

ALABAMA

Roger Bryant McEwen, Sr., 52, a member of the Hanover Volunteer Fire Department since its inception, died of a massive heart attack on July 4, 1999, while fighting a trailer fire. A local rancher, McEwen was 1999 Cattleman of the Year in Coosce County. He also served as a captain and mechanics officer with the Hanover department.

A pillar of the community, to know him was to love him.

ARKANSAS

Wade Meshell, 30, a 10-year volunteer with the Huttig Fire Department, died on August 16, 1999, from severe burns suffered eight days earlier while fighting a motor home fire. He had worked as a machine operator at a local sawmill.

He loved hunting, fishing, and baseball, and his family was everything to him.

Jerry Wayne Ramey, 18, a volunteer firefighter trainee with the West Fork Fire Department, died on November 3, 1999, when he came in contact with a downed power line at a reported brush fire. He decided to join the department after seeing their response when his brother collapsed and died while playing in a high school football game a year earlier.

He was a most charming and loving young man with an irresistible personality.

Martin Wauson, 55, a 20-year veteran of the USDA Forest Service, died on January 11, 1999, of a heart attack while participating in an annual re-qualification test for seasonal firefighting duty. He had worked on the Magazine Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests in Russellville since 1992.

He loved serving his country any way he could.

CALIFORNIA

Matthew Eric Black, 20, a volunteer with the Lakeport Fire Protection District, died on June 23, 1999, when he accidentally came in contact with a downed power line during operations at a grass fire. His older brother is also a firefighter.

He had a great sense of humor and could always make people laugh.

Stephen Joseph Masto, 28, a career firefighter with the Santa Barbara Fire Department, died on August 28, 1999, of heatstroke while working as an EMT at a wildland fire. He received the Outstanding Cadet Award at Rio Hondo Fire Academy and received a service award as a volunteer at Upland Fire Department.

He radiated life and confidence, was a good listener, and made everyone around him feel unique and special.

Tom Moore, 38, a career firefighter with the Manteca Fire Department, died on June 16, 1999, after suffering severe trauma in a training tower fall. He had served with the department for over 14 years and was a well-known fire service instructor specializing in heavy/confined space rescue and hazardous materials.

Remembered as a compassionate worker, dedicated firefighter, and empathetic friend. Admired for his sense of humor, devotion to God, and commitment to family.

Karen J. Savage, 44, a volunteer firefighter/EMT with Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire Department in Burnt Ranch, died on October 16, 1999 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident at the scene of a wildland fire.

She is a hero in the truest sense of the word. Her sacrifice and bravery will be remembered forever.

CALIFORNIA (CONT.)

Martin Michael Stiles, 40, a California Department of Corrections inmate assigned to the Los Angeles County Fire Department Strike Team, died on July 18, 1999, of injuries from a fall while working at a wildland fire in Ventura County, California. A San Diego native, he was dedicated to wildland firefighting and loved the outdoors.

He was thoughtful, kind, giving and had a good heart. He had a smile that could light up a room.

Tracy Dolan Toomey, 52, a 27-year veteran firefighter with the Oakland Fire Department, died on January 10, 1999, in the collapse of a burning building. A Vietnam veteran, he was an avid welder and a member of the California Artistic Blacksmith's Association.

He was a wonderful husband and father... our hero.

CONNECTICUT

Walter J. Flyntz, 44, a 10-year veteran with the Bridgeport Fire Department, died on March 17, 1999, after suffering a heart attack at an apartment building fire. He was a member of the local Historical Society.

His love of cooking and golf was surpassed only by his love and desire to help others.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Louis J. Matthews, 29, a seven-year career firefighter with the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department, died on May 31, 1999, from burns sustained during a townhouse fire the previous day. A second firefighter died in the same incident. It was the department's first multiple line-of-duty death in over 90 years.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (CONT.)

Anthony Sean "Sauce" Phillips, Sr., 30, a three-year career District of Columbia firefighter, died on May 30, 1999, from burns sustained in the townhouse fire. Phillips worked at Engine Company 10, one of the busiest stations in the country.

A dedicated man of God, son, brother, husband, father, and firefighter, he made a difference in the lives of everyone in his path.

Costello N. "The Colonel" Robinson, 64, the most senior active career firefighter with the District of Columbia, died on July 9, 1999, from a heart attack while awaiting surgery for injuries sustained at a fire call. The 36-year veteran was a master "wagon driver." Also active in the Civil Air Patrol, Robinson was promoted to Colonel when he assumed command of Headquarters, National Capital Wing.

Remembered as a family man and father figure by all who served alongside him, he was a born teacher who never forgot the value of a hard day's work or the meaning of courage.

FLORIDA

David T. Nall, 40, a four-year veteran with the Town of Jay Volunteer Fire Department, died on August 26, 1999, after collapsing at the scene of an emergency medical incident. As Assistant Chief, he started a junior firefighter program and began an Explorer Post in the department. He was also a member of Santa Rosa County Search and Rescue.

A major responder and one of the most active members of his department, he is dearly missed.

GEORGIA

Lewis Edward Williams, 47, a 17-year volunteer with Fort Oglethorpe Fire and Rescue, died on May 14, 1999, of a heart attack while working at the scene of a trench collapse rescue. A decorated U. S. Navy veteran, Williams was Fort Oglethorpe's Firefighter of the Year in 1988.

Although achieving much through his career, his most prestigious accomplishment was undeniably being a good husband to his wife and father to his 3 children.

ILLINOIS

Ralph J. Loyd, 90, a volunteer with Greenville Fire Protection District, died on February 4, 1999, of a stroke after responding to a grain elevator fire. He began serving as a firefighter in 1928 and had served the community continuously for 71 years.

Believed to have been the oldest active volunteer firefighter in Illinois, he was able to do what he loved until he died.

Wayne R. Luecht, 47, an Assistant Chief with the Northbrook Fire Department, died on June 21, 1999, from burns suffered 10 days earlier at an electrical explosion in a local shopping mall. Luecht was the department's fire marshal and Assistant Chief of the Fire and Burn Bureau. He was an active member of many fire service organizations.

He was warm-hearted, he was jovial, and he never said no when he was asked to take on extra duties. He was a dedicated individual who loved the fire service and people.

Arthur A. Tullis, 61, Chief of the LaGrange Park Fire Department, died on May 4, 1999, of a heart attack at the scene of a false alarm. He had been a member of the department for more than 35 years, serving as chief for the last 12 years. Tullis received special recognition for his efforts following a train collision in 1977.

Although the fire service was his second job, it was always his first love.

INDIANA

Brian Keith Burnett, 23, a member of the Scipio Township Volunteer Fire Department in La Porte, was critically injured on October 28, 1999, in an apparatus accident while responding to a grass fire. He died three months later on January 22, 2000. His family asked that he be honored with fellow firefighter Robert Ulrich who died from injuries sustained in the same accident.

A 1995 graduate of Michigan City High School.

Jason Allen Gouckenour, 22, a member of the Worthington-Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department, died on January 9, 1999, while battling a house fire. The roof collapsed and trapped this popular firefighter nicknamed "Frog." A self-employed diesel mechanic, he helped the department transform a tractor-type truck into a 4,000 gallon tanker.

A dedicated firefighter, he had a great passion for people and liked to help his fellow man.

Terri LeAnn Hood, 31, a member of the McCulloch Volunteer Fire Department, died on September 15, 1999, when a fire truck struck her at the scene of a wildland fire during heavy smoke conditions. Hood devoted much of her time to community volunteer and charity work.

Firm-loving, Christian, and community-minded, she lived life to its fullest.

Robert C. Ulrich, 57, a 16-year member of the Scipio Township Volunteer Fire Department in La Porte, died on November 4, 1999, from injuries sustained while responding to a grass fire on October 28, 1999. Ulrich was President of Ulrich & Son Construction. A former Marine, he worked with local youth scouting organizations.

His greatest love and joy was his family. His very busy schedule always made time for his passion and devotion to assisting others.

IOWA

Jason L. Bitting, 29, a career firefighter with the Keokuk Fire Department, died on December 22, 1999, when a flashover trapped him and two other firefighters as they tried to rescue children from a structure fire. All three firefighters and three of the children died. Bitting, a six-year veteran and certified first responder, helped with fire safety programs for children.

His favorite time and proudest moments were in the short time he had with his three children.

David M. McNally, 48, a 25-year veteran and Assistant Fire Chief of the Keokuk Fire Department, died on December 22, 1999, in the same incident. He served two terms on the Keokuk Catholic School Board and was Financial Secretary of the Knights of Columbus.

A wonderful husband and father to three children.

Nathan R. Tuck, 39, was the third Keokuk firefighter killed in the structure fire on December 22, 1999. A four-year member of the department, he devoted much of his spare time to working with youth in the community. He coached high school and middle school students in many sports and was a certified lifesaver at the YMCA.

A music lover, he loved his job as a firefighter and spending time with his 2-year-old granddaughter.

KENTUCKY

Arthur Bruce Franklin, 50, a volunteer firefighter with Anderson County Fire Department in Lawrenceburg, died on February 28, 1999, after returning from a fire. He had served as Chairman of the Anderson County Fire District and as Fire Chief of Anderson County. He was also a Red Cross and American Heart Association instructor.

KENTUCKY (CONT.)

Kenneth A. "Kenney" Nickell, 28, a firefighter with Route 377 Volunteer Fire Department in Morehead, died on April 6, 1999, while fighting a forest fire in the Daniel Boone National Forest near Cranston. A second firefighter died in the same incident. An 8-year volunteer with fire and rescue service, he worked for Rowan County Ambulance Service.

Married for 5½ wonderful years, he was a loving father and a non-stop volunteer for his community.

Kevin R. Smith, 30, also with Route 377 Volunteer Fire Department in Morehead, died in the April 6, 1999, forest fire near Cranston. He served three years of active duty in the U. S. Army and served in the reserves. A community Cub Scout leader, he worked at a local manufacturing company.

A wonderful, loving husband, father, and son.

LOUISIANA

H. Fred Broussard, 69, Chief of the Maurice Volunteer Fire Department since its founding in 1967, died on November 18, 1999, after suffering a heart attack while fighting a tanker fire. Owner of a local plumbing and electric company, he was well known throughout the fire community. He served as President of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association and President of the Vermilion Fire Protection District.

With his wife, he raised four children and adored twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Paul Franklin Ezernack, Jr., 28, a volunteer with the North Sabine Fire Protection District in Zwolle, died on December 15, 1999, when he lost control of a tanker as he responded to a brush fire. He worked as a custodian at Zwolle Elementary School.

A special person to all, the children at his school remember him always smiling and saying, "Good morning."

LOUISIANA

Elvis B. Maxwell, 49 a volunteer with Grant Parish Fire District #5 in Pollock, died on October 7, 1999, when he lost control of a tanker while responding to a structure fire. A Vietnam veteran, he was a self-employed welder. He was a well-known local musician who shared his music at area nursing homes, charity fundraisers and VFW posts.

A talented musician, he has passed his talent and love of music on to his son and daughter.

MARYLAND

Roy K. Crago, 65, a member of Fallston Volunteer Fire & Ambulance, died on December 10, 1999 from a stroke suffered while responding to an electrical transformer explosion. An Air Force veteran, he served as a volunteer firefighter for 48 years.

Terry L. Myers, 50, a 33-year member of Vigilant Hose Company in Emmitsburg, died on February 15, 1999, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a brush fire. He worked as a truck driver for a local manufacturing company and shared this skill as the operator of the department's large fire engines. Emmitsburg is home to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park and the National Fire Academy.

He was very proud of both his "families" - the one at home and the one at the fire hall.

MASSACHUSETTS

Richard C. Bacon, 46, a 33-year volunteer with the Dunstable Fire Department, died on August 5, 1999, when he suffered a heart attack after returning from a fire. A local businessman, he was past president of the Dunstable Volunteer Firefighters Association and had served as the local civil defense director. Bacon's father is chief of the Dunstable Fire Department.

He was a well-known and well-liked member of the Dunstable community.

MASSACHUSETTS (CONT.)

Paul A. Brotherton, 41, a 16-year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, died on December 3, 1999, after he and another firefighter became trapped while conducting search and rescue and fire operations in a cold storage warehouse fire. Five other firefighters died in the same incident. An Air Force veteran, Brotherton worked part-time as a carpenter.

He loved life, his six sons, and a good laugh.

Theodore A. Ferrante, Jr., 43, a 20-year veteran with the Revere Fire Department, died on December 21, 1999, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a prank fire call. He was a third generation firefighter and two brothers are members of the department. His father, also a member of the Revere Fire Department, died in the line of duty in 1979.

Timothy P. Jackson, 51, a 27-year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, died in the December 3, 1999, warehouse fire, while searching for two trapped firefighters. A U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, Jackson had received many commendations including a Bronze Star, an Army Commendation Medal, and a Purple Heart. A member of the Harley-Davidson Owners Group and the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, he frequently rode to Washington, D.C. for Vietnam veterans' rallies.

He was an avid gardener, devoted husband, and loving father and grandfather.

Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38, a nine-year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, died on December 3, 1999, after being trapped while conducting search and rescue and fire operations in a cold storage warehouse fire. Lucey was a member of the Worcester Fire Department Honor Guard and the Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Material Team. He also worked part-time at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

He loved life and lived for the moment. He was the most loving, giving, and caring husband, father, son, and friend, and he will truly be missed. He was a great man.

MASSACHUSETTS (CONT.)

James F. Lyons, III, 34, a member of the Worcester Fire Department, died in the December 3, 1999, warehouse fire, while searching for two trapped firefighters. A former member of the Massachusetts State Police, Lyons held a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. He worked as a volunteer in the "Why Me" program for young cancer patients.

He is remembered for his great sense of humor, compassion for others, love and dedication to firefighting, and most of all, his great love of family and friends.

Joseph T. McGuirk, 38, a member of the Worcester Fire Department, died in the December 3, 1999, warehouse fire, while searching for two trapped firefighters. A member of the department for two years, his extended family has more than 200 years of firefighter service. Prior to joining the department, he owned a contracting company.

He had a beautiful smile and a hearty laugh and was great fun to be around.

John E. Murphy, 64, a 30-year volunteer Assistant Chief with the Russell Fire Department, died on April 8, 1999, of a heart attack while battling a massive mountain fire. He worked as a lineman for the local utility company. Murphy's two sons are also members of the department.

In the family and in town, he was known as the one to call for help and assistance.

Joseph R. "Dick" Murphy, 64, a career member of the Boston Fire Department, died on January 29, 1999, of a heart attack after returning from a call. A 36-year veteran, he was the longest serving member of the department at the time of his death and was two months away from retirement. Three of his children are members of the fire service.

He was a loving and supportive husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He will be dearly missed.

MASSACHUSETTS (CONT.)

David L. Packard, 56, a career member of the Boston Fire Department, died on March 16, 1999, of a heart attack as he prepared to respond to a call.

Beloved son, father, and friend.

Ronald D. Peters, 43, a career member of the Everett Fire Department, died on June 20, 1999, of a heart attack after returning from several fire calls during his shift. He worked with the auxiliary fire department for 10 years and was a member of the Box 52 Association and the local Red Cross.

A very dedicated family man, he loved every minute of being a firefighter.

Thomas E. Spencer, 42, a 21-year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, died in the December 3, 1999, warehouse fire, while searching for two trapped firefighters. A life-long Worcester resident, he was involved in many church and community youth activities, including scouting, soccer and Little League. His brother is also a member of the Worcester department.

Most of all he was a good person. He would never hesitate to help. He is remembered for his dedication to family and friends and his giving spirit.

David J. Watts, 57, a volunteer with the Nantucket Fire Department, died on May 2, 1999, of a heart attack suffered after returning from a building fire. His brother serves as Chief of the Nantucket Fire Department.

MICHIGAN

Terry True "Ted" Oliver, Sr., 58, Assistant Chief of the Eaton Rapids City Fire Department, died on February 19, 1999, of a heart attack after collapsing at the scene of a house fire. A volunteer firefighter for 33 years, his family has served the fire department for over 100 years. Oliver retired from GM after 33 years and began building homes "just for fun."

Husband for 37 1/2 years, father to four, grandfather to fourteen.

MINNESOTA

Marvin L. Huisman, 56, a 30-year volunteer with the Wilmont Fire Department, died on October 7, 1999, at the scene of a brush fire. He had previously served as Chief for seven years and was Assistant Chief at the time of his death. Huisman owned a local livestock feed business for 35 years and had won many sales and service awards.

Known for his mechanical ability and sense of humor, he wore a big smile and was always ready to help anyone.

MISSISSIPPI

David Zan Lancaster, 24, a volunteer with the Elliot Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 7, 1999, as a result of injuries received in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a car fire. A graduate of Holmes Community College, he was also a member of the Velma Volunteer Fire Department and the Yalobusha Dive Team.

Carl "Big O" Olsen, 41, a member of the Kihn Volunteer Fire Department, died on January 5, 1999, when struck by a vehicle at the scene of a mobile home fire. He had served as a volunteer firefighter for over 20 years. His wife and other members of the family are also active in the local department.

He was very well-known throughout the community, "a real nice fella."

MISSOURI

Alan William Ducheck, 46, a member of the City of De Soto Fire & Rescue, died on March 1, 1999. He suffered a heart attack two days earlier after assisting with an extended extrication at a motor vehicle accident. He received the Red Cross Clara Barton Award in 1988 for his community work.

A loving husband and father, he loved helping other people.

Arthur J. Heckman, 66, a member of Macks Creek Fire Rescue, died on August 9, 1999, of a heart attack suffered at the scene of a wildland fire. He became

MISSOURI (CONT.)

involved with the department after they came to his home to extinguish a fire several years ago.

He was a huge help to his department, always full of good ideas and dedicated to helping. He had a big heart and never had a bad word for anyone.

Bryan C. Pottberg, 25, a member of Lee's Summit Fire Department, drowned on July 15, 1999, while participating in a dive training exercise. In addition to the dive team, he was on the department's public education and hazmat teams. Pottberg was from a family of firefighters; his father is Chief of the Fort Osage Fire Department.

He had the ability to enjoy each moment, laugh at himself, bring smiles to others on their worst days, and leave an impression on those around him to last a lifetime.

Jeffrey S. Thompson, 20, a volunteer with Howell County Rural Fire District #1 in West Plains, died on October 4, 1999, after coming in contact with a downed power line. Three firefighters who had responded to a grass fire were electrocuted in the incident. Thompson, a member of the department for only four months, was the only one killed. He was an employee of Air Evac and loved flying.

A valuable member of the fire department, he will be missed by all that knew him.

John O. H. Tvedten, 47, a 26-year veteran Battalion Chief with the Kansas City Fire Department, died on December 18, 1999, during operations at a warehouse fire. A leader in the department, he served as Chairman of the Fire Fighters' Pension System and had received two Distinguished Service Awards. He held a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University.

A creative writer, skilled woodworker, and practical joker, he will be remembered for his love and dedication to his wife and son.

NEBRASKA

Chuck Vodak, 45, a 10-year firefighter with the Dunning Volunteer Fire Department, died on March 16, 1999, of a heart attack while fighting a massive prairie fire in the Sand Hills. He was part of a group of firefighters credited with keeping the fire away from the town of Thedford. Nebraska's governor ordered all flags lowered to half-staff in honor of Vodak.

He was always the first to report or respond to a call.

NEW JERSEY

Richard A. Heinze, 47, a 25-year career veteran with the Newark Fire Department, died of a heart attack on June 4, 1999, after returning from a fire run. He had received valor awards from the department and the 200 Club of Essex County. He was past president of the Newark Firemen's Union Local and a member of the Fire Safety Commission of the State of New Jersey representing the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Remembered as the firehouse cook and for karaoke nights at the firehouse with his guitar and voice.

Brian Andrew Lee, 38, a seven-year career firefighter with the Jersey City Fire Department, died on November 16, 1999, after returning from an emergency response. He went into cardiac arrest on the way to the hospital and died from an inflammation of the heart. Lee had been an outstanding high school athlete and was active in coaching his oldest son's youth basketball teams.

He was a valued member of the department and an outstanding citizen in Jersey City.

Robert C. Stanmire, Sr., 52, a volunteer with the Forest Grove Volunteer Fire Department in Vineland, died on February 16, 1999, of a heart attack while preparing to respond to a brush fire. A corrections officer at Bayside State Prison, Stanmire had served as a volunteer firefighter for 25 years. He was the first member of his

NEW JERSEY (CONT.)

department to die in the line of duty. An Army veteran of the Vietnam War, he was very involved with POW/MIA and veterans support issues.

He enjoyed life every day to the fullest. A gardener, he loved his home and yard and being with his family.

Joseph F. Tagliareni, Jr., 34, a volunteer with the Secaucus Fire Department, died on June 13, 1999, after suffering a heart attack 13 days earlier. He had collapsed while responding to an automobile fire on the New Jersey Turnpike. A Marine Corps veteran and owner of a local trucking company, Tagliareni had been a volunteer firefighter for 16 years.

He was a friend, a great husband and father.

NEW MEXICO

Gregory Edwin Pacheco, 20, a member of a U. S. Forest Service crew, died on October 5, 1999, from head injuries sustained while constructing a fire line on the La Jolla Indian Reservation fire near San Diego. He lived in Penasco, New Mexico, where he was a Picuris Tribal Member. Since 1996, he had been a federal firefighter with Penasco Number Five, a Native American hand crew from the Carson National Forest in Taos, New Mexico.

His life was a joy to those around him, especially to his family, girlfriend, and friends.

NEW YORK

Kenneth F. Clinch, 52, a volunteer with the Mount Marion Fire Department, died on July 30, 1999, after suffering a heart attack while fighting an automobile fire. Retired from IBM, he owned a fire and ambulance company. Clinch had served as Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners and held numerous positions in the fire department.

A loving son, husband, father, and grandfather, he was very active in his community.

NEW YORK (CONT.)

Vincent G. Fowler, 45, a 21-year veteran of the Fire Department of New York, died on June 4, 1999, while trying to get a probationary firefighter out of a fire in a residential structure. The department awarded him its Medal of Valor posthumously. Because of his outstanding community service, an elementary school in South Ozone Park was renamed after him. Fowler's father is a retired New York City fire officer; two of his brothers are currently members of the department.

A leader and teacher, he is remembered for his willingness to help, his generous nature, and as a true gentleman.

William Korte, 59, a volunteer with the Southampton Fire Department, died of a heart attack on November 4, 1999. He collapsed at the scene of an automobile accident after closing the road for traffic control.

Alton L. Lewis, 55, a volunteer with the Montour Falls Fire Department, died on November 29, 1999, after returning from a motor vehicle accident response. A nationally known arson investigator, he had moved to Montour Falls from Syracuse in 1981 to teach at the state fire academy. In 1977, he was selected as the New York State Volunteer of the Year while a member of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department.

A devoted husband of 32 years and a great dad to three sons.

James H. McGroarty, 43, a 20-year veteran fire investigator with the Syracuse Fire Department, died on January 19, 1999, from injuries sustained while investigating a recent fire scene. A chimney collapsed onto McGroarty causing severe trauma. The line-of-duty death was the first in a decade for the department.

He was a complete professional and a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He was greatly loved and is greatly missed.

NEW YORK (CONT.)

Dan O'Connell, 58, a volunteer with the Putnam Lake Fire Department, died on January 25, 1999, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a structure fire 17 days earlier. A former Marine, he was a lifetime member of the department and served as an officer for 23 years, including three years as chief. His son Jim also served as chief, the first father and son chief combination in the department's history. Jim died in an automobile accident six months before his father's death.

He was instrumental in recruiting young men as members, many of whom went on to make firefighting their chosen profession.

Wayne S. Rosen, 24, a 6-year member of the Akron Volunteer Fire Company, died on June 22, 1999 from injuries received while en route to participate in training at the firehouse. A drunken driver struck Rosen who was riding a motorcycle. His father, an active member of the department, had died in a motorcycle accident 10 years earlier. Rosen worked as a paid paramedic for the Batavia Fire Department.

Active with the Boy Scouts for many years, he also helped with youth activities through his church.

Jerome "June" Taylor, 69, a volunteer with the Hillburn Volunteer Fire Department died on March 12, 1999, of a heart attack. He collapsed at the scene of a fire at a waste management building.

He overcame polio to achieve many things. The sky was the limit, and before he left this world, he touched the sky.

NORTH CAROLINA

Kenneth Alan Strain, 28, a member of the Hemby Bridge Volunteer Fire Department, died on May 2, 1999, in an apparatus accident while returning from a motor vehicle accident call. He lost control of the pumper

NORTH CAROLINA

while pulling over to let other traffic pass. Strain, who owned an automotive business, joined the department in 1993 and was an Emergency Rescue Technician and an EMTD.

A loving husband and father.

OHIO

Kenny Cashman, 29, a volunteer with the Auglaize Township Volunteer Fire Department, died on September 13, 1999. A truck pulled out in front of Cashman as he responded to a residential fire.

He enjoyed every day and accepted people for who they were.

Michael E. Cupp, Sr., 48, Chief of the Cygnet Volunteer Fire Department, died on August 6, 1999. He suffered a heart attack after fighting a brush fire on a vacant lot. Very active in state and local fire service organizations, he had been a member of the department for 30 years. Over the years, his father, grandfather, three uncles, two brothers and son have also served on the department.

Second to his family, the department was his life. He was always so willing to lend a helping hand.

Paul L. Haislop, Sr., 51, a member of the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department, died on March 23, 1999, after he had a heart attack while preparing to respond to a structure fire. He had been a member of the department for 16 years.

He served his department with pride.

Brad A. Michener, 24, a volunteer with the Scipio-Republic Fire Department, died on December 3, 1999. He had suffered a heart attack the day before after returning from a field fire. He graduated in 1997 from Terra Community College as an architecture engineer.

He loved life and people and will be remembered in his small community as always being there to help someone.

OHIO (CONT.)

Gregory E. Rodgers, 50, a member of the Dresden Volunteer Fire Department, died on December 13, 1999, after he collapsed while filling a tanker during a mutual aid response to a barn fire. Department medics, including his son and wife, worked to save Rodgers who later died of a heart attack. He had worked for General Electric for 32 years.

He was well-known and a very dedicated individual. He was always willing to go that extra mile to help anybody out.

OKLAHOMA

James E. Clark, III, 42, a career firefighter with Midwest City Fire Department, died on August 8, 1999, from injuries sustained at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A passenger vehicle struck Clark and he died three days later. A 15-year member of the department, he was the first Midwest City firefighter to die in the line of duty.

Jackie Mac Garnett, 54, a 14-year member of the Quapaw Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 20, 1999, as he prepared to respond to a grass fire. After serving 22 years in the Air Force, he returned home and enrolled in college. As a member of the Ottawa Indian Tribe, he helped maintain the tribal cemetery and improve the tribe's land base. At the time of his death, he was close to becoming a traditional leader of his tribe.

Never idle, he left footprints on this earth that would serve others well to follow.

PENNSYLVANIA

Eric Noel Casiano, 41, a career member of the Philadelphia Fire Department, died on May 3, 1999, from injuries sustained when he fell through a floor at a residential fire. A 7-year veteran of the department, he had received a citation for bravery. He served in the Army prior to joining the fire department.

He gave his life so unselfishly to save others.

PENNSYLVANIA (CONT.)

Philip P. Cirrito, 47, a career firefighter with the Merion Fire Company of Ardmore, died on June 9, 1999, after collapsing at the station. He had responded to two structural fires before suffering a fatal heart attack. He had been a volunteer and career member of the fire company for over 25 years.

His professional and personal commitment was exemplary.

Richard F. Devine, 49, an 11-year veteran with the Philadelphia Fire Department, died on June 29, 1999, of a heart attack after collapsing at the scene of a row house fire. A much-decorated Vietnam veteran, he returned to Philadelphia and worked as a machinist prior to joining the fire department. He received a Unit Citation for Valor after rescuing five people from a burning building.

A popular and fun-loving person, always quick with a joke.

Larry D. Lehman, 51, a fire police volunteer with South Lebanon Township Fire Police, died on July 7, 1999, of a heart attack while performing crowd control at a brush fire. He joined the Friendship Fire Company at age 16 and later became involved with the South Lebanon Township Fire Police.

He was well regarded by his peers, respected by many, and very much a family man. He was the epitome of a volunteer who gave selflessly and never looked for anything in return.

Paul F. McGrath, 50, a 19-year member of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, died on June 17, 1999, of a heart attack after collapsing at the scene of a building fire set by juvenile arsonists. A Vietnam veteran, McGrath was raised and lived in a house near the fire scene.

He was a good worker, an excellent firefighter, and brave when he had to be. He was a class act.

PENNSYLVANIA (CONT.)

Michael J. Sims, Sr., 38, a 20-year volunteer with Highland Hose Fire Company, died on November 3, 1999, after falling from an aerial truck during a response. Very active in youth activities, he coached Little League, floor hockey, and basketball. He had served as president of the fire company for the past three years and led fundraising drives.

At the fire hall they said, "If you want something done, just ask Mike."

Walter F. Vaughan, 80, a member of the Fire Police with the Warminster Fire Department, died on November 13, 1999, from injuries sustained while directing traffic at the scene of a structure fire two weeks earlier. He had been a volunteer for almost 50 years and was a life member of Enterprise Fire Company of Hatboro.

He was active up to the time of his death.

Frank W. Wood, 54, a volunteer with Flourtown Fire Company, died on August 14, 1999, after suffering a heart attack while assisting in a rescue at a nursing home fire. He joined the company in 1965 and held several offices including Assistant Chief. He worked as a police officer with Springfield Township for 29 years.

Looked up to by his peers, he was a tremendous man. He was quiet until you got to know him, then he was a joker. He volunteered because he thought he could help others.

Wayne C. Yost, 48, a lifetime member of the Cochranville Fire Company, died on November 20, 1999, after suffering a heart attack a week earlier at a wildland fire. A dedicated volunteer, he had served as Chief and Assistant Chief during his 22 years with the department. His son Kenneth is also a member of the company. Yost served as Emergency Management Coordinator for three local townships for over 10 years.

He was a good man who would do anything in the world for you.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Lewis E. Anderson, 68, a member of the River Falls Volunteer Fire Department, died on September 30, 1999, from injuries sustained three days earlier while directing traffic at the scene of an accident. A hit and run driver was charged in the death. Anderson, a volunteer for over two years, was his department's "Fireman of the Year" in 1998.

He loved his family, God, and the River Falls Fire Department.

Timmy Rogers Dawson, 34, a member of the Center Rock Volunteer Fire Department, died on August 31, 1999, after the pumper he was driving overturned during a response to a motor vehicle accident. Selected as "Fireman of the Year" three times, Dawson also won numerous awards for most training hours and most photographed firefighter.

A mentor to his nieces, nephews, and fellow firefighters' children.

Aubrey R. Tillman, Jr., 57, a career firefighter with the City of Charleston Fire Department, died on April 2, 1999, after participating in intense training activities. He suffered a heart attack and died later that evening.

TEXAS

William M. Bethune, 58, a career firefighter with Texas City Fire Department, died on October 5, 1999, when the pumper in which he was riding struck an automobile. Captain Bethune's engine company was en route to a medical emergency. This was the department's first line-of-duty death since the 1947 explosion that killed most members of the department.

He loved to barbeque, raise horses, and make people laugh.

Bert A. Bruecher, 46, a member of the Pleak Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 14, 1999, when his tanker overturned on the way to an arson fire.

He was a good, friendly, happy man, a good family man and friend. Everyone loved him.

TEXAS (CONT.)

Victor C. Castillo, 43, a member of the El Paso Fire Department, died on January 21, 1999, from injuries sustained earlier in a fall during a training exercise. He had been a member of the department for 20 years.

A devoted father to his daughter and stepdaughter.

B. F. Chesnut, 67, a member of the Brazos Volunteer Fire Department, died on February 18, 1999, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a fire. He was a charter member of the department and served his community for over 21 years. During that time, he built three department trucks.

He loved his family, which was his greatest personal achievement.

Brian W. Collins, 35, Assistant Chief of the River Oaks Volunteer Fire Department, died on February 15, 1999, while fighting a church fire. Two other firefighters died in the incident. Collins was also a 15-year veteran of the Fort Worth Fire Department where he founded the department's fire prevention clown troupe. He served 19 years as a volunteer with River Oaks and was also the local Emergency Management Coordinator.

A godly man who served as a role model to all around him.

Clifton Jay Dauzat, 63, a member of the White Tail Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, died on August 5, 1999, when he fell off a pumper as it backed down a hill. He was a member of the department for over 10 years.

He was an asset to the department, someone who was always willing to help.

James M. Dunham, 36, a member and past chief of the Saint Jo Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 18, 1999, while beginning extrication at a motor vehicle accident. Very involved in community activities, he coached and organized sports and youth activities. Assistant manager of a Gainesville farm coop, he also served as president of the Saint Jo Friends of the FFA.

Second only to his family, his love in life was rodeo.

TEXAS (CONT.)

David D. Hartwick, 36, a member of the New Braunfels Fire & Rescue Department, died on July 27, 1999, as he prepared to respond to a structure fire. He served as president of the volunteer department for two years and on the pension board. He was also in charge of repair and maintenance of the department's antique fire apparatus.

A very active member of the department, he attended virtually every meeting and fire call in his 15 years with the department.

Clyde A. Peterson, 70, Assistant Chief of the Hilltop Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, died on June 8, 1999, at the scene of a truck fire. A retired Federal employee, Peterson was a Certified Flight Instructor and had been a professional musician for 50 years.

He believed that everyone should give as much time as they could to protect their neighbors.

Garry Charles Sanders, 20, a member of the Sansom Park Volunteer Fire Department, died on February 25, 1999, while fighting a church fire. A certified welder with the State of Texas, he was an avid sportsman, especially fishing and motor racing. He joined the Sansom Park Department in 1997 following in the footsteps of his brother Steven.

His goal was to be the "best of the best." He loved firefighting with all his heart and soul and is greatly missed by family, friends, the community, and fellow firefighters.

Phillip Wayne Snell-Dean, 29, a member of the River Oaks Volunteer Fire Department, died on February 15, 1999, while fighting a church fire. He was also a six-year veteran of the Fort Worth Fire Department. He joined the River Oaks Department at age 16 and became an EMT. He served many years as a Sunday school teacher and youth leader.

His greatest accomplishments are in the ways he served as a loving husband, son, brother, and friend, and in the birth of his son Elijah five days after his death.

VERMONT

Philip M. Pinkowski, Jr., 59, a charter member of the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department, died on April 12, 1999, while battling a house fire. Very active in the department, he held many positions, including chief and president of the board of trustees. A life member of the Vermont State Firefighters Association, he owned and operated a dairy farm.

He took great pride in his family, his farm, the community, and the Clarendon Fire Department and is fondly remembered by all whose lives he touched.

VIRGINIA

Bradley Curtis McNeer, 22, a member of Chesterfield Fire & Emergency Medical Services, died on December 18, 1999, in an apparatus accident during a response to a gas leak in a residence. He joined the county's Bon Air Volunteer Department in February 1999 and had just completed training as an EMT. An avid golfer, he worked at a local sports complex.

High school basketball star, avid golfer, active in band and acting, loving son.

WEST VIRGINIA

Arch R. Sligar, 52, a member of the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department, died on June 13, 1999, while responding to a fire call in a dormitory at West Liberty State College. A member of the department for 10 years, Sligar had served as Vice President, Lieutenant, and Engineer.

Served his community well, died honorably, sadly missed by many.

FIREFIGHTERS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS BEING HONORED

CALIFORNIA

Edward E. Luttig, 54, a member of the Sacramento Fire Department, died on September 10, 1990, from injuries sustained 23 years earlier while fighting a residential fire. Friends had requested that his name be added to the national monument list. Luttig, a firefighter for three years, was overcome by smoke while searching for survivors in an apartment fire. Sacramento firefighters donated their time and money to support the firefighter and his family during those 23 years.

He was a very dedicated employee, a heck of a firefighter, and one heck of a guy. Had this happened to someone else, he would have been there to help out. He was only a firefighter for 3 1/2 years, but his injury and death lead to improvements in equipment and safety for other firefighters.

NEW YORK

Jake M. Hoeffner, 17, a junior firefighter with the Yaphank Volunteer Fire Department, died on May 31, 1998, from injuries sustained in a fall four days earlier during a department training exercise. His father, two uncles, and both grandfathers have all served with the local department.

A 17-year-old junior fire department member, he was looking forward to joining the department on his 18th birthday.



Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the non-profit Foundation has developed and expanded programs that fulfill that mandate. Our mission is to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes and to provide resources to assist their survivors in the rebuilding of their lives.

SPONSOR THE ANNUAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Every October, the Foundation sponsors the official national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. Thousands attend the weekend activities held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Weekend features special programs for survivors and coworkers along with moving public ceremonies.

HELP SURVIVORS ATTEND THE WEEKEND

The Foundation provides lodging and meals for immediate survivors and assists with travel. This allows family members to participate in Family Day sessions conducted by trained grief counselors and in the public tributes.

AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN

Spouses and children are eligible for scholarship assistance for education and job training.

OFFER SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the Foundation provides survivors with a place to turn. Families can receive emotional assistance through a Survivor Support Network. This contact with other fire service survivors can be an important part of their healing. Families receive a quarterly newsletter and specialized resources through a Lending Library. A website provides information on benefits, the Memorial Weekend, and other programs.

HELP DEPARTMENTS DEAL WITH LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

Under a Department of Justice grant, the Foundation offers training and resources on how to handle a line-of-duty death. Immediately after a loss, a Chief-to-Chief Network provides professional and personal support from another chief who "has been there."

CREATE A NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

America's fire service has a rich heritage based in community involvement. The Foundation is expanding the national memorial site in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to create the first permanent national park honoring all firefighters. The park will include a brick "Walk of Honor" connecting the Visitors Information Center, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, and the official national monument. The first section of the walkway featuring individually inscribed bricks is already in place.



Sponsors of the Weekend and Family Programs

SPECIAL THANKS FOR PROVIDING LODGING AND MEALS FOR FAMILIES

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF THE WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

*Department of Justice
Federal Emergency Management Agency*

ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*AIG, Starr Foundation
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INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED TIME AND SERVICES

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Charlotte Fire Department, North Carolina
Chief Charlie Dickinson, Retired
District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department
Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, Virginia
Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band, Washington, DC area
Frederick County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association, Maryland
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Newport News Fire Department, Virginia
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