfilling a lifelong dream to become a firefighter.

He was a dedicated and focused EMT for four years. He was well on his way to becoming a dedicated and focused firefighter. He was serious about his training at the academy, although he had a wicked sense of humor.

He is survived by his parents, two siblings, two nieces, grandparents, and many extended family members.

He was beloved in life and is missed tremendously.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Thomas G. Manley

**Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ December 22, 2020 ★ Age 67**

Staten Island, for Tommy, that was home. He was born there, grew up there, went to school there, and then made a career of service to the people and the community of Staten Island.

Tom was a man of conviction to duty. After high school and before entering college, he became a Marine. Following his time in the Marine Corps, he returned to Staten Island to attend the College of Staten Island for post high school studies.

Entering the work world, Tommy started with the City of New York as a conductor on the trains in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Working the subways was serving the community, but he wanted more, so he applied to train as a firefighter. You never saw a happier man than Tommy the day he got the call to enter school to become a firefighter for the City of New York. He told all his family and friends that it was one of the happiest days of his life.

After completing the Randall's Island training, he joined the Manhattan Engine 5 family of firefighters. He loved his work and loved being one of their cooks. Chili, pasta—he loved playing the part of cook of the day. But Tom wanted to learn more, so he enrolled in Chauffer Training School so he could become a ladder man. While in training, he received the Mr. Congeniality Award for his "effervescence, warmth, and bubbly personality," contributing to his class #6 in 1987.

After completing his training, he transferred to the Brooklyn Ladder 113/Engine 249 firehouse. He was a first responder on 9/11 and worked at Ground Zero for several months. When Hurricane Katrina hit, Tommy volunteered as one of the NYC's force to help in New Orleans, where he spent months helping the people there through their devastation.

Besides being a dedicated firefighter, Tommy was a family man. He loved his wife, Debra, and his children. He loved being a coach for his sons' Little League team. He loved getting out on the golf course, though he would never let the family know his handicap. You scored? He loved jogging, which he did along with his wife. He loved cooking a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for them every year—turkey, stuffing, and all the fixings. Upon retiring, he became a snowbird, spending time at home and in Florida until he became a full-time Florida resident.

He is missed daily by his family and especially his wife, Debra. When you enter her home, so much of Tommy is still there with his firefighting memorabilia and his picture with that warm smile under that great big mustache.



# Peyton Lane S. Morse

Watertown City Fire Department – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ March 12, 2021 ★ Age 21



Peyton was the most caring, compassionate, and dedicated person you could ever have the pleasure of meeting. Peyton was the type of young man that gave 100% to whatever he was working on, whether it was academics, love of sports, his job, hunting and fishing, his family, or his faith. He also had an incredible sense of humor and could take a joke as well as give them. He could connect with anyone and wished for them to succeed. He loved helping in any way that he could.

Peyton loved to serve and was truly dedicated and passionate about the fire service. On his 18th birthday, he joined his hometown LaFargeville Volunteer Fire Department, where he rose to the rank of 2nd assistant chief. While attending Siena College, he joined the Shaker Road-Loudonville Fire Department. Wanting to share his passion for the fire service with others, he created the First Responders Club at Siena College and urged others to volunteer.

Peyton's dream was to join the Watertown City Fire Department in Jefferson County, New York, a dream he realized when he started work on February 1, 2021.

Peyton posthumously received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Siena College at a special ceremony on May 1, 2021, two days before he would have turned 22.

Peyton was affectionately known as "Bubba," a nickname his brother, Parker, gave him shortly after his birth, and a name he grew into as a man. He was strong as an ox, with a gentle and kind soul. You could count on Peyton, day or night, to be there for you. Whether responding to a fire call or assisting family and friends, he would be there without question. He was a loving son to his parents, David and Stacy, a loving brother to Parker, and devoted to his fiancée, Celeste.

Peyton Lane S. Morse's life was short, but his impact on his family, friends, and communities is enduring. He will be remembered for his service to community, for the strength of his character, and for the size of his heart.

# Frank A. Portelle

**Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Captain ★ March 13, 2021 ★ Age 51**

Captain Frank A. Portelle was a member of the FDNY for 24 years. He was more than a great fireman. He was a dedicated family man, mentor, friend, and an inspiration to all that loved and knew him. When he learned of the attacks on the World Trade Center, he didn't hesitate and reported to his firehouse at the time, Engine 22/Ladder 13 in Manhattan, where he spent the next few months at Ground Zero digging and searching for nine members of his firehouse that lost their lives that day.

In April of 2020 Frank was diagnosed with a 9/11-related cancer. As with anything he did, he fought a tremendous fight with dignity and grace. Unfortunately, he passed away on March 13, 2021, leaving behind his wife of 22 years, Jeanine, and his daughter, Valerie, who was the light of his life.

Frank was born and raised in Staten Island, New York. He was a self-made man who put himself through culinary school; his studies took him abroad to Italy, Spain, and France. He was on his way to becoming an accomplished chef when he got called to the FDNY in 1996. He began his career as a firefighter at Engine 228 in Brooklyn and spent the majority of his career at Ladder 13 in Manhattan. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2011 and assigned to Engine 50 in the Bronx; in 2018, he was promoted to captain. Frank was a well-respected firefighter and boss. Frank took great pride in all his accomplishments, yet he was always humble and never boastful.

Family and friends that knew Frank remember his infectious laugh that could not be mistaken. He was the life of the party—first to arrive, last to leave. He loved good food, working in the yard, and starting another home project. He was the first to lend a hand in any way he could, spending countless good times with his family and friends. If he wasn't doing any of those things, he could only be found in one place, and that was on the golf course, where he especially loved playing with his daughter.

Over the years, Frank and his girls were so blessed to be able to take many vacations, which he treasured more than anything else. In the months leading up to his death, he seemed to be at peace and relished the times spent with his family and friends. He was a true man of dignity and never once complained about his diagnosis, nor going through treatments. Everyone is forever better for having been lucky enough to have known Frank.



# John P. Poulos

Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Lieutenant ★ November 1, 2020 ★ Age 64



John P. Poulos died from illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He was one of four children born to Peter and Hilda Poulos.

He joined the Patchogue Fire Department at age 18, where he worked hard as a volunteer and attained the rank of captain at Euclid Hose Company. He later joined the FDNY, where he retired as a lieutenant at Engine 266 after 29 years of service. He was also active with the Patchogue Ambulance Company, served as an instructor at the Suffolk County Fire Academy, and was a New York State Fire building inspector. After retirement from FDNY, he continued to serve Long Island fire departments through his work with East End Hose Testing.

John was a member of the Bellport Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

A devoted and supportive family man, he was survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Judith Poulos; his two children, Albert Poulos and Peter Poulos (Rebecca); his siblings, Barbara Poulos, Diane Poulos, and Raphael Poulos; and extended family.

John is remembered for his faithful dedication to his family and community and his tireless love for fire service. He is greatly missed and never forgotten.

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



# Judy Spencer

**Hartland Volunteer Fire Company – New York ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ August 24, 2021 ★ Age 65**

Judy was a proud life member of Hartland Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., where she served with honor and distinction. She joined the Hartland Volunteer Fire Company on December 7, 1999, and faithfully served her community until her untimely death in a line-of-duty accident on August 24, 2021.

Judy was best known for her direct demeanor and caring attitude. These qualities could be immediately recognized as soon as you met her. She was so committed to serving her community that it was a rarity for her to miss a fire company event or incident.

Judy was top responder for Hartland Volunteer Fire Company for several years and was honored with “Firefighter of the Year” in 2016. This was one of her proudest moments. Additionally, she was a member of the Gasport Chemical Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary for many years.

Judy was a graduate of Royhart Central School Class of 1975. After high school she joined the workforce and was employed at Harrison Radiator, working in the cafeteria. Judy had a love for animals, camping, doing crafts, and above all else her family and friends.

Judy’s family was especially proud of her service to her community. When she made the decision to join the fire service, her husband, Steve, was an assistant chief, and her children, Lisa and Don, were both members. Steve was surprised to see Judy come to the December 1999 membership meeting, as she simply decided it was something she was going to do and didn’t discuss it with anyone.

Judy’s death was unexpected, and there was no time for goodbyes, but she died doing what she loved, serving her community. Judy’s family finds peace in this, as dedication was one of her strongest qualities. Judy is sorely missed by her family, friends, and fellow firefighters every day. But we all strive to be better people and public servants, because that is what she would have wanted us to be.



# Lloyd W. Stuart

Fire Department City of New York – New York ★ Career Firefighter ★ July 7, 2019 ★ Age 77



Lloyd was a 36-year member of the FDNY when he retired in 2005. He lost his battle with 9/11-related cancer in 2019.

Lloyd worked for American Electric Power and Bank of Tokyo before he was called for his dream job on the FDNY.

He was stationed in Engine 36 in Harlem before finding his permanent home in Engine 3 in Chelsea. He became senior man in the house, teaching the probies the ropes and making sure the company fund was spent wisely.

On his days off, he enjoyed tinkering around the house, working on his cars, and carpentry. He was an avid boater who had owned boats since he was 16. In his early years, Lloyd was a member of the Bentley Yacht Club and belonged to an amateur CB radio club. In his later years, he enjoyed spending time with his wife, three children, and eight grandchildren, who miss him dearly.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Ralph DeBlasi

**New Bern Township 7 Fire Department – North Carolina ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ June 10, 2021 ★ Age 62**

Ralph was born on December 24, 1958, in Stamford, Connecticut. From a young age he showed signs of wanting to help others. He joined the Glenville Volunteer Fire Department while he was still in school, and shortly after he graduated, he became a member of the City of Stamford Fire Department.

He took pride in working in his hometown and serving the city that he loved so much. He would always say that working for the department was never boring because you never knew what would happen on your shift. Once on a routine call, he even had the privilege of delivering a baby girl while in an elevator on the way to the hospital.

Ralph was a huge Harley-Davidson enthusiast and enjoyed riding with his sons Mike and David whenever he got the chance. He also took special pride in his 1947 Indian Chief motorcycle. He rebuilt it entirely from boxes of disassembled parts and, once completed, he had restored it to its former glory.

He loved old engines as well. Every year he would look forward to getting in the driver's seat of his station's 1951 Mack firetruck to ride in the city's annual balloon parade in Stamford. He would have children of all the other firefighters waving to the crowd from the back of the truck while Ralph smiled and rang the bell as they passed by.

Ralph loved being a firefighter and continued to serve his community for 32 years until his retirement in 2016. He then moved to New Bern, North Carolina, to enjoy the rest of his life.

Being a true firefighter at heart, when he moved to New Bern, he decided to join the local Township 7 Fire Department to continue serving the community that he now called home. You could always depend on Ralph to be the first one to respond, and on June 10, 2021, on his way to a call, he was involved in a line-of-duty accident that took his life at age 62.

Ralph will always be remembered for being a loving husband and father and for his dedication to fire service. As his wife, I take comfort in knowing that he lost his life doing what he loved, and I hope one day to begin to understand why such a wonderful man had to be taken away from us too soon.



# George James Knoupf III

Asheville Fire Department – North Carolina ★ Career Engineer ★ August 31, 2021 ★ Age 76



Jim always called himself one of the “Biltmore Boys” and was a lifelong Asheville native. He distinguished himself as a member of the first graduating class of T.C. Roberson High School in 1963. A UNCA graduate and proud member of the Huns, he retired from the Asheville Fire Department in 2000 with over 28 years of service. You could often find Jim involved coaching youth sports, golfing, or attending community events.

As an only child, Jim was known for his outgoing personality and cherished many lifelong friendships. He would strike up a conversation with anyone who would listen and made friends everywhere he went. More often than not, you could find Jim attending a parade downtown, where he’d be sure to scout out the best spot and arrive at least an hour in advance so he could people watch. Live music and local car shows were another big draw for Jim; he loved music and dancing. Oftentimes, Mom and Jim were the first on the dance floor or out in the crowd.

His love for travel was never more present than on our annual trips to Destin, Florida, which is where we will remember him most. Coffee on the balcony, overlooking emerald green waters, a set of binoculars never far from reach. He’d always look off at the skyline and say, “This is what makes it all worth it right here.”

Jim’s gentle, yet stern nature made him an exceptional father. He enjoyed imparting life lessons on his children and grandchildren. He was always a penny pincher and tried to impart on us the importance of doing your “have-to’s” before your “want-to’s.”

Jim was an extremely detail-oriented man in both his personal and professional life. As an engineer, he took his role very seriously and made personal pocket-sized map and direction books for each station he worked at. In a time before Google and

navigation systems, putting in the effort and taking the time to better understand his surroundings enabled him to save lives. In his personal life he used the same dedication and attention to detail when documenting everything from home repairs and bills to Talladega pole winners and NASCAR placement winners.

He loved life and lived it HIS way on HIS own terms. Jim’s gruff exterior didn’t fool those who knew him well. He was a very kindhearted man who cared deeply about others’ problems. He adored his wife, loved his kids, and cherished his cats. He chose to see the world through rose colored glasses and enjoyed sharing that view with those lucky enough to have known him.



# Lewis B. Nuckles

**Wake Forest Fire Department – North Carolina ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ March 4, 1982 ★ Age 52**

Lewis was a lifelong member of the Wake Forest, North Carolina community. He joined the Wake Forest Fire Department in December of 1956. Lewis was an active volunteer with the department until his death on March 4, 1982. Lewis attended and participated in a scheduled fire training when he began to suffer from a heart attack. He died from a massive heart attack later that evening at an area hospital.

Shortly after his death, the Wake Forest Fire Department announced the creation of the Lewis B. Nuckles Fireman of the Year Award to recognize an outstanding volunteer fireman each year. That award is still presented today.

Lewis had a strong love for his family, church, friends, fire family, and his community in general.

Lewis was survived by his wife, Maxine; his daughter, Jenny; his son, Lew; his parents, Otis and Mary Nuckles; and his sister, Joyce Cash.



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IN OUR HEARTS

# Charles W. Spry

LaGrange Fire Department – North Carolina ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ May 26, 2021 ★ Age 51



Charles Spry suffered a fatal cardiac event after participating in a mandatory fire department physical fitness training the previous evening.

A devoted and dedicated firefighter, he served the communities of LaGrange and Sandy Bottom during his 21 years of service. His life centered around his family and the fire service, which he considered his second family.

Charles was remembered for his sense of humor, charismatic presence, and generosity. He was skilled with electronics and enjoyed fishing and four-wheeling. He always had country music playing and treasured the memories made during family cookouts and gatherings.

Charles was survived by his mother, Lynette King Spry; his siblings, Robert Spry and Heather Dickinson; his uncle, John King (Carol); his girlfriend, Doris Underhill; and extended family. He was preceded in death by his father, Charlie Mac Kornegay.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Sidney “Sid” Weiner

**No. 7 Township Fire Rescue of Craven County – North Carolina**  
**Volunteer Firefighter ★ December 15, 2015 ★ Age 92**

Sidney Weiner, known as “Sid” to his firefighter comrades, passed from our lives on December 15, 2015, as a result of injuries sustained in a vehicle crash in October. His absence created a tremendous void in the lives of his firefighter comrades and loved ones and the department he served so well.

Sid was an active member of the No 7 Township Fire Rescue Department. He joined the department in 2001 and faithfully served in many capacities. As secretary, his work ethic was ever present; he was consistently accurate and precise in every facet of the organization and beyond. As a volunteer fireman and accountant, Sid labored to serve his community and offered his services to low-income families in completing their personal taxes.

He also served as a board member, D.A.V. treasurer, a member of the Advisory Council of Local Government Credit Union, and treasurer of the Eastern NC Chapter of Watch & Clock Collectors. Serving his country in the U.S. Army, Sid was a Tech III and a Bronze Star recipient. He continued that service by working with the Department of Defense in the Pentagon.

His passion and love for nature, especially water, displayed his adventurous side; cruising was one of his favorite pastimes. Sid was a “find a need and fill it” kind of guy.

No one could describe the characteristics and traits of Sid as well as his surviving daughters, Janice and Denise. They write, “My father was a very unique individual, and brilliant. For someone who had limited formal education he managed, through hard work, dedication, and an unbelievably sharp mind, to become the absolute best in his field, setting up teletype communications throughout the world, working as a civilian for the Air Force after leaving the military. He was never afraid to tackle any new challenge, and he loved learning how to make anything work better. He told me to jump in front with both feet when faced with something new and just go for it. He constantly took classes to better himself and his knowledge, a trait which I am very grateful he passed on to me. He loved life and wasn’t about to let a number on his birth certificate slow him down. He was always caring, kind, and extremely devoted to the department and all he did.”

Those close to Sid would learn that this man was full of life and energy and was a go-getter. He became friends with everyone quickly. He had a way of getting into your life and your heart and making you feel as though he had always been a part of it. He was definitely that one-of-a-kind friend to all.



# Norman G. Whitener

Hickory Fire Department – North Carolina ★ Career Captain ★ July 1, 1984 ★ Age 51



Norman G. Whitener began his career with Hickory Fire Department on July 1, 1955, and retired November 1, 1980. He worked very hard in all aspects of the job. He received many certificates of training, including Standard First Aid, Elevator Evacuation, Airport Crash, and Search and Rescue. He earned his way through the ranks and was promoted to captain on January 1, 1972. In speaking with firemen that worked with him, they would say he was a hard trainer, but when you met his expectations, he would become your best buddy.

Norman was a devoted husband and father. He was married to his wife, Doris, for 29 years before his death. They met at a skating rink after his discharge from the Army. They were married and had three children. He loved to play baseball and fish. He coached both his sons in baseball. He especially enjoyed introducing kids to fishing.

On February 7, 1979, while fighting a two-alarm fire at Quail Run Apartments, Captain Whitener suffered a heart attack. He continued to suffer symptoms and had another heart attack in April of 1980. The resulting injury caused cardiac damage, which contributed to a heart attack on June 16, 1984. He later died on July 1, 1984, exactly 29 years after beginning his career at the Hickory Fire Department. He was 51 years old.

Captain Whitener was physically fit, and his heart attack was a shock to the department. His chief became concerned about health and fitness of other firefighters. This led to the chief establishing an ongoing department health and fitness program in conjunction with a local medical center.

Norman was an outstanding firefighter, husband, and father. He was loved by so many, including many nieces and nephews. He is missed every day.

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# Jeff Armes

**Nelsonville Division of Fire – Ohio ★ Career Senior Firefighter ★ May 2, 2021 ★ Age 38**

Jeff was a loyal and dedicated man to his family and the fire service. He passed away on May 2, 2021, after collapsing on the scene of a residential structure fire. Jeff was raised with the Starr Township Volunteer Fire Department, where both of his parents are members. Jeff started his fire career as a volunteer firefighter with the Starr Township VFD in 2001. In 2011, he was hired as a part-time firefighter with the Nelsonville Division of Fire, becoming full-time in 2011. While serving with the Nelsonville Division of Fire, Jeff obtained his EMR certification in 2018 and Fire Safety Inspector in 2019.

Jeff's true passions were his family and community. Jeff helped run, plan, and organize the fire department's Jim Conrad Annual Toy Drive. During this event, each child in the community has the opportunity to visit Santa Claus and receive a gift. Another event rich in local history is the annual Christmas Basket program. The fire department delivers food baskets to community members in need during the holidays. Jeff helped plan and organize the Water Battles which took place during the Parade of the Hills. The Water Battles are a physical agility and fire tactics competition that include fire departments from as far as 60 miles away.

As a fireworks exhibitor with Hamburg Fireworks, Jeff was responsible for setting off fireworks every year for Nelsonville's 4th of July Thunder In The Valley fireworks show. Jeff also enjoyed volunteering for haunted houses since the age of 16. He enjoyed singing, fishing, riding motorcycles, and traveling with his wife. The couple took many vacations together to Myrtle Beach, which is where they got engaged and enjoyed their honeymoon. They traveled to Florida, Niagara Falls, Tennessee, and Las Vegas. They had plans to take many other trips together—cruises, Key West, and other tropical locations.

Jeff's family and friends were his entire world. His greatest accomplishment was being an amazing father to his daughter, Teylar (14), and his son, Ayden (3). He supported his wife, Lezlee, in all her endeavors, and she supported his as well.

Jeff was a caring, fun, and loving person. He had a great sense of humor and loved to play jokes on people, especially his firefighter brothers. Jeff's life was cut short, and he will be greatly missed by not only his family, but also his firefighter family and members of the Nelsonville community. A part of us was lost with Jeff, but he will always be in our memories and never forgotten.



# Doug Dugan

Tiltonsville Volunteer Fire Department – Ohio ★ Volunteer Chief ★ June 16, 2021 ★ Age 62



Douglas J. Dugan, 62, passed away June 16, 2021, from a medical emergency, while responding to an incident.

Doug began his career in the fire service in 1972 with the Glen Robbins Fire Department. After his graduation, Doug served his country on the USS Carl Vinson, as a ship serviceman (SH3) from 1981-1985. While enlisted, he was able to serve alongside his lifelong friend Rich Hunker. During this time, Doug aided others in training during “General Quarters Trainings” aboard the USS Carl Vinson. This is where he found his passion for training with the fire service, which would become part of his life after the military.

Upon his return from the Navy, he continued his passion for the fire service by becoming involved in training of fire departments around the Ohio Valley with the Tri-County Fire School. In 2007, Doug earned the rank of chief with the Tiltonsville Volunteer Fire Department. Early on as chief he helped to establish the first set of standard operating procedures, as well as becoming a fire instructor in 2010. This is where he arguably made his biggest impact on the local fire service. Doug continuously pushed other firefighters and EMTs to further their careers with higher education and training. He led by example.

It was later in life that Doug found his second passion, his grandchildren, Owen (O-Bug) and Emma. Aside from answering calls for the fire department, nothing could get in the way of Doug spending time with his grandchildren, whether it was visits to the fire station or taking Owen for a round of golf (just to watch Pap “lose some golf balls”). Doug’s dedication to his wife, Peg, and family was certainly awe-inspiring, as he exemplified what it meant to be a loving husband, stepfather, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to many.

He was the true definition of a leader and is sadly missed by his family, his community, and his fellow firefighters.

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Selinde Downey Roosenburg

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry – Ohio  
Career Firefighter ★ March 25, 2021 ★ Age 20**

Selinde Roosenburg was raised on her family's tree farm in Ohio. She grew up a barefoot explorer, building fairy houses and splashing in creeks. Lindy blossomed into a steward of Appalachian forests, planting trees, culling invasives, cutting firewood, milling lumber, and boiling maple syrup alongside her family.

In high school, Selinde excelled academically and was a dedicated member of the swim team and marching band. For two years, she studied forestry at The Ohio State University before she was accepted by University of Idaho's Fire Science program to finish her training. All who knew her recognized that Selinde was a leader.

Lindy worked at Zaleski State Forest for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) as a forest technician. Her enthusiasm for learning about prescribed fire in forest conservation was clear. She received a full scholarship to attend a Women in Fire event, where she earned her Firefighter Training and Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior certificates. Then she participated in prescribed burns, taking photos that demonstrated her curiosity about wildland fire. Lindy's supervisor praised her motivation, saying that she brought zeal and a strong work ethic to her job. Described by colleagues as positive, outgoing, and optimistic, Selinde never met a stranger.

In March 2021, Selinde tragically died from injuries sustained as a passenger in a utility terrain vehicle rollover while working on a prescribed burn at Richland Furnace State Forest. None of the three ODNR employees in the UTV were wearing seatbelts. In Selinde's honor, ODNR has planted a memorial white oak tree in Zaleski State Forest and is renaming its most popular backpacking trail the Selinde Roosenburg Memorial Trail.

Lindy was beautiful without knowing it, burst with energy and enthusiasm, yet was quietly observant and introspective. She was often heard singing before she was seen and was a dedicated musician. A fiercely loyal and loving young woman, Lindy had humor so quick and dry that the unsuspecting only caught the pun or barb if they saw the twinkle in her eye. She lived with an inspiring liberation from social norms. For her, days were best spent making people laugh and serving her community.

In the months before Selinde's death, she was the happiest in her life. She had her own apartment and a job she was passionate about; she had created a rewarding path forward. Lindy departed life on a high note, in the act of serving others and the forests of Appalachia. She is deeply missed by her parents, brother, cousins, family, and many friends.



# Clay R. Westfall

Harrison Township Fire Department – Ohio ★ Career Lieutenant ★ July 14, 2020 ★ Age 49



Clay was born January 8, 1971, in Troy, Ohio, where he lived until his death on July 14, 2020.

Clay graduated from Miami East High School and took firefighter, EMT, and paramedic courses at Sinclair Community College and Clark State Community College. He began as a volunteer for Casstown Volunteer Fire Department, where he was a lieutenant. He worked part-time for Trotwood Fire and Rescue, Vandalia Fire Department, and Springfield Township Fire Department. He was full-time at Harrison Township Fire Department in Dayton, where he was promoted to lieutenant in September 2018. Clay was an amazing officer, highly respected by his firehouse brothers and sisters.

Clay loved and was dearly loved by his family. He was so funny that he laughed at his own jokes. Clay was the biggest supporter and cheerleader for his children. He was a hands-on dad, always in the yard playing games with his kids or taking a bike ride with his family. He was also an amazing friend, willing to lend a hand when needed.

Growing up, Clay participated in 4-H, played football, and wrestled. He was Fair King, raised large animals, and had a grand champion pig. He was an active member of the Miami County Fair Board for many years. He enjoyed a leisurely horseback ride, a casual game of golf, and being in the water. Clay loved John Wayne movies. He listened to all genres of music, but country was his favorite.

When Clay was 18, he started a fencing business, which became his side job once he became a career firefighter. Although he sold the business many times, customers would call and ask for his expertise, so he was back in business. He didn't have to advertise. He was so skilled that word of mouth kept him busy building fence on his non-duty days.

In late 2019, Clay began having excruciating back pain. He sought out medical advice from multiple practitioners. The pain worsened as we entered the pandemic, and on April 14, 2020, our lives changed forever when he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Due to COVID restrictions, he had to spend most of his hospitalizations alone. We kept in touch via phone and FaceTime, but it wasn't like having us there to support him. He was so brave and fought as long as his body let him. Clay passed away on July 14, 2020, three months to the day after diagnosis.

Our children and I miss him so much, as do his fire brothers and sisters. He was larger than life, and his passing has left a hole in our lives. Not a day goes by that he isn't remembered. I see him in our children. Clay made our lives better just by being himself.



# Lonnie L. Bolar

**Waynoka Volunteer Fire Department – Oklahoma ★ Volunteer Chief ★ January 29, 2021 ★ Age 45**

Lonnie Leroy Bolar, 45, died January 29, 2021, while attempting to rescue people trapped in a residential structure fire.

Lonnie was born in Alva, Oklahoma, to Sara Carlson and the late Rex Bolar. In 1993, he graduated from Waynoka High School, where he was involved in 4-H, FFA, basketball, and football. After graduation, Lonnie attended Tulsa Welding School.

Lonnie joined the Waynoka Fire Department in 2006. At the time of his death, he was serving as fire chief. Lonnie had a passion for fighting fires and enjoyed attending fire trainings.

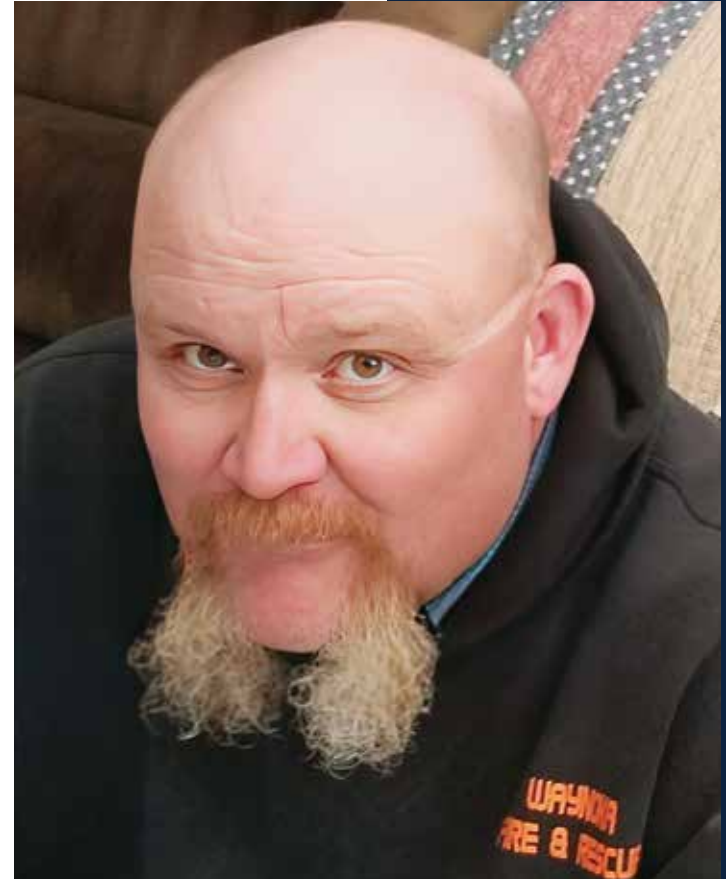
He worked as a foreman for Woods County District 3 and was a weekend heavy equipment operator for Frontier Rodeo and Luddington Cattle.

Lonnie enjoyed planning community fishing tournaments with his dad and hunting rattlesnakes with his mother. He loved NASCAR and touring the United States on his Honda Goldwing. In 2010, Lonnie opened a bar called “Scoob’s Tavern,” which became a neighborhood hangout and hosted many fundraisers to help people in the community.

Lonnie made sure that his big, blended family was “one family,” and taking care of everyone was his top priority. He was a devoted father who always put his children first. He spent most weekends camping with his family and friends. He introduced his children to dirt bikes and made sure every kid in the neighborhood had a dirt bike to ride.

He is survived by his two daughters, Destanee and Riggin Bolar; two sons, Bronc Bolar and Trigg Cunningham; his mother, Sara Carlson (Denis); two brothers, Lynn Bolar (Tippie) and Pake Carlson (Jackie); two sisters, Pebbles Luddington (Ky) and Myka Seiger (Waylon); his grandchildren, Kreaklynn, Boone, and Lariett; and many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Rex Bolar, and by his daughter, Shadow Bolar.

He deeply loved his children, grandchildren, and his family. Lonnie lived and enjoyed every day as if it was his last by doing the things he loved.



# Taylor W. Bradford

Waynoka Volunteer Fire Department – Oklahoma ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ January 29, 2021 ★ Age 28



Taylor Wade Bradford, 28, died while rescuing people trapped in a residential structure fire on January 29, 2021.

Taylor was born in Woodward, Oklahoma, to Troy Wade and Cindy Renee Black Bradford of Waynoka. Taylor was an active child who loved riding the bus to his Papa and Grandma's house after school every day. He loved sports, and track was a favorite. He attended the state track meet all four years of high school and was proud to hold the school record for long jump and a tie for high jump. No matter what Taylor was doing, there was always a fan club to cheer him on.

He enjoyed Jeeping, racing, and being an aquarist.

Taylor was joined in marriage with Clair Elyssa Cole on October 11, 2014. Together they had two little boys and enjoyed their lives in Waynoka.

Taylor is survived by his wife, Clair; his sons, Rycen and Maverick; his parents, Troy and Cindy Bradford; sister, Ashley Esparza (Jason); and many extended family members and friends.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Frumencio Ruiz Carapia

**GE Forestry Inc. – Oregon ★ Contract Firefighter/Squad Boss ★ August 23, 2021 ★ Age 56**

Frumencio was a very cheerful person, a person who liked to joke around. He loved his job and working outdoors. He migrated to the United States in 1985. Frumencio died on August 23, 2021, in a line-of-duty accident at age 56. He was a wildland firefighter for over 20 years.

Frumencio was born in a small town in the state of Queretaro, Mexico. He would always tell stories about his childhood, when he would get up early before school to help his father with the cornfields and the farm animals. After helping his father, he would head home and get ready to go to school. He was only able to finish middle school. When he was young, he loved to play soccer and was part of a soccer team.

Frumencio was an outdoor person who loved fishing. Every time he had the chance to go fishing, he would go with his sons and friends. He found fishing quite relaxing.

Frumencio was an amazing father, husband, and son. He was a father of four and grandfather of two. Even though he was far from his mother, he made sure she had everything she needed. He had plans to spend a couple of months in Mexico with his mother and come back at the beginning of 2022, but his life was cut short before he was able to fulfill it.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Jerry Richardson

Portland Fire and Rescue – Oregon ★ Career Lieutenant ★ November 19, 2021 ★ Age 56



Jerry Richardson, loving husband, and father of two children, passed away at the age of 56. Jerry was born on November 6, 1965, in Montebello, California, to Harold and Sharon. Jerry's life of service started as a junior at Selah High School, where he volunteered at Selah Fire Department in Washington. After graduating high school in 1984, Jerry enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he became an airbase firefighter for four years. After Jerry's military service, he enrolled in the paramedic program at Central Washington University.

During this time, Jerry met the love of his life and best friend, Heather. Jerry and Heather moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon, in 1992, where all of Jerry's hard work paid off when he started his professional firefighting career with Cottage Grove Fire. In 1993, Jerry and Heather were wed and began expanding their family. It wasn't long before their family was complete with the birth of Eddie and then Kaylee. Jerry's service to the residents of South Lane County ended after seven years, when his desire to serve a larger community led him to Portland Fire and Rescue in December 1999. Jerry promoted to lieutenant in June 2007. Jerry's warm personality and unparalleled leadership were respected by his peers. Jerry was beloved by all who met him.

Jerry had a passion for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, baseball, softball, coaching, woodworking, and church. Of all the blessings in his life, the thing he treasured most was his family. He was so proud when Eddie followed in his footsteps and became a firefighter for Spokane County Fire District 9. Kaylee always made Jerry proud with her independent tough spirit and sharing his love for nature, where they spent many trips hiking and camping. His true love, Heather, has made every step in this life worth walking. They enjoyed raising their beautiful children, helping with all their activities, spending time with their extended family,

camping, traveling, and attending as many concerts as they could. In the last three years, Jerry successfully lived life to the fullest and found joy in every day.

Jerry's strength and toughness carried him through his battle with lung cancer. Jerry was proud to serve his community and his country as a firefighter. Jerry was known for living his life "ALL IN", for his family, fire family, and friends. We miss him every day and will continue to live "ALL IN" in honor of him.



# Edward P. Bookmyer

**Craley Fire Department – Pennsylvania ★ Volunteer Chief Engineer ★ January 30, 2021 ★ Age 60**

Edward P. Bookmyer was born in York, Pennsylvania, on September 20, 1960, the son of the late Ralph and Mary (Sanders) Bookmyer. Ed was a 1977 graduate of York Vo-Tech. At the time of his death, he had been working for Susquehanna Real Estate for over 15 years. He was a member of Craley Fish and Game Association.

Ed was chief engineer at the Craley Volunteer Fire Company, where he served for ten years. He spent a lot of time at the firehouse working on the fire trucks, working on the equipment, running calls, or just talking to the other firefighters. Ed was eager to help the young guys with firefighting, working on their cars, or anything else they needed. Before serving with Craley, Ed was a firefighter and EMT with other firehouses in the community for many years.

Ed's son, Sean, was also a firefighter at Craley. Ed and Sean enjoyed many hours together training, running fire calls, and helping with fundraisers. They both liked helping their community any way they could.

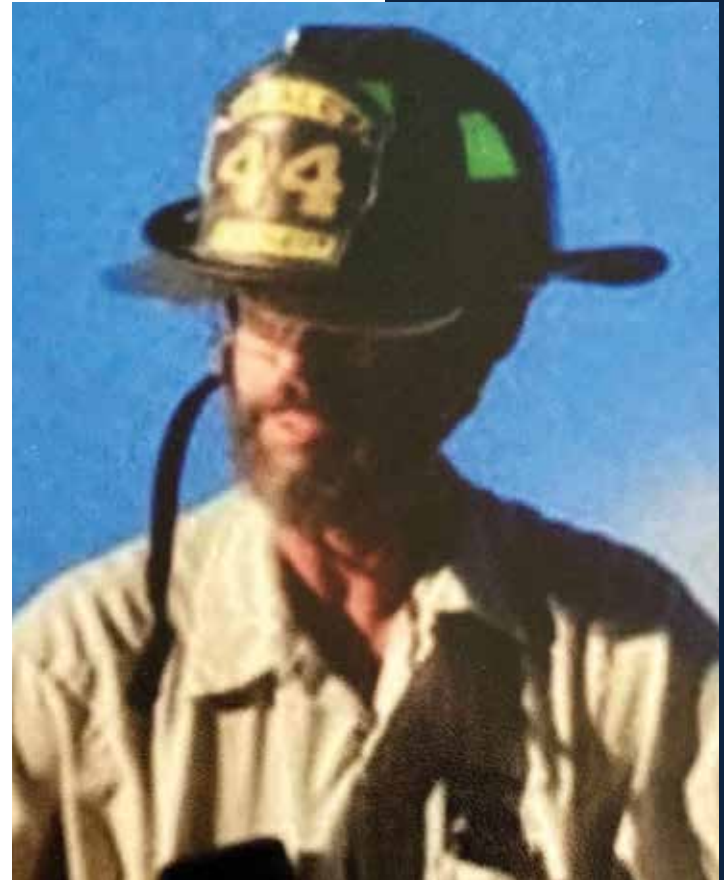
Ed suffered a medical emergency on January 24, 2021, while working on a piece of apparatus after returning from a fire call. He was transported to the hospital, where he died on January 30, 2021, due to a heart attack.

At Ed's funeral there were so many people. He had no idea how many people he touched in the short time he was with us.

Ed is survived by his wife of 29 years, Patricia; his son, Sean E. Bookmyer; a brother, Kenneth Bookmyer; five sisters, Cindy Spangler, Diane Foster, Linda Bookmyer, Janet Dieffenbach, and Joanne Bookmyer; his nieces and nephews; and his pet dog, Hunter.

Ed is remembered as a dedicated and faithful servant to his family, friends, and community. He was the first one to lend a hand when it was needed, both at the station and among his friends.

Ed will never be replaced. We miss you, Ed!



# Sean DeMuynck

**Lower Merion Fire Department/Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills Fire Company – Pennsylvania**  
**Volunteer Firefighter ★ July 5, 2021 ★ Age 35**



Sean William Camiel DeMuynck was born during a typical Canadian blizzard on March 6, 1986, in Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada.

At age six, Sean began to play hockey. The game became a way of life. He began playing for Strathroy Minor hockey and was soon invited to join the AAA EMHA Chiefs. It was here that he excelled in the game, becoming known as “the skater.” In his minor bantam year, he played 14 games with the Strathroy Jr. B Rockets and was drafted to the OHL Kingston Frontenacs. He was ineligible to play for the Frontenacs due to his age and ended up with their farm club, the Wellington Dukes.

It was here where he met the love of his life, Melissa. However, after a few years Sean decided that he wanted to end his junior career near home. He joined the Leamington Flyers and became their captain. He had an amazing year, scoring a point per game as a defenseman.

After his junior career, Sean was invited to play for the University of Western Ontario Mustangs and received a BA in criminology and sociology. His plan was to join the fire department and potentially work his way toward being a forensic investigator.

Sean began to manage a company near Windsor, Ontario, with the fire department still in the plan. He became an assistant coach with the Belle River Canadiens Jr. C team. During this time, Sean needed to have surgery on his nose, which had been broken five times playing hockey. He came home to his father and stepmother’s house to recover, and it was then that he met again with Melissa.

The Windsor Spitfires of the CHL asked Sean if he was interested in becoming a coach. He jumped at the chance, and they won the highest award, the Memorial Cup, in 2017.

Sean and Melissa were married on March 1, 2019. Melissa was offered a fellowship with the University of Pennsylvania, and off they went to their new adventure. Shortly after moving, Sean joined the Penn Wynne Overbrook Fire Company Station 21. Here he joined a new team, a new family. He won many awards in his two-year tenure, including top student in the academy and “Top Runner.”

After two years, Melissa’s fellowship ended. They were set to return to Canada on July 5, 2021. In the late hours of July 4, Sean answered a call. He was found unresponsive on the third floor of a structure fire, and just after midnight on the day that they were set to return to Canada, Sean left us all.

Sean DeMuynck is survived by his wife, Melissa; father, Mark, and stepmother, Sue; mother, Barbara, and stepfather, Paul; siblings, Trish, Cassandra, Carly, Christopher, and Samantha; his special niece, Hannah; and many more.

# Philip “Craig” Ginter

**Beavertown Rescue Hose Company – Pennsylvania ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ February 21, 2021 ★ Age 57**

Philip Craig Ginter was the son of Dorothy Sanders Ginter and the late Lewis Ginter. He was the fourth of five children.

“Craig,” as he was known to everyone, was a graduate of Twin Valley High School. He lived his life in service to others. He was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader. He volunteered at Downingtown Rescue Hose Company, Honey Brook Volunteer Fire Company, and most recently with the Beavertown Rescue Hose Company 20 and as an EMR on the Beavertown Ambulance Crew.

Craig was a secretary for the Gideons and an active and faithful member of Hummels United Methodist Church, where he was on the board of trustees and the church council.

Craig was a mechanic and enjoyed his work as Selinsgrove Center, as well as working on the truck at the fire station.

In his free time, he enjoyed hiking, hunting, and golfing. His dog, Bo, was never far from his side.

He leaves behind his wife, Diane; three sons, Philip (Rose) Ginter, Brandon Ginter, and Joshua (Megan) Eversmeyer; two daughters, Lindsey (Derek) Mercer and Amanda Ginter; sister, Ellen Bonds; brothers, John (Elizabeth) Ginter and Louis (Renee) Ginter; and eight grandchildren.

Craig lived his life to the fullest and always had a smile on his face.

He would want everyone to dance in the kitchen, like he did every night.

It’s the small things in life that matter, that leave lasting memories.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Eric Gore

Philadelphia Fire Department – Pennsylvania ★ Career Lieutenant ★ June 2, 2020 ★ Age 49



Eric Gore was born in Philadelphia and was the youngest of three siblings. Eric was educated in the Philadelphia Public School system and graduated in 1990.

Eric initially joined the Philadelphia Police Department but decided to follow in his father and brother's footsteps and joined the Philadelphia Fire Department. He served with the fire department for 25 years.

Eric was a published author and excellent craftsman. He was a quiet, gentle, caring, and very private person with a huge heart. Eric enjoyed working on houses and watching movies with his family.

Eric had been blessed with a daughter, Logan; his wife, Zenaida; and a son, Bryan.

Eric is missed by his family and coworkers.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Laron E. Holcomb

**Ellsworth Volunteer Fire Department – Pennsylvania**  
**Volunteer Fire Police Captain ★ September 4, 2021 ★ Age 73**

Laron Eugene Holcomb died from cardiovascular causes shortly after responding to a vehicle accident.

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, he graduated from Soddy Daisy High School in 1967 and joined the U.S. Air Force. A gifted musician, he began his professional music career playing Texas swing while he was stationed at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

He returned to Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, and continued playing music in local venues. An ordained evangelist, he loved playing and singing gospel music for the glory of God.

Laron was a retired police officer who continued to serve his community as a volunteer police officer and firefighter. He began his service to others at a young age, through the Soddy Daisy Civil Air Patrol and Rescue Squad, and continued to extend a hand to those in need throughout his life. At the time of his death, he was serving as captain and chaplain for the Ellsworth Volunteer Fire Police. He was a father figure to the younger members of the department.

Laron enjoyed fast cars, motorcycles, boats, and guns. He loved God, family, music, and his country.

His loving wife of three years, Laura Wagner Holcomb, sadly died the month after he did. He was also survived by two daughters and four siblings.

Friends and fellow firefighters remembered him as dedicated and tireless in his service to others, someone who would drop everything to come help you.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Mark “Dewey” Kulp

**Reading Department of Fire and Rescue Services – Pennsylvania**  
**Career Firefighter/EMT ★ January 5, 2021 ★ Age 52**



Mark “Dewey” Kulp was a dedicated and loyal firefighter/EMT for 35 years in Pennsylvania. He joined the City of Reading Fire Explorer Post 290 and then proceeded to become an active volunteer in 1986 with Liberty Fire Company, serving as a captain on Engine 5. This began Mark’s long career in public service.

He was hired as a career firefighter with the City of Reading on February 1, 1993. He was also an active member of the former Reading Fire Department Scuba Team and was a former treasurer for ten years with the Reading Firefighters Local 1803. At the time of Mark’s death on January 5, 2021, he was a firefighter at the Schuylkill-Riverside Fire Station in the City of Reading.

Mark, also known as Dewey to his fellow brothers, was a compassionate, selfless, and caring man. He would do anything for anybody, which is why he was great at his job. Mark also loved to joke around and was known as a prankster. He would put a smile on the face of anyone that was in his presence.

Above all else, he loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them, especially trips in his Jeep with his wife, Wanda, and his dog, Luna. Mark is remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

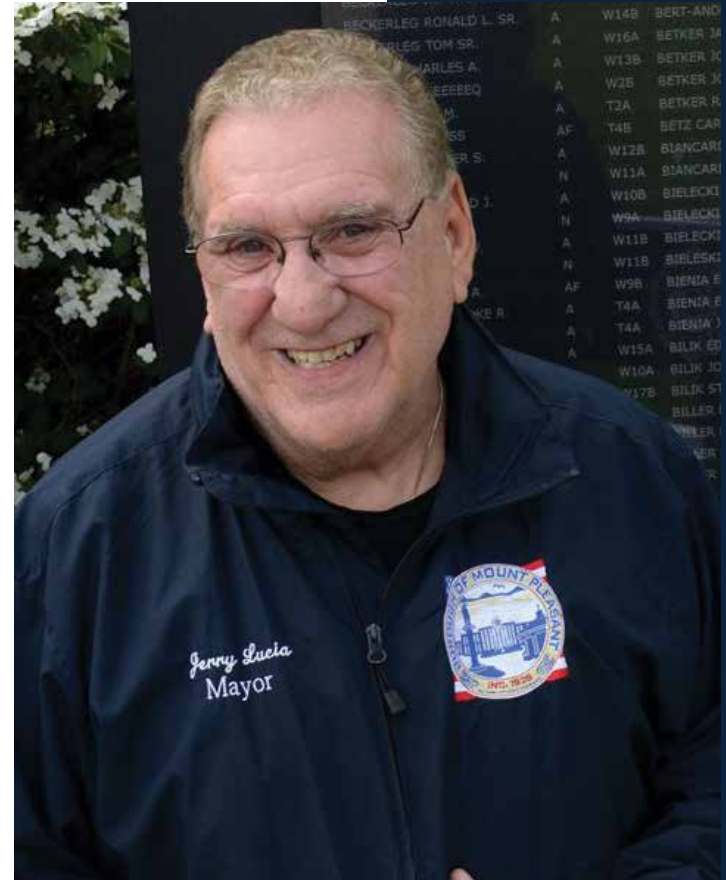
# Gerald D. Lucia

**Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department – Pennsylvania**  
**Volunteer Chief ★ December 17, 2021 ★ Age 76**

Gerald “Jerry” Lucia was a 46-year member of the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as chief for the past 31 years. Prior to becoming chief, he held all the line office positions of lieutenant, captain, and assistant chief. He was a member of the Pennsylvania State Firemen’s Association, Westmoreland County Firemen’s Association, and Western Pennsylvania Firemen’s Association. He was a past president of the Westmoreland Fire Chiefs Association and a member of the Southwest Pennsylvania Fire Chiefs Association.

At his time of death, Gerald was the mayor of Mt. Pleasant. He served as mayor for 36 years, having just won another term, which would have made 40 years. In 2016, Gerald was named Pennsylvania Mayor of the Year. He was the emergency management coordinator for 31 years. He was also named Mt. Pleasant Citizen of the Year. He was a volunteer at the local food bank and served on the Excelsa Frick Foundation board, and previously on the Excelsa Health board. He was chairman of the annual Firemen’s Fair and co-chairman and co-founder of the award-winning Glass and Ethnic Festival, which is an annual event in Mt. Pleasant. He successfully obtained funding for Veteran’s Park and construction of the gazebo in Mt. Pleasant.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 56 years, Diana; his son, Gerald Joseph Lucia; and his daughter, Nicole Lucia Butts. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Nicholas, Christopher, and Krystal Lucia, and Claire, Caroline, and Morgan Butts; his son-in-law, John Butts; his sister, Patty Midden; his niece, Pam Rendine, and her family; and his nephew, Jeff McGuinness, and his family.



# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



# Kevin Malukas

Coal Township Fire Department – Pennsylvania ★ Volunteer Deputy Chief ★ March 8, 2021 ★ Age 59



Chief Kevin "Bubba" Malukas answered his last alarm March 7, 2021. He served the Coal Township Fire Department for 47 years, holding the rank of junior firefighter, firefighter, EMT, and EMS chief. In 1996, he became assistant chief, deputy chief, and then chief of the department, only to repeat these ranks again until his last day. He was found deceased by his son, who was on duty as a Coal Township police officer.

Kevin was born March 1, 1962, in Coal Township and was a proud lifelong resident. He had a very humble upbringing and was raised by his grandmother. Kevin graduated in 1980 from Shamokin Area High School.

He was a member of the East End Fire Company in Springfield since 1976, but his service to the area was felt well beyond the borders of the Polish Poconos. He assisted during mutual aid incidents, served as a mentor to junior firefighters—including his son—and volunteered to educate students on the importance of fire safety during Fire Prevention Week. He loved making doughnuts for Donut Day with the Coal Township Rescue.

In 1980, he became one of the area's first EMTs, maintaining his certification until his death. He was immensely proud that his EMT number began with 00. He served with the Shamokin Area Community Hospital Medic 9, Regional Ambulance, and Fairview Fire Company. Kevin worked for 24 years for the State of Pennsylvania, employed at Danville State Hospital. In his younger years, he enjoyed roller skating and worked at Skate-R-Way as a skate guard.

He was an active member of Mother Cabrini Church, where he helped with numerous church events throughout the year. He would take days off to spend Father's Day weekend volunteering at the parish picnic and would sleep at the picnic grounds to protect the area.

Kevin loved starting his free days by eating at a local breakfast table where he would socialize with everybody around. Kevin would then galivant around the community, chatting with anybody he ran into. Very often he would be seen, along with his grand dog Haley and friends, sitting on a bench on Market Street.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Sandra, and their children, Valerie Malukas, Jennifer Price, and Kevin E. Malukas and his wife, Courtney; four grandchildren, Ella Price, Ava Price, Lukas Behr, and Brynn Malukas; a sister, Arlene "Snook" Barber, and her husband, James; and his sister-in-law, Diane Fessler.

Chief Malukas will be remembered for his leadership, mentorship, guidance, and humorous radio transmission, but most of all, his friendship to many. There are many Bubbas in this world; for us, there was only one.



# Thomas E. Royds

**Lower Merion Fire Department/Belmont Hills Fire Company – Pennsylvania**  
**Career Firefighter ★ July 24, 2021 ★ Age 48**

No matter how big or small a fire could be, Thomas—better known as “Roydsy”—was always there. Whenever his pager would go off, he would be flying down the stairs, racing over to the fire house, ready to help people. He served with purpose and intent and was an example I would only wish to live up to.

Tommy started his firefighting career early in 1989 as a volunteer at the Union Fire Association. He worked as a volunteer for 30 years before being promoted to career firefighter in 2019. Tom was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2021. On July 27, 2022, following his death, he was promoted to the rank of captain at Union Fire Association. He also volunteered at Clifton Heights, as a captain, and at Belmont Hills.

Tom was energetic and was always ready to work. He made bonds with the younger firefighters, showing them the ropes and guiding them to be the best they could be. Tommy was always willing to help, no matter what you would ask him. We valued this trait in him, and it’s something we will always remember him for in our hearts.

One thing he loved was his community. He worked for Charles Friel Landscaping when not working at the firehouse. While working for Charles Friel, he was able to connect with and make many friends throughout the community, and he was cherished by them. Landscaping was one of his many hobbies, and you could often find him perfecting his lawn on the weekends. He also enjoyed sports and was a fan of all the Philadelphia sports teams.

As Tommy’s partner of thirty plus years, I am saddened by the senseless accident that took his life. I know he loved two things for sure: his family and firefighting. I know he knew the sacrifices of being a firefighter, since he was a member of three companies. His love of firefighting may have been what caused his death, but not many people can say they died doing exactly what they loved. This has provided me and our children with much comfort.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# William Edward McNeill Jr.

Campobello Fire Department – South Carolina ★ Career Chief ★ March 4, 2021 ★ Age 69



William Edward McNeill Jr. was born May 8, 1951, in Inman, South Carolina, where he was raised by his peach farmer father and his schoolteacher mother. Eddie's father volunteered with the local fire department and took Eddie on calls with him. I guess you could say Eddie was raised to volunteer. After high school, Eddie went to the University of Georgia to be a landscape architect. His first year, he married Shirley, his high school sweetheart, and began a family. Upon graduation, he came back to Inman and taught school for 13 years before starting his own landscaping business. During this same time, he began volunteering for the local fire department and worked his way up the ranks to fire chief. In 1997, he turned his passion into a career, becoming the first paid fire chief at the Town of Campobello Fire Department.

Eddie and Shirley had three children, two sons and a daughter. Their family grew as each child married and collectively gave Eddie and Shirley seven grandchildren. Eddie was an active father in the lives of his children and an even more active grandfather. He loved riding his grandchildren around in the fire truck with him at various Christmas parades. He enjoyed when they would visit him at the fire station and he could show them all the trucks and run the sirens.

Eddie began to volunteer in 1976 and served for 45 years, the last 25 years as chief at Campobello Fire Department. He rarely missed a call or a chance to help someone. Eddie used his role as fire chief to positively influence the lives of those who needed to do community service. He would often counsel these individuals and try to help them turn their lives around.

Kids were always a soft spot for Eddie. He never wanted to see a kid go without. The biggest way he felt he could do this, and not be known, was to play the role of Santa. For years, the fire department would sponsor a family and show up at their

house on Christmas Eve with a load of presents. He would go to surrounding fire departments and play Santa for the kids in those communities, too. Eddie's love of the Santa role motivated him to begin the Town of Campobello's Christmas parade.

Well known for his boisterous personality, when Eddie entered a room, everyone knew it. He never met a stranger and had a way to make new people feel at ease. Difficult situations were often made less stressful due to Eddie's ability to make jokes or distract people's focus. The town is quieter without him around, but reminders of him can be seen all around in the work he did for the community.

# Brian S. Mixson

**Jasper County Fire and Rescue – South Carolina ★ Career Firefighter/EMT ★ March 17, 2021 ★ Age 32**

Brian Stephen Mixson suffered a stroke while on duty on March 5, 2021, after running multiple calls and participating in physical training during his shift. He was transported to a local hospital and then to Memorial Medical Center of Savannah, Georgia, where he remained on life support so his organs could be donated. He passed away on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Brian was born September 19, 1988, in Beaufort, South Carolina, to Ronald Stephen Mixson and Sherry Ann Simmons Mixson. He started as a young volunteer for the Jasper County Fire Department, where he served as a firefighter and EMT for over 14 years.

He was a southern Baptist and attended Pine Level Baptist Church in Grays, South Carolina.

Brian enjoyed hunting, fishing, mud racing in his Ford F-150 Aftershock, playing softball, and doing anything that kept him outdoors.

He received many awards from Jasper County Fire and Rescue and made his family very proud.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# John H. Clift Jr.

**Rural Metro Fire Department – Tennessee ★ Paid-on-Call Firefighter ★ January 2, 2021 ★ Age 64**



John Howell Clift was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on December 14, 1956. He lived his entire life in the Carter community.

He joined Rural Metro Fire Department as a reserve firefighter in 1981 and served the community in that role for 40 years. While his daytime profession was in banking, his avocation was the fire service.

His son continues to serve as a captain for the department.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Ronald Steven “Steve” Perry

**East Sullivan County Volunteer Fire Department – Tennessee**  
**Volunteer Engineer ★ December 17, 2020 ★ Age 57**

Ronald Steven Perry, “Steve” to his friends and family, spent 40 years in service to his community. Sadly, he contracted COVID-19 while on a call and lost his fight on December 17, 2020.

Steve was married and had three stepchildren, two girls and one boy. He also had an adopted son, four grandsons, and one granddaughter, all of whom he enjoyed spending time with. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed watching the Tennessee Vols and Titans football and the Atlanta Braves whenever he could.

He loved being a volunteer firefighter with East Sullivan County Fire Department, where he put in ten years of service. He was their engineer and served as the training officer.

At the time of his passing, Steve was employed by Sullivan County EMA, where he was captain over the Rescue Division. The knowledge and skills he gained in his younger years with the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office Explorer Division and the Bluff City (Tennessee) Junior Rescue Squad allowed him to excel in the EMT field while working at Sullivan County EMA and the Kingsport Life Saving Crew.

Steve loved teaching classes and wanted everyone he taught to succeed in the first responder/EMT field. He had several certifications that allowed him to teach, including EVOC, Swift Water Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, CPR and First Responder classes.

Steve departed this life while assisting others, which is what he was best at. Knowing he died while in the service of others has brought a great deal of comfort to his family and friends.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Ronald Gene Spitzer

Rocky Top Fire Department – Tennessee ★ Career Chief ★ January 13, 2021 ★ Age 65



Ronald “Ronnie” Spitzer was a dedicated man to both his family and community. He was a firefighter for 47 years and passed at the age of 65. He began his career with the Lake City Fire Department before working most of his career for the Department of Energy K-25 and Y-12 sites. After retirement, he was called back to the Lake City Fire Department, now Rocky Top, as the fire chief.

He was married to his wife, Sandy Spitzer, for 42 years and had two children, Ronald Jr. and Ashley. Ronnie was a loving provider for his family. If he bragged about anything, it was about how proud he was of his family. One of our happiest memories with him was our Alaskan cruise in 2017. We always talked about trying to go back again one day.

When he wasn’t at work, he was generally happiest at home working around the house. He was always tinkering and could fix anything. His favorite movies were Caddyshack and Top Gun. He was the cook of the house, stealing those duties from Mom at some point years ago. He could make a mean pot of chili and was always on top of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

He cared about the firefighters he worked with and treated them like family. He had started to make it a regular event to have the firefighters and their families down to the firehall for dinner and fellowship.

He took care of everything and everybody. He tirelessly served his family and community and never boasted about his accomplishments or what he did as a firefighter. He rarely told us stories of his days, and it wasn’t until after his death that his fellow firefighters and coworkers began to share stories about his accomplishments. We even found an award that was given to him by the Department of Energy for Exceptional Service to Mankind, with the award detailing

how he saved the life of a motorist. He never once mentioned the call or the award to us.

He enjoyed helping people through his EMT and firefighter skills. One of his final projects was securing a new fire truck for the town through a grant. He had plans to retire once it was delivered; however, he passed before the project was completed. When the truck arrived, it was dedicated in his name and proudly displays “in memoriam” on its side. He was awarded the Three Stars of Tennessee Award posthumously for his service.

Ronnie Spitzer contracted COVID with another firefighter during a call in December 2020. He went into the hospital on December 23 and passed on January 13, 2021. Even while sick at the hospital he was concerned about the other firefighter that contracted COVID, calling to check on him.

# Terry Lee Watts

**Shelby County Fire Department – Tennessee ★ Career Lieutenant ★ February 10, 2021 ★ Age 51**

Terry Lee Watts was born August 23, 1969. He graduated from Northside High School and earned a bachelor's degree in fire science from Waldorf University. Watts began his career in firefighting as a reserve in Arlington Fire Department. He served at various fire departments, including Horne Lake Fire Department, where he served part-time, and Jackson Fire Department, before joining the Shelby County Fire Department in 2006. During his career with Shelby County, he obtained Instructor I, Fire Officer I-IV, and several other certifications. He served as NAFI member, HAZMAT technician, advanced emergency medical technician, vice president and grievance chairperson for IAFF Local 2585. He also served as code enforcement, deputy chief, and fire chief in Mason, Tennessee. Watts was employed part-time with Eagle Medical Center and Methodist University Hospital.

In addition to his love for firefighting, Terry Watts enjoyed spending time with his family, martial arts, and music, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order. Terry Watts was the proud husband of Gwenise Watts, with whom he shared 21 beautiful years of marriage. He was the proud father of four children and the doting grandfather of six grandchildren. He leaves behind an indelible legacy and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors. It is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# James W. White

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry – Tennessee  
Career Forestry Aide I ★ February 19, 1992 ★ Age 38



James W. White, age 38, served as a wildland firefighter/Forestry Aide 1 for the Tennessee Division of Forestry, out of the Anderson County station.

On February 18, 1992, at the Blue Bird Fire Tower in Anderson County, White suffered a medical emergency while checking and preparing equipment and tools needed to respond to wildfires. He was transported to the hospital, where he died the next day.

As a local resident of Briceville, Tennessee, Mr. White passionately served his community protecting life and property from wildfire.

Mr. White was survived by his parents, Willard and Betty White, and a sister, Beverly White.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# Bryant Gregory Anderson

**City of Converse Fire Department – Texas ★ Career Captain ★ August 18, 2020 ★ Age 45**

Bryant Gregory Anderson was born on August 27, 1974, in Berlin, Germany. He grew up in a loving home with his parents, Hans and Barbara Anderson, and his sister, Shea. He displayed traits early as a public servant and protector by first becoming a lifeguard and then an Eagle Scout. Following his graduation from John Marshall High School, he first pursued a degree and career in electrical engineering but found his calling in the fire department as a volunteer firefighter with the Grey Forest Volunteer Fire Department in 1998.

He married his wife, Rosie, and was father to Kaylia, Casandra, and Travis.

He remained active in the Grey Forest Volunteer Fire Department until his death and helped to transition the department through the development of Bexar County Emergency Services District #8, where he eventually earned the rank of fire captain. During this time at Grey Forest, Bryant worked to earn his state certifications as a firefighter and paramedic and became an EMT instructor for several local schools in and around Bexar County.

Bryant Anderson began his career as a professional career firefighter in 2004 with the City of Converse Fire Department and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2009 and fire captain in 2012. Captain Anderson continued his professional development, earning many state certifications throughout his career, and worked to manage and lead the many transitions within the Converse Fire Department until his passing from COVID-19 on August 18, 2020.

Captain Anderson was a leader in the Bexar County and City of Converse fire service who dedicated his life in the service to others. His work focused on improving emergency scene operations and firefighter safety. A strong leader with a booming command voice, Bryant was a tough, hardworking servant-leader who was a pleasure to be around. His life's work has and will help save countless lives. He most recently led the initiative to improve the fire scene communications in Converse by becoming the first fire officer to earn "Blue Card" credentials in incident command and then training others on meeting this high standard. Captain Anderson volunteered to serve as the department's quartermaster, managing uniforms processes, and was a vital part of the team that worked to improve the department's ISO rating to Class 1 in 2019.

Captain Bryant Anderson was a huge history buff, model airplane builder, and loved to travel. He knew weird/odd facts and specific dates, locations of things, and music.

The positive influence he had on his fellow firefighters will ensure his legacy continues.



# Stephen C. Collins

Fort Worth Fire Department – Texas ★ Career Engineer ★ October 4, 2020 ★ Age 49



Stephen Christopher “Steve” Collins, 49, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Sunday, October 4, 2020, from a valiantly fought, work-related brain cancer. Born March 2, 1971, in Fort Worth, Texas, Steve graduated from Southwest High School in 1989, Tarrant County Junior College Regional Fire Academy in 1992, and Fort Worth Fire Department Fire Academy in 1999. Since he was a young boy, Steve aspired to be a firefighter. In 1992, he began his career with the Haltom City Fire Department. In 1999, he joined the Fort Worth Fire Department, where he first served on the Technical Rescue Team. In 2013, he joined the Bureau of Fire Investigation, where he served for the remainder of his career.

In 2012, Steve was awarded the “Outstanding Achievement Award” by the Rotary Club and received a Letter of Merit from the lieutenant governor of Texas for his lifesaving efforts in a house fire. In the fall of 2013, he was awarded the “Comeback Firefighter of the Year Award” by the Fort Worth Fire Department.

Steve was a family man who was married to his wife, Carla, for 19 years. Together they have two sons, Pierce (15) and Luke (12). Spending time with family was very important to Steve, whether cheering on his sons at their various sporting events or enjoying their annual spring break camping trips. On his days off, Steve was often found on the golf course or working on home remodeling projects. Over the years, the family dedicated time to traveling together, making memories at Steve’s favorite locations, from the beaches of Hawaii to the mountains of Colorado.

Steve’s greatest acts of determination and bravery came during his 14-year fight with job-related brain cancer, serving as an invaluable research subject in the quest for a cure at MD Anderson, and advocating for cancer fire safety and prevention. He was a founding member of the fire department cancer task force for prevention of job-related illness.

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Roger William Dean III

**Seguin Fire Department – Texas ★ Career Firefighter/Paramedic ★ April 23, 2021 ★ Age 31**

Roger William Dean III had a call for service ever since he was born. His dad was assistant fire chief and a police officer. His mom was a paramedic and later a trauma nurse. He spent almost every day of his childhood in a fire station. His dad told him at a young age that we all owe something to our country and community; it is our duty to serve others. Roger knew God put him on earth to be a firefighter/paramedic to help others in a critical time in their life.

He started his career as a paramedic at Legacy EMS and then Lockhart EMS before joining Buda Fire Department. There he continued his training and received his firefighter certification. Roger did not stop his training there. He continued to receive several certifications throughout his career, including fire apparatus operator, HAZMAT technician, and Officer 1&2 certifications. He found avenues to advise and educate his fellow firefighters in medicine to improve their skills as emergency medical services providers.

In 2018, Roger found a home at Seguin Fire Department. When he moved to Seguin, the fire chief and other firefighters quickly figured out that Roger was exceptional. He was always passionate about his community, his career, educating others in medicine and fire, and helping others in times of need. After only one year at Seguin, Roger was promoted to field training officer. He did not take this role lightly. He did more than just train new employees; he took every opportunity to train his firefighters on new medicines and new techniques in the fire service. He wanted his team and department to be ready for any call and any cry for help from the community.

On December 20, 2020, Roger ran a call on a COVID patient in respiratory distress. He had all the protective gear on and followed all of his training and COVID protocols. While intubating the patient, Roger contracted COVID. Roger became ill and was hospitalized in January of 2021. While in the hospital, he told the nurses that when he got better he was going to dedicate his life to help others that fall ill from COVID. Unfortunately, Roger passed away on April 23, 2021, due to complications from COVID.

Roger dedicated his life to not only firefighting and the world of medicine, but also the communities he served. Every person that worked with Roger gained more knowledge and experience to improve their communities. Roger's family is secure in knowing that Roger's legacy of education and training will live on in the lives of all the firefighters and paramedics he touched.



# Ross D. Estabrooks

Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Department – Texas ★ Volunteer Assistant Chief ★ November 15, 2021 ★ Age 47



Assistant Chief Ross D. Estabrooks, 47, of the Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 15, 2021, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a residential structure fire.

He was born in New Brunswick, Canada, to Ross Myers Estabrooks Sr. and Carol Estabrooks.

He was the owner of Pressure Boss Hydraulics, Inc. in Texas.

He was survived by his wife, Jennifer Shaw Estabrooks; his mother, Carol Estabrooks; daughters, Sara Love (Austin) and Rainie Mott; and six siblings. He was preceded in death by his father.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS



# James K. Hendricksen

**Pipe Creek Volunteer Fire Department – Texas ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ November 1, 2020 ★ Age 43**

James was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on May 16, 1977. He lived in Beaumont, Houston, Mobile, Ooltewah, and finally Pipe Creek. He was a loving husband, father, son, Papa, brother, and friend. He would bend over backwards for anyone. He always had a joke or smart comment to make you smile exactly when you needed it.

He graduated from Ooltewah High School in 1995. He was active in the ROTC, football, band, and BETA club. He was smart, doing math quicker in his head than you could type in a calculator.

James married his wife, Brandy, on August 10, 1997. They were married over 23 years and never stopped loving each other. They had three beautiful children, Elizabeth, Patrick, and Colton, plus two granddaughters, Charlotte and Katherine.

James graduated with a B.S. in finance with an investment track focus and a Certificate in Negotiation from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2007. He became a chartered alternative investment analyst in November 2010 and earned a Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement in January 2010.

James worked for ACA Compliance in Chattanooga, Tennessee, from 2007 to 2017. He went to work for USAA Real Co in San Antonio, Texas, in 2017, where he was a director of performance measurement.

James loved to scuba dive and was excited at any opportunity to breathe “canned air.” He did not care where the location was; if it involved a dive, he was in. Locations would include warm water, pretty fish, all the way to a freezing muck dive.

James’s love for the Pipe Creek VFD was known and understood; if tones dropped, he was on his way. Even en route to a dinner with his wife, he’d look over with that grin and say, “Sorry.” If the family was doing yard work and tones dropped, you could see him speeding down the driveway with his radio out the truck window, which was code for tones dropped.

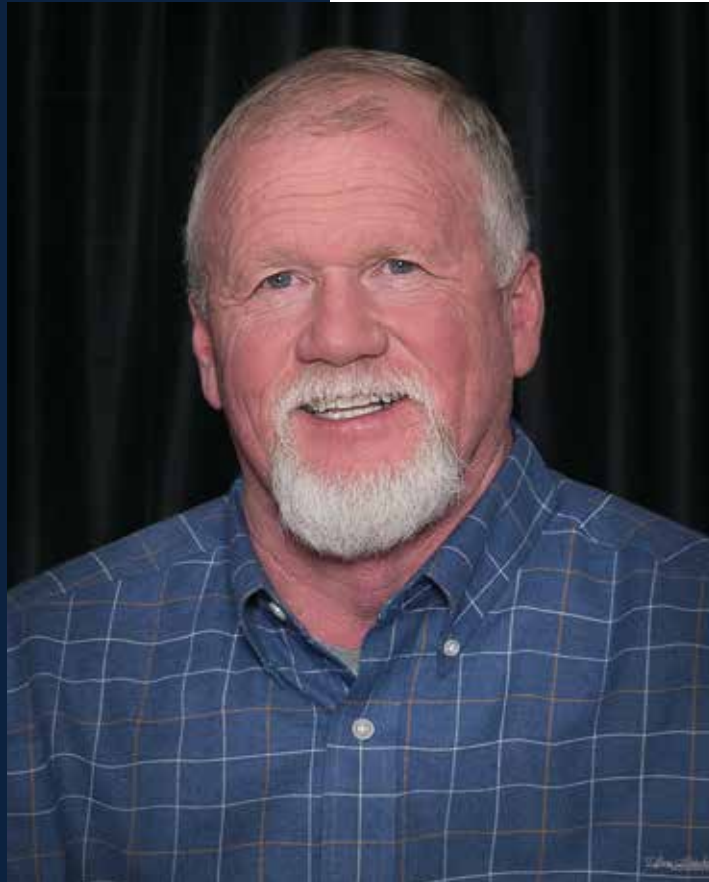
James was a rare and valuable commodity at the Pipe Creek firehouse. His infectious laugh and jolly demeanor were always needed and welcomed. Whether it was during outings or after a tough call, he made every situation easier. He loved every aspect of the fire department—the brotherhood, the fire house, the trucks, the swift water training, and the rescue dive team.

James was loved by so many. His personality was inviting, and his smile was contagious. He truly had a heart of gold. His family and friends will forever remember James as the kind, loving, giving, and funny man he was. He will forever be missed.



# Danny Ireton

Stanton Volunteer Fire Department – Texas ★ Volunteer Firefighter ★ August 4, 2021 ★ Age 61



Danny Ireton, a dedicated family man, community member, and firefighter, passed away on August 4, 2021, in Stanton, Texas, in a line-of-duty accident. He joined the Stanton Volunteer Fire Department in 1991 and spent 30 years as a proud firefighter.

He was born on March 21, 1960, in Big Spring, to Margie and Jack Ireton, and married the love of his life, Ronda Shankle, on July 3, 1982. They recently celebrated 39 years of marriage. Danny was a lifelong resident of Stanton and graduated from Stanton High School in 1978. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church in Stanton and a devout man of God. Danny and Ronda loved opening their home to friends and family and all their other sons.

He was the catalyst for multiple upgrades within the Stanton department. He became treasurer and found grants that helped purchase multiple new fire trucks and equipment and spearheaded a new building for the department. He enjoyed giving out candy during the trick-or-treat event and made sure the ladder truck and American flag were present at Stanton High School football games.

As a founding member of the First Down Club, he was one of the biggest Stanton Buffalo supporters and made sure that he was heard wherever he sat. He worked at White Motor Company, starting in 1981 as a shop foreman, and moved up to dealer in 1995. He made sure countless cheerleaders and groups had vehicles for the Old Settlers Reunion. He served many years on the Stanton School Board and strived to make his community better. His greatest joys in life were traveling with his wife, being a dad to his boys, and being Goat to his grandkids. He might have also enjoyed pestering the town and being an Old Sorehead.

The ones tasked at carrying on his legacy include his wife, Ronda, of Stanton; three sons, Brandon and wife Jordan of Stanton, Matthew and wife Mellanie of Levelland, and Jonathan and wife Christina of Aledo. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Hailyn, Jack, Hudson, Hunter, Graham, Eleanor, and Henry; one brother, Dennis Ireton, and wife Judy of Stanton; one brother-in-law, Phillip Shankle, and wife Linda; nieces and nephews, Casey and Mike Waggoner, A.J. and Meagan Ireton, J.R. Shankle, and Tiffany Shankle; along with great nieces and nephews.

# Joseph Andrew Mitchell

**City of Converse Fire Department – Texas ★ Career Firefighter/Paramedic ★ December 11, 2020 ★ Age 37**

Those who live shorter lives should have the freedom to live as big as they choose. At 6' 8", Joseph was no exception. He was "Tall Man" to his wife, Rochelle, and a hero to his twins, Paul and Lillie.

On the anniversary of 9/11, Joseph began his fire career volunteering in small towns outside of San Antonio. While working as a journeyman plumber, and shortly after getting married, he graduated Top Cadet of his class in fire school at San Antonio College Regional Fire Academy.

Joseph's dreams of becoming a career fireman were in the making as he volunteered with Bexar Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department and gained experience to pursue his EMT-B and EMT-P at Bulverde Spring Branch EMS. After a short time in the oil field as a paramedic, he joined the City of Converse Fire Department and achieved his dream of becoming a career firefighter/paramedic. Following his passion for physical fitness, Joseph pursued and received his certification with IAFF/IAFC Peer Fitness Trainer (PFT) program and was eager to put together a health program for his department to benefit his fellow firefighters.

Joseph was incredibly talented. He built homes, motorcycles, cars, and the like. He was a plumber, welder, carpenter, fabricator, and entrepreneur. From being an avid bowler with his father and brother to owning a motorcycle shop with his business partners and friends, Joseph was never one to slow down. Unapologetic, outspoken, and a jokester, he knew how to make others laugh. He sang, wrote music, played guitar, and knew how to tick off the neighbors by practicing his whip cracking skills.

Before he died, Joseph was a prospective member in an organization called Guardians of the Children, whose mission is to recognize and react to child abuse and to educate the public to do the same. He will forever be remembered by his road name, Guardian "Stitch."

Joseph was a runner prior to his health decline and enjoyed running races to support many charitable organizations. His family and friends have started a not-for-profit organization called the Joseph Mitchell Memorial to help raise financial support for those seeking a career as a first responder. Each year they host a 5K in Converse, Texas, to raise funds for first responder scholarships.

Joseph will not be forgotten, but will live on through family and friends and those helped by the Joseph Mitchell Memorial.

*Rise up... take courage and do it. Ezra 10:4*  
In the words of Joseph, "We're goin'!"



# Dylan B. Rodiek

Jollyville Fire Department – Texas ★ Career Firefighter/EMT ★ August 16, 2021 ★ Age 35



In 2020, Dylan decided to switch careers and become a firefighter. He worked diligently to earn his EMT certification and graduated from the fire academy in his mid-30s, holding his own and often exceeding much younger cadets in his class. Even there, Dylan's true character was evident, as his home soon became the study hall and training camp for his peers, who looked to him as a companion, friend, and leader.

Dylan joined the Jollyville Fire Department in March 2021. He would gleefully call on his way home from his shift to discuss training, new hoses, hose pressure, driving techniques, or the folks he was able to help in emergencies. It was thrilling to hear him tell the story of fighting his first fire.

On the morning of August 16, 2021, Dylan died in the line of duty. His early passage is a tragedy for the countless people he cared for, befriended, and protected to the best of his abilities. Dylan Brooks Rodiek was someone who brought joy merely by his presence and cemented it with his words and action.

His memory will be cherished by his wife, two daughters, mother, father, brother, family, and friends.

Rest In Peace.

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



# Wesley Vandever

**Sugar Hill Volunteer Fire Department – Texas ★ Volunteer Captain ★ October 27, 2021 ★ Age 86**

Wesley Vandever died after suffering a medical emergency at the scene of a residential structure fire.

Born in Osage, Oklahoma, in 1935, he served as pastor of Church of God of Prophecy in Sugar Hill, Texas, from 1972-2021.

He was survived by his daughter, Pamela Posey (Terry); his son, Brad Vandever (Wanda); his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Oleta Vandever; his parents, Alvin and Arlie Vandever; and 10 siblings.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Danny Dean Watkins

San Benito Fire Department – Texas ★ Career Chief ★ January 12, 2021 ★ Age 67



I remember walks on the beach and silent nights when words were not necessary, because the love that we shared was understood. I remember a father who loved his two sons beyond measure. Our sons grew up with a father who was at every football game, every event of significance, and at church every Sunday morning when he was not working. I remember a man who loved his grandson, Parker, as the apple of his eye. I know in heaven he is beyond himself with joy as he sees Liam, the newest addition to our family, snuggling in his mom's and dad's arms as they seek to love him as tenderly and wonderfully as Dad cared for his own sons.

I remember a man who stayed with my mother through her cancer treatments at MD Anderson while at the same time trying to study for the next promotional exam. I remember the man that built his own mother a house, worked with skilled hands to plant gardens for her, and gave her the best life possible as she faced her own life-ending battle with this same disease. I remember a man who was everything to his family and friends. I remember a man who loved God, lived courageously, and was known by everyone as a man of integrity and faith. He was fun, he was loved, and our hearts are filled with the incredible joy that he lived his life well.

My husband served with courage, commitment, and character with the Houston Fire Department during his 34-year distinguished career. Graduating from the HFD Fire Academy at Houston Community College in October 1978, Danny pursued excellence throughout his career in his roles of firefighter, engineer operator, junior captain, senior captain, and district chief. After his career with HFD, he was given the opportunity to share his passion, experience, and love for firefighting with a new family of firefighters as the fire chief for the City of San Benito. However, in November and December of 2020, COVID began a rampant attack upon the

firefighters of his department, leading ultimately to my husband's line-of-duty diagnosis of this disease. COVID overtook his strength, but not his courage. His "last call" came just after midnight on January 12, 2021.

Chief Danny Dean Watkins was a man of courage, commitment, and honor. The light of his life continues to shine in the lives of those he loved—his family, friends, and most of all his beloved brotherhood of firefighters. For this, we shall be forever grateful.

# Kasey L. Callwood

**US Virgin Islands Fire Service – US Virgin Islands ★ Career Firefighter ★ November 22, 2021 ★ Age 31**

Born here in our beautiful US Virgin Islands, Kasey Lamar Callwood entered the world at exactly 12:34 AM on January 31, 1990, to Louwesina Alcindor and Karl Callwood. It was evident even then that Kasey would be quite the handful, constantly moving and wanting to explore every inch of his new world.

Kasey L. Callwood attended Tutu Headstart from the age of two to the age of five. He then attended Kirwan Terrence Elementary School from 1995 to 2005, Addelita Cancryn Junior High School from 2005 to 2007, and Charlotte Amalie High School in 2007. In 2009, Kasey successfully acquired his General Equivalency Diploma.

Moving onward and upward, Kasey L. Callwood, driven to realize his full potential, enlisted in the National Guard on July 6, 2012, which he knew was not Mommy's first choice, firmly stating to Louwesina Alcindor, "Liz, don't say nothing. I don't want to hear it." His areas of specialty were construction, masonry, and heavy construction equipment operations. As expected, Kasey excelled admirably. He was honorably discharged from active duty on January 8, 2017, as Specialist Kasey L. Callwood. Today we remember Kasey as Firefighter/Emergency Medical Rescue Officer Kasey L. Callwood of Lima Company and member of the Virgin Islands Fire Squad Class of 2019, Squad B. Having earned his National EMS Certification, Kasey was now anticipating yet another venture toward excellence with his next goal to become an emergency medical technician.

Louwesina Alcindor, Karl Callwood, Annakiya Hatchett, loved ones, friends, brethren, and peers, please be reassured, be validated, be truly comforted in knowing that God gave you someone, gave us all someone, but just for a moment in time. He was, and is in Spirit, a tremendous, uniquely empowering beam of light, driven with ambition, gifted, disciplined, and benevolently dedicated to human service and realizing your fullest potential.



# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# Christopher G. Griffin

Norfolk Fire-Rescue – Virginia ★ Career Firefighter ★ October 1, 2021 ★ Age 50



Chris was a loving husband to Aimee and a devoted father to David. They were everything to him, and he loved them more than anything else in his life. Chris was a son, son-in-law, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, and best friend to many beloved family members and friends. He was a pilot, a 3rd Degree Mason, a fixer of all things. Chris died from glioblastoma brain cancer on October 1, 2021.

Chris had a skill of being able to take something apart and put it back together. He proved this by taking a carburetor apart and putting it back together at age six. He loved to lend a helping hand wherever he could to try to help someone. Chris would say, "I'm a jack of all trades and master of none."

At age 14, Chris joined Chinchilla Hose Company as a junior volunteer firefighter. Firefighting was a passion that he fell in love with at a young age and carried throughout his life. Chris served as lieutenant, captain, assistant master mechanic, assistant chief, and fire chief during his time with Chinchilla. Of the many accomplishments during his time as chief, he was most proud of obtaining Knox Boxes for area businesses to make it easier for the department on calls.

Chris had the biggest smile and a huge sense of humor; he loved to make people laugh. He had a way of telling a story or being sarcastic and joking without you knowing if he was being serious or not. His favorite jokes were, "I had a dream last night that I was a muffler, and I woke up exhausted." When he would see a large fan, he would say, "That's one of my biggest fans." When his son David was little and needed to use the bathroom, Chris would tell him, "Mention my name and you'll get a good seat."

Chris was a dedicated firefighter with a strong work ethic. He started with the City of Norfolk Fire-Rescue Division in 2012. Chris's favorite station assignment was on the water in Ocean View. In the morning, he sent pictures of the beach to Aimee, saying what a rough life and horrible job he had with those views. Sarcasically, of course, because he loved his job as a firefighter. Chris was fixed apparatus operator of Engine 7, which was his last official assignment with Norfolk Fire-Rescue. Right up until the end, he was still telling people that he just had to get over this brain cancer hurdle, and then he would be back to work at the fire house. Chris was a true fireman; his passion for the job was unmistakable. He brought joy and laughter to everyone around him. There will always be a void in our lives going forward without Chris's smile, love, and laughter.



# Henry John Neyhouse

**Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Fire & Rescue Department – Virginia  
Career Firefighter ★ August 29, 2019 ★ Age 58**

John passed away on August 29, 2019, after a two-year battle with 9/11-related cancer.

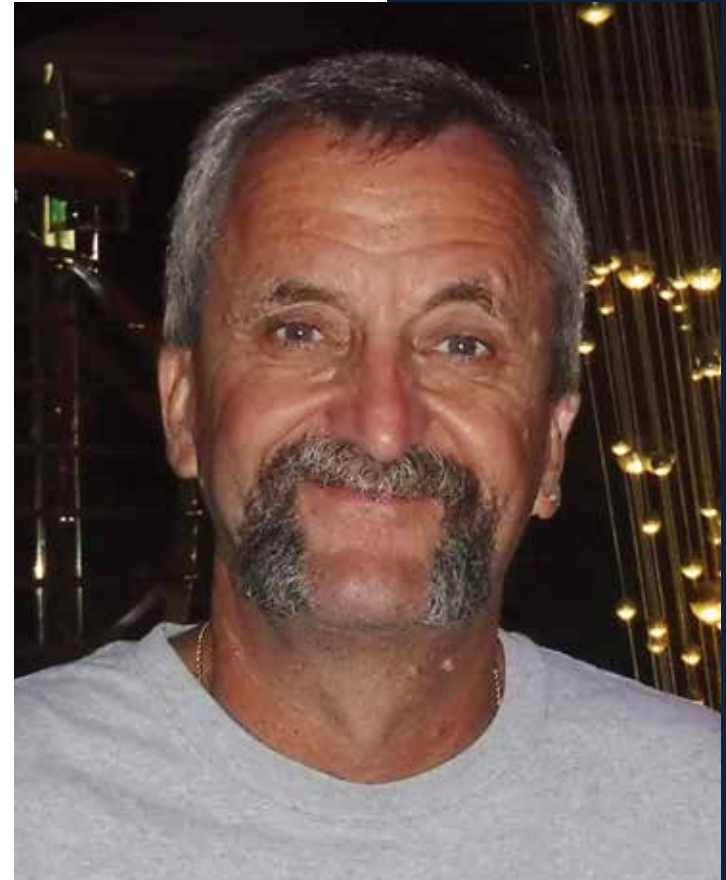
John joined the Occoquan, Woodbridge, Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (OWL) in 1979, at age 18. He became an active member, beginning a lifelong journey with OWL and pointing him toward his professional career as a firefighter. At OWL, he served as a firefighter, EMT, driver/operator, fire sergeant, fire lieutenant, board member, and station vice president. He attained Life Member status in 1999 and was respected as the classic “crusty” senior man, a firefighter’s firefighter. In 1998, he received the prestigious Betty Limerick Award for extended service to the department.

Active in IAFF Local 3217, John stood up not only for his own convictions, but shoulder to shoulder for his fellow union brethren when he saw injustices being perpetrated. He was a true leader in every sense of the word.

John began his career as a firefighter on July 8, 1985, with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority at Washington Dulles International Airport. John quickly adapted to his role as a firefighter/EMT while establishing heartfelt friendships with his shift coworkers. His skill set and abilities were recognized by his peers and supervisors. John never shied away from the challenges of the job. He was at the forefront of many incidents, with his aggressive approach in mitigating the situation.

John’s largest attributes were his caring personality towards his coworkers and his ability to train others. He prided himself on working with new employees on probationary development and career advancement. He had a strong knowledge of airport operations, aircraft, aircraft firefighting, and apparatus operations. John had the personality to get the best out of an individual through training and everyday discussions. He was promoted to technician and served as a team leader and shift trainer. He developed training programs and implemented new Heavy Tactical Rescue (HTR) techniques, oversaw the development of new personnel, and mentored team members in managing and mitigating these types of incidents. John was promoted and excelled in the position of shift commander support technician. His attention to detail, daily staffing, apparatus movement, and emergency incident management made him the standard for others to follow.

John loved and enjoyed the fire service and was respected and loved by his coworkers and supervisors. He was respectful and kind, strong tempered and opinionated when needed, but he delivered those emotions in a caring way. John was a mentor, a brother, a friend to all, and loved by so many.



# Jeff Phipps

Hanover County Fire-EMS Department – Virginia ★ Career Battalion Chief ★ July 18, 2021 ★ Age 50



Lawrence “Jeff” Phipps began his fire service career in 1985 as a volunteer firefighter, following in the footsteps of his father, who was a career firefighter. Jeff became a career firefighter with Hanover County Fire-EMS Department in 1996 and spent time assigned to the fire marshal’s office and the training division before serving many years as a battalion chief in operations. Over the years, Jeff became the senior battalion chief and was known for his strong firefighting tactics and command presence.

Jeff went for a colonoscopy after his 50th birthday, and an aggressive form of colon cancer was discovered. Jeff lost his battle with cancer on July 18, 2021, four months after his initial diagnosis. During his battle, Jeff advocated for other department members to get a colonoscopy and saved several others when issues were discovered early, allowing early treatment and full recoveries. Today, Jeff’s legacy in the fire service carries on with his son, Jeffery, continuing the family tradition by serving with Hanover Fire-EMS.

FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# Luis Ignacio Batayola

**Seattle Fire Department – Washington ★ Career Lieutenant ★ November 24, 2021 ★ Age 63**

Our beloved Luis Batayola died November 24, 2021, at age 63, with his wife and daughters by his side, after complications of respiratory failure and relapse of MDS (an aggressive blood cancer). Diagnosed in July of 2019, Louie began to undergo treatment for cancer, and in January of 2020, he received a stem cell transplant from his sister, Teresita. This gift gave Louie another year and a half with his now referred to “zoom” family.

Louie was born in Manila, Philippines, on December 31, 1957. In 1969, he immigrated to Seattle with his parents and sisters, and in 1972, at age 14, he became a U.S. citizen. Adjusting and adapting to this culture, he learned new ways to get by; being the “new kid” was tough. He quickly learned to hold his own and retain his independent spirit and voice. His paper route in the U-District/Roosevelt neighborhood was the start to hard work and routine and, at age 16, he began living on his own.

Louie graduated from Roosevelt High School in the Class of '76. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1978, while attending college, and then worked for Metro as a bus driver. In 1984, Louie began working for the Seattle Fire Department, and just a year later, in 1985, he met his wife, Martine.

Travel, children, friends, and good meals came easy. He also enjoyed volunteering in the International District Emergency Center and at various community events. Louie joined the Seattle/King County Disaster Team and returned to the Philippines to help with aid and rescue efforts in 1991 after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. The team had the opportunity to meet President Cory Aquino, who graciously thanked the team members and mentioned to Louie he should practice his Tagalog.

Louie loved and cared for his family deeply, providing many opportunities. He also dedicated 37 years of his life to serving the residents of Seattle as a firefighter, helping with all types of trainings, teaching and leading as he could with the many hats he wore. He always did his best to look out for “his crew” at home or at work.

“Louie was a person with a whole life. He was a silly, funny, sad, angry, happy, and fun guy. He was our dad.”

Louie is survived by his wife and partner of 36 years, Martine Koban; and their daughters, Amelia and Isabelle (Brett); his mother, Dolores; sisters, Teresita (Dionnie) and Maria (Bill); nieces and nephews, Gabriela, Ariana, James, and their partners; Grace Tan and family; and Martine’s sisters, Andree-Marie Koban and Corinne Hagen and their families.



# William Cababat Jr.

Seattle Fire Department – Washington ★ Career Lieutenant ★ September 1, 2021 ★ Age 55



Seattle Fire Lieutenant William “Willy” Cababat Jr. was 55 years old when he died at home on September 1, 2021, after a 3 ½ year battle with occupational related cancer. Willy was surrounded in love by his wife, Carrie, and his children, Kalai, Jaynani, Inoa, and Keilana, when he left this earth to be with Jesus. Willy is also survived by his son, Kalena, and daughter, Ashley.

Willy worked for the Seattle Fire Department for over 31 years. He loved his job, the people he worked with, and the citizens he served. Willy always felt that it was his honor to help others who were potentially having their worst day. He not only diligently worked at his own station but was always ready and willing to help at other stations, do extra training, and work special events. Willy’s favorite moments in the department were spent around the “beanery” table with his on-shift family, talking and sharing a meal. He always said that he learned more there than anywhere else.

Willy’s commitment to his fire family went beyond his job responsibilities. He made it his purpose to be the best leader he could, a friend ready to listen, and an example to those he served beside. His son, Kalai, has followed in his father’s footsteps and serves the Seattle Fire Department as well.

As his family, we are proud of the work Willy dedicated himself to. In the time before his death, we were grateful for the moments that we had with him and watched in awe as he walked courageously to his death. Willy was a strong, dignified, and loving man. His continuous illustration of love, hard work, and passion for everything that he cared about will be his legacy through all those that knew him. We love him and miss him very much but have great comfort in knowing that we will be with him again.

# FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



# James E. Krouse

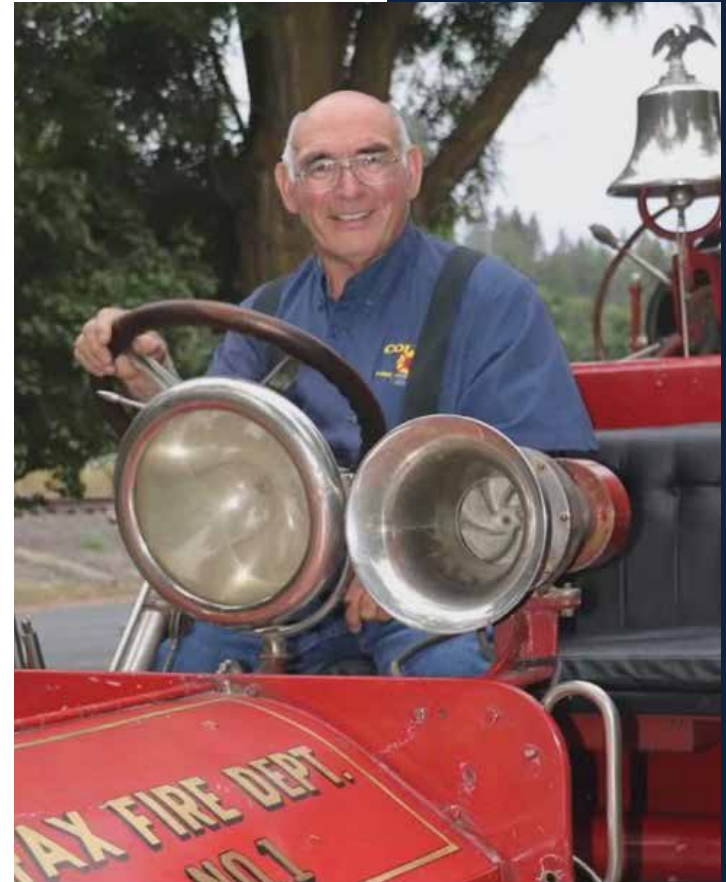
**Whitman County Fire District #11, Colfax Fire Department – Washington  
Volunteer Firefighter ★ August 28, 2021 ★ Age 76**

James Earl Krouse, 76, longtime Colfax fire chief, passed away doing what he loved to do, serving his community. Jim collapsed while fighting a wildfire just on the outskirts of town and was rushed to Whitman Hospital by his fellow firefighters, where he died of an apparent heart attack.

He followed in his father's footsteps when he joined the Colfax Volunteer Fire Department in 1967. Jim epitomized what it meant to be a volunteer. He gave back to his community in the most unselfish acts of service, often at the expense of family fishing trips or backyard birthday parties, and never gave it a second thought. He was elected chief of department in 1973 and served in that capacity for 40 years. At the time of his death, Jim was chief emeritus and continued to answer more calls for service than most. He lived for, loved, and thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the fire department. His legacy of service to his community is long and distinguished, but it is also worth noting how much he loved his family, his God, and his neighbors and friends. Jim was humble and kind. Lifelong friendships and relationships abounded, as Chief Krouse was a leader, a teacher, a mentor, and a friend to so many in fire service that it was like one great big family.

He was very much a family man, devoted to his wife and kids. He loved spending time with his grandkids, and you could see his eyes light up each time he spoke of the great-grands. He was active in the Colfax Church of Nazarene and a member of Gideons. In later years, he really enjoyed tending his large garden and taking care of "the farm," his little two-acre patch that he truly loved. Some of Jim's most treasured memories were of hunting camp in the rugged canyons of the Blue Mountains. He enjoyed many seasons of packing in with the same group of guys and each helping the others with the season's bounty. He liked to tell hunting or fishing stories with anyone he could. He looked after his wife, Elaine, with the love and devotion of a caring husband, and they enjoyed going for drives, camping, or canning peaches together. Being together was the point.

Jim's legacy will be long-lived in Colfax, and he will be missed by many in this community. He is especially missed by his wife of 54 years, Elaine; his son, Daniel, and his wife, Sheila Krouse; his daughter, Lynda, and her husband, Rich Kramlich; his foster daughter, Kim Clark; his eight grandchildren, of whom he was so proud; his six great-grandchildren; his sister, Kathy, and her husband, Jerry Vosberg; as well as numerous extended family and friends.



# Cody S. Traber

Spokane County Fire District 9 – Washington ★ Career Lieutenant ★ August 26, 2021 ★ Age 41



Cody was a devoted family man and dedicated firefighter. He was born in Seward, Alaska, on January 27, 1980. Growing up, he enjoyed ATVs, snowmobiling, and fishing. He died in a line-of-duty accident on August 26, 2021.

Cody's family moved to eastern Washington in 1992, where he began his 18-year career in the fire service. Cody held an AA degree in fire science and a BA in communications. Prior to employment with Fire District 9, he worked part-time for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as an engine lead. He volunteered for Stevens County FD #1, Spokane County FD #4, Cheney FD, and Kittitas County FD. He was active with all levels of training, including structural firefighting and medical. Wildland firefighting was his passion. Cody was a nationally qualified line safety officer and served on Washington Interagency Management Team #12. He was a qualified heavy equipment boss, leading dozers in firefights in the wildland urban interface across eastern Washington. He coordinated the District 9 Wildfire Training Program and served as drillmaster for the North Spokane Volunteer Firefighter Recruit School.

Cody became a paramedic in 2008 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2015. He is described as "the firefighter of firefighters" and was one of the first to step up when asked to help in any way. Fellow firefighters relate stories of how he was a great, supportive friend. If he knew of a need, he would help you with it, no questions asked and no expectation of a payback. He raised money to help send the family of a fellow firefighter to Ireland as the mother's dying wish.

Cody loved to tease and had a great sense of humor. People loved being around him. This fun-loving, kind, and generous spirit was evident in the way Cody was with his family. He married Allisyn on December 9, 2011. They had four children, Coen, Bentley, Cayden, and Rielle. Cody made every day and every activity a fun-

filled time. Cody's father taught him construction skills, and he spent many hours working on their home and lake cabin, where he taught his children water sports. He loved celebrating holidays, BBQs on the 4th of July, pulling the kids in a trailer around the neighborhood for trick or treating, and going to the woods for a Christmas tree with hot chocolate and sledding.

Cody welcomed everyone and was inclusive of all. He was always there for his family, friends, and coworkers. His service to others and love for life and his family and friends will be a treasured memory. He will be greatly missed.

# Charles Wesley Miller Jr.

**Albright Volunteer Fire Department – West Virginia ★ Volunteer Captain ★ April 4, 2021 ★ Age 62**

Charles W. “Chuck” Miller Jr., 62, of Kingwood, West Virginia, was born December 19, 1958, in Painesville, Ohio. Chuck had a heart the size of Texas and loved helping people any way that he could.

He joined the Albright Volunteer Fire Department in early 1992 and was a dedicated member for over 29 years. Chuck was also a member of other departments such as Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, KAMP Ambulance, Valley Ambulance, Mountaineer Ambulance, and the Preston County Dive Team.

He held the following positions while a member of the Albright Fire Department: chief engineer, lieutenant, captain, assistant fire chief, and fire chief. At the time of his passing, he held the rank of company captain.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Carrie M. Miller; two sons, Jason N. Miller of Kingwood, WV, and Stoney L. Miller of Newburg, WV; and a sister, Sharon L. Sigley of Albright, WV. He was preceded in death by a brother, Michael L. Miller of Albright, WV.

Chuck, as he was known to most, was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and friend to all who knew him.

Chuck had been a truck driver for over 30 years. He did over-the-road trucking and drove local dump trucks for Jenkins Trucking and G&B Trucking. He also drove a bus for Cheat River Outfitters during rafting trips on the Cheat River in Preston County, West Virginia.

He enjoyed going on side-by-side rides with his family and friends, hunting, and spending time with and helping family.

He was a friend, a firefighter, a community leader, and a beloved West Virginian.



FOREVER  
IN OUR HEARTS

# David J. Tomlinson

**Poynette-Dekorra Fire Department – Wisconsin**

**Volunteer Firefighter/Fire Inspector ★ December 6, 2020 ★ Age 71**



Dave was born December 3, 1949, in Poynette, Wisconsin. He graduated from Poynette High School in 1968. After graduation, he was drafted into the Army and spent two years serving his country, the last year in Vietnam. He was very proud of being a Vietnam veteran.

He returned to Poynette after his service, married his high school sweetheart, and they had two children who were the apple of his eye. Dave worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 32 years. Even though most of those years he worked the third shift, he still found time to be union president for the post office, coach his son's Little League team, and help his daughter with softball before the start of each season.

Dave joined the Poynette-Dekorra Fire Department in 1984. He came from a long line of firemen. His father and brother were both fire chiefs, and many other family members were in the department. Dave served on the department for 31 years and was treasurer for many years. He was awarded Fireman of the Year in 1989. His last several years he was also appointed fire inspector. He took great pride in the bi-yearly inspections he always completed. One of his favorite times of the year was Fire Prevention Week. He loved having the elementary school kids come up to the fire station so he could show them the duties of being a fireman.

Dave loved his family and especially his four grandsons. He coached his grandsons' baseball teams and never missed a basketball game or tournament. He was known at the games as the stat man. He could be seen carrying his clipboard around and keeping track of all points and plays throughout the games. He also loved being a Cubs season ticket holder, along with his son. They spent many days at the ballfield and traveled the country going to all the stadiums where the Cubs played.

Dave's second family was the fire department. He never missed trainings or conferences and always wanted to be the best he could at serving his department, the community, and his fellow firemen. While doing fire inspections in November 2020, he contracted COVID and lost his life on December 6, 2020. Unfortunately, Dave never got the opportunity to receive the vaccine, as it was approved three weeks after his death.

Since his death, he has received many honors and tributes that bring comfort to his wife of 50 years, Jane; daughter, Stacy (Jeff) Rowe and their children, Brandon and Jacob; son, Aaron (Monica) Tomlinson, and their children, Zachary and Noah; and many family members and friends.



# Tim David Hart

**West Yellowstone Interagency Fire Center – Wyoming**  
**Career Smokejumper/Firefighter ★ June 2, 2021 ★ Age 36**

Tim David Hart was born into fire. He grew up in Illinois, where his father was a volunteer firefighter. He majored in forestry at SIU, where he was introduced to wildland firefighting. After graduating with his master's in forestry, it became his full-time career and lifelong passion. He spent his 16-year career in a variety of positions across the country, including the Asheville Hotshots, Augusta Hotshots, and Ruby Mountain Hotshots. He got his dream chance to become a smokejumper in Grangeville, Idaho, in 2016, and in 2019 moved to the West Yellowstone Smokejumpers.

But Tim was so much more than the job he loved. He was a brother to his older sister, Meg. They shared a love of pranks, irreverent humor, and the Chicago Bears. His Pa was David Gene Hart, whom Tim was named after. Tim deeply admired his father and sought to make him proud in his life after he passed away when Tim was 18. His mother, Pamela, was a constant presence in his life, and Tim always made sure that she was taken care of.

Cody, Wyoming, became his home in the off season and was where Tim and I met in 2016. We married on Friday, December 13, 2019, an apt nod to the holiday that we both loved. We moved to our dream home on four acres, finally fulfilling a wish that Tim had always had, living on the south fork of the Shoshone River in the shadow of Carter Mountain.

Tim loved rye whiskey. In fact, if there was a word stronger than love, it would probably be more accurate. It was his dream that someday he would make his illegal whiskey operation legitimate. He took immense care and pride in his whiskey; he would double distill each batch, tasting and retasting his new runs to find the right cut off to the heads and tails, choosing the perfect wood to age it on, and then having the willpower to not touch it for at least two years. It was a passion that went further than a hobby, as most of Tim's interests did. He lived the motto, "Why do something at all if you are not going to go in 100%?" He was a skilled woodworker, taught himself to hunt and weld, was an accomplished baker, played the banjo, and studied German in his free time.

Tim was quiet but funny, and when he said something, you knew you wanted to listen because it was usually sarcastic and witty. He loved a long-con and practical jokes, even if he was the only one that would know about it. He didn't care to impress people; he only lived up to his own standards. He fought for his beliefs. Tim lived every day of his life fully and was unapologetically himself.



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**12th Annual Geneva National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament**

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**14th Annual Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament**

**14th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament hosted by Raleigh Fire Department**

**14th Annual Greater Monroe County National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament**

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**Four Corners 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Gem City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Grand Rapids 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Greenville City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Highland County 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K Walk**

**Imperial Valley 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Kalamazoo 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

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**Princeton 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Richmond 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K Walk**

**Salt River Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

**Springfield Area 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

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“The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is truly grateful for the generosity of our many supporters, volunteers, fire service escorts, pipes and drums, and honor guard members who honor our nation’s fallen firefighters in so many meaningful ways.”

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

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**National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**

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