

Remembering



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

October 5 – 6, 2019

Emmitsburg, Maryland



The Fire Hero Family Flag

A special American Flag was presented to our Fire Hero Families in October 2014 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. The history, tradition, and meaning of the U.S. Flag parallel the significance of our culture and represent the core values of the American Fire Service.

As a sign of honor and respect, this flag was requested through the United States Congress in honor of our Fire Hero Families. The flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol on June 14 (Flag Day). The flag then traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland, and was flown over the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The flag then went to Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, The Wildland Firefighters Monument in Boise, Idaho, the IAFF Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and 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.

This special flag, dedicated to the Fire Hero Family community, also represents the spirit of hope we receive from each other. The bond formed between the families of fallen firefighters and the community of honor guard members can only be described as special. We understand each other without speaking words; we know when a hug is needed without having to ask. We know and appreciate when to flip the switch from humor to seriousness, because we understand and respect each other. The U.S. Flag is a symbol of strength and unity, two characteristics families and honor guard members share. It's no surprise then, that the presentation of a dedicated U.S. Flag further joins these two communities together.

The Fire Hero Family Flag is posted at the family hotel during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. It is on display in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel at the Foundation and present at the Fire Hero Family events.



“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”

– President Calvin Coolidge

*B*efore the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, the Foundation asked families to submit information about their fallen firefighters for the Remembrance Book. If no information was received, the best information available to us for each firefighter was used. We regret any inadvertent errors or omissions. Fallen firefighter profiles can be viewed on the Foundation's website at: www.firehero.org





38th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend ★ October 5 - 6, 2019



October 6, 2019

Today, your loved one's name will be inscribed on the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial, joining over 3,500 fallen firefighters honored for their sacrifice in the line of duty. We – their families, friends, fellow firefighters, co-workers and others – have gathered together to remember them, to cherish their memories, and to honor a calling to service higher than themselves.

The Memorial's hallowed ground is nestled within a place where firefighters gather each day in pursuit of learning and knowledge. Firefighters young and old will pass through these grounds, bowing their heads in honor of your loved one, pausing to take in your strength, courage and resilience in the face of devastating loss.

In 1992, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was created by an Act of Congress, to honor our nation's fallen firefighters and to care for their families. We thank our staff and volunteers who work each day in support of that mission. We thank our supporters, who through their donations large and small help to fund the services we provide across the nation to our Fire Hero Families and to firefighters.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend affirms our commitment to you, as a member of our fire service family. We encourage you to share your grief with us, so that together we may share the burden of your loss.

I hope that you have shared a story or two about your firefighter this weekend, mixing laughter with tears and quiet moments of reflection. Together, we will keep the memory of our fallen firefighters alive in our hearts, with resilience and grace.

Sincerely yours,

Troy Markel
Chairman, Board of Directors

*P*robationary Firefighter Joshua Eugin, age 36, of the Saint David Fire District, died on October 17, 2018, after collapsing during a training drill. Our department lost one its most dedicated members that night.

Josh had served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was no stranger to hard work. He gave everything he had to the department and to people that took the time to know him. On calls and at training, he was always ready for his next assignment.

Off-duty, he was reading fire texts and looking for videos that he could learn from, hiking in the desert with his service dog, Salty, or volunteering his time in disaster zones with the Patriot Emergency Response Team.

Josh was a great friend and was 6' 7" of pure heart. He reminds us of what it means to be selfless, determined and dedicated.

Josh left behind his fiancée, Chelsea; her daughter, Addy; his father, Bob; and his partner-in-crime, Salty.

Even though he's left us, he's not really gone, at least not to us. When the tones go out, we can still catch a glimpse of him, standing next to the flag pole, waiting to get on the truck.



Remembering



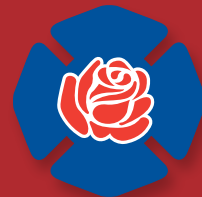
Joshua W. Eugin

***Saint David Fire District –
Arizona***

***Volunteer Probationary
Firefighter***

October 17, 2018

Age 36



Remembering



Andrew J. Brake

CAL FIRE – California

Career Heavy

Equipment Mechanic

August 9, 2018

Age 40



CAL FIRE and the Brake family lost a dedicated, caring family member on August 9, 2018. Andrew Jason Brake was returning to work during the Carr Fire in Redding, California, when he lost control of his vehicle. Andrew had been a part of CAL FIRE for six years, and it was something he truly loved. They were his family away from home.

Andrew Jason Brake was born in Dearborn, Michigan, on October 28, 1977. He grew up in Chico, California, with his parents, Melvin and Teresa Brake, and his little sister, Lindsay.

Andrew worked as a mechanic for several years, completing the Automotive Program at Butte Community College. At age 33, Andrew gave up his secure mechanic's job to pursue his dream. He enrolled in the Butte College Fire Academy. On February 20, 2011, Andrew wrote in a social media post to his friends and family, "So, 5 weeks into the 19-week Fire Academy, this is the toughest hurdle I have ever attempted. I'm doing well with a 91.25% grade overall. It's crazy, every week is finals week. Scary but motivating, can't wait to complete it. When I do, nothing can stand in my way. It's all about how bad you want it."

Andrew took a lot of pride in his work and his accomplishment of being a part of something bigger. Andrew always worked hard, but it wasn't until he joined CAL FIRE that he truly loved his work. Four years in, he realized the unique value of his combined mechanic and firefighting skills. In March of 2016, Andrew accepted a position as a heavy equipment mechanic with CAL FIRE in the San Benito, Monterey Unit. Andrew was assigned to the CAL FIRE Hollister station for two years. Andrew was missed, being far from family and his two girls. When the opportunity presented itself, he accepted a transfer to the CAL FIRE Butte Unit where he could be back with family. He was a great mechanic and loved what he did. He was described by his peers and supervisors as a very hard worker, always with a smile on his face and something smart to say. His boss described Andrew as a workhorse, wanting to ensure that the CAL FIRE mobile equipment fleet was in top shape.

Andrew will be remembered as a hard worker, a great friend and a father who dearly loved his family.

Remembering

Anthony T. Colacino was born October 4, 1984. He was 33 years young when he suddenly passed away on April 21, 2018, from heart failure while he was doing something he loved. He is survived by his three children and his son's mother. Anthony was a loving father, partner, brother, uncle, and friend. His children are fortunate to have many loving memories to remember him by.

Tony was known for his constant sarcasm, love for animals, and outgoing personality. He was a kind, gentle, intelligent, funny, active, and loving family man. The most important thing to him was his little family; he absolutely adored his son, Anthony. His kids meant the world to him. He loved to spend time bonding with the kids and having family outings. Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Lytle Creek, SeaWorld, and Knott's Berry Farm were some of the many places he loved to go and explore and spend family time. No matter the place, he was sure to always make it a fun adventure and positive memory and experience.

Tony had a love for nature. He was a huge outdoorsman who enjoyed camping, hiking, target shooting, and exploring all sorts of different areas. He also had a love for jiu jitsu; training was something he would do daily for many years of his life. He was a certified blue belt in jiu jitsu and would constantly compete in tournaments and win, always placing first. He was extremely focused and would always strive for excellence.

Tony was an extremely intelligent being and had a passion for computers. He would do anything from building a computer from scratch to fixing software issues. He was a Microsoft certified engineer and had the opportunity to set up Yahoo's corporate offices in Los Angeles. Not only was he intelligent, but he was extremely handy. One of the many things he built was a greenhouse for him and his family. He also made his own helmet, spear, and warrior costume from scratch with his kids for Halloween, which looked like it came out of the movie 300. This man was highly skilled.

Tony is deeply missed by his friends and siblings, but no one misses him more than his children and his son's mother. He is survived by his son, Anthony, age 6; his stepchildren, Gianni, age 13, and Xzylia, age 12, and his son's mother, Mayra. He will always be remembered with love and will live forever through our memories.



Anthony "Tony" Colacino

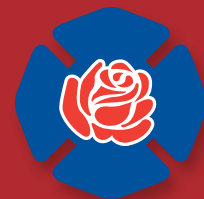
*California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation,
Sierra Conservation Center –*

California

Inmate Firefighter

April 21, 2018

Age 33



Remembering



Brian Corcoran Hughes

*National Park Service,
Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks – California
Career Captain*

July 29, 2018

Age 33



*B*rian Hughes lost his life on the fire line on July 29, 2018. A captain of the Arrowhead Interagency Hotshots based in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, the crew was fighting the Ferguson Fire near Yosemite National Park when Brian was struck by a 105-foot-tall smoldering ponderosa pine. He was treated at the scene but passed away before he could be transported to the hospital.

Born August 1, 1984, in Hilo, Hawaii, he grew up near Akaka Falls and, as a child, loved running around, playing sports, swimming, and surfing. He started a yard business at age 13, with the hopes of saving up to buy a car. The business was a booming success, leading Brian to set higher and higher goals for himself and to work hard at everything he set his mind to. He loved outdoor adventure and learned to be self-reliant in the wilderness. In high school, he was a star athlete in varsity soccer, track, and cross-country.

Aside from a brief, youthful aspiration to become a stuntman, his career goal was always to become a firefighter. His first professional job was with the Larimer County Yellow Jackets, an emergency fire and rescue unit in Fort Collins, Colorado. After two years, in 2006, he was hired as a seasonal hotshot in Alaska on the Midnight Suns crew. After that taste of hotshot life, he was hooked. The next year he joined the Roosevelt Hotshots, where he worked from 2007-2009.

In 2010, Brian joined the Monterey hand crew on the Los Padres National Forest, with a goal of building that crew to hotshot status. He enthusiastically completed every task book and worked in multiple positions to get captain experience. After four years, he joined the BLM in Alaska as a specialist. Brian moved to Squaw Valley, California, in March 2015 and assumed the title of captain of the Arrowhead Hotshots. As a trusted leader and mentor to his crew, he led by example, inspiring others to train hard, develop their skills, and understand how and why things are done the way they are. He intuitively grasped big-picture strategies and was able to break these down into actionable steps. His crew looked up to him and loved him like a brother.

Brian had strong morals and always put others first. He was positive, funny, and selfless, with a dry sense of humor. He is survived by his parents, Peter and Suen Hughes; his sister, Meriel; and his fiancée, Paige Miller, who had their daughter, Sawyer, on February 12, 2019. He will be missed by these loved ones and countless others whose lives he touched.

*L*AFD Fire Captain II David Todd Moorman of Thousand Oaks, California, answered his last alarm on Super Bowl Sunday, 2017.

David was born on September 1, 1966, the middle of three children born to Mark and Carol Moorman. He grew up loving the Dodgers, playing competitive sports, and enjoying many trips to the Colorado River with family and friends. After high school graduation, David pursued his dream of becoming a firefighter. He attended Valley Junior College, taking fire science courses. In 1989, he was hired by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) and proudly served the community for 28 years. During that time, he climbed the ranks from Firefighter, to Apparatus Operator, to Captain I and lastly, to Captain II.

Throughout his career, he was a valued member of the LAFD Haz-Mat Task Force, as well as FEMA California Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue Team. His vast knowledge and extensive experience as a rescue specialist, logistics expert, and HAZMAT first responder instructor were called into action during his deployments to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike. David was also selected as a member of the FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Team from California that was deployed on 9/11 to New York for three weeks. Throughout David's career he received over 75 certifications, became a California state fire instructor and was given five letters of commendation, one of which was for his performance during the Los Angeles Riots of 1992. His highest achievement was being awarded the Medal of Merit for his bravery during the Malibu Fires of 1996.

David Moorman was a man of courage and integrity. He loved his family, friends, and crew with vigor. He spent countless hours volunteering and helping others. He was athletically gifted, enjoyed cooking, fishing, and could fix anything. Everyone could count on him to be fun and easygoing. People who knew him experienced his quick wit and extreme humility. For us, he was more than that; he was our everything. We knew him as a devoted husband and father who took us camping at the beach, national parks, and countless river trips. David always made time to attend our children's baseball and volleyball games.

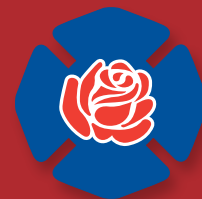
A man of great character, Captain David Moorman is remembered for his devotion to the department, for being a great friend, and co-worker. To his family, he is remembered for his love and devotion as an incredible husband, father, son, and brother who will forever be in their thoughts and hearts. Captain Moorman is survived by his wife, Amy, and their two children, Elizabeth and Richard.

Remembering



David T. Moorman

***Los Angeles
Fire Department – California
Career Captain
February 5, 2017
Age 50***



Remembering



David R. Rosa

*Long Beach
Fire Department – California
Career Captain*

June 25, 2018

Age 45



June 25, 4:08 a.m., your last act of leadership, last greeting to a citizen in need, last offer of help. When I look back at these decisions and their impact, the way that they have altered everything for us, I also reflect on all the ones that came before, your personal life decisions and their impact.

You always wanted to be a firefighter, from the L.A. County Fire Explorer program to private ambulance and paramedic school. You got your dream job with Long Beach Fire on March 2, 2001. During your career you enjoyed working at busy houses and spent a few years at the training center, passing on your experience and knowledge to incoming members. The numerous commendations during your career were not surprising, because you were a man of strong character.

I remember one of our first dates together. I took notice as you treated everyone from shop worker to wait staff with respect and kindness. Your love was genuine; you gave your best in everything you did, from umpiring to serving as Little League president. You put your family and those around you before yourself. You would check on your sister, plan family outings, help your mom and dad with projects, or just go over to say hello and share breakfast with them. I looked on in admiration as you practiced your drills and lectures aloud in the backyard, practicing even after so many years on the job.

It's no surprise that excellence and humble leadership were so important to you. At the core of it all was your faith in Christ, the faith that shaped who you were. These past few years brought a priceless gift to your life and to our love. You began digging deeper into your personal faith by reading the Bible and sharing your life with a small group of men from our church. This had a profound impact on the boys and me. You knew firsthand the impact and toll of your job, and you knew how crucial a relationship with Christ was to do all the things that it required and still come home afterwards to love us.

That call on June 25 had a permanent impact, but more than that, Honey, you have. In all your decisions, your leadership, your service, and especially your love to the boys and me, we've been changed. You're more than a line-of-duty death, another tragedy, more than a fire captain, husband, father, son, brother, and friend. You're a man whose daily decisions have a lasting impact on us all.

Dave Rosa leaves behind his wife, Lynley; sons, Alec and Sam; parents, Paul and Jean; and sister, Julia.

Remembering

Donald Ray Smith was the dozer operator for the Carr Fire in Redding, California. To his friends and family, he is known as Dad, Grandpa, “Donald Ray” to some and “DR” to others. On July 23, he was called to Redding to help make fire lines around houses and outlying areas and to assist the hotshots.

Donald Ray Smith was born in Blanchard, Oklahoma, to Cleo and Lily Smith, on June 3, 1936. He was preceded in death by a brother, Wesley Smith. He is survived by five daughters, Terry Stewart, Donna Rossborough, Debbie Pruitt, Connie VanDorien, and Angela Caudel; his former wife, Angie Smith; 15 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.

When he was growing up, his father worked the pipeline that ran from coast to coast, and they moved a lot. The family wound up in McCloud, California, where Don graduated from high school and met his future wife. After 10 years in McCloud, they moved to Warren, Arkansas, where Don built a house and settled down raising cattle and chickens. He did not have a degree in architecture, but he would imagine what a house should be, and he was able to let that imagination go from his mind to his hand to a pencil; before long he would have a blueprint made.

In the 1970s, we moved back to California, where he started operating heavy equipment. In 2000, he signed up with CAL FIRE to work the fire lines on his dozer and also ran his own water truck. He worked with CAL FIRE for 18 years, right up until the day he passed away.

Dad loved being around family and camping and fishing. His dream weekend was to take the family on the pontoon boat that he had rebuilt and take us down the Delta for a weekend fishing trip, a trip planned for late fall of 2018. He was the type of man that would not want you to feel sorry for him. He was prideful, understanding, and always there to help by lending a hand, heart, or just to listen.

We would sit in the yard around a fire pit for hours and just talk and laugh; boy, did we laugh! He loved to tell stories about growing up, our grandparents, our mom and him going to the same school, and all the mischief they would get into. We always told him he needed to write these stories down. He always said he would, but he never got around to it. He loved to stay busy and refused to retire even at age 82. He was a hardworking man and loved his family, and he will be missed. He is truly our hero.

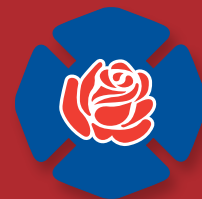


Donald Ray Smith

***CAL FIRE – California
Seasonal Contract Firefighter/
Bulldozer Operator***

July 26, 2018

Age 82



Remembering



Jeremy Stoke

*Redding Fire Department –
California*

Career Fire Prevention Inspector

July 26, 2018

Age 37



On July 26, 2018, we lost our brother, Fire Prevention Officer Jeremiah “Jeremy” Nathaniel Stoke. Jeremy was a true American hero and an example of selfless devotion to duty, honor, and service to our community.

Jeremy attended the fire academy at Shasta College and graduated with an associate degree in fire science. He worked as a seasonal firefighter for CAL FIRE from 2001 to 2004 and joined the Redding Fire Department as a firefighter on May 25, 2004. He promoted to fire engineer on October 5, 2008, and to fire inspector on November 19, 2017. In his role as fire inspector, Jeremy was assigned to a staff position at headquarters. He was fully trained as a firefighter in the suppression of fire, emergency medical services, and hazardous materials response. In addition, the fire inspector assignment included fire investigation, life hazard inspections, and arrest powers as a part of his duties.

Jeremy joined the Shasta Cascade Regional Hazardous Materials Team in February of 2007. A registered instructor with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, he served on various department training cadres, including ventilation and auto extrication, and presented training and instruction to the department in these fields. Jeremy was an instructor at the Shasta College Fire Academy, serving as a lead or primary instructor for SCBA, search and rescue, auto extrication, and PPE/tools and equipment.

On Monday, July 23, 2018, the Carr Fire started on Whiskeytown National Recreation Area land west of Redding. The fire quickly spread to state responsibility lands protected by CAL FIRE. The Redding Fire Department sent equipment and personnel to assist. Prior to the arrival of the fire into Redding proper, all available off-duty Redding firefighters were requested to report to duty. On July 26, 2018, Fire Engineer Stoke responded to the request and reported for work from vacation earlier that week. Due to his sense of duty, he had returned home to assist his department and protect our community.

On the evening of July 26, conditions aligned to create extremely rapid fire growth. Redding firefighters and officers, including Fire Inspector Stoke, battled the fire and conducted evacuations of homeowners and others from the area. As Fire Engineer Stoke heroically performed his duties, he was trapped by a rapidly progressing fire front and overrun by a rarely documented fire vortex, later determined to have wind speeds in excess of 165 miles per hour, equivalent to an F-3 tornado. He went missing around 8:00 p.m. and was later found by his fellow emergency responders, having died heroically in his duties.

*B*raden lived a life of service and abundant giving. He was a fun-loving guy who would give you the shirt off his back to help anyone in need, and often he did just that!

You would frequently find Braden out before sunrise after a snowstorm, plowing the driveways of nearby neighbors. He was never asked; he just did. It wasn't about getting something in return or getting recognition, it was about helping others who were truly in need and being of service to them because he was able.

Braden's love for operating started at the young age of four when his dad built him his first snow plow out of a riding lawnmower. The blade was made from a water heater that was chopped in half, and the plow was complete with a pulley system so it would raise and lower. Operating alongside his dad always gave him great joy, and they developed a bond over tractors that would keep them working side by side throughout their whole lives. During his college years, Braden ran dozer for a private contractor fighting fire. Often he worked on the same fire lines as his father, Gordie Varney, which made for some good stories and fond memories.

Braden went on to follow in his dad's footsteps and began working as an HFEO at CAL FIRE in 2007. To him, it was just another job that he loved to do. Building roads, pushing trees and brush, walls of flames 20 feet high, steep terrain, long hours, and weeks away from the family were all part of the job. Sure, it was tough at times, but he felt a sense of pride and accomplishment being able to save and protect people's homes and property.

Operating equipment was truly what Braden loved to do! Even in his off time he was operating and helping others out. He donated countless hours reconstructing and clearing roads due to natural disasters and building new roads to support the vision and gift of a local church camp in his hometown.

In July 2018, Braden was dispatched to the Ferguson Fire in Mariposa County. Tragedy struck that night when the roadway gave out and his dozer went tumbling down the steep ravine. Braden passed in the early morning of July 14th protecting his hometown that he loved so much. We will never forget his sacrifice.

Braden will forever be remembered for his generous heart, big smile, and true talent! He will forever be our hometown hero!

Remembering



Braden Gordie Varney

***CAL FIRE – California
Career Firefighter/
Equipment Operator***

July 14, 2018

Age 36



Remembering



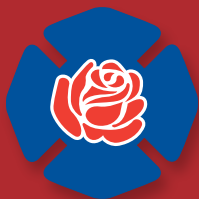
Aaron Lybarger

*West Metro Fire Rescue –
Colorado*

Career Engineer

June 2, 2018

Age 47



*A*aron Michael Lybarger was born December 18, 1970, to Glenn and Barbara Lybarger in Denver, Colorado. At a young age, Aaron and his family were introduced to Jehovah's Witnesses. His love and appreciation for Jehovah God grew to motivate him to be baptized in March 1986. He graduated high school in 1989 and went on working toward his goal of becoming a firefighter. He graduated from the fire academy in March 1992 and was immediately hired by West Metro Fire Rescue. In August 1992, he married the love of his life, Andrea Asmus, and has two beautiful girls, Amanda and Anna Belle. In 2016, Aaron and his family welcomed his great niece and nephew, Delilah and Zekiah, into their family.

Aaron was known as a kind, gentle person with a very active sense of humor and true caring concern for others. He devoted his life to his family and community. He was a loving husband and father and active member of his congregation, where he showed an amazing ability to touch people's hearts with Bible truth.

He was a well-respected firefighter and a member of the Colorado Urban Search and Rescue team that responded to the terrorist attack on 9/11 in New York. Due to his career as a firefighter and as a responder at Ground Zero, he developed stomach cancer, a battle that he could not win. *I have fought the fine fight, I have run the race to the finish, I have observed the faith.* 2 Timothy 4:7.

When we think of our beloved Aaron, we think of his love of Jehovah and his ministry, his service with West Metro Fire Rescue, four-wheeling in his jeep, weekends at the family cabin, his BBQ skills, and his family's hospitality in their home. Aaron fell asleep in death on June 2, 2018, at home surrounded by his family. He remains not only in their memory, but most importantly in Jehovah's memory. We all feel the hurt in our hearts missing this amazing son, brother, husband, father, uncle, and friend. Knowing that death is only temporary, he is only sleeping. We look forward to seeing him again in his tomorrow.

Aaron was preceded in death by his sisters, Cherie and Laurie. Aaron is survived by his wife, Andrea; his daughters, Amanda and Anna Belle; his parents, Barbara and Glenn; and his brother, Eric. He is also survived by two generations of nieces and nephews and other loving family members. All will miss him, including his loving brothers and sisters in his congregation and loving brotherhood of his fellow firefighters.

Remembering

Stacey was born on August 30, 1973, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Robert L. and Karen N. Boulware. She is survived by her father, Robert; stepmother, Linda Stainbrook; sister, Amy Boulware; uncle, William Boulware; and cousin, Kristen Boulware. Her mother, Karen, is deceased.

Stacey loved sports, particularly tennis and basketball. She played both in high school and competed in tennis at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. She continued playing competitive tennis, winning the ALTA (Atlanta Tennis Association) Open Singles Championship just two days prior to her passing.

She also enjoyed working with horses. She loved all animals and left behind her two constant companions, Kimura and Karate.

Stacey was a decorated firefighter and EMT. It was a profession she loved. At the time of her death, she was in the process of becoming a paramedic, a designation she was awarded posthumously.

She will be missed by all her brother and sister firefighters of Cobb County, Georgia, particularly her best friends, Kim T. and Mike B., and all members of her family.

God bless and keep you, Stacey B.



Stacey Leigh Boulware

*Cobb County Fire and
Emergency Services – Georgia*

Career Firefighter

March 12, 2018

Age 44



Remembering



Earnest M. McDuffie

*Hinesville Fire Department –
Georgia
Career Captain
February 20, 2018
Age 51*



Earnest “Moe” McDuffie Sr. was born on his parents’ front porch on March 21, 1966, with the assistance of a police officer from Huntington Station, New York. Moe was destined to work in public service, whether as a police officer or as a firefighter. Moe was a true servant, both in his community here in Hinesville and an active member and volunteer at his local church.

Moe McDuffie started his fire service and spent several years at Huntington Manor Fire Department, New York, as a volunteer firefighter. In July 2001, he began his 17-year career with Hinesville Fire Department, where he progressed through the rank of engineer. In 2010, he became lieutenant/deputy fire marshal and was promoted to captain/fire marshal in 2013, becoming the first African American fire marshal/chief fire investigator.

Moe was named Employee of the Year in 2006 and 2012. In 2010, he became a certified emergency medical technician, a mandated police officer, and an arson investigator. He also served as the city’s safety coordinator for the Local Government Risk Management Services (LGRMS). He was a respected member of several prestigious organizations, including the International Association of Arson Investigators, Georgia Public Safety Fire Investigators Association, Georgia Fire Investigators Association, State Local Fire Marshal Association, and the Georgia State Fire Marshal Association.

On February 20, 2018, at approximately 6:00 p.m., while doing his physical training, Moe went into cardiac arrest. Moe is survived by his wife, Angela; two sons, Earnest McDuffie Jr. of Nellis Air Force Base and Edward McDuffie of Scotts Air Force Base; one daughter, Alyssa McDuffie; two brothers, James and William McDuffie; three sisters, Linda Perine, Brenda Wooten, and Cindy Roberson; and one grandchild, Campbell; along with a host of other family, relatives, and friends. Moe is deeply missed by his fire family at Hinesville Fire, his community, and most of all his wife of 28 years and his three children.

Remembering

Adam C. Taylor, of Brinson, Georgia, was a passionate firefighter/EMT. He had a heart for God and was always willing to pray or lend an ear. Hunting, fishing, roping cows, and playing the guitar were just a few of his hobbies. He had a smile that could light up any room. At age 11, Adam rode with his older brother on volunteer calls, where he discovered his true calling in life.

At 18, he became an active volunteer firefighter and started his first job with Sylvester Fire Department. A mutual friend/co-worker introduced him to the love of his life, Kristin. In 2011, they got married, and he moved to Bainbridge, leaving Sylvester as a lieutenant after four years. He started working for Decatur County Fire Department (DCFR) in 2012, still volunteering on his off time. He also worked a part-time job with Camilla Fire Department.

The couple's desires were to start a family, so they prayed for four years to conceive. Finally, after much prayer and struggles, they became pregnant with twins! God knew what he was doing. They wanted to have two kids, a boy and a girl, and God gave them their desires. In May 2017, their miracle babies, Conner and Faith, were born, and you couldn't wipe the smile off Adam's face. His face would light up as he talked about the babies and their antics. He was thrilled to finally be a daddy. Unbeknownst to him, he only had ten months of pure joy to spend with his new family.

Years back, when Adam was a teenager, after a house fire, a lady firefighter asked him to help roll up hoses. Adam didn't want to help this particular night. So, being contrary, he wiped ashes from a hose onto his face, as if he rolled up hoses. She never knew otherwise.

Adam was an avid hunter and loved the outdoors. He taught his wife everything he knew about hunting and sat with her until she finally killed her first deer. Now each hunt was an adventure with these two, and you know a woman can't keep quiet long. Well, Adam would constantly tell her that she had to be really quiet. Then, low and behold, Adam needed a snack and all you could hear was a honey bun wrapper. Just imagine the look on her face when he started tearing into that honey bun.

Words could never truly capture the type of man that Adam was. You just had to know him. And if you knew him, you loved him. Our hearts are forever broken, but Adam lives on in their babies and in our hearts.



Adam Chadwick Taylor

*Decatur County Fire Department – Georgia
Career Firefighter/EMT*

*March 31, 2018
Age 30*



Remembering



Juan Bucio

**Chicago Fire Department –
Illinois**

Career Firefighter/EMT

May 28, 2018

Age 46



Juan Bucio was born January 25, 1972, to Magdalena and Leodegario Bucio in Mexico. The family came to the United States in search of a better life. Juan quickly learned English from schooling and watching cartoons.

Juan's service to the people of Chicago began as a pool and beach lifeguard when he was a teenager. His desire to serve his city continued as he became a Chicago Police Officer, entering the Chicago Police Academy in 2000. He served as a patrol officer in the 18th District for three years before accepting an offer of employment from the Chicago Fire Department (CFD), where he graduated from the Fire Academy in March of 2004 with his first assignment on Truck 6 downtown.

His work ethic was admired so much, he was asked to join CFD Air-Sea Rescue as a diver in 2007. Juan loved that assignment as a natural extension of his love of swimming and diving. He trained and worked hard to become the best rescue diver on CFD, while balancing a family with two young sons, Joshua and Jacob.

Juan was an amazing father. He cherished Jacob and Joshua. Juan was one of the kindest and most selfless of men. He would give the shirt off his back to anyone who needed it, on duty or off.

On Memorial Day, May 28, 2018, Juan went on a call for a person in the Chicago River on the Near Southside. He jumped from the CFD helicopter to search for the missing person as he had done many times before. Due to no fault of his own, Juan lost his life in the river during that rescue attempt. Juan is survived by his loving sons, Jacob and Joshua, and his eight siblings. He will forever live on in the hearts of those who loved him and will never forget him, as he gave his all to the city and people he loved.

*J*ohn Christopher Butler of Lafayette, Indiana, lost a five-year battle with cancer on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. He was born to the late Gregory P. Butler and Carol A. (Strasburger) Butler. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Gretchen L. Butler, and his two children, Brock N. Butler (20) and Allyson N. Butler (19).

John joined the Lafayette Fire Department in May of 1998. At the time of his passing, he was a sergeant assigned to Station 5 and a driver on Quint 5. Throughout John's treatment, he continued to work faithfully and dutifully serving the Lafayette community. Even while going through surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation he missed very few days of work. He was an inspiration to all those around him. A couple hours before John's passing, he wanted to ensure his battalion chief knew he wouldn't be at work the following day, as his dedication to his department and brothers never wavered.

John was a friend to all and one of the nicest people you could meet. He made a lasting impression on everyone he met during his lifetime. He had lifelong friends from his childhood on the farm in Earl Park, friends and teammates from high school at Benton Central, college buddies from Purdue, and numerous friends and colleagues he made over the years.

John was the sixth Lafayette firefighter to die in the line of duty. John's death was caused by complications from cancer that was brought on after 20 years of being continually exposed to smoke that is known to contain toxic compounds, of which 43 are known or suspected to be carcinogenic.

The lyrics of the song "Humble & Kind" are a perfect description of how John led his life. He left us all too soon, and he will be forever remembered as humble and kind.

Remembering



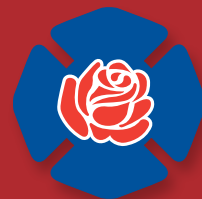
John C. Butler

***Lafayette Fire Department –
Indiana***

Career Sergeant

February 28, 2018

Age 52



Remembering



Jeffrey D. Holt

*Lawrence Fire Department –
Indiana*

Career Firefighter

April 30, 2018

Age 60



Jeff Holt of Brownsburg, Indiana, lived life in the moment with no regrets. He died shortly after completing his annual physical agility test for what he called the “best job in the world.” His passionate leadership mentored many in the fire service and left an indelible mark on the City of Lawrence Fire Department.

Jeff was born November 24, 1957, in Joliet, Illinois, to Dr. Donald and Marilyn Holt. He graduated from Benton Central High School in Indiana. He began his career at the Otterbein Fire Department, first as a firefighter and later as an EMT, before joining the Purdue Fire Department in 1985. He left the fire department to pursue his career in music but returned to Indiana to attend paramedic training at Methodist Hospital in 1994. His instructors often remarked about Jeff’s ability to communicate with his patients and co-workers, instilling a sense of trust amid critical situations.

Jeff joined the Lawrence Fire Department in 1996 as a firefighter/paramedic, and during his long career he served as an engineer, lieutenant, division chief of training, division chief of EMS, and deputy chief of operations. He was last assigned to the engine company at Station 36 and had recently submitted paperwork for his retirement.

Outside of his successful fire department career, Jeff continued to pursue music and was the lead singer of several bands including the Rich Kids, Renegade, Midian, Illicit Affair, Winston Wolf, and Paper Alley. Nicknamed Jeff “Van Halen” by his friends in the fire service, he was a perfectionist in his music and always enjoyed entertaining his audiences. He developed his love of music by listening to his mother give voice lessons after school. His appreciation for song lyrics and music trivia resulted in many late-night fireside discussions with his wife and neighbors about the meaning of songs, life, and, of course, the fire tetrahedron.

During paramedic school he met and married the love of his life, Lindi. He assumed the role of “bonus dad” to her two daughters, teaching them that “power tools are cool” and making many lakeside memories together. He cherished camping time with his parents, siblings, niece and nephew, and great-nephew. He was an accomplished mechanic and knew how to fix anything, a trait developed with his father while growing up. Lindi and Jeff shared almost 20 years of marriage and enjoyed their mutual love of music and rescuing special needs animals. Jeff’s favorite place in the world was at home with his family, working in his “Holtrods” shop and restoring a project to working condition.

Remembering



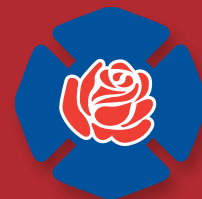
Thomas L. Henrich

*Earling Fire and Rescue
Department – Iowa*

Volunteer Chief

October 20, 2018

Age 58



Thomas Lawrence Henrich was born on December 29, 1959, to Lawrence and Rita Henrich of Maple River, Iowa. Tom grew up in Maple River and, on April 27, 1985, was united in marriage to Deb Tremel of Earling, Iowa. Tom and Deb had four children, Ashley, Amber, Ryan, and William. They raised their family in Earling, and Tom became a member of Earling Volunteer Fire and Rescue in 1987. Tom was the fire chief from 2008 until the day of his death. He was also an EMT and CPR/first aid instructor.

Tom was a family man and did a lot for his wife, children, and grandchild. Tom could fix almost anything and was a mechanic for most of his life and owner of Tom's Repair. He enjoyed camping, fishing, playing cards, garage sales, and NASCAR racing. He lived in fire department shirts and would be seen in them at most events and outings. He referred to his fellow firemen as his "brothers" and would stop by various fire stations to support their fundraisers.

Tom loved the fire department. No matter what time of day or night, when the pager went off, he would dress quickly and run out the door. He loved helping others and would sacrifice time with his family for someone in need. Tom was very proud of his role in the Earling Volunteer Fire and Rescue. He went to Parkersburg, which was one of the most meaningful parts of his role in the fire department. He poured his heart and soul into his volunteer work. He left many family functions and could never be "parked in" in case he had a call that he needed to respond to. The fire department was his second family, and he took his role seriously.

On October 20, 2018, Tom responded to a combine fire outside of Earling, where he suffered a medical event and died at the hospital that afternoon. He was 58 years old. He is survived by his wife, Deb Henrich, of Earling; his children, Ashley Brandon of Earling, Amber and Matt Rathert of Ankeny, Iowa, Ryan Henrich of Earling, William Henrich and his fiancée, Katie Wood of New Berlin, Wisconsin; and one grandchild, Jensen Brandon.

One piece of advice he instilled into his children is that if you don't have anything else in life, then you have your family. Family, to him, is more than blood; it is the people in your life that matter the most.

Remembering



John Wayne Randle

*Wamego City Fire Department –
Kansas*

Volunteer Firefighter

January 2, 2018

Age 68



John Wayne Randle was born July 4, 1949, to Gordon and Marvella Randle in Wichita. He graduated from Byers High School in 1967. He married JoLane (Karst) Simmer on February 24, 1992. John had three sisters, Ellen Rolo, Elaine Shanks, and Eileen Rolo; two stepchildren, Rod Simmer and Kendra Sexe; four grandchildren, Trevor and Collin Simmer and MacKenzie and Lucas Sexe; a great-grandchild, Logan Simmer; and several nieces and nephews.

In 1980, John started his career at the Kansas Power and Light Jeffrey Energy Center as an auxiliary equipment operator and later became a journeyman mechanical maintenance technician. In 1990, he completed his EMR certification and, in 1992, joined the High Angle/Confined Space Rescue Team. In 2002, he completed his Firefighter I training and was an active member of the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association.

Fire Chief Phil Stultz stated, “John was a courageous man that was committed to family, friends, and service to his community. John was a trusted man by all that knew him, a phenomenal character trait garnered through hard work and education. He would also be the first to help anyone that needed a favor or give a steady shoulder to lean on during their troubled times, but John was also an avid, profound secret prankster. Tim Flanary, a dear friend of John’s was the last fireman to experience John’s antics. John saw someone’s bunker pants hanging from the washer; he asked me whose they were. I told him I believed they were Tim’s. When I returned from the restroom, I noticed they were now hanging from his locker and not laying on the washer as before. The shoulder straps had been short jacked, and the inner liner of the pants were put on backwards. This was not a rare incident for John.... John was an extraordinary man who paid it forward, a hero in my eyes, someone I will always remember and pattern my life going forward.”

Assistant Fire Chief Tim Flanary stated, “John attended whatever firefighting classes were offered to bring the knowledge back to his home agency. Many times, he was the oldest in attendance and would ‘show the kids’ how to train and work hard. There was never a task too difficult or minuscule for John to take ownership of. He worked hard, but laughed even more. He enjoyed life, those around him, and dearly loved his family.”

John collected many things including coins, stamps, and Kiddie cars. He enjoyed woodworking and loved being around his grandchildren. Despite John’s tragic death, he will continue to have an everlasting impact on many lives through his gift of organ donation!

*J*eff lived life to its fullest and brought a smile to those who were fortunate enough to know him. His kind spirit, compassion for others, and calmness during emergencies are only a few of Jeff's qualities that made him such an outstanding firefighter/EMT. His commitment to the Paris Fire Department lasted more than thirty-five years. Over these years, a brotherhood developed with Jeff's fellow firefighters, and that bond would last a lifetime.

As much as Jeff loved being a firefighter, he would rather be remembered as being a man of God. He served as a deacon in our local church for many years and had a true servant's heart. Jeff loved the Lord and had a strong desire to lead others to Christ, as well.

Jeff was a devoted, caring husband. His pride and joy were his two children, daughter Raegan and son Sawyer. Jeff was involved in every aspect of their lives—hunting, sports, education, and nature, just to name a few. He loved farming, and he shared this love with his family. We were able to raise our children on a farm, and Jeff truly enjoyed the simplicity, hard work, and beauty that farm life offered.

Jeff is missed tremendously by his wife (Dannita), two children (Raegan and Sawyer), and other family members, friends, and fellow firefighters. Even though Jeff left at the young age of 54, his impact will far outlive his life on this earth. Jeff's love for God, family, fellow man, his thankful heart, and great appreciation for life will continue to resonate through the hearts of those that love him.

Remembering



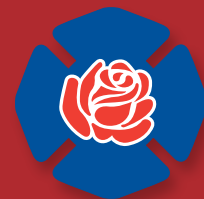
Jeffrey L. Crossfield

***City of Paris Fire Department –
Kentucky***

Career Firefighter/EMT

December 8, 2018

Age 54



Remembering



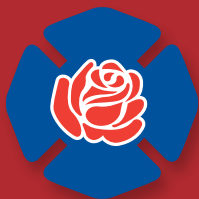
James K. Donnelly

**Bowling Green
Fire Department – Kentucky**

Career Captain

February 14, 2018

Age 63



James “Jim” Kenneth Donnelly was born August 31, 1954, to the late James Kenneth Donnelly and Opal Baxter Donnelly Davis in Bowling Green. Jim grew up mostly in Plum Springs with his sisters, Rhonda Donnelly and Sharon Cardwell (Leonard), and brothers, David Donnelly and Chad Davis (Michelle). Jim’s family included his wife, Annette Donnelly; and his children, Jay Donnelly (Kelly), Justin Donnelly (Stephanie), Brian Donnelly (Paige), and stepson, Tyler Harlow. He had five grandchildren, who he called “little honeys”: Hunter, Blake, Aubrey, Emma, and Briley Donnelly.

Jim began his firefighting career with 14 dedicated years as a volunteer for the Richardsville Volunteer Fire Department. He retired as captain from Bowling Green City Fire Department in 2011 after 21 years of service. He was proud of his accomplishments at the fire department and loved that he made some very close friends there. Jim was elated when his son Justin became a Bowling Green Fire Department firefighter, following in Dad’s footsteps.

Jim was a self-taught mechanic who diagnosed many cars over the telephone for friends. When he needed a tool to fix a car and couldn't buy what he needed, he would make it. He loved to drag race his 1968 Camaro and tinker with his 1955 Chevy, and he enjoyed going to car shows. Cars were his passion. Jim always laughed and said he “created monsters” when it came to his boys’ love for cars.

Jim instilled a love of hunting and fishing into his boys. He loved music and could name a song almost immediately after it would start and, often, the year it came out. People called him to “name that tune,” which made him laugh. Jim Donnelly had a gruff exterior, but behind that was a gentle, loving, huge-hearted man who loved his family and friends very much.

Jim was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in November 2016. He fought so bravely for 15 months, undergoing chemo and various procedures and never complaining. He was an avid supporter of MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, and regularly referred other patients to the hospital. He was so proud to help and watch the positive outcomes of others. Jim lost his battle with cancer in February 2018. We always called Jim our fearless leader, and it is still hard to believe that he is gone. We miss and remember him every single day, and we will forever be grateful that he touched each of our lives in a special way.

***“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord.
“Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11***

Captain Richard F. "Rick" Gossman, 51, was at home surrounded by family when he left this earth to begin his eternal round of golf on August 17, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born March 6, 1967, he was a lifelong resident of Louisville, Kentucky, and a graduate of Trinity High School.

Rick served his community for 32 years as a volunteer firefighter with McMahan Fire Department and passed his passion along to his son and several recruitment classes.

Rick was a regional manager and sales trainer with LAmey America. He enjoyed teaching others and valued the friendships he made over the years, across many states.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sheri Berrier, and adored children, Joshua Gossman and Camille Berrier.



Remembering



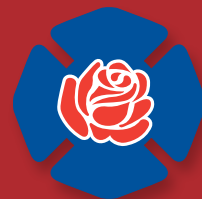
**Richard F.
Gossman**

***McMahan Fire Protection
District – Kentucky***

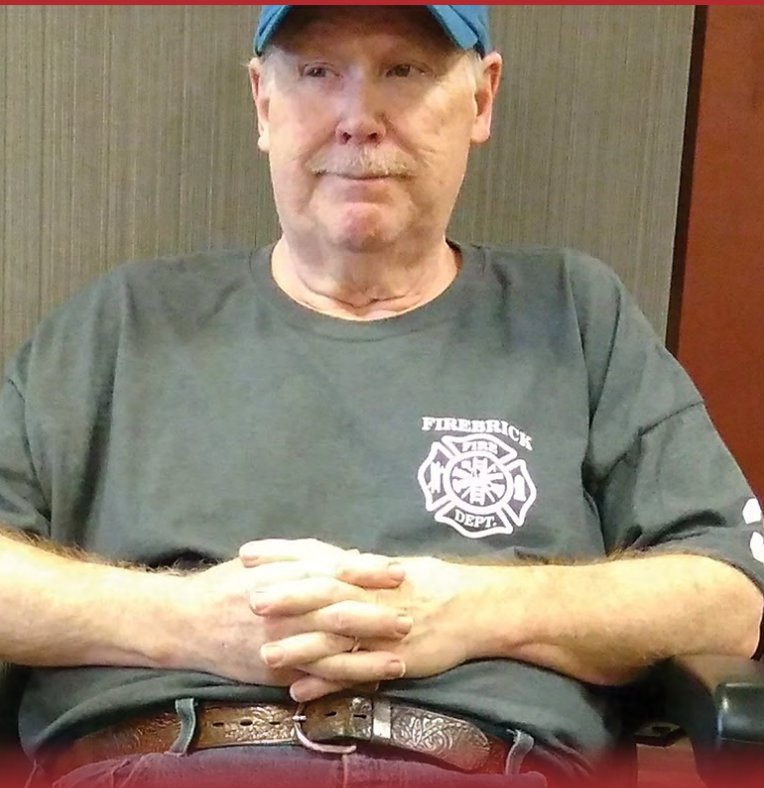
Career Captain

August 17, 2018

Age 51



Remembering



Ronald Keith Helton

*Firebrick Volunteer
Fire Department – Kentucky*

Volunteer Firefighter

October 29, 2018

Age 64



Ronald “Shorty” Keith Helton was born August 16, 1954, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Worley J. Helton and Helen L. (Mowery) Helton. His parents and sister, Sharon, among many other family members, welcomed him to the other side on October 29, 2018. He was of Catholic faith and at one time wanted to become a priest.

Ronald got his start in the Civil Air Patrol, where he volunteered for several years until he became a volunteer firefighter in 1972. He was a 45+ year member of the fire services. He had served with three different stations, two at the same time and with our son. He was named Fire Fighter of the Year several times during the years that he served. Shorty served as the training instructor, firefighter, and on the board of trustees as the vice president for the Firebrick Volunteer Fire Department in Firebrick, Kentucky.

Ronald hated school and dropped out his sophomore year, but enrolled in the adult GED program, where he graduated before he was supposed to graduate high school. He went on to take the adult machine maintenance program at Ashland Career and Technical School in Ashland, Kentucky. He had been an employee at AK Steel in Ashland since 2000. He enjoyed working with his son’s high school band boosters for football Friday nights and Saturday band competitions. When he was a teenager, he loved to make models, mostly airplanes.

Ronald’s sense of humor was something to remember, along with his love for firefighting. He loved telling stories of growing up in Baltimore and Abingdon, Virginia, where he spent many summers visiting his grandmother, cousins, and uncle. He always had a smile on his face and loved to share stories with our son about the many fire calls that he had throughout his long career as a fireman.

He loved going for bingo with his mom and the other people in the nursing home when he could. All the ladies loved when he could make it to bingo. He never really met a person he couldn’t talk to.

Ronald suffered a massive heart attack while on a motor vehicle accident. He was attempting to work traffic control when he went down. Ronald leaves behind his loving wife of 25 years, Rita; their son, Matthew; and their daughter from his previous marriage, Katherine. He also leaves behind the many firemen and ladies he has been through fire with who deeply miss him at the station. There is always a story or two they will share.

Remembering

Ray Hollingsworth was born September 1, 1958, and spent his entire life in Corbin, Kentucky. In 1984, Ray married his wife, Joella, and together they had four children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Ray was a simple man who worked extremely hard for his family, working for most of his life driving a concrete mixer. He was no stranger to hard work.

Ray grew a strong interest in joining the volunteer fire department in 2005. He dedicated thirteen years of service to his community. During this time, he received Firefighter of the Year.

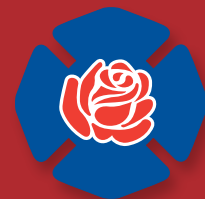
In March of 2018, Ray was diagnosed with cancer. He stayed active with the fire department until the very end. Ray lost his battle to cancer on November 7, 2018.



Ray Hollingsworth

*West Knox Volunteer Fire Department – Kentucky
Volunteer Lieutenant*

*November 7, 2018
Age 60*



Remembering



Russell A. Achord

*West Feliciana Parish
Fire Protection District #1 –
Louisiana
Career Deputy Chief
January 17, 2018
Age 48*



Deputy Chief Russell Achord was born November 25, 1969, and died January 17, 2018, due to injuries sustained while on duty responding to a car accident on an icy roadway. He was a dedicated public servant who was always there to help people. On Russell's last day, he was doing what he loved to do, helping others. Being on that icy road is exactly where he would have chosen to be, doing what he was called to do.

Russell figured out his purpose in life very early on. He knew that God would use him as a public servant to help people. Russell lived his life fulfilling his purpose. He started as a volunteer firefighter with the West Feliciana Fire Protection District more than 24 years ago. He had a long and accomplished career in public service as a paramedic, law enforcement officer, and firefighter. He began as a basic EMT with Acadian Ambulance, then as a paramedic for East Baton Rouge EMS. He later served as the Director of EMS for West Feliciana Parish Hospital. He also worked as a law enforcement officer for the St. Francisville Police Department, the West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office, and as a firefighter/police officer at the Baton Rouge Metro Airport. For the last three and a half years he served as the deputy fire chief of West Feliciana Parish. He received numerous awards throughout his career, including the James M. Robinson Medal of Valor for bravery above and beyond the call of duty in 1999.

Russell was an assistant scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America Troop 61. He was always there to lend a hand to help a scout, go on campouts and summer camps, and cook for the scout fundraisers. He truly enjoyed all the adventures he shared with the scouts.

Russell always had a smile and a contagious laugh that never failed to bring a smile to others. He was always the loudest person in the room and loved to tell a good story. His family meant the world to him. He could not have been prouder of his two children, Lindsey and Chandler, as everyone he talked to knew.

He considered all his brothers and sisters in the fire/EMS/law enforcement community his extended family. He loved them and was a great mentor to those who were entering the field. He wasn't a perfect man, but there was no one else you would have wanted beside you in an emergency. The number of people still alive today because of him may never be measured. He will always be remembered as a man who was a servant of all, to all.

Remembering

*M*itchell Duane Dobbins passed away March 26, 2014. "Mick" was a loving family man who was committed to providing fire safety to the residents of Hagerstown. He was the president of Western Enterprise Volunteer Fire Company #4 in Hagerstown's west end.

Born July 26, 1948, to the late Raymond Edward Dobbins and Leah Elizabeth Blickenstaff Dobbins, he was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served as a machinist mate on a destroyer during the Vietnam Era. He retired from Jamison Door Company after 31 years of service.

Mick dedicated 50 years to the fire service as a volunteer. He followed his father, "Ray" Dobbins, into the fire service, joining the Antietam Fire Company in September 1964 at age 16. Mick devoted his time there to running calls, helping with fundraising events, and attending meetings and trainings. For years, he helped run the bingo tent at fire company carnivals. Later in life, he joined the Western Enterprise Volunteer Fire Company #4, where he served as president for three years until his death. He was at the fire house daily, completing tasks to keep operations running smoothly. Mick was instrumental in establishing a substation in the west end of Hagerstown for an ambulance and in starting the process for the company to acquire a new ladder truck.

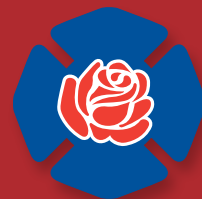
Mick had a lot of love for his children and grandchildren and treated everyone at Western Enterprise Fire Company like they were family. An honest, giving man who served his country and community, Mick enjoyed spending time with his loving family and friends and serving others. He liked watching the Redskins with his sons, going to NASCAR races, playing bingo, bowling, and hunting. Mitchell was a member of Funkstown American Legion Post 211, Vietnam Veterans Last Man's Club, Washington County AMVETS Post 10, Conococheague Tribe 84 Improved Order of the Red Men, Williamsport Moose Lodge 2462, and North American Rod and Gun Club.

Mick leaves his loving wife, Anna V. Hill-Dobbins; his children, Shawn, Brandon, Jonathan (fiancée Peyton), Elizabeth (husband Steve), Stephanie, and Jenny; grandchildren, Lily, Leah, Aubrey, Ava, Bailey, Logan, Lindsey, Josh, and Corey; great-grandson, Keaton; sister, Linda; brother, Dennis; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mick left a huge impact on everyone who knew him. His legacy lives on through his family and in the fire service community. Mick was a kind man with a big heart. He did anything he could to help others.



**Mitchell D.
Dobbins**
*Western Enterprise
Fire Company – Maryland
Volunteer President*
March 26, 2014
Age 65



Remembering



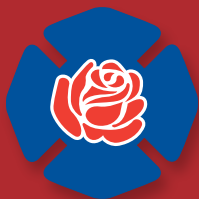
Nathan E. Flynn

*Howard County Department
of Fire and Rescue Services –
Maryland*

Career Lieutenant

July 23, 2018

Age 34



*H*oward County Department of Fire and Rescue Services Firefighter Nathan “Nate” Flynn died in the line of duty on Monday, July 23, 2018, while operating at the scene of a house fire in Clarksville, Maryland. Firefighter Flynn was a member of the Special Operations Team and assigned to Station 10. A thirteen-year veteran of the department, known for his attention to detail and passion for learning, Fire Fighter Flynn was posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

A firm believer that excellent firefighters are made, not born, Lieutenant Flynn sought training to enhance his skills as a firefighter, as well as ways to pass his knowledge on to others effectively. This mindset motivated him to collaborate with other firefighters to develop the real-world conditions training “Real Houses Not Doll Houses” provided at the Fire Department Instructor’s Conference International (FDIC, International) in April 2018. Additionally, he volunteered with the Susquehanna Hose Company and Harford County Technical Rescue Teams, where he was always willing to take time to train and mentor younger volunteer firefighters.

Outside of the fire service, Nate also challenged himself to learn new skills through various home renovation projects and hobbies. He was an avid model railroader and had recently added boating to his interests. Although constantly driven to improve himself, he always took the time to appreciate the present and greatly valued spending time with his family and friends. Remembered for his generosity, caring nature, and charismatic smile, friends and family recall Nate as someone who placed others before himself. Nate is survived by his wife, Celeste, and their five children.

Remembering

*D*aniel Lee Lister of Hillsboro, Maryland, made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on September 1, 2018. Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched for a motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Route 404. Danny remained with his patients until they were safely extricated, then tragically suffered his own medical emergency during the call.

Danny was born on March 18, 1984, in Easton, the son of Donna Jo Lister and the late Thomas Michael Lister. He is survived by his mother, Donna Jo Lister; his son, Noah M. Lister; and his fiancée, Lauren A. Baker.

As a child, Danny always wanted to play fireman. In 2002, Danny lost his father and was devastated, as any child would be. Later that year, Danny decided to join Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company. He became part of their fire family and truly believed the fire department saved him. He quickly moved through the ranks and held various positions throughout the company such as captain, lieutenant, assistant chief, chief, and even went on to obtain his EMT. He was serving as assistant chief at the time of his passing.

Danny didn't just love the call, but he grew to love the men and women he served with – he truly loved serving his community. His care for the community spilled over to his career, as he served as the risk manager for Queen Anne's County until the time of his death. Danny truly was a kid at heart and knew how to make everyone laugh. He was known to be quite the instigator, too. Danny loved life. One of his greatest joys was his son Noah, and he was so proud of the young man he was becoming. Through being in the fire company, Danny found the love of his life, his fiancée Lauren. Most of his time off was spent creating memories with his family and friends.

Thanks to all of Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company for being there for Danny. It is easy to see why he loved all of you so much.

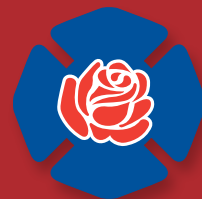


Daniel Lee “Danny” Lister

*Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer
Fire Company – Maryland
Volunteer Assistant Chief*

September 1, 2018

Age 34



Remembering



Christopher C. Pryor

*LaVale Volunteer
Fire Department – Maryland
Volunteer Assistant Chief*

*February 25, 2018
Age 45*



Christopher Charles Pryor was born on March 19, 1972, to Earl Jr. and Margaret Pryor. He was welcomed by his older brother, Earl III, and his sister, Jodi.

Chris was a graduate of Allegany High School in Cumberland, Maryland, and the Center for Career and Technical Education in Cresaptown, Maryland. After graduating, he mainly worked in the carpentry field. Chris was a man of many hats, and he liked to know the ins and outs of just about anything he could.

Chris was a third-generation fireman of the LaVale Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) in LaVale, Maryland. He joined the fire service in June 2002. He was constantly fascinated by the fire service and was constantly striving to learn to help him better serve his department and his community. Chris wore many hats in the department. He served as a trustee, vice president, lieutenant, captain, assistant chief, deputy chief, and chief.

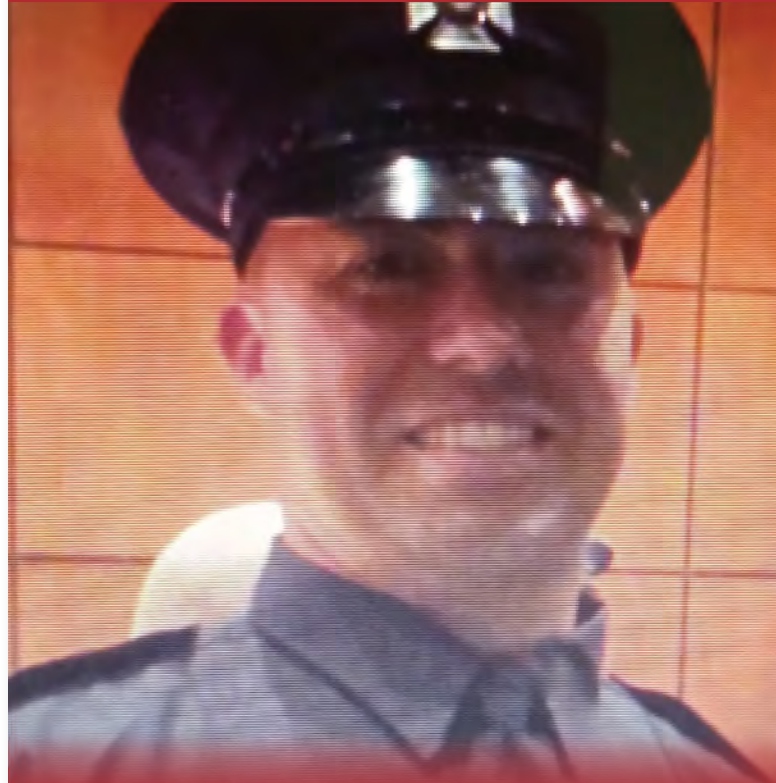
Chris would help anyone in any way he could. If you needed it, he'd even give you the shirt off his back. He was a devoted friend, father, and husband. He was also a humble man that took great pride in his work. Chris was also a mentor to many younger members of the LVFD. He always lent a hand and tried to teach his fellow firefighters, whether by sharing stories or helping with training.

Chris was sadly taken from us on February 25, 2018, shortly after returning home from a vehicle accident. He returned home and noted to his wife, Kim, that he wasn't feeling well and wanted to be taken to the hospital. After getting to the hospital, Chris sadly passed away of a heart attack.

Chris is severely missed by his friends and brothers and sisters in the fire service. Chris is missed tremendously by his children and wife.

Chris is survived by his wife, Kim; his children, Ty, C.J., and his baby girl Matea. Chris was taken from us all too soon, but his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of anyone he was able to bond with and everyone he helped.

Remembering



Chris was a firefighter for the Worcester Fire Department in Worcester, Massachusetts, for two and a half years before his tragic death occurred on December 9, 2018. He was 36 years old. He was dedicated to his work as a firefighter and trained for special operations and technical rescue, which he excelled in. Chris became so good in such a short period of time; his fellow firefighters could not be prouder of him.

Chris lost his life after he became trapped and suffered smoke inhalation. The fire was determined to be intentionally set, and his death was ruled a homicide. The person who set the fire has been charged with 2nd degree murder. The case is ongoing.

Chris was passionate about family and a true friend to many, but he lived and loved above all his daughter Ava, who was nine when he died. Chris was a single dad. His love for Ava was beyond words. He would move heaven and earth for Ava to be sure she had everything and to experience life to its fullest. They would go on trips to Disneyland, Myrtle Beach, and beaches along the New England coast, as well as simply enjoying a beautiful day together on "road trips." Chris was a big man at 6'5" and 250 pounds. It was truly a gift to see him and Ava side by side holding hands and laughing.

He worked construction as a second job to be able to buy a home in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, to ensure Ava would have an excellent education. Chris instilled in her to be strong, loving, and compassionate and to enjoy life to its fullest, just as he did. His sense of humor was definitely a gift to Ava, as well. She is exactly what he wanted her to be. He would be very proud. His legacy lives on through his "little Munchkin" Ava.

Chris will forever be missed and loved by Ava; his parents, Ron and Michele; his brother, Jason, his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Ashlynn; and many, many friends.

**Christopher J.
Roy**
**Worcester Fire Department –
Massachusetts**
Career Firefighter
December 9, 2018
Age 36



Remembering



Michael J. Lubig

*Detroit Fire Department –
Michigan*

Career Acting Sergeant

November 12, 2018

Age 46



*A*cting Sergeant Michael J. Lubig, age 46, of the Detroit Fire Department, died on November 12, 2018, after suffering a medical emergency following a 24-hour shift during which he responded to several calls.

A second-generation firefighter, he joined the department in 1999 and served for almost 20 years, mostly in the department's third battalion. His last assignment was with Engine 58 on the east side of Detroit.

Lubig was married and had four children.

He practiced martial arts and was an active runner. He loved rock and roll and enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He is remembered as an all-around good guy with an ever-present smile, lots of energy, and a free spirit.



Remembering

*R*obert J. Phillips II of Memphis, Michigan, passed away September 23, 2018, at home after responding to an emergency medical call and an auto accident call. Robert was born to Marilyn Phillips and the late Robert Phillips. Robert is survived by his wife, Sandra S. Phillips; daughter, Jessica (Eric) Bauman; sons, Jason (Jennifer) and Jeffery (Kristina) Phillips; and grandchildren, Samantha, Riley, Kyle, Matthew, and Amelia.

Robert started at the Memphis Volunteer Fire Department in 1979, where he was an active member until his passing. During his 39 years of service, Robert held many positions including secretary, treasurer, fire chief, and many years as a senior firefighter. Robert spent countless hours mentoring his fellow firefighters and providing guidance wherever he could. Being in such a small community, many of the younger firemen were around the same age as his children. The relationships that he had with some of the younger guys started when they were young kids and he was coaching Little League with them.

Robert enjoyed camping, biking, and being a referee. Camping was always a part of his life and, while he has camped many places, one of his favorites his last few years was Rifle River Campground just outside of Rose City. He and his wife, Sandy, enjoyed the quiet campground for relaxing and hiking. Camping was a big family event; he would do family weekends with his siblings and their kids along with another weekend with his kids and grandkids each year. Bicycling was also something that Robert was passionate about. He enjoyed the relaxing ride, but he also did some bike tours that were 40-60 miles long. This was something that he got to share with his brother, Al Phillips, who also enjoyed biking, and they would do bike tours together such as the Peach of a Ride that started in Robert's hometown.

Being a high school referee was another activity that Robert enjoyed. He refereed sports including softball, baseball, basketball, and football (his favorite). Being a referee let him be active in the sports with high school kids, while having a group of guys that were friends and that enjoyed it as much as he did.

Most of all, Robert was a family man that spent much time with family. He was always there for them and would help whenever he could. He loved play time with the grandkids and was known to take them to the park for a walk often. He was very involved and will be forever greatly missed and loved.



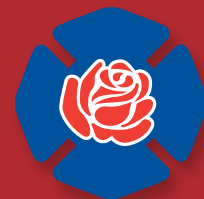
Robert J. Phillips II

*Memphis Fire Department –
Michigan*

Paid-on-Call Firefighter

September 23, 2018

Age 62



Remembering



Timothy W. Royce

**Mapleton Fire Department –
Minnesota**

Volunteer 2nd Assistant Chief

March 30, 2018

Age 57



Tim Royce of Mapleton, Minnesota, was a beloved firefighter, father, and friend to all who were blessed to know him, and his community is forever impacted by the example of his life generously lived in the humble service of others.

Tim was born to Mavis and Roger Royce of Good Thunder, Minnesota, and grew up alongside his three sisters, playing football, wrestling, being in Boy Scouts, and exploring the outdoors. Tim graduated from Amboy-Good Thunder High School and shortly after moved to Mapleton, Minnesota, to start a family. There he found his two greatest passions—volunteer service with the Mapleton Fire Department and raising his two beloved children in a community he served and loved.

Tim was a dedicated member of the Mapleton Fire Department for 18 years. He loved his time in leadership and service for the department and even more so the family he found within its members. He was not only present for every call he could make, but for moments big and small for his fellow firefighters. Tim was there for golf outings, cigar breaks, Saturday breakfast at the local diner, standing as a groomsman for weddings, arranging activities for the kids of the department, playing a jolly and gentle Santa for holiday events, answering late night phone calls for advice, and always ready and willing to share a joke or help a friend in need.

Tim was a spiritual leader in the church and in his family, finding joy in fellowship and worship with his beautiful singing voice. He enjoyed golf, curling, fishing, hunting, and opening his door to his community and many great friends in Mapleton. Perhaps his greatest joy, however, was being a devoted and loving father to his two children. He was their biggest cheerleader, never missing a recital, performance, or opportunity to tell his children how proud they made him. His kids joke that many of the Mapleton community knew more about their lives than they did, as Tim's favorite pastime was talking about his children with a twinkle of pride in his eye. He worked tirelessly to give his kids the world and teach them how to navigate it, loving them fiercely every step of the way.

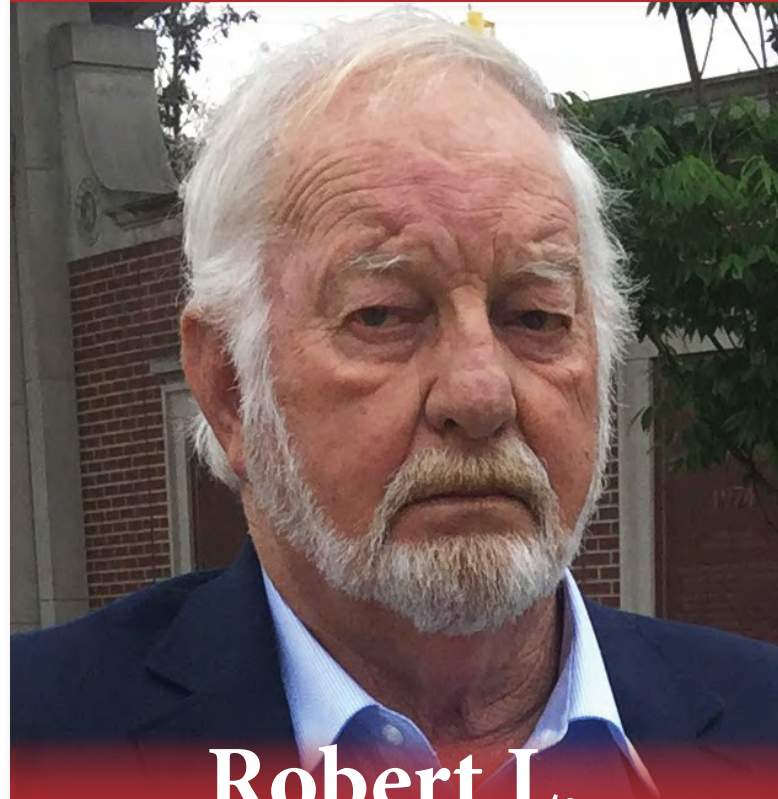
Tim was truly one of a kind. He loved unconditionally, made everyone he encountered feel like a friend, humbly led by example, and was an open door and open heart to his beloved community of firefighters, friends, and family. His life lived in love and servitude for others has been a guiding light for his friends and family and will forever continue to be so.

Remembering

Robert L. “Bobby” Dunaway, Chief of Howell Volunteer Fire Department in George County, Mississippi, passed away on Sunday, December 23, 2018. He was born on November 18, 1946, and was 72 years old. He responded to a vehicle fire and was working to extinguish it when he suffered a medical emergency and collapsed. “Mr. Bobby,” as he was called by his fellow firefighters, had been an active member since the fire department was started in 1983. He loved serving as a firefighter and being there to help his neighbors.

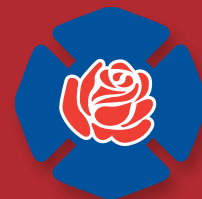
He served in the United States Navy from December 1965 to October 1969. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marie Dunaway; son, Shane (Melissa) Dunaway, of Helena, Alabama; daughter, Dawn Beasley, of Lucedale; grandsons, Blake (Lindsay) Dunaway, of Mobile, Alabama, and Nathan Dunaway, of Helena; granddaughters, Meghan Dunaway, of Helena, and Darlene Beasley, of Lucedale; mother, Hazel Dunaway, of Wilmer, Alabama; sister, Cindy (Tom) Spyrka, of Semmes, Alabama; and sister-in-law, Dot Dunaway, of Wilmer, Alabama.



Robert L. “Bobby” Dunaway

*Howell Volunteer
Fire Department – Mississippi
Volunteer Chief
December 23, 2018
Age 72*



Remembering



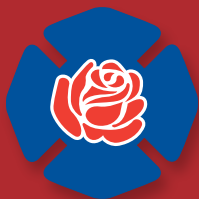
Dustin W. Grubbs

*Magee Volunteer Fire
Department – Mississippi*

Volunteer Firefighter

November 3, 2018

Age 34



Firefighter Dustin William Grubbs, age 34, of the Magee Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 3, 2018, from a motor vehicle accident while en route to the Magee Volunteer Fire Department to respond to a structure fire.

He was an avid fan of the Florida Gators, Magee football, and Magee softball. He enjoyed every aspect of the department—running calls, workday events at the station, and especially training nights.

He is survived by his wife and four children, his parents, two brothers, two grandmothers, and extended family. He was a loving and devoted father and husband.



Remembering

Chief Randall Glen Yeatman of Woodland, Mississippi, was born June 21, 1968, in Starkville, Mississippi, to the late Glen Sanford Yeatman and Charlie Mae Pinnix Yeatman. Randall passed away December 2, 2018. Chief Yeatman responded to an EMS call on the second floor of a two-story home on November 22, 2018. He came home that night, and in the early morning hours of November 23, 2018, he suffered a massive stroke. Chief Yeatman fought hard like he always did until December 2, 2018, when his Lord and savior called him home.

Chief Yeatman loved three things in his life. His love for Christ, the love of helping his fellow man in the fire service, and his love for his family. Chief Yeatman was also loved by his fellow man for the work he put into his community, his gift of never meeting a stranger, and for making people smile everywhere he went.

Chief Yeatman served in the fire service for over 20 years for the town and community of Woodland. He was a long-time member of the Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association and the Mississippi Fire Fighters Association.

Chief Yeatman was a member of the Amity Baptist Church in Sparta, Mississippi. He was a truck driver, where he also touched so many lives from North Carolina all the way to Texas where he made frequent hauls.

Chief Yeatman is survived by his mother, Charlie Mae Pinnix Yeatman; his son and current fire chief of Woodland, Glen "Bo" Randall Yeatman II; and three grandchildren, Brodie Eli Yeatman, Zoey Belle Yeatman, and Sawyer Blayre Yeatman, whom he loved more than the fire service. He had two siblings who always looked up to their big brother, Fire Chief Johnathan Wayne Yeatman and Melinda Renee Yeatman Morgan.

In his 50 years of life, his biggest accomplishments were turning his life over to the Lord and taking pride in being a great fire chief. To know Chief Yeatman was truly a blessing, because he never met a stranger and he made every day the best he could.

On June 1, 2019, Chief Randall Yeatman was awarded the State of Mississippi Distinguished Service Commendation for his actions on November 22, 2018. Chief Randall Yeatman will be greatly missed by his family and friends and his community that he tirelessly served every day he could.



Randall Glen Yeatman

*Woodland Volunteer
Fire Company – Mississippi
Volunteer Acting Chief*

December 2, 2018

Age 50



Remembering



Russell H. Hayes

*El Dorado Springs Volunteer
Fire Department – Missouri
Volunteer Firefighter*

October 4, 2018

Age 62



Firefighter Russell H. Hayes, age 62, of the El Dorado Springs Volunteer Fire Department, died on October 4, 2018, from injuries sustained the previous day in a single vehicle accident, while driving a pumper truck to conduct an annual pump inspection.

Hayes joined the department in 1976 and served for 42 years.

He worked for Dunbrooke Sportswear for 30 years, retiring as head mechanic.

In 1982, he married his beloved wife, Susan, who survives him. He is also survived by their two sons, Jeremy (Renea) and David, his three sisters, and three grandsons.

He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing with family members.



Remembering

Tom O. "Tommy" Martin was born in the small Montana town of Townsend. He grew up with his parents, John and June Enright, his brothers, Tim and Jess, and his sister, Sheila, hunting and fishing in the heart of Big Sky Country. After graduating from Great Falls High School and attending Eastern Montana College, he worked various jobs, including Orkin, Cascade County, and Fleet Supply, before becoming a fiber optic cable technician for Cascade Electric. He had no children of his own but was adored by his 15 nieces and nephews, 15 great-nieces and nephews, and 2 great-great-nieces and nephews.

Tom's path in life eventually led to the Black Eagle Volunteer Fire Department in Black Eagle, Montana. He was dedicated to the department to no end and devoted to the community. As a firefighter, he never stopped learning or passing on his knowledge to the younger members of the department. He was well liked and respected by both his department members and his peers in other county fire departments. He was elected chief in 2008.

As chief, Tom implemented his vision for the department, working tirelessly to update equipment. He strengthened the county mutual aid system in Cascade County and with the firefighters from Malmstrom Air Force Base, the City of Great Falls Fire Rescue and the Montana Air National Guard. Tom was proud of his community and began the annual tradition of a 4th of July home decorating contest and a parade through town. One of his biggest dreams for the department though, a new, more modern fire station, was not able to be realized despite his countless hours of hard work.

On August 19, 2017, his department members were the ones to respond first to the call at his home, where he was found unresponsive. Despite their best efforts, Tom passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service to his community. His sense of humor will be greatly missed, as he was able to make a joke out of anything and could make anyone laugh. He will always be remembered for his kindheartedness, love of his family, and his devotion to the fire service.

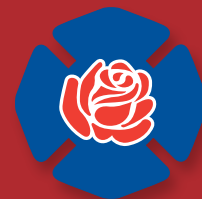


Tom O. Martin

*Black Eagle Volunteer Fire
Department – Montana
Volunteer Fire Chief*

August 19, 2017

Age 61



Remembering



Thelonious “Theo” Adams

*Las Vegas Fire Department –
Nevada*

Career Captain

May 1, 2018

Age 54



Theo Adams was born December 31, 1963, in New Orleans, Louisiana. His oldest brother preceded him in death; he is survived by two sisters, his mother, and his father. He is also survived by his only child, Zion (Ty) Adams and his two-year-old grandson, Kyrie Adams.

He began to show interest in the fire service after getting to know a number of local firefighters that frequented a banking institution where he was a bank teller. He was energetic and attended classes in the evening put on by CCFD Deputy Fire Marshal Sam Smith at Native Son Bookstore. He was hired by Las Vegas Fire & Rescue (LVFR) on November 13, 1990. After getting hired by LVFR, Theo would often return to the bookstore and assist with mentoring future firefighter candidates to achieve their dream of having a career in the fire service. His dedication continued as a captain by offering support and encouragement to subordinates who had a desire to promote within the LVFR.

Being from New Orleans, his interest in music, good food, and the arts continued after moving to Las Vegas in 1986. He would return annually to New Orleans to attend Jazz Fest and the many festivals that showcase the diverse culture of New Orleans. He would tell anyone, if you wanted to have a good time and enjoy good food, his hometown was the place to visit.

He had an eclectic taste in music ranging from smooth jazz, classic rock, R&B, and even a little country. His favorite artists were Prince and Lenny Kravitz, with a little Bob Marley and The Wailers mixed in to give that relaxed Caribbean feel he represented. In his spare time, he taught himself how to play the congas and acoustic guitar. He also had a competitive streak for tennis, which he had never played prior to joining the fire department.

Even after his accident on that unfortunate night of October 31, 2003, he did not let being a quadriplegic dampen his spirit, extract his confidence, or deter his ability to still offer a warm smile and a word of encouragement to strangers, family, and friends. Up until his passing on May 1, 2018, 15 years after his traumatic injury, his outlook remained positive about the challenges ahead of him. One of his proudest moments to witness prior to his passing was the birth of his grandson.

*G*ene Dannenfesler dedicated his life to public service as a firefighter, arson investigator, and peer counselor. The fire service was his calling and his passion. Starting as a junior firefighter in Bergenfield, he eventually became a firefighter at the Haddon Heights Fire Department at the age of eighteen, where he rose through the ranks, serving as chief for five years. One of Gene's many accomplishments was the development of the Haddon Heights Fire Department Explorer Program, a program to introduce teenagers to the fire service.

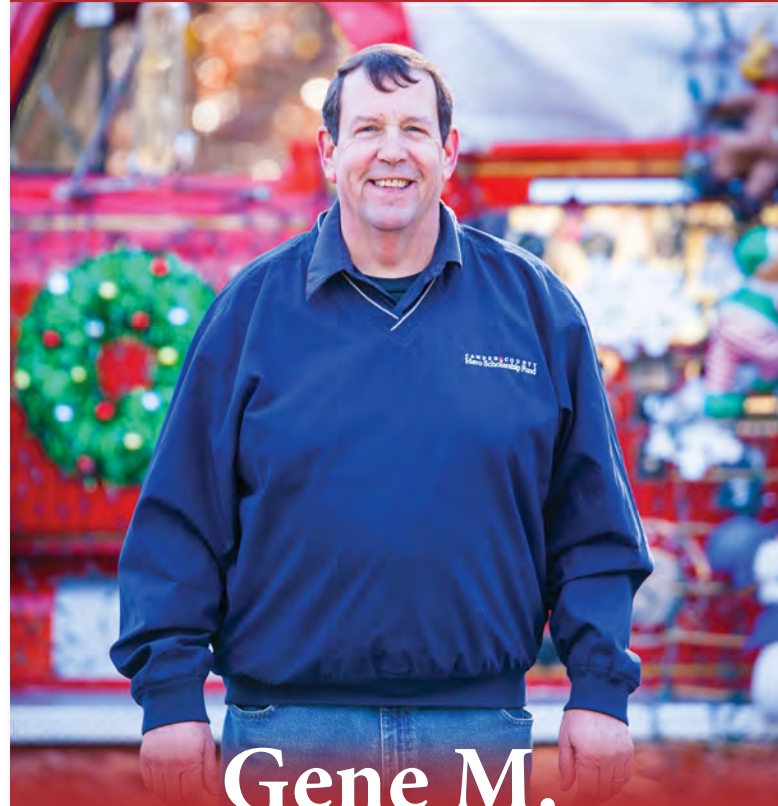
In 1983, he joined the Camden County Fire Marshal's office, holding the position of CFM2-Deputy Fire Marshal. He was recognized for both valor and meritorious service before retiring in 2007. Gene rarely just belonged to a professional association; he always found himself in a position to move the organization forward. His titles included the Southern Region Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, NJFMBA Local 111 State Delegate, NJFMBA Local 500 Southern District Vice President, and President of the Camden County Hero Scholarship Fund. He was a man who spent his life investigating fires, continuing to learn and educate. Gene was a sounding board for fire investigators still working in the field long after his retirement.

On 9/11, he was at an arson training course when he heard of the devastating events occurring in New York City. He knew he had to immediately go to New York City to help the brotherhood. He spent 13 tours at Ground Zero and Fresh Kills Landfill assisting in the recovery efforts and providing counseling services. In 2014, he was diagnosed with lung cancer acquired from his work at Ground Zero. Gene is remembered as a fierce advocate for cancer awareness in the fire service. After diagnosis, he continued to advocate to lawmakers on legislation that affected the fire service and specifically the first responders affected by 9/11.

Gene was selfless, an inspiration, a class act, a role model, and a hero. He made everyone feel like they were the most important person in his life, lending a smile and a listening ear. He had a passion for antique cars, fire department parades, holidays, and he loved his Philadelphia Flyers, Phillies, and Eagles.

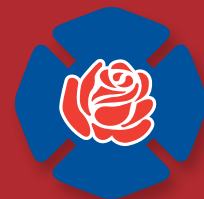
He was a dedicated brother, uncle, husband, father, and his favorite title, a grandfather, "Pop." He was a jokester who loved sharing jokes with his grandchildren. Gene's legacy lives on through the individuals he taught in the fire service, but more importantly through his children and grandchildren.

Remembering



Gene M. "Gussy" Dannenfesler

*Camden County Fire Marshal's
Office – New Jersey
Career Deputy Chief Fire Marshal
November 8, 2017
Age 59*



Remembering



Natalie Nicole Dempsey

*Mizpah Volunteer
Fire Company – New Jersey
Volunteer Firefighter*

*December 25, 2018
Age 21*



On December 25, 2018, at the age of 21, Natalie Nicole Dempsey made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. In the early hours of Christmas morning, Natalie lost control of her car on the way to her firehouse after receiving the call for a structure fire. Natalie was born December 2, 1997, to Christopher Sr. and Stacey Dempsey. She is survived by her parents; her brothers, Jesus, Brendon, and Christopher Jr; her beloved boyfriend, Andy Wilbert; and her three fur babies, Duchess, Sammi, and Zena. She is also survived by her loving grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Natalie attended Hutto High School in Hutto, Texas. During high school, she played the drums in marching band and was part of the media club. She loved videoing the football games and running the Jumbotron at all the home games. Natalie graduated from Hutto High School in 2016. After graduation, her family moved back home to New Jersey to be closer to family. This is where Natalie chose to become a volunteer firefighter with the Mizpah Volunteer Fire Company. In 2018, Natalie was nominated and voted in as vice president of the firehouse. It's at the firehouse that Natalie found her second family and her passion for helping others.

In Summer of 2018, Natalie began her pursuit of becoming a police officer. She worked very hard to accomplish this goal and had recently taken the police physical exam test. Natalie's ultimate goal in life was to become a K9 police officer.

Natalie's passion for others also included helping animals. She was employed as a supervisor at the Atlantic County Humane Society. She loved all the staff and especially loved helping find forever homes for the many animals she cared for.

Natalie brought her sense of humor, bright smile, and dance moves wherever she would go. Her smile lit up the room. She knew every word to her favorite song, "Ice Ice Baby." If you had a bad day, she would say, "It's nothing a little Ice Ice Baby can't fix." She always saw the bright side of life and could turn a room into laughter at any moment. If you were lucky enough to call her your friend, she loved you deeply and without judgement.

Natalie will be forever missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Remembering

*M*y brother, Pasquale “Peter” DiBenedetto, spent 47 years with the Englishtown Fire Department. These years were the happiest of his life. The Englishtown Fire Department became his second family. Truth be told, in many instances it was his first family. Helping others was an innate part of Peter’s nature. It’s who he was and why he was loved by so many.

Peter was also the fire department’s chief engineer. Being a certified mechanic, Peter was able to help maintain the fire trucks, cars, and general equipment. And Peter loved cars and trucks! He owned over a hundred vintage cars, trucks, and tractors. A number of them won prizes.

Following the death of his father, Peter assumed the family’s responsibility and their need to continue the farming. On weekends during the growing season, he could always be found selling farm produce. Peppers were a staple crop, which Peter not only sold but enjoyed eating—the hotter the better! This, plus his favorite high school beverage, Dr. Pepper, led to Peter’s nickname, “Pete the Pepper.”

Peter was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and was a lifelong resident of Englishtown. He is survived by his sister, Maddalin DiBenedetto; his uncle, Vito DiBenedetto; aunts, uncles, and cousins in Italy and Denmark; and extended family in Maryland and Florida.

He received many awards and recognitions for his service, including: Firefighter of the Year-20 years (1998-2017), Monmouth County Fire Marshal’s Office Certificate of Supreme Sacrifice, National Medal of Honor, the State of New Jersey Senate and General Assembly Fallen Firefighter Memorial Award, a State of New Jersey Senate and General Assembly Joint Legislative Resolution, and Englishtown Fire Department recognition and appreciation for 45 years of service.

Peter’s name, Pasquale Peter DiBenedetto, is inscribed with his brethren in remembrance on the New Jersey Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Memorial pavers honor Peter at the New Jersey Fire Museum and at the National Fallen Firefighters Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He received letters of recognition from New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and President Donald Trump.



Pasquale Peter DiBenedetto

Englishtown
Fire Department – New Jersey
*Volunteer Chief Engineer/
Firefighter*
August 2, 2018
Age 68



Remembering



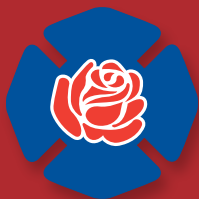
Michael G. Galay

**Green Knoll Fire Company #1 –
New Jersey**

Volunteer Firefighter

November 22, 2018

Age 71



Not long after Mike volunteered with Eureka Hose Company in Olyphant, Pennsylvania, his dedication to training and fundraising helped revive a weary department and gain a new 1972 Mack engine, painted the deep blue of the American flag, so that, Mike said, everyone could see that Eureka was on the way. Afterwards, every success was measured against his satisfaction in delivering The Blue Mack. That attitude extended to such remarkable career feats as rebuilding, with his team, a Manhattan datacenter less than one week after its destruction on 9/11.

Mike served two terms as Eureka's chief and was elected Olyphant's chief in 1979; then, demands of his IT career in Manhattan, marriage, and classes at Fordham limited volunteering to weekends in Olyphant. In New Jersey, responsible for managing datacenters in four states, Mike was finally able to volunteer in 2006 with Bridgewater's Green Knoll Fire Company, soon becoming top ladder driver and operator, ladder foreman, then secretary and trustee, making significant contributions to specifications, operation and appearance of new apparatus.

Six-time Firefighter of the Year during 12 years with Green Knoll, Mike was highly regarded for his professionalism on and off fire scenes. An ex-chief portrayed him as, "a brave and knowledgeable firefighter...Mike was always so aware of the fireground, he would provide valuable information to the incident commander and act as another set of eyes and ears." A calming influence under stressful conditions, he was a respected mentor to cadets, sharing a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of firefighting.

During the three days of Superstorm Sandy, answering more than 100 calls, Mike's skill driving the ladder truck spared the crew from harm from debris, poles, and trees crashing down, enabling firefighters to continue responding for 72 straight hours. In a high-angle rescue in 2018, Michael situated the ladder truck into a congested construction site and maneuvered the ladder to enable the rescue of an injured worker from a third-floor platform.

On November 21, 2018, Michael answered three fire calls, helped plan a fundraiser, and inspected the newly-arrived ladder truck and engine—happy, satisfied, but fatigued. On Thanksgiving morning, he suffered a fatal heart attack, concluding 50+ years of volunteer fire service.

Michael's quiet, diplomatic demeanor and witty humor earned respect and trust from his colleagues. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Joan, along with many cousins, friends, and brother firefighters. His loss has repercussions far beyond what he could have imagined.

Remembering

Craig Allan Maull was born and raised in Haddonfield and graduated from Haddonfield Memorial High School in 1966. Craig attended vocational school and became certified in heating and air conditioning. In 1967, he became a member of Haddon Fire Company No.1.

Craig was drafted during the Vietnam War, but chose to enlist in the Army in 1969. He was sent to Vietnam after training in Fort Hood, Texas. Craig enjoyed the fire service, and one of his many duties while in the Army was being involved in the fire brigade where he was stationed. Upon returning to Haddonfield, Craig returned to Haddon Fire Company No. 1, where he remained an active member for 50 years. Craig was a certified fire instructor and rose to the rank of captain. Craig was a man who never said “No” to anyone. He was always willing to help others in any way he could.

Craig was also very involved with the American Legion Post 38 and a very active member of the Pinewood Antlers Gun Club. During his free time, Craig participated in bowling and horseshoe leagues. He enjoyed these activities, as well as hunting and fishing with many of his firehouse friends.

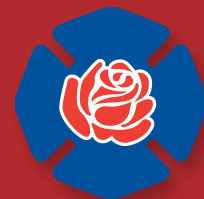
Craig is survived by his wife, twin sons, daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren. The family all knew when the alarm sounded to open the door and stand clear. Craig was flying out the door. His last call was a memorable one, riding the ladder truck with three of his best buddies. He loved being a firefighter. Craig will certainly be missed by his friends and family.



Craig Allan Maull

**Haddon Fire Company No. 1 –
New Jersey**

**Volunteer Firefighter
December 21, 2017
Age 71**



Remembering



Thomas D. Miserendino

*Beachwood Volunteer Fire
Company #1 – New Jersey
Volunteer Firefighter*

*June 4, 2015
Age 71*



Thomas D. Miserendino, “Chief”, age 71, was born April 26, 1944, in East Orange, New Jersey, and moved to the Borough of Beachwood, in 1971. Tom served in the United States Navy, where he attained the rank of senior chief, and he was a decorated Vietnam Veteran. After retiring from the Navy, Tom’s second career was with the Long Branch (NJ) Public Schools as a facilities director.

Tom joined the Beachwood Volunteer Fire Department in Ocean County, New Jersey, in 1971 and actively served for 44 years, earning his life membership. Tom moved through the ranks and was the chief of the department for 11 years.

During his service with the Beachwood Fire Department, Tom received several citations which included: the 200 Club of Ocean County Meritorious Service Award; a two-time recipient of the Beachwood Fire Department President’s Award; the Beachwood Fire Department Chief’s Award; the Ocean County Fire Marshal’s Length of Service Award, and numerous letters of recognition.

As a Beachwood firefighter, Tom represented Ocean County on the board of managers to the New Jersey Firemen’s Home for 20 years and was chairperson to their executive board. Tom was secretary to the Beachwood Firemen’s Relief Association and was a life member of the Ocean County Firemen’s Association and New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

Tom was very active in the community and was a Beachwood Councilman at the time of his death. Tom was a former member of the Beachwood Planning Board and former member of the Toms River Board of Education, where he represented the Borough of Beachwood for several years.

On the morning of May 25, 2015, Tom answered his final alarm. As the fire department prepared for its annual firefighter memorial services and parade, they responded automatic aid for an alarm in the neighboring town of Pine Beach. Upon returning from the fire call, the department went right into its memorial services, when Tom suddenly became ill and was ultimately transported to the hospital. Tom passed away on June 4, 2015, and was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Tom is survived by and proudly remembered by his wife, Patricia; his daughters, Jessica, Jennifer, and Suzanne and husband Ralph; his grandchildren, Anthony, Thomas, Joseph, Rhiannon, and Abigail; his sisters, Ruth Ann, Joan and husband David, Priscilla and husband Martin; his best friend, Bob Tapp, and family; and his brother and sisters in the Beachwood Fire Department.

Shadd began his training as a firefighter while in high school. His first fire response was to a plane crash that took the pilot's life. That fiery death had a powerful impact on his desire to become a competent and knowledgeable responder. Shadd's legacy is a passion for teaching and demonstrating proper rescue techniques and personal safety to emergency services personnel and his partners in adventure. He was known for his positive attitude and courage in the face of adversity. From the day he was diagnosed with job-related cancer until the day he left us, he maintained a determination to fight. During his final months, he regained a degree of health that allowed him to walk without the assistance of oxygen or a walker. With family, Shadd enjoyed the winter desert, visited the Grand Canyon, and slowly hiked the Granite Mountain Hotshot Memorial Trail.

Shadd held a B.S. in business/economics from Eastern Oregon State College. He pursued a degree in fire science, starting at Aims Community College in Colorado, and finishing at San Juan College after he was hired by the Farmington Fire Department. As a member of the Technical Rescue Team, Shadd taught skills with San Juan College and Arroyo Rescue. He was a member of the Wildland Team, NM Urban Search & Rescue, where he was deployed following Hurricane Katrina, and the Surface Water Oil Spill Emergency Response Team. Shadd was a Rescue 3 International Instructor.

Following Shadd's passing, his Union, Local 2850, created a graphic with crossed rowing oars, the Maltese Cross, and the words "Shaddow Warrior." Union members constructed a memorial in a city park near the location where whitewater rescue training takes place, as a reminder to all who visit that safety is of primary importance.

Shadd leaves his younger brother, Tobi, whose family--wife Alison and daughters Grace and Emery--he cherished with all his heart. Shadd's cousin, Ryan, also a firefighter, and his family--wife Jodi and children Hailey and Aiden--are nestled in his huge heart. He always made time to join his father, Jerry, and mother, Joan, on backcountry adventures in the mountains, deserts, and river canyons of the west. His family encompassed his Farmington Fire Department brothers and families in his neighborhood. Many children considered him an enthusiastic and humorous uncle who took the time to really notice their achievements.

Shadd would want his struggle with cancer to inform the fire service to take every necessary precaution to protect every firefighter.

Remembering



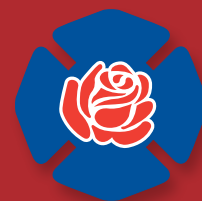
Jacob Shadd Rohwer

*Farmington Fire Department –
New Mexico*

Career Lieutenant

January 11, 2018

Age 44



Remembering



Raymond W. Alexander

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Lieutenant
November 21, 2016
Age 76*



*R*ay loved being a New York City firefighter for 42 years, until his 9/11 cancers took him from us. He had planned to continue with the FDNY until his 65th birthday, but that was not to be.

On September 11, 2001, that awful day, Ray started working “the pile” and continued to do so for several weeks.

Ray was the son of a New York City firefighter and was extremely proud to follow in his father’s footsteps. He was even prouder when our son Robert followed him into the “family business.”

Ray had a deep friendship with our creator, was a raconteur of the first order, and had a memory that just did not quit.

Over the thirteen years that he developed seven different cancers, I never heard him complain but once, and that was when he had to give up his driver’s license. He loved to drive! In his youth, he raced his Chevy at a couple of tracks on Long Island and won several first-place trophies.

We were married for 47 years, and Ray is missed every single day!

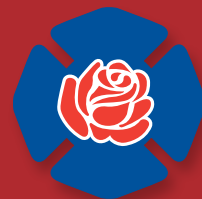


Remembering



Robert W. Alexander

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Chief Marine Engineer
August 14, 2017
Age 43*



*R*ob was a third-generation New York City firefighter. He was born to be a mechanic. “Big engines, Mommy, big engines!” he used to say. All his trucks, trains, and cars would be taken apart and rebuilt.

Rob was our own renaissance man. After college, he worked as a diesel mechanic for Cummins, an EMT for New York City (NYC), a police officer for NYC, and finally found his niche as a marine engineer for the New York City Fire Department (FDNY). He loved that he followed in his father’s and grandfather’s shoes to the FDNY. Rob helped to build the engine rooms of the new fireboats for New York, and he served proudly on the 343.

Rob was Mr. Personality and had legions of friends from every stage of his life. He was particularly proud of his niece, Delaney, and his five godchildren.

Rob’s heart was as big as himself. He loved surprising recipients with gifts, flowers, or delicious food. He was a great cook and would invite his dad and me for barbecues at his mountain retreat.

Rob’s death has truly diminished us all. He died a short eight months after his father died. He is sorely missed.



Remembering



Howard Bischoff

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Lieutenant
September 22, 2014
Age 58*



*H*oward “Howie” J. Bischoff was born on June 12, 1956. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on December 12, 1983 and worked in Engine Company 204 before his promotion to rank of lieutenant on April 6, 1996. As a lieutenant, Howie worked in Battalion 42 and ended his career working out of Ladder Company 149.

Howie dedicated 19 years of service to the FDNY and died on September 22, 2014, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He is survived by his wife, Sheri; son, Christian; daughter, Lindsey; and sister, Gloria.



*J*ohn Buhler of Floral Park, New York, was a husband, father, friend, and mentor to those who were privileged to know him. Following the attacks on the world trade center on 9/11, John and fellow emergency responders selflessly and tirelessly assisted in the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero. John lost his battle with post 9/11 related illness on March 24, 2018.

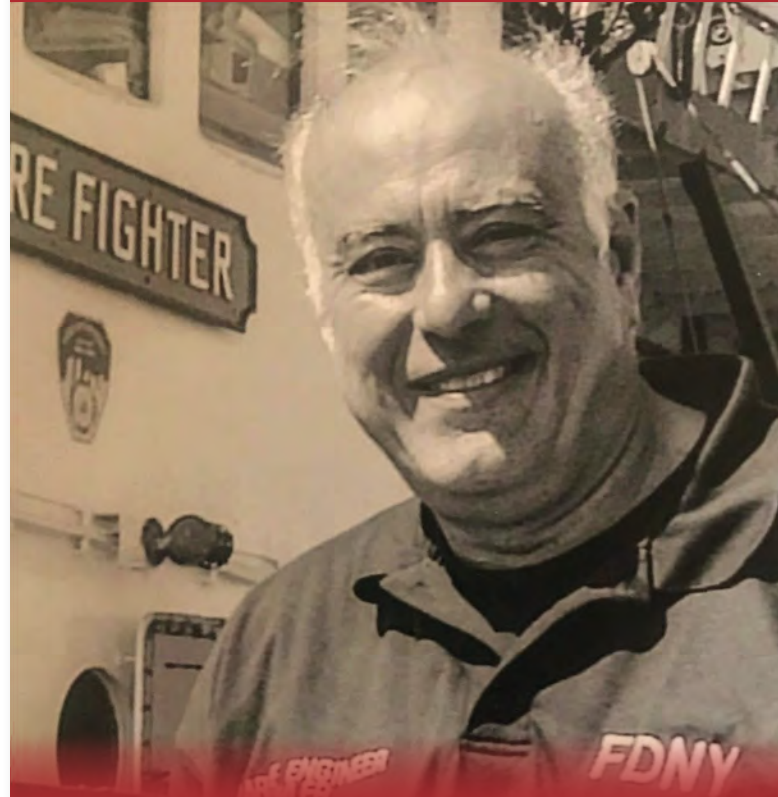
John grew up in Queens, where he spent his days on the water of Jamaica Bay. He honed his mechanical skills alongside his father, a fellow Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) marine engineer. John spent his 36-year career in service to the FDNY. He began his tenure at Ladder 31 Truck in the Bronx, moving on to 120 Truck in Brownsville, Queens, before settling down as a member of the Marine Division. John worked his way up through the ranks, from wiper to assistant marine engineer to chief marine engineer. He retired as the chief of the boat. He was an effective mentor to new arrivals, a reliable friend to fellow brothers, and a dedicated leader as union delegate and member of the pension board. John, along with the crew of the marine fireboat "Firefighter," received the rare Galant Ship Citation in recognition of their bravery, determination, and rescue efforts during the "Sea Witch" disaster in 1973. The Marine Division was a part of who he was, and he loved it! The friendships he made at the FDNY were lasting and strong. John organized luncheons and get togethers for fellow retirees to maintain communication and camaraderie.

John's family meant the world to him. He leaves behind a beloved wife of 47 years, Joan; three daughters, Lisa, Amy, and Karen, and their families. His adoration for his family was second only to their admiration and adoration of him. John could always be found in the center of all the grandchildren and did everything in his power to make them smile, laugh, and be happy!

In his spare time, John was an avid reader. He could also be found tinkering with his Ham Radio and participating in a local chapter of a Ham Operator Response Team. John was very involved in his church, serving as vice president of council, chair of the property committee, as well as cooking and overseeing the monthly fellowship meal for over 100 members of the church and community.

John left a lasting impression on those who knew him, as well as those who have heard stories of him. With a great sense of humor, a quick wit, and an ability to make friends wherever he went, John leaves behind a legacy of loyalty, love, and laughter.

Remembering

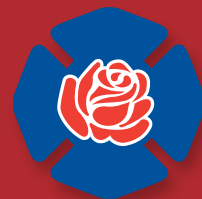


John L. Buhler

***Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Marine Engineer/
Firefighter***

March 24, 2018

Age 71



Remembering



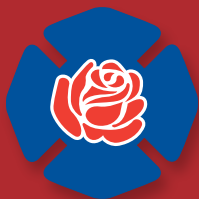
Carl Capobianco

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York*

Career Firefighter

July 29, 2011

Age 51



*H*usband, father, brother, son, friend, caring, loving, brave – these are just a few words that describe Carl Capobianco.

For Firefighter Carl Capobianco, the New York Fire Department was not just a job, but a passion. He was always willing to help and teach others. He loved being involved in every aspect of firehouse life, from making desserts to playing Santa Claus at children's Christmas parties. He never wanted to be the center of attention. Carl never told his family about receiving a Class A for a rescue involving a child; his family only learned of this heroic deed, accidentally, from a brother firefighter. He was always a hard worker and often worked two jobs at once. This led him to working with computers, getting involved with IT. His family would often find him bringing friends' computers home and working on them at the dining room table to solve whatever problems he could.

One of his many jobs led him to Kinney Parking Systems, where he met his future wife of twenty-one years. Together they raised two beautiful daughters in the home where Carl grew up. He was extremely proud of his two daughters and their achievements, talents, and abilities.

As a young man, his interests included tailgating at Jets games, camping, and spending summers at the Jersey shore with lifelong friends.

As a family man, he enjoyed apple and pumpkin picking in the fall and chopping down a Christmas tree every year. Summer vacations were spent on Cape Cod, where he built alligators and airplanes in the sand. Trips to Disneyland were memorable, especially when he rode "It's A Small World" too many times to count with his older daughter. He loved attending his girls' dance recitals and competitions, volleyball, soccer, and basketball games. He enjoyed cooking meals for his family.

His enthusiasm for life was infectious even during the most difficult time of his life, and he always encouraged his family to focus on that.

He lived well, laughed often, and loved much.

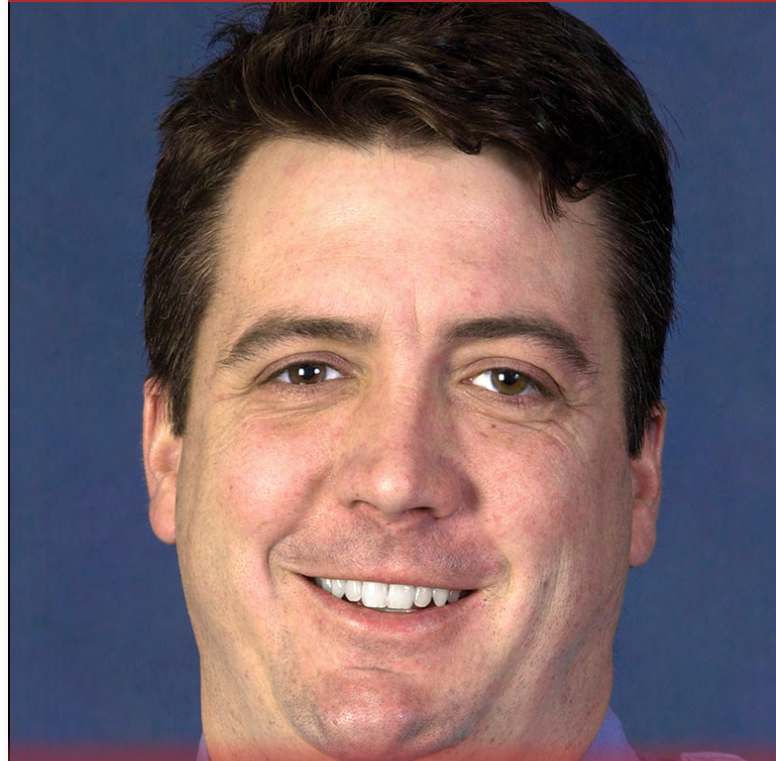
*G*regory “Greg” Andre Chevalley was born on April 26, 1971. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on August 16, 1998, and worked in both Ladder Company 135 and Engine Company 283. He was cited four times for acts of merit and awarded honors in 2000, 2001, 2006, and 2010. Greg served the FDNY as a firefighter for 16 years and ended his career working out of Engine Company 233.

Greg died on April 24, 2015, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa; sons, Ryder and Cooper; parents, Rene and Catherine; brother, Rene; and sister, Michelle.



Remembering



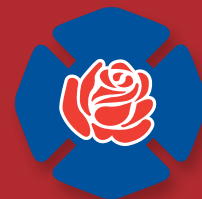
**Gregory A.
Chevalley**

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York*

Career Firefighter

April 24, 2015

Age 43



Remembering



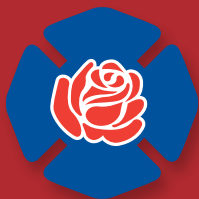
Michael R. Davidson

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York*

Career Lieutenant

March 23, 2018

Age 37



*M*ichael R. Davidson was born on January 24, 1981. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on May 4, 2003, and served his entire career at Engine Company 69.

Firefighter Davidson, a 15-year veteran of the FDNY, was decorated numerous times for bravery in the line of duty. He came from a family of firefighters. Michael Davidson's father, retired Firefighter Robert Davidson, is a 26-year veteran of the FDNY. In fact, he spent most of his time in service at the same unit as his son, Engine Company 69. His brother, Firefighter Eric Davidson, has been serving for over 11 years in FDNY's Engine Company 88 in the Bronx.

Firefighter Michael Davidson died battling a fifth-alarm fire in Harlem on March 23, 2018, and was posthumously promoted to Lieutenant.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen; son, Joseph; daughters, Brooke, Emily, and Amy; parents, Robert and Paula; and brother, Eric.



*G*eorge Froehlich of Staten Island, New York, passed March 29, 2018, after a long battle with cancer that was the result of being at the World Trade Center (WTC) site. He witnessed firsthand the devastation and destruction of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He was on duty at the time and, while watching the news report, saw the second plane crash into the towers while at his firehouse, Engine 167/Ladder 87. From that day on, firefighters from all over, including my husband, selflessly sprang into action doing whatever they could to help rescue or retrieve anyone who may have survived. Although on light duty, he spent many hours at Ground Zero helping transport firefighters and supplies to wherever they were needed.

George began his firefighting career at Ladder 242 in Brooklyn. He stayed with the company for several years before relocating to Ladder 87 in Staten Island. George was a well-liked member of both houses and was known to be quite talented when it came to carpentry, electrical, and plumbing work, helping anyone who needed work done around the firehouse or their own house. George enjoyed his role of chauffeur and was proud to be an FDNY member. His proudest moment was when his youngest son, Christopher Froehlich, was accepted into the FDNY academy. His son graduated the academy and became a member of the FDNY two weeks after George's passing.

George was also a savvy businessman who, with the help of a partner and friend, John Duffy, opened a neighborhood tavern called "Duffy's" in Staten Island in 1985. Because of their strong ties to the neighborhood, the business became a success and still operates to this day. While Duffy ran the front of the house, George meticulously maintained the books and business aspect of the establishment, as well as fixing and maintaining the premises.

George was a kid at heart and loved to joke with family and friends. He would always try to make people laugh with his antics. He loved the quiet times at his vacation house in Lake George, New York, and treasured time there spent boating, fishing, and tooling around the property fixing and building things.

George, the son of Joan and the late George Froehlich, is survived by his wife, Michele Perosi-Froehlich; his children, Jacqueline Napolitano, Michael Froehlich, and Christopher Froehlich; two grandsons, Frank and Cooper; siblings, Carol Gengler and husband Charles, Joan LaMarca and husband Joseph, and John Froehlich and wife Maria; as well as several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. He will always be remembered though his kindness, generosity and love of life.

Remembering



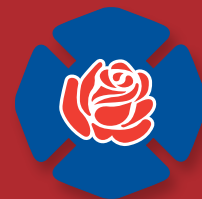
**George F.
Froehlich**

***Fire Department
City of New York – New York***

Career Firefighter

March 29, 2018

Age 64



Remembering



Vanclive A. Johnson

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter
August 22, 2003
Age 42*



Vanclive A. Johnson was born on February 9, 1961. A native of the island of Jamaica, Firefighter Johnson grew up in Brooklyn as an All-City football player at Boys and Girls High School. He was drafted by the New England Patriots in 1984 and played one season for the team before spending the next in the Canadian Football League.

Firefighter Johnson was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on January 16, 1994, and served his entire 10-year career in the quarters of Ladder Company 35. He died on August 22, 2003, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He is survived by his wife, Portia; daughters, Sheree and Jessica; sons, George, Vanclive, and Van; and sisters, Donzalee and Marjorie.



*R*obert J. Lembo was born on February 22, 1949. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on December 17, 1977, and served his first two years in Ladder Company 115 before transferring and ending his career in Ladder Company 144.

Firefighter Lembo bravely served the FDNY for 25 years before retiring on July 31, 2002.

He died on May 29, 2018, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Firefighter Lembo is survived by his wife, Debra; his son, Robert; and his daughter, Lauren.



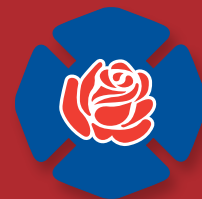
Remembering



Robert J. Lembo

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter*

*May 29, 2018
Age 69*



Remembering



Emilio R. Longo

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Captain
August 29, 2011
Age 64*



Emilio R. Longo was born on June 8, 1947. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on August 13, 1977, and served the first two years of his career in the quarters of Engine Company 263. He was promoted to lieutenant in November of 1989 and served nine years in that role before being promoted to captain in January of 1998.

Captain Longo bravely served the FDNY for 25 years before retiring on October 2, 2002.

He died on August 29, 2011, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Captain Longo is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and daughters, Susan and Karen.



*J*immy Martinez of Staten Island, New York, lost his battle with a 9/11 related bone marrow cancer on August 24, 2018, after 26 years of service with the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY). Jimmy is survived by his wife, Maria; his three children, daughters Eileen and Alyssa; his son, FDNY Lieutenant Jimmy Martinez Jr.; and three grandchildren, Jimmy, Penelope, and Madelyn.

Jimmy Martinez began his career with the FDNY in January of 1990 and was assigned to Engine Co. 228 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, eager to “see more action.” He later transferred to Engine Co. 230 in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, where he served for ten years. The remainder of his career was served in the Port Richmond neighborhood of Staten Island, where he transferred in the spring of 2001.

On the morning of September 11th, after only briefly seeing the events unfolding on the television, Jimmy immediately reacted by reporting to his firehouse off-duty and responding to the World Trade Center for the rescue and recovery efforts. He would go on to spend countless days digging for his missing brothers. During that time, he also returned to Engine 230 to help rebuild the firehouse after their heavy loss of six members. Jimmy showed that same courage and bravery on the night of October 29, 2012, when New York City was blindsided by Hurricane Sandy, pushing through heavy winds and neck deep waters to evacuate people from their flooded homes.

A true “hands on” senior man who led by example, his dedication to the FDNY was only second to his devotion to his family. From helping friends and family with their car repairs, home improvements, or just his astoundingly level-headed advice, he was always the go-to-guy who lit up the room when he got there to make a situation better. Jimmy always emphasized the importance of leaving the job better than he found it. For those who had the pleasure of knowing him and loving him, he left the world better than he found it.

Remembering



Jimmy Martinez

***Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter***

August 24, 2018

Age 58



Remembering



Brian J. Masterson

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter
January 22, 2017
Age 61*



*B*rian J. Masterson was born on September 23, 1955, in Lissavaddy, County Longford, Ireland. Firefighter Masterson was an avid golfer and loved to run. In fact, he ran in the New York City Marathon multiple times and many other races throughout the Hudson Valley.

Firefighter Masterson was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on March 25, 1990, and served his first eight years in the quarters of Engine Company 93. He transferred to Ladder Company 45, where he continued working for another 11 years before his final transfer to Marine 9. His life was dedicated to the job he loved, and he served the city of New York for 25 years.

He died on January 22, 2017, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Firefighter Masterson is survived by his wife, Mary; daughters, Barbara and Shanon; son, Joseph; granddaughter, Sienna; and siblings, Kevin (retired FDNY supervising fire marshal) and Gemma.



Remembering

Mark W. McKay was born on February 13, 1964. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on April 8, 1985, and served his first two years in Engine Company 38. He was promoted to lieutenant in December of 1997 and served the remainder of his career in that role until his retirement on November 15, 2005. Lieutenant McKay was cited four times for acts of bravery and awarded honors in 1991, 1992, 2003, and 2004.

He died on April 4, 2012, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

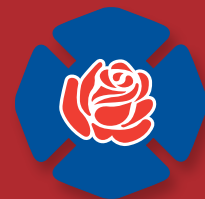
Lieutenant McKay is survived by his wife, Belinda; children, Melissa and Mark; parents, Harrison and Dolores; and siblings, Dolores, Denise, Donna, and Matthew.



Mark W. McKay

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Lieutenant*

*April 4, 2012
Age 48*



Remembering



Joseph D. McKeon

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Battalion Chief
August 19, 2017
Age 74*



Joseph D. McKeon was born on September 18, 1942. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on May 16, 1970, and served his first four years in the quarters of Engine Company 50. He was promoted to lieutenant in October of 1978, and served in this capacity for 11 years before being promoted to captain in December of 1989. After four years as captain in Engine Company 23, he was promoted to his final role as battalion chief.

Chief McKeon was cited three times for acts of bravery and awarded honors in 1990, 1992, 2003, and 2004.

He died on August 19, 2017, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Chief McKeon is survived by his wife, MaryAnn; his son, Christopher; daughters, Kerry and Patricia; and grandchildren, Elizabeth, Thomas, Daniel, Padric, and Anne.



Remembering

Edward “Eddie” Thomas Meehan was born on May 15, 1958. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on July 6, 1983, and served his first eight years in the quarters of Ladder Company 45. He knew that being a firefighter is an honorable and prestigious profession that is not compensated with currency as much as it generates other rewards. On July 15, 1995, Edward was promoted to lieutenant, after which he worked in different companies around the city before being based with Ladder 22 in Manhattan, where he would spend most of his career years.

Lieutenant Meehan chose to spend the final months of his career teaching at the FDNY Academy. He was honored at the Irish Echo’s First Responders Awards in November of 2017 after retiring on October 1, 2017.

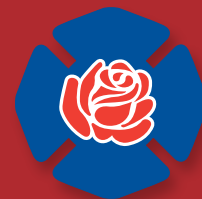
Lieutenant Meehan died on February 2, 2018, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He is survived by his wife, Allison; children, Emmet and Madeline; and siblings, Jerry, Michael, and Regina.

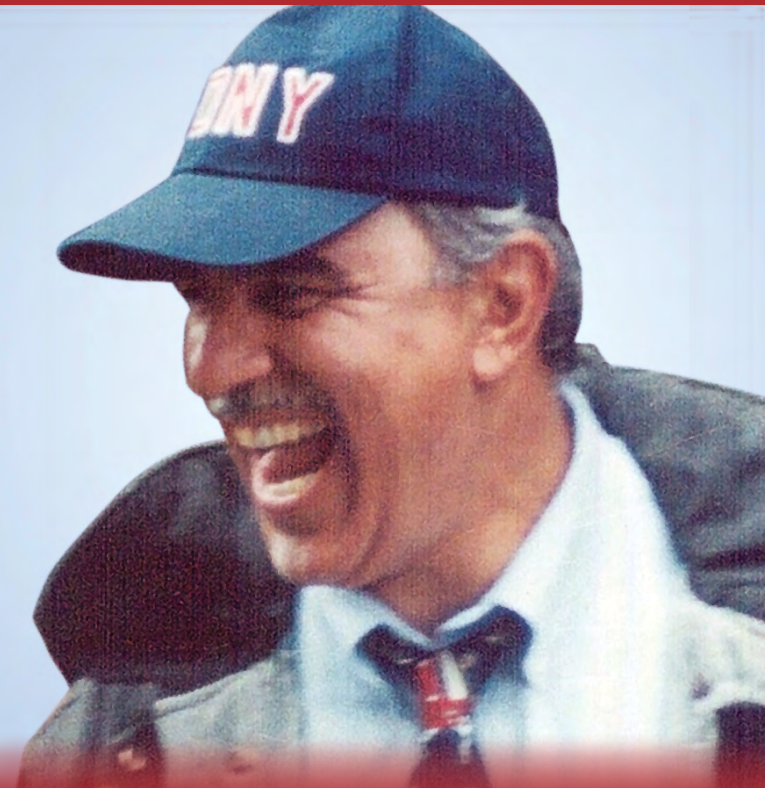


Edward T. Meehan

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Lieutenant
February 2, 2018
Age 59*



Remembering



Steven C. Mosiello

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York*

Career Fire Marshal

July 15, 2011

Age 58



Steve was a unique and exceptional man with an intense zest for life. He approached everything with gusto, whether it was firefighting, golfing, building a house, helping a friend, or vacationing. He always went full throttle.

Steve was a man who conducted himself with honor and a great sense of duty. Steve's first uniform was that of the U.S. Air Force, where he served in Vietnam. He was proud to be an airman and to serve his country. His next uniform was that of the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY), where he started his career as a young man in Engine 271, Bushwick Brooklyn. Years later he took his uncommon and exceptional organizational and people skills to FDNY Headquarters as the executive assistant to the chief of department. Steve effortlessly knew who to talk to and where to go to get things done. He was proud to be a member of the FDNY. He often said that he was very fortunate to be able to go to work every day with a smile on his face.

Steve readily gave his friendship to others and treated everyone in a special way. He was always there for you, a source of strength. He never hesitated to help anyone who needed him. They say 'we make a living by what we get and make a life by what we give'. Steve had a life well-lived.

While Steve did so much for others nothing meant more to him his family. He was a Father of four who loved his children dearly. They meant the world to him, as he did to them. His love for his family was unconditional. He instilled in them the importance of helping others and serving your community.

Knowing Steve enriched your life and made things better. He touched so many hearts and meant so much to so many people. That is his legacy.

Remembering

Kevin "Calvin" Rooney passed away on January 22, 2017. He was the dear son of Kathleen (O'Driscoll) and Francis Rooney, the adored husband of Vaneza (Paulino), the cherished father of Jasmin, dear brother of Frank, loving uncle of Ava and Violet, and a loyal friend to many.

Kevin served as a member of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) from 2000-2004 with the 33rd precinct. While serving the City of New York as one of its Finest, he responded to the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City. Kevin went on to serve the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) with Engine 42. At the firehouse, he learned to fight fires, cook, and he met some of the bravest men to walk the face of the earth.

Born on Groundhog's Day, Kevin was raised in the Bronx. He enjoyed basketball and the beach and had a passion for music. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He had a great sense of humor and always had a joke, some dryer than others, but he was always able to get you to laugh.

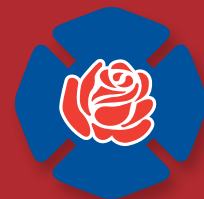
Always a strong person, Kevin fought his hardest but ultimately lost his battle to cancer on January 22, 2017.

Rest in Peace.



Kevin A. Rooney

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter
January 22, 2017
Age 38*



Remembering



Michael Paul Smith Jr.

Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter
December 25, 2015
Age 56



*M*ichael loved God and his family. He also loved New York City, went to Yankees games, and loved watching the Giants play. He relished in the positions of father and grandfather. All these things are true; however, high on the list was being a firefighter in New York City.

Growing up in the Bronx had its advantages and disadvantages—Central Park, museums, theaters. Michael rode his bicycle to and from school, through Harlem, to Rice High School on Lennox Avenue, where he graduated in 1977. Growing up a child of the city, “busy” was an understatement.

Michael Sr. was a firefighter of Irish decent. This fact opened doors, and he was going on ride-alongs at an early age. The atmosphere of the firehouse, the camaraderie of the brotherhood became a magnet, and in 1994 he became a New York City firefighter.

The graduating class of 1994 was the first class ever to be CFRD trained to handle medical emergencies of every kind. One of New York’s busiest firehouses, Engine 45-58, Battalion 18, on East Tremont Avenue, became his second home. He was privileged and honored to work with men with decades of experience under their belt. Approximately 9,000 calls a year, rescuing hundreds along the way, 45-58 fought fires daily. Having found his calling, Mike loved going to work. Michael spent months at Ground Zero, subsequently developing breathing problems and being retired because of it. In 2004, we moved to a house on the Tennessee River. After about four years, Mike went to work at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant.

The picture formed in Michael’s mind about how he’d spend his golden years disappeared like raindrops on water once he became ill. Near the end of his life, he thought not about the things he’d acquired in his lifetime, but of “time,” the only gift you cannot give or buy.

Michael “Big Bird” Smith is survived by his wife, Faith; daughter, Natalia; sons, Michael III and Dillon; two grandchildren and another due in October. He left us much too soon and will be remembered for his generous nature, dry sense of humor, and his dedication to being a firefighter no matter the cost...the kind of man who loved to fish and kept at it, even when he knew they weren’t biting.

*R*oy Edward Smith was born on November 21, 1949. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on August 2, 1986, and served his first three years in the quarters of Engine Company 16 before transferring to Engine Company 156.

Firefighter Smith joined the United States Air Force at age 17 and quickly rose through the ranks, achieving the rank of United States Air Force (USAF) sergeant. He became the youngest staff sergeant in the USAF when he was promoted to that rank at that time. Roy proudly served in the USAF for four years and was a Vietnam Veteran, where he was assigned as an air traffic controller in Phu Bai.

Firefighter Smith died on April 2, 2017, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

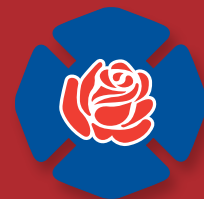
He is survived by his wife, Olga; daughters, Melanie and Melissa; and grandchildren, Brielle and Blake.



Remembering



Roy E. Smith
*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter
April 2, 2017
Age 67*







38th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend ★ October 5 - 6, 2019

Remembering



Ronald R. Spadafora

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Chief of Fire Prevention
June 23, 2018
Age 63*



For 40 years, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) Assistant Chief Ronald Spadafora was devoted to serving the City of New York and his FDNY colleagues. When he died in June 2018, he became the 178th and highest-ranking FDNY member to die of Ground Zero illness. He was a 4-Star Staff Chief and Chief of Fire Prevention.

Ron's line-of-duty death began on September 11, 2001, when he was exposed to deadly toxins while serving as FDNY's Chief of Safety for the eight months of Ground Zero recovery operations. Ron's safety protocols at Ground Zero proved successful, resulting in zero worker fatalities occurring among tens of thousands of people working until May 2002, in what was deemed one of the most dangerous construction sites in the world.

As a professor at John Jay and Metropolitan colleges, Ron wrote dozens of articles for *WNYF*, FDNY's peer-reviewed fire science journal. His outstanding and extensive research, which resulted in three books, focused on safety, fire operations, fire sciences, promotions, racial diversity, and green building construction (green firefighting), a field he was first to coin and develop.

Ron's research papers and artifacts are included in the Fire Museum of New York and the New-York Historical Society (N-YHS) library and museum collections—a first for any FDNY member. The N-YHS wrote that it is "privileged" to include Ron's papers within its "rich collections of American and New York City historical documents."

Ron loved all animals but especially had a tender heart for his red-nose pit bull, Samson. He called Samson his unofficial FDNY "red rover" mascot because he ran toward sirens and loved to ride in the back of any rig.

Ron's talents went beyond FDNY activities and included a seventh-degree black belt and working as a respected sensei in a dojo. He won dozens of medals and trophies at martial arts competitions and as a high school track star, Ron won dozens more.

As a friend, he was beloved in his Soho neighborhood since 2003, always helping neighbors and street vendors that line Soho sidewalks. Ron loved being grandfather to Fionn, Emmet, Joseph, and Maya, who all called him Bee-bop. His life partner, Rhonda Shearer, survives him, along with his son, Brian, three brothers, Nick, Bob, and Fred, and sister, Sharon. Ron's nephew, Robert Spadafora, was his true hero. Despite being a college student struggling with autism, Robert bravely donated his bone marrow to save his uncle—an act that extended Ron's quality of life almost two years.

Remembering

*B*ill was an amazing man who lived his life with selflessness and compassion for others. He always put others first, ahead of himself. He was an amazing husband, father, son, brother, and father-in-law. He was totally devoted to his family, community, and career. Bill met his wife, Gail, in high school, and they were married after college graduation in 1978. Together they had four children, Liz, Billy, Tommy, and Timmy, that Bill adored. He was involved in many aspects of their lives, and he was always there for them when they needed him. He was so proud to be their dad and would be so proud of them today.

Bill was appointed to the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) on November 12, 1989. He was initially assigned to Engine 79 in the Bronx, then Engine 236 in Brooklyn, before finally being assigned to Special Operations Command on Roosevelt Island. Bill was also a volunteer member of the Baldwin Fire Department, rising through the ranks to serve as chief of the department. He was later elected fire commissioner by the community. Bill was also involved with youth and high school sports organizations in Baldwin. He gave much of his time to his hometown community and loved doing so.

On September 11, 2001, Bill was at work when the planes hit the World Trade Center. He spent many hours at Ground Zero during the recovery effort and did not return home for many days. He, along with many others, struggled greatly in the days and weeks after with the enormity of the loss of so many friends. In time, Bill and his family viewed his survival as a gift. He was able to be part of many important milestones in his family, including graduations of each of his children and walking his daughter down the aisle at her wedding weeks before his death.

Bill passed away suddenly on July 1, 2007, from cancer that was attributed to his time spent at Ground Zero. Although he is missed more than we can express, he lives in our hearts eternally.



William R. St. George Sr.

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York*

Career Firefighter

July 1, 2007

Age 51



Remembering



Ronald P. Svec

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York*

Career Firefighter

February 2, 2018

Age 63



*R*on was born in New York City. He was raised in the Bronx and loved being involved in sports, loved to play basketball and excelled at it. His dad was a police officer for NYC, which gave Ron the drive to become a firefighter for the City of New York.

Ron joined the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) in 1989 and served for 20 years at Ladder 82 - Engine 162-Battalion 23. He dedicated his service to the City of New York, sacrificing his life for others.

Ron showed his selflessness in his act of bravery by responding to our country's greatest tragedy on 9/11. He was not working that day but went in, just like many of his fellow firefighters who were not working that day, to help others. He and his brothers of the FDNY did not run away from the danger that day but went in with the hope of helping others. He spent weeks toiling the remains in the aftermath cleanup. His response to his sickness as a result of this was, "This is what we signed up for." Always a man of no self-pity, his true spirit was for the FDNY and this country.

Ron suffered for nine years with cancer as a result from his time spent on the pile. He went for treatment after treatment, dealt with brutal side effects, learned how to walk again, and never complained. He endured pain that most people would not see in a lifetime and did it with the utmost courage and determination. He always had the will to live, even at his lowest points, pushing himself at times beyond his limits. He thanked all doctors and nurses along the way and thanked the police officers and paramedics right to the second before he passed away; they could not believe he was so sick. He was a true gentleman.

Ron was a giant of a man, of very few words, but his big smile told his story. He truly enjoyed life, in good times and bad. He enjoyed cheering his favorite teams, the Mets and Jets, and as hard as that is, he never gave up on them, a true fan. He loved to be outside in the sunshine, enjoying fishing and gardening, which was the soft side of him.

Ron is missed most by his wife of 34 years, Sharon. He was her rock, her shining star, her everything. Also deeply missing him are his sister, father-in-law, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, niece, extended family, his brothers of the FDNY, and friends.

God Bless all who serve, God Bless Ron, and God Bless the FDNY.

*P*aul Richard Tokarski was born on June 4, 1966. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on April 14, 1991, and served his first nine years in the quarters of Ladder Company 106. Firefighter Tokarski ended his career in the quarters of Ladder Company 164 after serving 22 years as firefighter.

Firefighter Tokarski retired on December 28, 2012, and died on March 10, 2018, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He is survived by his daughter, Kole.



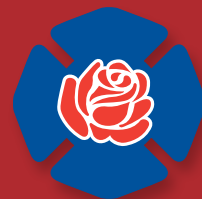
Remembering



Paul R. Tokarski

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter*

*March 10, 2018
Age 52*



Remembering



Walter Torres

*Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Firefighter
December 18, 2012
Age 62*



*W*alter Torres was born on April 30, 1950. He was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) on November 25, 1978, and served the first eight years of his career in the quarters of Engine Company 22 before transferring to Engine Company 328, where he ended his 26 years of service with the FDNY.

Firefighter Torres retired on October 29, 2004, and died on December 18, 2012, from an illness related to his response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

He is survived by his wife, Gina; daughters, Nakia and Michelle; and brother, Dominic.



Remembering

Battalion Chief Tom Van Doran was born on May 19, 1951. He joined the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) in 1979. Prior to that, he had worked almost every job under the sun, but fighting fires was the only one he had ever loved. He would take every opportunity to tell us, "I have the greatest job in the world." I never once heard him complain about going to work. It wasn't just his job; it was his entire essence. He was the quintessential fireman. He retired after 29 years on the job. After he tore his rotator cuff, they practically had to drag him out of the firehouse.

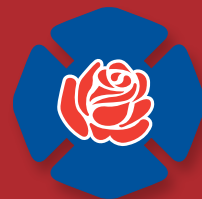
He was a pillar in our community, so much so that my sister and I would joke about how long it took us to leave church (he always made it a point to say hi to everyone). We would often call him "The Mayor" when he was on his handshaking sprees. I don't think there was ever a social gathering where he was not the life of the party. You could always hear Tom Van Doran before you could see him. Not because he was loud (which he certainly was), but because people stopped and listened when he spoke. He was the most dynamic person I've ever known.

He was constantly trying new things and reinventing himself. He picked up the saxophone at 50 years old and tried to get his pilot's license at 60. He was a lifelong learner who never let his curiosity die. He had plans to travel and see the world in his retirement. Unfortunately, he never got the chance to do those things. In 2010, he was diagnosed with stage IV esophageal cancer linked to his participation in the 9/11 recovery efforts. He always assured us by repeating one of his many quotable lines: "Only the good die young, I'll live forever!" After passing at the age of 61, I guess he wasn't as bad as he thought.



**Thomas R.
Van Doran**

***Fire Department
City of New York – New York
Career Battalion Chief
November 13, 2012
Age 61***



Remembering



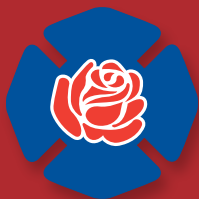
Michael Gene Goodnight

**West Liberty Volunteer Fire
Department – North Carolina**

Volunteer Firefighter

July 4, 2018

Age 55



*M*ichael Gene Goodnight was the son of the late Gene and Joanne Goodnight. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca (Becky) Goodnight, whom he married on December 17, 2016; stepdaughters, Jinny Hunt and Christian Lindsay; and his sister, Judy Burris.

Michael had worked at several fire departments ever since he was sixteen. He loved being a fireman and felt like he was helping people when he responded to a call, which is what he loved to do. The fire department was a big part of his life. Other than his family, that is where he felt like he belonged.

Michael loved his family. He loved to joke around with the girls and with his firemen friends when the occasion was right. He was embarrassed at the fireman's Christmas party in 2017, because it fell on his birthday, so we surprised him with a big cake with a working toy fire truck. He later said that was the best birthday he ever had. He loved fireballs, so for Christmas one year we gave him a fireman's boot that was filled with 478 fireballs. There were some in his pocket on the day he died.

Michael was filled with love for his family, friends, the fire service, and life itself. He was always willing to help in any way he could, no matter whether it was putting out a fire or lending an ear and his time to listen. He loved to make jokes and bring smiles to those around him. His favorite joke was telling people that a new law had been passed that would fine farmers \$500 for every round haybale because their animals weren't getting a square meal. He was a true gentleman, opening doors for people, and if he saw someone in need, he would go to help them out.

When his stepdaughter Christian's mom died, he went to get her so that she would have somewhere to live. That was just the kind of man he was. The relationship with his stepdaughter Jinny was the best that you could ask for. They were so much alike it wasn't even funny, and Michael was great for her. He would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. Michael made his dreams come true by marrying Becky, the one person he had loved since he was young, and by being a fireman.

Michael loved to go fishing with his wife. He will be missed by everyone that knew him, especially his family.

Everyone knew Jeff as the man with an unbeatable sense of humor. He was a kind and fun-loving boy who grew up in Hillsborough, North Carolina. He loved to fish, hunt, and roam the countryside with his family and dogs.

At 16, Jeff's life took a sudden change. On September 11, 2001, Jeff decided to make a commitment of service to the country that he loved. He chose to be a firefighter. Even before he could drive, Jeff joined the Orange Rural Fire Department as a junior volunteer, with Mom shuttling him to calls and training. He attended the fire academy just after graduating high school and was hired by Orange Rural as a full-time firefighter on August 4, 2003.

He served the community he loved for 15 more years, advancing quickly through the ranks, finally becoming the assistant chief. He achieved certification as Firefighter I & II, firefighter instructor, EMT, technical rescue technician, trench rescue technician, and structural collapse technician. He was also an instructor for confined space rescue, swift water rescue, rope rescue, and hazardous materials. Over the years, Jeff received Firefighter of the Year, Officer of the Year, and the Benjamin Franklin Award for outstanding service.

Orange Rural Fire Department Chief Jeff Cabe said, "Jeff started our department as a junior firefighter. From the beginning, with his compassion and dedication to training and advancing those around him, he made the fire service better. He could talk with anyone and had a way of reaching those who weren't sure if the fire service was the right choice for them. For some he confirmed their fears, for others he gave them the confidence to know they were in the right place. I started out teaching Jeff to become a firefighter, but soon after he began teaching me how to be a better chief. His compassion, dedication, and sense of humor made him a pleasure to work with, but more importantly it made him a friend."

On August 4, 2012, Jeff made another commitment that became the best of his life. He married his wife, Christa. Together, they had one son, Miller Newton Jake Holden, in 2018, and he was their greatest joy.

Jeff died soon after returning to the station following a successful trench rescue on August 13, 2018. He was 32. He is survived by his wife, Christa Miller Holden; son, Miller Newton Jake Holden; parents, Kathy and Newton Holden; in-laws, Tina and Vern Miller; sister and brother-in-law, April and Garry Washington; nieces, Ava and Lucy Washington; along with many other kinfolk and friends.

Remembering

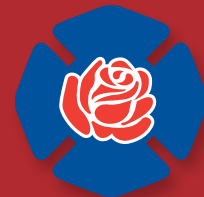


Jeffrey Newton Holden

*Orange Rural Fire
Department – North Carolina
Career Assistant Chief*

August 13, 2018

Age 32



Remembering



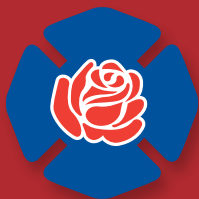
Michael Eric "Bubba" Pennell

*Central Alexander Fire
Department – North Carolina*

Volunteer Captain

April 17, 2017

Age 49



Michael Eric "Bubba" Pennell was born on April 4, 1968, with firefighting in his blood. The first picture he drew in kindergarten was of a fire truck. As a teenager, when the fire tones would go off, he would run out the door carrying his shoes and coat to get to the fire department faster. He spent a lot of time hanging out at the fire department while dating his future wife, Amy. His wife knew she was marrying a dedicated firefighter, as they left their wedding on the back of a 1939 fire truck. Bubba and Amy didn't have any children, but he took care of the fire trucks like they were his own kids. When he wasn't serving at the fire department, he still served his community as a 911 dispatcher for over 12 years after a career in the furniture industry. He also enjoyed his hobby of restoring classic vehicles, especially Chevrolet trucks.

He served with the Central Alexander Fire Department in Taylorsville, North Carolina, for over 30 years. He obtained the North Carolina Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Engineer Certifications during his time of service. He was awarded "Firefighter of the Year" in 2003, 2011, and posthumously in 2017. He died doing what he loved, being a fireman, after suffering a medical event while on-duty working at the station.

He represented the Central Alexander Fire Department by spending many hours there over his years of service. The community knew of his dedication to serving them by responding to calls and making sure the fire truck was at many community events. Bubba counted the other firefighters and their families as his family.

Bubba will always be loved and remembered by Amy, his wife of 27 years, family, fellow firefighters, emergency personnel, and his community, for his laughter, sense of humor, love for God, community service, and dedication.

Remembering

Tony started his fire department adventures at age 16 with Charles, his childhood friend. When you are 16 years old in 1983 and you live in Hyde County, there isn't much to do, so Tony purchased a scanner and installed it in his blue Grand Prix, and after work or school, Tony and Charles would ride around and listen for the excitement on the scanner. They would respond when there was a call, and then they would leave, until one night the chief told them, "If you boys keep showing up, you need to have your butts on the truck." And so, the story continues.

Tony dedicated his life to serving others. He had many roles throughout his many years in public safety. He held the position of senior emergency management specialist at Headquarters USMC, teaching emergency management courses to our Marine Corps, here at home and overseas in Japan and Korea. He served in Carteret County as deputy director of emergency services and director of emergency communications, building and managing the countywide consolidated 911 center during his tenure. He served as the emergency manager and fire marshal of Hyde County. Tony was a member of many departments, with his last being Engelhard Volunteer Fire Department where he was chief. He was a true leader who was respected by all his peers, especially his department members who he pushed and mentored to be the volunteers they are today.

Romulus Sanderson Spencer III, "Tony," was born on May 5, 1967, to R. S. Spencer Jr. and Judy B. Spencer. Tony graduated from Mattamuskeet High School in 1985 and from North Carolina State University with a degree in history. He was a certified electrician and plumber. He was the chairman of the Engelhard Sanitary District, and he was the CEO of R.S. Spencer, Inc., a family business that began in 1900.

Tony is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Spencer; son, Chris Spencer, and wife Rebecca Moore; daughter, Heather Lansdell, and husband David; his parents, R. S. Spencer Jr. and Judy Broughton Spencer; his sister, Jennifer Thomas, and husband William; stepson, Richard Smith, and wife Lauren; stepdaughter, Kimberly Reese, and husband Christopher; grandchildren, Caitlyn, Christina, Lyla, Landon, and Alexis; niece, Ashleigh; aunts, Mary Tilghman and Pam Andrews; and cousins, Dale Smith and Cassie Smith.

Tony left us all way too soon after participating in hose training on a Thursday night. He will be remembered for his hard work and dedication to his fire department, to his community, and to his family whose lives he touched over the years.

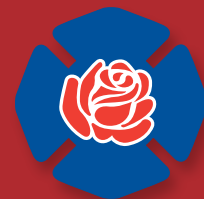


Romulus S. "Tony" Spencer III

*Engelhard Fire and Rescue –
North Carolina
Volunteer Fire Chief*

June 3, 2018

Age 51



Remembering



William Perry Willis

*Asheville Fire Department –
North Carolina
Career Engineer
February 27, 2018
Age 34*



*W*ill was a true man of God. He died February 27, 2018, his 34th birthday. He was a remarkable man of faith and courage, with his main goal in life being to glorify his Savior in all his ways.

Will was an elder in his church. Strongly rooted in his convictions, he made choices reflecting those beliefs. He strove to be a blessing to everyone and was always willing to put others' needs before his own.

Will was a loving provider. He was a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Bonnie. He sacrificed in many ways so that she could stay home with their four small children, Walker, Hudson, Darby, and Chauncey. He wanted his children to grow closer to God through being in nature and loved nothing more than spending time with them outdoors. He spent countless hours carrying them on his back up a hiking trail and just as many hours rocking them to sleep. He sang a special song for each child.

Will was a servant to all around him. No matter the situation, he was there to help and give a smile. He learned how to work with his hands from an early age through his family's construction and building supply business. He also ran his own electrical business with his best friend from childhood. He was skilled in many ways and had a tremendous work ethic. He used his extensive knowledge to bless others.

Will was a firefighter. As a boy, he would pretend his bicycle was a fire truck and ride all over the neighborhood with his siren blaring. He joined the Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department at age 16, where he served as their deputy chief. A dream was realized when he became a career firefighter with the City of Asheville Fire Department. He most recently worked as an engineer for Station 6. He was always studying, learning, and achieving so that he could perform his job to the best of his ability.

Whether it was mowing for a friend, helping fix dinner, solving a plumbing problem, cutting down a tree, or changing a diaper, he was always there to lend a hand. He gave 100% to whatever situation he was facing. He never wavered or questioned his duty, even when faced with the ultimate sacrifice. He truly made the world a better place. He will always be carried in the hearts of those who knew him.

*A*ssistant Chief Rodney D. "R.D." Baker, Jr., age 47, of the Madison Township-Kunkle Fire Department, died on March 16, 2018, after collapsing at a family event within 24 hours of responding to a late-night grass fire.

He served with the Madison Township Fire Department for 29 years, including eight years as assistant chief.

He was a 1989 graduate of North Central High School.

He was a family man who enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He is survived by his parents, Rodney Sr. and Jonell Baker; his children, Natasha (Ben) Baldwin, Jeramy Baker, and Jonathan Baker; his grandchildren, Makenna, Daisy, Alexis, Brooklynn and Brylee; two brothers, Keith (Kris) Baker and Joel (Brenda) Baker; his grandfather, John Haas; and his life companion, Barbara Lillard.



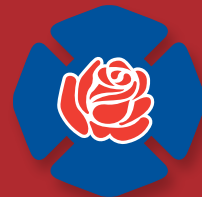
Remembering



Rodney D. Baker Jr.

**Madison Township-Kunkle
Fire Department – Ohio
Paid-on-Call Assistant Chief**

March 16, 2018
Age 47



Remembering



Daniel Joseph Lucius

*Carroll Township
Fire and EMS – Ohio
Volunteer Firefighter
November 15, 2018
Age 33*



*F*rom the time his kindergarten class went on a field trip to a Toledo Fire Station, Dan wanted to become a firefighter. Even though he faced many challenges in his life, he never lost sight of this goal.

Daniel J. Lucius was born on October 16, 1985. As an infant, Dan entered foster care. He was placed with his foster mother, a nurse, who eventually became his adoptive mother. It was a perfect match. She advocated for him, and he developed a “can-do” attitude that served him well throughout his life.

As a young man, Daniel J. Lucius, of Oak Harbor, Ohio, started dropping in at the local volunteer fire station and helping however he could. Eventually, he took the classes to become certified as a firefighter in the State of Ohio. It was difficult for him, but he persisted. His proudest moment was when he passed his test and became a member of the Carroll Township Emergency Medical and Fire Service Department. He considered his fellow firefighters to be his brothers and sisters. Dan’s last call came on November 15, 2018. While responding on an unfamiliar, dark, unmarked country road, Dan missed a 90° turn and drove into a pond. Unable to extricate himself from his truck, he called 911, but help did not arrive in time. At the time of his death, he was planning to pursue an EMT certification.

Daniel J. Lucius, age 33, was a people person and a joiner. Dan’s entire adult life revolved around helping people and his community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and helped with the annual Lenten fish fry. If you needed your lawn cut, Dan was there with his mower. If you needed help moving, Dan was there with his trailer. For Dan, the highlight of summer was the Ottawa County Fair. He enjoyed it so much that he applied for, and was appointed to, the Ottawa County Fair Board. He served three years. When we lost Dan, we, as a family and a community, lost a gentle, nonjudgmental soul who was a friend to all he met.

*F*irefighter William Francis Brinza III, age 64, of the Cowskin Fire Department, died on May 12, 2018, after suffering a medical emergency shortly after arriving on scene at a structure fire.

For many years, he served as a sheriff in Wyandotte County.

He was known for his skills in fixing almost anything and especially loved working on and fixing boats. He also enjoyed fishing.

He is survived by wife, Bonnie; his daughters, Kristin Brinza, Valarie (Lorenzo) Lopez, and Jessica Parker; and his grandchildren.



Remembering



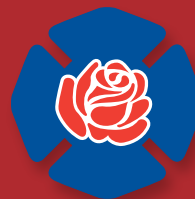
**William F.
Brinza III**

***Cowskin Fire Department –
Oklahoma***

Volunteer Firefighter

May 12, 2018

Age 64



Remembering



Madison L. Clinton Jr.

*Friendship Volunteer Fire
Department – Oklahoma
Volunteer Assistant Chief*

*August 10, 2018
Age 54*



*M*adison (Maddy) Clinton devoted over 30 years to the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department, serving as assistant chief the last few years. He spent many hours in training and maintaining the equipment and was always willing to answer the page when a fire was reported. During his last call, he was under a porch when it fell on him, killing him instantly.

Maddy was born June 5, 1964, in Ponca City, Oklahoma, to Madison and Mary Clinton. He moved to Friendship when he was four and lived in the area throughout his life. He attended Navajo School, graduating in 1982. He then obtained his associate degree from Western Oklahoma State College. Maddy began his career as a journeyman electric lineman at Southwest Rural Electric in 1987. In 1994, he started his 24 years with Public Service Company of Oklahoma, working on a crew as foreman, and finally a general serviceman. Through his work as an electric lineman, he became involved with IBEW, serving as a steward with Local #1002.

On July 14, 1990, he married Sandra Garrison. He became the father to two girls, Alison and Caitlin. Their life was filled with love and laughter. They traveled extensively in their RV, making memories and seeing the country. Their goal was to visit all 50 states, making 35 before his death. He was a devoted husband and father and did everything he could to protect and provide for his family.

Maddy was a quiet man who enjoyed spending time on the water in his fishing boat. He loved to catch walleye, crappie, and catfish, but was happy with anything on the hook. His wife, daughter, or father often accompanied him on his fishing trips, but he gladly took anyone who wanted to go.

Maddy grew up as a preacher's kid, attending Friendship Baptist Church most of his life. In 1998, he was ordained as a deacon and served in that capacity until his death. He was a Godly, faithful man, serving the Lord by serving others. Maddy was humble and believed in helping without any recognition.

Maddy is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughters, Alison Martinez, and husband, Mitchell, and Caitlin Clinton; his father, Madison; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mark and Francie Clinton, and Marty and Lori Clinton.

Remembering



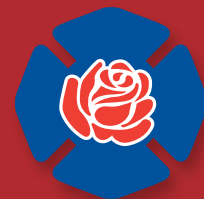
Eric C. Aarseth

Miller Timber Services – Oregon

Career Firefighter II

September 3, 2018

Age 20



Eric Christopher Aarseth, of Tualatin, Oregon, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2018, in Springfield, Oregon, surrounded by family, many friends, and loved ones. He had just returned home from fighting wildfires in southern Oregon and northeastern Washington. Sadly, he contracted pneumonia during his last deployment and later succumbed to complications as his pneumonia became septic.

Eric was born in Portland on July 17, 1998, and grew up in Tualatin, where he graduated from Tualatin High School in 2016. While growing up, he played baseball, football, ran cross-country and wrestled. Eric thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors and lived life to the fullest at every opportunity. He enjoyed traveling and taking many road trips with his father, Chris, and brother, Jake. He was part of an educational European tour, and one summer he was able to visit Italy, Spain, and the French Riviera. He enjoyed camping, hiking, and skateboarding. His passion seemed to be found in the outdoors, as he spent the summer working for Northwest Youth Corps helping to rebuild sections of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the wilderness of Idaho. He also talked of changing his major to forestry, while studying business at college. He was passionate about being a wildland firefighter for the summer and fought bravely among his fellow firefighters from Miller Timber Services. Even after returning home, Eric wanted to go on one last deployment before school started, but unfortunately that dream didn't come true, due to his illness.

Eric is survived by his father, Christopher, and stepmother, Cheryl Aarseth, of Scappoose; mother, Lisa (Davis) Aarseth, and brother, Jake, both of Tualatin; his aunt, Eva Bugarin, of Las Vegas, Nevada; uncle, Rolf Aarseth, of Anchorage, Alaska; uncles, Matt Davis and Tony Springer, of Phoenix, Arizona; his grandfather, Carl, and step-grandmother, Gloria Davis, of Bend. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Herbert and Gloria Aarseth, and his grandmother, Charlotte Davis.

Eric will always be a hero in the eyes of his family, friends, and many people. He courageously fought both the Garner Mountain Complex Fire in southern Oregon and the Horn Mountain Fire in northeastern Washington, saving many homes, lives, and wildlife. He was also proud to be an organ donor, and in his passing was able to contribute organs, tissue, and more to others in need of transplants. At just 20 years old, Eric had lived a life full of adventure and compassion for others, leaving behind an amazing legacy that will never be forgotten.

Remembering



Mark James Burns

Medford Fire-Rescue – Oregon
Career Battalion Chief

March 6, 2016

Age 62



*M*ark James Burns dedicated his life putting other peoples' wants and needs above his own. His selfless character allowed him to make a positive impact to almost everyone he knew, especially his family and friends. He was known for his wisdom, determination, inspiration, and witty sense of humor. Mark often appeared to be gruff or blunt, but if you were a good person he would do absolutely anything for you.

Mark found his passion at an early age after becoming a volunteer firefighter at age 16. He was hired full-time by Jackson County Fire District #3 in July 1971 and was soon promoted to engineer and then captain, setting the gold standard for others in these roles. Medford Fire-Rescue hired Mark as a shift battalion chief in 1982. In 1990, he served as the training chief and, in 1991, as the operations chief.

Mark earned a fire science technology degree at Rogue Community College and was a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. During his career, he was responsible for the Oregon State Fire Marshal Region 8 Hazardous Materials Response Team, structural liaison on Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Team, and a consultant for Emergency Services Consulting International. Mark is probably best known as a firefighter who knew where the problem on a fire scene was going to be, not just what was happening at that moment. Mark had an instinctive ability to be in the right place at the right time to stop the fire.

On August 24, 2010, Mark responded to a major, wind-driven grass fire in the Oak Knoll subdivision in Ashland, Oregon, that eventually incinerated 11 homes. Fortunately, Mark was an early arriving chief officer who instinctively knew where the fire was going to be. Mark was able to help families out of homes and position fire engines to stop the fire. Mark suffered severe smoke inhalation during this fire and developed a deteriorating lung condition, which he struggled with for many years. He never recovered, forcing him into early retirement soon after the event.

Mark is a man many will remember. He was well-respected and trusted in his career by firefighters and chief officers alike. The impacts he made to others are memories to be shared to family and friends. He was an incredible man, husband, father, son, grandfather, friend, and colleague; he was a hero. His passion enabled him to prosper in life, and his dedication to others left a legacy for his name. Mark was a true friend and mentor to almost everyone he knew. He was an extraordinary, one-of-a-kind individual with many gifts and talents.

*Z*achary John Anthony, 29, was a firefighter for the York City Fire/Rescue Services. Born December 15, 1988, in Allentown, Zachary was the son of Ray and Karen Anthony of Kunkletown, Pennsylvania.

Zachary was a 2007 graduate of Pleasant Valley High School in Broadheadsville, Pennsylvania, and a 2008 graduate of Florida State Fire College in Ocala. Previously a volunteer for Polk Volunteer Fire Department, he began his professional career with York City Fire/Rescue Services on August 9, 2010, where he was assigned to Engine 99-1 on D Platoon.

Zachary spent a huge amount of his time helping others in the community, including total strangers, on and off shift. He was admired for his relentless free-willed spirit that kept him open to new opportunities and experiences. Zachary enjoyed the camaraderie he had built with his fellow firefighter brothers and thoroughly enjoyed their collective sense of humor. When he was not at work, Zachary spent his time idolizing John Wayne and all things American, including his passion for the outdoors and his Harley Davidson. Zachary loved his family dearly and often visited his hometown of Kunkletown.

Zachary lived as a York City resident and is survived by his wife, Brooke Hoffman, and their two dogs, Magnum and Charlie, which completed their family. He is also survived by his parents, Ray and Karen Anthony, of Kunkletown; two brothers, Samuel Anthony, of Norfolk, Virginia, and Marc Anthony, of Kunkletown; and paternal grandmother, Virginia Anthony, of Kunkletown.

Remembering



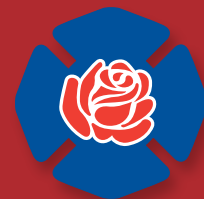
Zachary John Anthony

***York City Department Fire/
Rescue Services – Pennsylvania***

Career Firefighter

March 22, 2018

Age 29



Remembering



Scott W. Dannheimer

*Coal Township Fire
Department – Pennsylvania*

Volunteer Captain

December 20, 2018

Age 53



Captain Scott W. Dannheimer, age 53, of the Coal Township Fire Department, died on December 20, 2018, after responding to a structure fire and collapsing in the fire engine during overhaul.

Born in Parsippany, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Lawrence and Florence Quinn. He attended Shikellamy High School. He worked as an escort driver for a trucking company.

He was an active member of both Coal Township Fire Department and East End Fire Company, where he served as captain. He also belonged to Goodwill Fire Company.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Millie Dannheimer; six sons, Scott Jr., William, Charlie (Tonya), Scott (fiancée Gracie Oliver), Hunter, and Michael (Ally); four daughters, Christina Rose (Larry), Coleen Snyder, Danielle Lebo (Jason), and Becca Dannheimer; 17 grandchildren; a brother, Joseph Dannheimer; and extended family.



Remembering



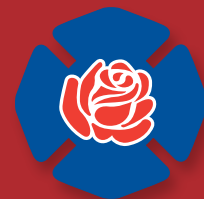
Ivan Kenneth Flanscha

**York City Department Fire/
Rescue Services— Pennsylvania**

Career Firefighter

March 22, 2018

Age 50



Ivan was born February 13, 1968, in Oelwein, Iowa, to Judy (Dillon) and Kenneth Appleby. Ivan died in the line of duty doing what he loved, serving his community as a firefighter for York City Fire/Rescue Services. Like his father, a dedicated Iowa police officer, Ivan worked hard, loved helping others, and lived life in the moment.

Ivan spent his formative years in Vallejo, California. As a teen, he developed a love for travel, music, and history. He learned to play guitar, wrote music, and performed in rock bands before moving with his family to New Freedom, Pennsylvania, in 1985. After graduating from Susquehanna High School in 1986, he attended York College of Pennsylvania, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in music with a concentration in classical guitar. Ivan put himself through college doing construction work and performing in the band Desperate Measures.

Ivan married Tina Wagner in 1996, and their daughter, Sierra, was born in 1997. Ivan pursued a career as a firefighter and attended the Harrisburg Fire Academy. He began his professional career with York City Fire/Rescue Services in 1999. Ivan was blessed with two more daughters, Savannah in 2000 and Selina in 2002. As a result of bravery and dedication, Ivan was selected as Firefighter of the Year in 2004. He enjoyed testing himself in individual and team challenges by participating in the Firefighter Combat Challenges around the U.S. and Canada.

In 2010, Ivan's family continued to grow when he married Casey Korth and gained two stepchildren, Maya and Gavyn. During these years, he was devoted to his faith in God and especially his role as a father, husband, and stepfather. He enjoyed playing acoustic guitar in Road Trip and rocking out with his classic rock band Kodiak. Ivan traveled extensively through North America, Europe, and the Caribbean with his family, instilling in his children a unique world perspective.

He managed nine rental properties and was in the process of renovating a beach house in Delaware. He was known and loved by many in the City of York and was easily recognized by his smile and easygoing nature. His unforgettable presence, charm, and good looks led to being chosen as one of the faces and voices for the national Wahl Clippers commercials featuring York City firefighters.

Ivan is survived by his mother, Judy; stepfather, Floyd; wife, Casey; daughters, Sierra, Selina, and Savannah; stepchildren, Maya and Gavyn; brothers, Bill, David, and Tony; sister, Brenda; grandmother, Betty; stepbrother, James; and stepsisters, Laurie, Jeannie, and Rebekah.

Remembering



Michael Godzak Jr.

*Rostraver Township Volunteer
Fire Department #1 –
Pennsylvania
Volunteer Captain*

April 29, 2018

Age 59



*M*ichael Godzak Jr., 59, of Webster, Pennsylvania, died suddenly on Sunday, April 29, 2018. When returning from a fire call as the engine driver, Michael would have normally backed the truck into the station. This day was different. Instead, he stopped on the street in front of the station and exited the vehicle. He became ill and collapsed to the ground. His firefighter brothers and sisters came to his aid, doing all that they could until paramedics arrived. He was transported to Monongahela Valley Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Michael joined the Rostraver Township Volunteer Fire Department No.1 in 1970 as a junior member at age 12. He became a regular member of the department in 1976 at age 18. Michael was dedicated to the fire department. During his tenure he held every line office within the department, including nine years as chief. At the time of his death, he was first captain. Michael was active in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Chiefs Association, Westmoreland County Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs Association, and was an instructor at the California University of Pennsylvania Fire School.

Michael graduated from Belle Vernon Area High School in 1976. He worked at Webster Auto Parts and Fuel Company, eventually buying the business and running it for ten years. He was a purchasing manager at Alumisource Corp. in Monessen, Pennsylvania. People often called him “the Mayor of Webster” because of his love for his hometown. Michael was honest, intelligent, kind, and had a heart of gold. He loved music and was passionate about playing his trombone.

Michael was the son of the late Michael and Elma (McFeely) Godzak Sr. He is survived by his sister, Margaret (James) Winchester, of California. He will be dearly missed by family and friends.

*L*ieutenant Benny Robert Hutchins, the son of Mary Elizabeth and the late James Roland Hutchins Sr., was born on September 7, 1955, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He entered into eternal rest on June 27, 2018.

Benny attended and graduated from University City High School in 1974. During that time, he received multiple trophies and a black belt in martial arts and kickboxing. After high school, Benny joined the U.S. Marines. While enlisted, he served as a military police officer. After serving four years in the military, Benny worked for Nu-Care for 13 years.

In 1984, Benny joined the Philadelphia Fire Department, where he was employed for 34 years until his untimely passing.

Benny loved to play instruments. He played the saxophone, guitar, and drums. He was in a band with some of his neighborhood friends. He was a very kind person and would help anybody he came in contact with. Benny was always the life of the party with his corny jokes, sense of humor, and his free spirit. When Benny visited his many nieces and nephews, he always bore gifts, no matter how much noise they made. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Benny is survived by his mother, Mary E. Hutchins; five brothers, James Jr. (Debbie), Courtney (Teresa), Clarence, George, and Maurice (Toni); four sisters, Greta (Andrew), Betty, Ramona, and Tiana; 30 nieces and nephews; 47 great-nieces and nephews; an aunt, and a host of cousins and friends.

- B — Benny boy
- E — Enjoyable
- N — Nutty
- N — Nice
- Y — Young at heart

Remembering



Benny R. Hutchins

***Philadelphia Fire Department –
Pennsylvania***

Career Lieutenant

June 27, 2018

Age 62



Remembering



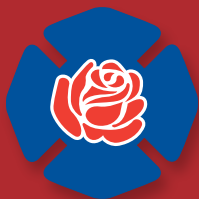
Gabriel G. Lee

**Philadelphia Fire Department –
Pennsylvania**

Career Firefighter

July 23, 2016

Age 42



Gabriel G. Lee of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, made the ultimate sacrifice on July 23, 2016, during a night shift at his station. He was a dedicated firefighter that worked day and night to protect the members of his community. Gabriel definitely lived a life of service.

In 1991, Gabriel enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. He defended his country in Operation Desert Storm and was honorably discharged on June 23, 1995, achieving the rank of specialist. Gabe received the Army Achievement Medal—September 20, 1993-October 23, 1993.

Gabriel, affectionately known as “Gabe or Lee,” entered the fire academy on March 15, 1999. He was in Cadet Class 172. After the successful completion of fire cadet training, he reported to his first assignment with Engine 35, C Platoon, in East Falls on June 28, 1999. Less than a year later, Gabe transferred to the fire station which would become his “home away from home,” Engine 50, C Platoon, in North Philadelphia. In October 2005, Gabe crossed the floor and transferred to Ladder 12, C platoon, which is housed with Engine 50, aka “The Big House,” located at 1325 Cambria Street. During his 17 years with the Philadelphia Fire Department, Gabe received many accolades, including four unit citations and one merit award, which is the fire department’s second highest individual honor.

The following quote is indicative of Gabriel’s work and life mantra:

“I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even of supreme sacrifice.” - Chief Edward F. Croker

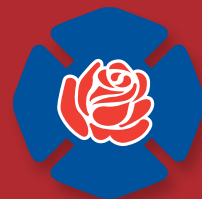
Gabriel leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Tasha; sons, Eric and Chase; and daughter, Gabrielle. Gabriel left us all too soon. He will always be remembered through the works he did, as well as the lives he touched in his 42 years of life.

Remembering



Matthew LeTourneau

*Philadelphia Fire Department –
Pennsylvania
Career Captain
January 6, 2018
Age 42*



*M*att's story began in Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where he attended Holy Cross Grade School and Cardinal O'Hara High School. From the tender age of five, Matt dreamed of being a firefighter like his grandfather. While attending high school, Matt took the opportunity to join the Springfield Fire Company and from there on dedicated himself to training and education and achieving his dream of being a professional firefighter. Matt pursued an associate degree in fire science at Delaware County Community College and joined the Springfield Ambulance Corps. He continued to train at the Delaware County Emergency Training Center and became an instructor at his alma mater. Matt was a certified county and state fire instructor and loved every minute of it. He took up residence in Philadelphia in order to fulfill his lifelong dream of working in a big city fire department. This dream was realized when he was appointed to the Philadelphia Fire Department on January 8, 2007.

Matt had a passion for advancing his knowledge and always wanted to share his knowledge to help others advance, as well. His passion for education and teaching the craft of firefighting was unmatched. He exemplified what it meant to have love for the job and translated that love into his instructing. Matt was an 11-year veteran of the Philadelphia Fire Department and served as the lieutenant of Engine 45 - Platoon A. He had previously served at Engine 43 and Engine 57, as well as Ladder 77 that was commissioned for Pope Francis' World Meeting of Families visit to Philadelphia.

On the frigid morning of January 6, 2018, at 8:51 a.m., Engine 45 responded to a fire call at 2240 Colorado Street in North Philadelphia. The snowcapped roofs and ice covered streets lined the way as Engine 45 pulled up to a rowhome with fire showing and the interior full of heavy black smoke with people trapped. The crew of Engine 45 went into service attempting an interior attack on the fire in order to rescue the occupants. During the attempt, an interior structural collapse occurred, pinning Matt and injuring other members of Engine 45. Matt was trapped for a duration of time and ultimately passed away due to the injuries he sustained. Box Alarm 7743 will forever be associated with the life and legacy of Matt LeTourneau. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of captain.

Matt's service, sacrifice, and love for firefighting was unmatched. He always said with firefighting he never worked a day in his life, because it is was what he loved to do!

Remembering



Michael T. Reese

Willow Street Fire Company –

Pennsylvania

Volunteer Fire Chief

August 23, 2018

Age 53



*F*ire Chief Michael T. Reese passed away unexpectedly after returning home from a fire call just hours before. Born May 4, 1965, he resided in Willow Street, Pennsylvania, with his wife of 28 years, Susan, and their two dogs. He is also survived by his brother, David C. Reese; nieces, Ashley, Samantha, and Haley; and nephews, Kyle and Hunter.

Beginning his fire service career at Bausman Fire Company, Mike spent 39 years actively participating in fire and emergency medical services. As a life member of the Willow Street Fire Company, he held many roles during his tenure and proudly served as the fire chief from 2010 until his passing. He received the department's Fireman of the Year Award in 1998 and 2016. Mike led by example, participating in training and safety drills, maintaining equipment, managing the needs of the department, and anticipating the needs of the community. Later, he joined the Lampeter Fire Company, where he became a life member, and was a member of the Lancaster County Firemen's Association.

During his career in emergency medical services, Mike was an assistant supervisor for Lancaster Countywide Communications for 17 years as an emergency dispatcher. Many fire and police departments held Mike in the highest regard for his professionalism and expertise. In 2011, he was honored as the Fire Dispatcher of the Year. Prior to working as a dispatcher, he was employed as an EMT in the emergency department at Lancaster General Hospital and by the West End Ambulance Association. He volunteered with Willow Street Fire Company Ambulance and the East Lampeter Township Ambulance Association.

Mike was a dedicated community servant and took great pride in his role as fire chief. Respected as a leader, and a mentor to aspiring firefighters, EMTs, and emergency dispatchers in Lancaster County, his positive influence touched many lives.

Mike was a lifetime fan of the Philadelphia Phillies. He enjoyed watching college football and attending Penn State games. During his free time, he spent time with the family dogs and supported local animal rescue organizations. Mike had a soft heart for any animal, rescuing many dogs and cats from burning buildings, ducklings from storm drains, or baby rabbits from window wells. He often worked with local veterinarians to coordinate emergency medical care on scene for animals in need.

Mike will be forever loved, missed, and fondly remembered by his family, friends, co-workers, and his brothers and sisters in the fire service.

*B*orn in Providence, Rhode Island, on November 7, 1945, Richard A. Jenks was the son of the late Elmer G. and Hortense (Sparky) Jenks. Richard was the loving husband of Sharon A. (Sherman) Jenks; they were married on August 15, 1992.

Richard was a lineman for Pascoag Utility District for 41 years. A lifetime member of the Pascoag Fire Department, he served as a firefighter and EMT for 33 years and 2 months.

Richard was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served his country for 24 years in Vietnam, Thailand, Kuwait, and Southeast and Southwest Asia.

He was the father of sons, Gregory R. Jenks and Travis R. Jenks, both of Pascoag; three daughters, Wendy Jenks Chamberlin of Pascoag, Sandra Leplat of Pascoag, and Laura Baptista of Connecticut; and ten grandchildren, Taylor Chamberlin, Darren Jenks, Riley Chamberlin, Molly Jenks, Noah Jenks, Nathan Jenks, Michael Higginson, Bryan Higginson, Christian Higginson, and Alexis Leplat.



Remembering



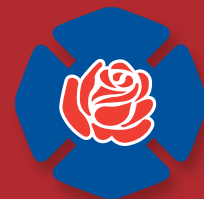
Richard A. Jenks

*Pascoag Fire Department –
Rhode Island*

Volunteer Lieutenant

February 14, 2018

Age 72



Remembering



Dennis Charles Straight

*Charlotte Road/Van Wyck
Volunteer Fire Department –*

South Carolina

Volunteer Assistant Chief

November 7, 2018

Age 59



Dennis Charles Straight was born in Niles, Ohio, on April 15, 1959. He was the only son of Chester and Mary Straight. He graduated from Niles High School and then Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Dennis loved to travel, especially in remote desert areas of the Southwest where people rarely go. He eventually moved to California where he met his wife, Jane, who was a desert rat. They spent every chance available roving around the Southwest, off-roading and primitive camping.

After moving to South Carolina (and closer to his aging mother), they settled in Van Wyck in Lancaster County. This friendly community welcomed them, inviting them to church and community events. He was also recruited to join the Charlotte Road-Van Wyck Volunteer Fire Department.

He signed up over 20 years ago. Dennis was always going to training meetings and firefighting classes. The radio would go off at all hours of the day and night. On night calls, he'd hop out of bed and be out the door in no time. As years went by, he was still enthusiastic but a bit slower. Dennis served in many positions such as firefighter, first responder, training officer, assistant chief, chief, and on the Lancaster County Fire Commission. At the time of his death, he was serving as assistant chief.

On November 7, 2018, the pager went off just as dinner was ready. He was called to the scene of an accident at the intersection of two major highways. It was a dark, rainy night, and he was directing traffic around the collision. He was struck by a car and was killed instantly. Like many members of firefighters' families say, "He died doing what he loved."

Dennis was a true Renaissance man with diverse interests, from Shakespeare to motorcycles. In his younger years, he got his pilot's license and flew small planes. He was a licensed amateur radio operator, as well as an amateur photographer and writer and a voracious reader. He was a lifetime Cleveland Indians fan and a Deadhead. He was very involved in his community. He enjoyed volunteering at Andrew Jackson State Park, especially the Revolutionary War reenactments. He had a blast!

He will be remembered for his quick wit and unflinching generosity of spirit. He was always ready to help others and listen to their problems and was good at getting them in a better frame of mind, even laughing. He lived one day at a time. Dennis is greatly missed by his family, friends, and community, especially by his firefighter brothers and sisters.

Remembering

David P. "Davey" Fischer was born January 6, 1975, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to Paul and Robyn Fischer. At 18 months old, he began many childhood moves with his military family, starting in Germany and ending in Sturgis, South Dakota. In between his junior and senior years in high school, he enlisted in the Army National Guard and started a military career that lasted 23 years. He served as a heavy construction equipment operator and mechanic, Army firefighting team leader and was a hazardous materials technician and a non-commissioned officer in charge of the 82nd Civil Support Team based in Rapid City, South Dakota. He also served his country overseas in Tikrit, Iraq, as chief of the 216th Army Firefighters in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 1996, David joined the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department and the Sturgis/Meade County Ambulance Service, attaining the rank of assistant fire chief in 2017. He put his heart and soul into helping others in their time of need, always on scene day or night, along with his wife, Firefighter and Ambulance Director Shawn Fischer, and their son, Firefighter Parker Peterson. Dave worked in the background to make the lives of everyone around him better, but when the chips were down, he was in the front, taking charge. He was a reluctant leader, the kind of leader you wanted to follow; he knew what needed to be done and how to make it happen. Dave received many awards and certifications during his fire and ambulance career and will always be remembered for being there for anyone in need.

Dave, 43, tragically passed away, September 7, 2018, doing what he loved most, fighting fire. He leaves behind his wife, seven children, his mother, two brothers, a sister, and numerous nieces and nephews.

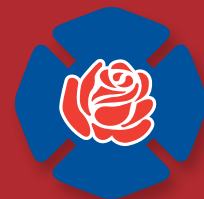


David P. Fischer

*Sturgis Volunteer Fire
Department – South Dakota
Volunteer Assistant Chief*

September 7, 2018

Age 43



Remembering



Jason Wade Dickey

*Lawrenceburg
Fire Department – Tennessee
Career Engineer
February 12, 2018
Age 38*



Jason Wade Dickey was born on November 7, 1979, to proud parents, Timothy and Debbie Dickey. He had one sister, Rebecca Dickey Morgan, several nieces, and a nephew.

Jason graduated from Lawrence County High School in 1998, where shortly thereafter he decided he wanted to pursue his dream of becoming a firefighter. Jason's firefighting career began as so many other firefighters have. He left a higher paying job to become a full-time firefighter. That was how Jason lived his life. It was about family and service to his community rather than a big paycheck. Jason started as a reserve firefighter for Lawrenceburg Fire Department in 2007 and became full-time in 2010. During his career, he found a passion for SCUBA diving. He became a certified rescue diver and participated in several dive calls. Jason received several awards, including two lifesaving medals. Jason was known for his dedication and passion for the job. He enjoyed working on anything mechanical, including fire apparatus and in the fire stations.

An avid outdoorsman, Jason enjoyed spending his free time hunting and with his family. Jason was a devoted family man and single dad to Kensley and Kason when he met the love of his life, Jennifer Kelley. They married on October 12, 2013. On October 27, 2015, Jason and Jennifer became proud parents to a little girl they named Korbyn Julieanne. While at the fire station, Jason often called Jennifer and the children just to tell them how much he loved and missed them. He delighted in hearing what they were doing. They often stopped by the station just to spend a few minutes with him. His family was an important part of everything he was involved in.

February 12, 2018, started as any normal day would. That afternoon a call came in for a structure fire, a completely routine call. Of course, Jason was one of the first to arrive. With excitement in his voice, he called Jennifer and said, "It's a fire and I will call you later." After a few hours of fighting the flames, Jason and several other firemen were in the house when the roof collapsed, killing Jason and injuring several other men. None of their lives would ever be the same.

Jason's legacy will live on. The Jason Dickey Memorial Training Center is currently under construction and will train future firefighters for generations to come. He is greatly missed by his family, friends, and fellow firefighters. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer; two daughters, Kensley and Korbyn; and two sons, Kason and Kallon. Kallon was born on March 12, 2018, exactly one month after Jason's passing.

Remembering



Richard Chalmers McCormick

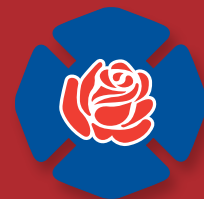
La Vergne Fire and Rescue –

Tennessee

Career Fire Chief

August 16, 2018

Age 49



*R*icky McCormick served his community faithfully for 31 years. He started his career as a junior firefighter in high school. In fact, he left right in the middle of his own high school graduation to hop on a truck and answer a fire call. Fighting fire and helping people was his calling, and from that day on he never did anything but just that. Over the years, he moved up through the ranks until 2014 when he was promoted to the honorable position of fire chief for the City of La Vergne Fire and Rescue. He served as the city's first municipal chief. He was a fireman's chief. He loved the job, loved his department, and most of all loved helping people. He had a true servant's heart. He never met a stranger and he loved to talk. He was quite the jokester with a laughter so contagious that you couldn't help but smile every time you heard it.

There was a call of a two-year-old little girl drowning. It came across the medical radio, which they could listen to but would not get toned out to. This was long before the fire department ever started running medical calls. Realizing he could get on the scene before anyone else, he instructed the guys to get on the truck and take the call. When they arrived, the two-year-old's lifeless body was handed to Ricky. He performed CPR, got her breathing again, and saved her life. He received the Heroic Life Saving Award that year. Several months later, the little girl stopped by the fire hall with her parents and gave him a picture of her. He carried that picture in the front of his wallet every single day thereafter.

Ricky was a family man. He loved his family with everything he had and would go to the ends of the earth for each and every one of them. He was preceded in death by his parents, Billy and Sally, and his son, Brandon. He is survived by his wife, Diana; sons, Tyler and Jordan; daughter, Ashley; grandchildren, Annabelle, Abigalle, and Brylee; brother, Allen, and his wife, Briana; sister, Christa, and her husband, Nick; father-in-law, Bobby; mother-in-law, Judy; and his canine babies, Sebastian, Sabienne, Jasmine, Cheyenne, and Shiloh, whom he loved so much.

Ricky touched the lives of so many people in the short 49 years he was here on this earth. His smile and contagious laugh will live on forever in the hearts of all who knew him.

Remembering



Devon D. Coney

Austin Fire Department – Texas

Career Cadet

June 26, 2018

Age 34



Devon Demetrius Coney was the younger twin born on November 3, 1983, to Sandra Kay and Dwight D. Coney in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Born into a military family, Devon traveled the world at a young age. He started school in Germany before he and his family moved back to the United States, eventually settling in Austin.

Throughout his early life, Devon spent a lot of time serving with youth ministries and church groups. He also loved spending quality time with his uncles, hunting, and fishing.

Devon graduated from Round Rock High School in 2003 as an All-Around, All-State Athlete and from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2009, receiving a bachelor's degree in communications and political science. He was heavily involved in community outreach and children's non-profit charitable programs, donating countless years of his time to many organizations.

Devon's life was forever changed by the birth of his beloved son, Davian, on December 6, 2013. He dedicated his life to ensuring Davian's health and happiness. Devon wanted his son to have the best life possible and stopped at nothing to ensure that was afforded to him. Keeping his son at the front of his mind, in 2014, Devon began pursuing his dream career with the Austin Fire Department (AFD). He worked at AFD's headquarters in Austin for four years before being invited to join Class 126 as a fire cadet.

Devon passed away on June 26, 2018, pursuing his dreams and living for his son. He was an incredible person with a beautiful spirit and the absolute best father, uncle, brother, and son.

Devon leaves behind Davian Demetri Coney, but will live forever with him in spirit. He also leaves his mother, Sandra Kay James; father, Dwight D. Coney; twin brother, Doshon D. Coney; sister, Keidra N. Meredith; kid brother, Dustin D. Coney; nephews, nieces, relatives, and friends.

Forever in our Hearts!

Remembering

*M.*V. Hudson, Jr., age 86, of the New London Volunteer Fire Department, died on March 10, 2018, after being critically injured in a tanker rollover while en route to a grass fire.

Born in Henderson, Texas, in 1931, he was the son of the late Vanous and Essie Mae Hudson.

Hudson worked for Texas Eastman in Longview, Texas, and was a member of Texas Eastman Volunteer Fire Department until his retirement. He proudly served on the New London Volunteer Fire Department for 45 years and also served as mayor of New London for several years.

He was a member of Arp Assembly of God Church.

He was a United States Army Veteran who served in the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Johnnie Hudson; daughters, Vanessa (Ricky) Richardson, Gwen (Adam) Trevino, and Dee Hudson; son, Ronnie (Vicki) Hudson; sister, Jan Hudson; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

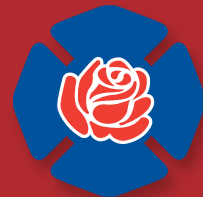


M.V. Hudson Jr.

*New London Volunteer
Fire Department – Texas
Volunteer Firefighter*

March 10, 2018

Age 86



Remembering



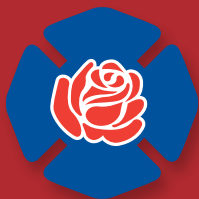
Richard Andy Loller Jr.

*Weatherford
Fire Department – Texas*

Career Firefighter

June 10, 2018

Age 42



*R*ichard Arnold “Andy” Loller Jr. was born February 26, 1976, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Richard Loller and Yvonne Collins.

Andy started his fire service career as a volunteer with the Hudson Oaks Fire Department, Texas, in 2002. Shortly after, he attended the fire academy at Weatherford College and became a full-time paid firefighter at Hudson Oaks in 2005. Andy rose to the rank of lieutenant/EMT-B before he transitioned to Weatherford Fire Department in 2013 as a firefighter. On his off-duty days, Andy worked part-time as a paid firefighter with the Greenwood Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

Andy was a craftsman of his trade. He devoted his time at work to honing his skills and passing on his knowledge and experience. Andy had a drive to master everything he learned. From extrication to shooting, he was an “all in” kind of guy. He had a love for the outdoors. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and expert marksman. He also enjoyed weightlifting and was very athletic. Andy always had a smile on his face and a laid-back demeanor. He had a charm that was well received by all who met him.

On June 10, 2018, Andy was deployed to the Davis Mountains in west Texas as part of a 12-member North Texas wildland strike team. Strike Team 137 was sent to contain the Scenic Loop Complex fires. While hiking the fire line near the top of a mountain with his crew, Andy began to experience chest pain. His crew cleared a landing zone on top of the mountain, from which he was transported by helicopter to a local hospital in Alpine. After being stabilized, he was flown to Odessa for further treatment. While in flight, Andy went into cardiac arrest and, despite the valiant efforts of his wildland crew and all medical staff involved, he succumbed to his injury.

Andy is survived by his wife, Debra Loller; daughter, Chelsea Ortega; son, Colby Robertson; grandson, Jaxson Ortega; parents, Richard Loller and Yvonne Collins; sister, Amber Pullin; nieces, Brooke Shirley and Katie Ann Pullin; nephew, Corbitt Shirley; close friends, Seth and Lindsay Winburn and daughter, Clara; and a host of loving friends, and fellow firefighters around the world.

Andy positively impacted everyone he met and will be greatly missed by all. One person close to Andy said, “God couldn’t make too many ‘Andys,’ or we wouldn’t have anyone to look up to.”

Remembering

Larry Marusik was born in La Grange, Texas, on March 21, 1950. He married Diane Ilse on April 17, 1971, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellinger, Texas. Larry and Diane were blessed with three children—daughter, Dawn, and twin sons, Corey and Curt.

Larry served in the Army Air National Guard for six years. He worked his entire life as a welder and fabricator in Houston, Texas, until he retired in June of 2012.

Larry had a unique gift. When he saw something he liked, like a barbecue pit or a swing or some bench he saw on the streets of Fredericksburg, Texas, he didn't just go buy it. He studied it, he specked it out, and he built it from whatever materials he could find.

However, after 2012, Larry was never truly retired. Larry and Diane moved back to their hometown of Ellinger in 2014, where he spent much of his time after retirement continuing to remain busy. He even designed the home they built in Ellinger on a piece of paper. He continued to work with his hands in his shop, always finding some new project to keep him busy and active with his hands. He rarely met an idea he could not build.

He was very active in the community, volunteering with the Ellinger Chamber of Commerce for many different fundraisers. He was also on the Parish Council for St. Mary's Catholic Church and volunteered regularly at the food pantry in Fayetteville, Texas. He enjoyed serving once a month to help distribute food to those in need. He enjoyed hunting in his pasture and at his deer lease in Doss, Texas.

Larry served his last four years on the Ellinger Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed serving and answering calls to help those in need. He was an active member of the department and always took time to actively participate in department meetings and activities. While on a routine call on March 10, 2018, he was injured in the line of duty and paid the ultimate price while helping others. He succumbed to his injuries on March 23, 2018. This was Larry, always helping others, even at the end.

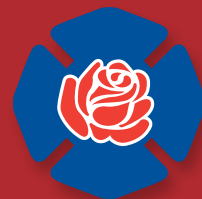


Larry Marusik

*Ellinger Volunteer
Fire Department – Texas
Volunteer Firefighter*

March 23, 2018

Age 68



Remembering



William M. Thompson

Ft. Worth

Fire Department – Texas

Career Firefighter

April 28, 2014

Age 56



*W*illiam M. Thompson was born in Saginaw, Texas, to the late James Lee Jr. and Elise Faye Thompson on July 3, 1957. He was raised with three sisters and one brother. He attended Boswell High School before joining the Marine Corps in 1976. His journey to becoming a firefighter started while he was in the service. In 1988, he began working for the Fort Worth Fire Department. William served on the truck for as long as he could before he was unable to, due to respiratory illness he developed on the job. He continued to serve the citizens of Fort Worth by working as a dispatcher. William retired from the Fort Worth Fire Department 22 years later.

William and Paula married on June 14, 1992. William absolutely adored his bride and three children, Amanda, Haley, and Christopher. Although he only had three children of his own, he was known as “Dad” to many of their childhood friends. His family will always remember him as someone who encouraged them to chase after their dreams. Aside from being a husband and dad, his favorite title was “Granddaddy.” His grandson, Cason Story, changed his world in 2013.

William was often on the go. If he wasn’t at work or at home, you could catch him at the golf course, on the lake, or grabbing a drink with friends. During his lifetime, William never met a stranger. If he met you once, he considered you a friend. Those that knew William considered him to be the life of the party.

He enjoyed grilling, hanging out by the swimming pool, and making his famous salsa. There was never a dull moment with him. He truly lived out the motto of “Live life to the fullest.”

William passed away on April 28, 2014, due to work related injuries. He will be remembered and forever missed with love and appreciation for his years as a devoted husband, father, and for his service to the community. As his family, we hope to always keep his memory alive and make sure those memories are shared.

The Thompson family would like to thank William’s best friend and firefighter brother, Paul Measles. He truly kept his word to make sure our family was taken care of. We can never thank him enough.

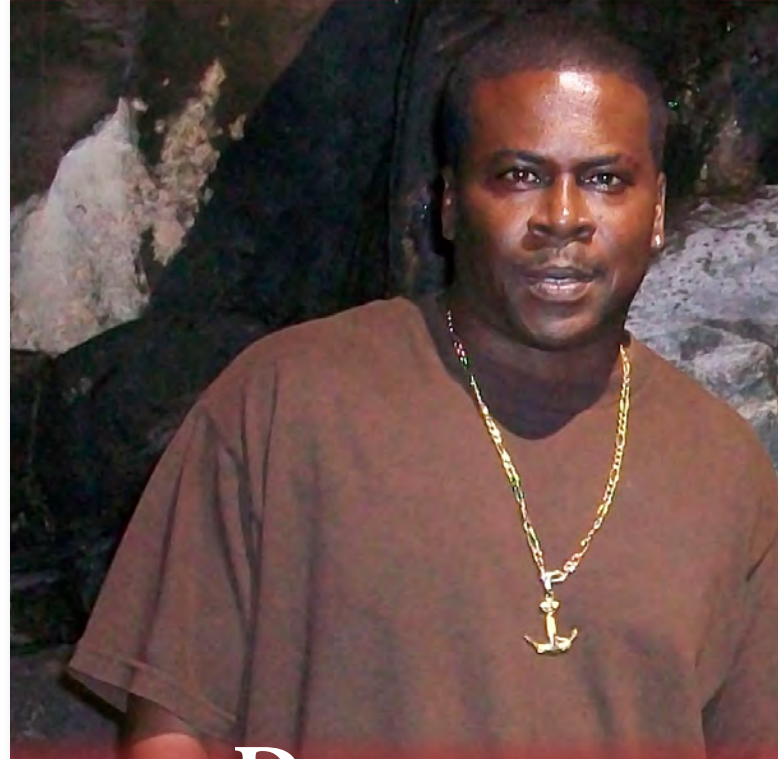
*B*orn in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) on the Island of St. Croix, Dwayne Anthony “Yogi” Thomas was welcomed into the world to parents Corine Messer and Eugene Thomas on December 4, 1960. His last breath as a USVI firefighter was on January 24, 2018, in the line of duty, answering a call to serve his community.

Dwayne was a committed firefighter for 25 years within the USVI Fire Department. Throughout those years, he developed lasting friendships, built camaraderies and relationships with many people, and along the way, he grew into a well-respected and loved person, as well. He was a dedicated son to his parents (Corine and Eugene), stepmom (Erma), a reliable brother to his six siblings (Tysha, Medene, Ibia, Eugene, Kai, and Rhydel), a dependable father to his five children (Jamaal, Rainia, Shaina, Reanell, and C’mone), and a confidante to his life partner and girlfriend (Julie).

Dwayne started out wanting to become a veterinarian early in life, but somehow his path took him in another direction to become a firefighter. Dwayne was famously known for professionally fighting roosters, which he was very good at. He even raised a few in his backyard, something that he took very seriously. He loved animals and loved playing baseball, as well. Dwayne loved to laugh and have a good time, but most of all he enjoyed being a grandpa and spending time with his grandkids (Neja, Larry, Caleb, Mekhi, Malia, Maleah, Kelsey, Elise and Kately). They were his pride and joy in life.

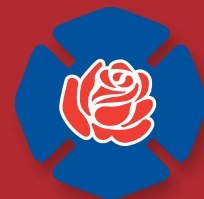
Dwayne was such a special and loved person, and God knew it, too. On January 25, 2018, the morning after his death, and for the first time in our lives, we saw a double rainbow in the sky. It was the most amazing and beautiful thing we have ever seen. We knew it was a sign from God, letting us know that Dwayne would always be with us, and he always will. We miss him dearly, and he’ll always be in our hearts.

Remembering



Dwayne Anthony “Yogi” Thomas

***U.S. Virgin Islands Fire
Service – U.S. Virgin Islands
Career Firefighter
January 24, 2018
Age 57***



Remembering



Matthew David Burchett

*Draper City
Fire Department – Utah
Career Battalion Chief
August 13, 2018
Age 42*



*B*attalion Chief Matthew David Burchett lost his life on August 13, 2018, while working on the fire line of the Mendocino Complex Fire in California. He was 42 years young and is profoundly missed by those who knew and loved him, including his wife, Heather; son, Griffin; parents, Tom and Rose; siblings, Monica, Dominic, and Gina; and a large extended fire family.

During his 20-year career with Unified Fire Authority, he quickly moved up the ranks. He worked as a wildland crew boss, paramedic, station captain, fire training captain, and an emergency management captain. In May 2018, he was promoted to the rank of battalion chief with Draper City Fire Department. He was a highly regarded firefighter and an exceptional person.

Matt led by example. He wasn't afraid of taking calculated risks and approached problems with an industrious and confident attitude. He was creative and could figure out solutions to just about anything. He did not let complications, doubts, or overwhelming details get in the way; he would just persevere with a stubborn energy. The words "I can't" were not in his vocabulary.

Many who worked with him noted his gift for mentoring others, often seeing potential in them that they didn't see in themselves. He led by example, never asking anyone to do anything he wouldn't do himself. Matt had an uncanny ability to inspire people to want to do their best just because they were working with him.

As a father, Matt was devoted and treated Griffin like a companion rather than a child to be molded. He was patient and quietly firm when needed. Griffin was his sidekick. When Griffin was six, Matt taught him how to do multiplication and showed him how to use a drill as they built a treehouse together. For Heather, he was a loyal soulmate, a selfless best friend, an amazing chef, an adventurous travel partner, and the world's best handyman.

Matt was amazingly generous and thoughtful. He often helped his parents and grandparents fix things on their houses and would just stop in for a visit to drop off some food or treat, without even being asked. It's no wonder he chose a profession in which he could combine his problem-solving ability, intelligence and strategic thinking, sense of service to others, leadership, love for the outdoors, and cooking skills all into one life-calling.

Casey Steven Kuhns of Morrisville, Vermont, was born on June 3, 1987, the oldest of three children, to Lisa Coolum Kuhns LaMonda and Jeffrey Kuhns. Casey passed away on February 28, 2018, at the young age of 30. He was a son, father, brother, uncle, and a great friend to many people.

Casey has three children who love and miss him deeply, a son, Shane Kuhns, and two daughters, Harley and Lacey Kuhns. Casey's children were his pride and joy, and his passions in life were being first and foremost a father, a firefighter, and an EMT/first responder. When the tones went off, you could always count on Casey to be there. No matter where he was or what he was doing, he would drop everything to go help his fellow brothers and sisters on the departments he served. He also enjoyed hunting, camping, four-wheeling, dancing to his favorite bands, and spending time with family and friends.

Casey served for three departments in his career as a firefighter. He started at the Hyde Park (Vermont) Fire Department (Base 28), then moved on to Johnson Fire Department (Base 9), and lastly was a lieutenant on the Morrisville Fire Department (Base 14) and was also on the Morristown Rescue Squad. His working career started as a mechanic at a local garage and moved on to work for a landscaping business. He then became an 18-wheel truck driver for Perras Brothers and later hauled heavy equipment for Contractors Crane Service. Lastly, he ended up working for the Morristown Highway Department, a job that he absolutely loved doing.

Casey's life was cut short, but in his lifetime he made a lot of friends, helped many people, and loved serving his community. He always had a smile on his face, and if you were not laughing at first, you most definitely were by the time you left being around him. Casey had a big impact on everyone he met and helped and, most importantly, his children. He will be truly missed by all those who knew him, and as he always liked to say, "We will take it from here." Yes, Casey, we will do just that!

Remembering



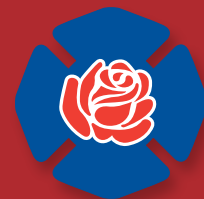
Casey Steven Kuhns

***Morrisville Fire Department –
Vermont***

Volunteer Lieutenant

February 28, 2018

Age 30



Remembering



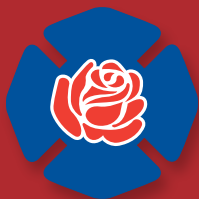
Dennis Lynn Brent

*Charlottesville
Fire Department – Virginia*

Career Firefighter

December 1, 2018

Age 56



*H*ow can I explain to a crowd of firefighters, most of whom never met Dennis, who he was? He was a fireman. He would want you to know that he was a truckie. He wouldn't brag and tell you that he had spent more than three decades in the fire service, many of which were spent as chief at his local Palmyra Volunteer Fire Department. He would never say that he was considered the senior man, not only on the truck and for his shift, but for Charlottesville Fire Department as a whole.

He would tell you that he was a member of the Charlottesville Fire Department Honor Guard, but you wouldn't know how devoted a member he was, that he traveled extensively without notice so that he could be there for the loved ones of someone he never met.

He would want you to know that he loved his family. He inspired me to be a good father to my own son with the way he spoke of Travis so lovingly. He was the kindest man I have ever known.

Firefighters by rule are fixers and helpers. But firefighters are also pranksters, jokers, and boy do they love to tease, especially when they know you don't want it. I had been an A shifter with Dennis since I had been hired. On the truck with him as I described earlier. Shift changes had just come out, and I was on the list. Don't get me wrong, I love my shift now, but at the time, my home was with Dennis on A shift. The shift ribbed and pushed and teased me about my upcoming transfer in non-stop good fun. I made the best of it, but after a while my defense broke, and I wore my feelings on the outside. Fuel to the fire...Dennis found me in the lounge, sitting by myself, all in my feelings. It was my last day on A shift, and do you know what he did? He stood me up and he hugged me. He actually walked in from the kitchen, pulled me up out of the chair and hugged me. He had some good words for me as well, but I'll keep those. Nobody saw, and as far as I can remember, I never told anyone that story. He probably wouldn't remember it if you could ask him, but that was the kind of man he was.

He left kindness in his wake, the ripples of which still move our fire department.

It's ok to laugh. It's ok to cry. It's ok to pull someone out of a chair and give them a hug if you think they might need it.

- Captain Jesse Heller

Remembering

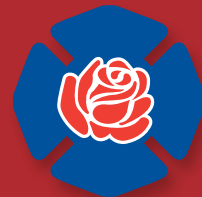


Bradford T. Clark

*Hanover County
Fire and EMS – Virginia
Career Lieutenant*

October 11, 2018

Age 43



Lieutenant Bradford Turner Clark, a native of Hanover County, joined the Hanover Fire and EMS Department in 2005. Brad served his first eight years as a firefighter/EMT in operations at some of the county's busiest stations. He was passionate about mentoring others to be the best at their craft. He was unselfish with his time and talent, realizing he was only as strong and efficient as his crew. His passion for his career in the fire service was unmatched. Brad was a fireman's fireman. In 2015, Brad was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Brad was deeply committed to the safety of citizens he served and the firemen he trained and led. Brad was known for the nearly never-ending smile on his face, quick wit, endless inside jokes with his friends, non-stop texting, and memes and videos sent to those he knew and loved.

Brad was a devoted and loving husband to his wife, Melanie, affectionately known as "Buttercup," and the father to four beautiful daughters. His girls were the love of his life. Brad was also a beloved son, brother, and uncle. In addition to his duties with Hanover Fire and EMS Department, Brad gave selflessly to firefighters across the country, helping them to expand their knowledge. Brad was a founding board member of the 350'Line, Inc., a Richmond-based non-profit corporation created to further the education of firefighters across the Commonwealth of Virginia. In this role, Brad developed and taught training programs impacting thousands of firefighters across the state. Brad regularly traveled across the United States presenting his own training programs to large fire conferences throughout the country, including Andy Fredericks Training Days, Wichita HOT, Art of Firemanship Days, Making the Stretch, and Walter Sisk Memorial Truck School.

Bradford served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in November 2000 at the rank of sergeant. During his time in the Army, Brad was awarded the National Defense Ribbon, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and two Army Achievement Medals. Brad is credited for saving the lives of his crew, during the incident that took his life, by warning his crew of the oncoming danger. Two of his crew members sustained life-threatening traumatic injuries in this incident. While Brad gave his life that night, he followed his values and instincts, putting the lives of his crew before his own and taking swift action during his final moments that saved his crew members' lives. For his heroic actions during his last call, Brad was the recipient of the 2019 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award, which was presented posthumously and accepted by his wife, Melanie.

Remembering



James Pierce Kegley Jr.

*Hanover County
Fire and EMS – Virginia
Career Lieutenant*

*January 11, 2018
Age 48*



Lieutenant James P. “Punkie” Kegley Jr. was a member of the Hanover County Fire and EMS Department for 30 years. As a child he would ride to the firehouse with his father, who was a volunteer, and he watched as the men went out on the calls. That is where he developed his love of the fire service. He began his firefighting career with Hanover as a volunteer firefighter in 1985 at the age of 16. During his years as a volunteer, he received an associate degree in fire science from J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College.

In 1999, Punkie was hired as Hanover’s fifth career firefighter. He was so proud to serve the community he had grown up in. In 2001, Punkie was promoted to lieutenant. For the next twelve years he proudly served as a mentor, educator, and leader of several stations until he was medically retired in January 2013. He always worked hard to make his family, as well as his fire department family, proud through his dedication, service, and kindness to all.

We honor Punkie today by remembering the things that made him special to so many. We remember the special attention he gave to all he taught, passing his love of the fire service on to so many. Those he taught DPO to now know “Punkie math.” He could truly say he loved his job and lived every little boy’s dream. He couldn’t go far without seeing someone he knew; he seemed to know everyone. He had such pride in his family and his service, and that’s where the phrase “Punkie Pride” came from. To keep Punkie’s memory alive, his family started the James P. Kegley Jr. Memorial Scholarship for a graduating high school senior from his high school who plans on going into the fire service or public service.

He was preceded in death by his father, who started his love of the fire service early. He is survived by his wife, Amy; son, James III, who is following in his father’s footsteps as a volunteer firefighter; son, Joshua, who is so much like his dad; mother, Brenda; and sister, Valerie.

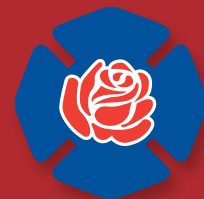
Remembering



William H. Moore IV

**Amelia County Volunteer Fire
Department – Virginia
Volunteer Firefighter**

*June 14, 2018
Age 48*



*W*illiam “Billy” Moore IV was born on August 15, 1969, to William H. Moore III and Sharon Moore Miles. He has one sister, Marie Willet. Billy was married to Loretta Moore and has a son, William H. Moore V, and two stepchildren, Eric and Heather Anders, who he was incredibly proud of. He has two grandchildren, Dillon Beasley and Emma Anders, all of Amelia. Billy has two nieces, Amber Haden and Valerie Brown, along with a great-niece, Wynter Moore, and a great nephew, Damien Moore. William “Billy” Moore IV is survived by them and many other loving extended family members and friends. Billy touched a lot of lives. He loved those around him unconditionally and is loved and will be missed by all his family and friends.

Billy grew up in the small town of Amelia Court House, Virginia, where family and friends were always there for each other. He was always trying to help everyone, no matter who they were or what the situation was. The fire department was a big part of his family. When the tones went off, he was always ready to go on a call no matter the time. He looked up to a lot of the guys on the fire department and had a lot of respect for them. He enjoyed working on projects at the firehouse. Billy always wanted to be a firefighter but waited until later in life to become a member.

On June 14, 2018, Billy was in a training class at the firehouse when he suffered a medical emergency, went into cardiac arrest, and passed. This was the hardest call I had ever received and had to make to the rest of the family. That night was a nightmare for all the family and the fire department.

He received a beautiful funeral from the fire department with the help of the Hanover Fire Department. This was Amelia’s first line-of-duty death. Everyone did a great job, and we appreciate everything they did for us.

Billy loved to fish and hunt. As siblings that enjoyed both, we were always in competition with each other. The best times were when we got to go together. He loved children and was always doing stuff with them. He enjoyed going to baseball and football games to help and watch Dillon play.

Billy is truly missed every day by his family, friends, and fire department.

Remembering



Anthony R. Whetzel

*Rockingham County
Fire and Rescue – Virginia*

Career Captain

September 15, 2018

Age 33



Anthony began his journey with the fire service at age 20, as a volunteer at Broadway Volunteer Fire Department in Broadway, Virginia, where he served as a member from 2005 until his passing. In 2006, he was hired as a career firefighter/EMT with Rockingham County Department of Fire and Rescue (RCFR). In his 12 years with RCFR, he was promoted through the ranks of master fire/rescue technician in 2008, lieutenant in 2011, and captain in 2014. Anthony continued to work hard and further his education by becoming a medic. He served as a specialist on the Rockingham County and Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Hazardous Materials Team.

He constantly worked and trained to better himself, the department, the community, and those he worked with. This is something he tried to instill in his fellow co-workers. Anthony was an educator, mentor, and leader to other firefighters, constantly pushing them to be better and train harder. Despite falling ill and battling cancer, Anthony continued to set an example through his leadership and never complained while working up until within a month of his passing. His famous sayings when training and inspiring firefighters was, "Everyone wants to be a badass firefighter until it's time to be a badass firefighter," and "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

Though there was no doubt Anthony loved his job, his greatest love was for his family. On July 7, 2012, Anthony married his soulmate and love of his life, Drenna. On April 27, 2013, they welcomed their son, Rylan Anthony Whetzel, and two months after his diagnosis, on June 29, 2017, they welcomed their daughter, Callie Reagan Whetzel. You could never doubt the love Anthony had for his family. His hard work and dedication to his job and his family was instilled in him by his parents, Harry and Faye Whetzel. His love for the fire service grew on his younger brother, Dustin. Anthony was beyond proud of his little brother for following in his footsteps and becoming a career firefighter with Rockingham County Department of Fire and Rescue, just like him. Anthony was an avid hunter and diehard University of Virginia fan. He shared the love of hunting and UVA with his parents, younger brother, and son.

Captain Anthony Robert Whetzel's passing is a great loss and will leave a hole that can never be filled in all aspects of his life. We can take comfort in the striking resemblance of Anthony in his son, Rylan, and beautiful daughter, Callie. We can keep him alive by keeping the brotherhood alive! GO HOOS!

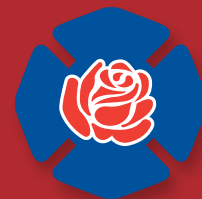
Remembering



Herbert T. “Butch” Wilcox

*Rocky Mount Volunteer
Fire Department – Virginia
Volunteer Firefighter*

*April 19, 2018
Age 77*



*F*irefighter Herbert Tyler “Butch” Wilcox, age 77, of the Rocky Mount Fire Department (RMFD), passed away peacefully at his home on April 19, 2018, within 24 hours of responding to multiple calls.

He served his country in the U.S. Navy for over three years with an honorable discharge. Butch was an active member of Franklin Heights Baptist Church.

He worked at the Rocky Mount Pastry Shop with his mother, father, and sister for many years until purchasing it in 1961. He ran the shop until 1972, selling it to his sister and brother, Nellie Sprouse and Bill Wilcox. He and his wife, Mary Ann, purchased the Hub Restaurant, which they ran successfully for 36 and a half years, retiring in October 2009.

He was an active member of the Rocky Mount Fire Department for over 57 years. Butch served in many capacities during his service to the RMFD, including assistant chief and captain. He was a former member of the Rocky Mount Jaycees.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Carl and Bessie Wilcox; four sisters and brothers-in-law, Nellie and Richard Sprouse, Mary Jane and Walter Yates, Margaret and Paul Yates, and Peggy and Cully Cullifer; and his brother, Bill Wilcox. Surviving him are his loving wife of 51 and a half years, Mary Ann Wilcox; a very special nephew who was like a brother, William C. Wilcox (Helen); two sisters-in-law, Peggy Overstreet and Flora Altice (Clayton); a very special niece, Jean Overstreet; a very special nephew/fishing and hunting buddy, James Overstreet (Penney); many other special nieces and nephews; two special “granddaughters,” Brandi and Sharon Williams; special friends, Dusty Rhodes, Eric Ferguson, Spike Pugh, and Ullis Chitwood; and the RMFD brothers and their families.

Remembering



Walter “Duffy” Burns Jr.

*Snohomish County
Fire District #1 – Washington
Career Firefighter/Paramedic*

*June 11, 2018
Age 57*



*D*uffy was a man loved by all that knew him. His life revolved around demonstrating his love for the Lord, his family, his firefighter paramedic career, and by serving those in need. He was strong, unassuming, and never complained. At the same time, his patients, community, and family felt genuinely cared for by his tender kindness and respectful demeanor. The firehouse was also the perfect place for a man like Duffy with his quick wit, touch of New York attitude, love for a good contest or prank, and old-fashioned work ethic.

Duffy went home to be with the Lord after a three and a half year battle with cancer. Although his cancer was associated with firefighting exposures, Duffy remained passionate about his service as a firefighter paramedic (he said he would never take it back) and was ever thankful to God for blessing him with a meaningful career that allowed him to provide for his family and touch the lives of so many.

Duffy was born in Rochester, New York, where he began volunteer firefighting in the 1970s with Sea Breeze Fire Department (Irondequoit). After moving to Washington, Duffy was blessed to join Snohomish County Fire District #1, assigned to Station 11 and IAFF Local 1828. He served for 26 years. In 2006, he trained as a paramedic through UW School of Medicine and Harborview Medical Center, Class 33. After his cancer metastasized, Duffy retired in 2017, much earlier than his heart desired.

Four years prior to his cancer diagnosis, Duffy was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Lisa, who was a beautiful woman of God. He is survived by three adult children, his mother, seven beloved brothers and sisters, Lisa’s family, and many dear friends, including his firefighting and church communities that were just as close as family. He cared for them all very well and certainly set an example that changed all of their lives.

Duffy was an honorable man, lovingly devoted to his family, and a dependable friend. His faith in the Living God never wavered. Duffy was confident that God would redeem his death by deepening the faith of those who believe and pointing others towards a life more abundant and free in the arms of our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*T*im Cruger Sr. was born into the family of a firefighter. He would wander the few blocks to his father's station when too young to do so alone. Later, the station was a destination, alone or with friends. The seed was planted.

After a short stint in the Army, he tested for the Spokane Fire Department. Out of 400, he ranked in the top 10, but chose to pursue a business venture that had been dangled in front of him. Over a decade later, after graduation from college, he tested again, this time with Spokane Valley Fire, where he served for 29 years.

The three most important things in his life were God, his family and the community he served. He was deeply devoted to Jesus Christ. He didn't push his faith onto others but lived it out in his everyday life. His family was his pride and joy. He was deeply devoted to Joan, which he showed in his actions. A born leader, he taught his sons how to be men of integrity and honesty, modeling how to love and lead their own families. He lived out the example of a good husband for his daughters. He passed on his lifelong ethic of hard work to all his children.

Tim had a servant's heart and enjoyed helping people. Friends knew they could count on him, and the community learned they could also. He was compassionate toward people who were experiencing emergencies firefighters walk into. People have shared accounts of the "above and beyond" care he showed them. Tim had a very quick wit and a playful way about him. He was the one who kept gatherings of friends or family full of laughter, as he could find fun in every situation. Practical jokes were his forte.

Tim had a very competitive spirit and was a man of integrity. He quickly moved up the ladder in rank, completing his career as captain at the busiest station in his district. He loved his job and found great fulfillment in it. He took personal pride in doing his job well and in the manner in which he led his men. He cared about people, and many of his co-workers were deeply seeded in his heart as brothers. Tim is remembered as being "captain, mentor, and friend."

Tim left a hole in the hearts of his wife, Joan; daughters, Catherine (Chad) and Christina (Randal); sons, Tim Jr. (Kyn-dra), Joshua (Halley), and Micah (Erika); his 18 grandchildren; his sister, Connie; and his many friends.

Remembering



Timothy D. Cruger

*Spokane Valley
Fire Department – Washington*

Career Captain

December 24, 2018

Age 67



Remembering



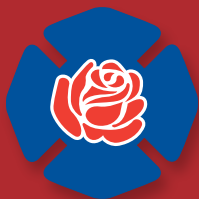
Marvin E. Larry

*Seattle Fire Department –
Washington*

Career Firefighter

March 20, 2018

Age 67



*M*arvin was a Seattle firefighter since 1989 and a proud founding member of the Seattle Honor Guard.

He loved his job, his co-workers, his engine, and his teams—the Seahawks and the Eagles.

But most of all, he loved his family, his wife, Anne; sons, Kahlil, Kiahn, and Cayman; his daughter, Alieke; and his beloved grandchildren.

He lived his life with duty and honor and will always be remembered for his smile and larger than life personality.



*J*ohn Olaf Swobody, at the young age of 54, passed away from synovial sarcoma in Marysville, Washington. He fought cancer for five tough years and would never take NO for an answer when he was told that he was too weak or his blood counts were too low for treatment. Having had two surgeries, numerous chemotherapy treatments, radiation treatments, and experimental treatments, he succumbed on June 4, 2018. He was a fighter until the very end, not wanting to leave his family.

John began his fire service career as a volunteer in 1984 with District #13 in Blaine, Washington. John also volunteered for the City of Blaine and District #7 for 14 years. He was with the Blaine police reserve from 1991-2001. It was clear to see from his beginnings in public safety that he had dedicated his life to keeping his neighbors safe.

In 1999, John was hired as a career firefighter. As John's career progressed, he strived to challenge himself and others to perform at a higher level, dedicating himself to being the best firefighter he could be. This was reflected in the different positions John worked within the fire district. He loved training and the satisfaction of helping others better themselves. In 2006, John was promoted to training captain. A year later, he was promoted to training chief and served in this capacity for several years. In 2011, John was promoted to operations chief. Between volunteer and career service, he was with the fire service for 34 years.

Being a firefighter gave John many opportunities, including attending the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He was on a disaster team and was deployed to New Orleans for 26 days to recover bodies during Hurricane Katrina.

John's commitment to service and caring for others was apparent on a medical mission trip to the Amazon jungle in 2010. His team traveled over 300 miles up the Amazon River, providing medical care and Christian outreach to villages rarely seen by non-native people. Four days were spent living with a village of several hundred people that were so appreciative of the team's effort that they provided John with an abundance of reward and honor.

John is survived by his wife, Annette; children, Heather Rigos (Mark), Melissa Hopfauf (Jacob), and Curtis Amundson (Cecilia); his grandchildren, whom he adored, Tyler, Ryan, Alex, and Dylan Rigos, Kaleb and Janessa Hopfauf, and Jayden Amundson; his mother, Deloris Swobody; and siblings, Rebecca Cleverly, Donald Swobody Jr., and Eric Swobody. John will forever be in our hearts and will always be our hero.

Remembering



John Olaf Swobody

***North Whatcom
Fire & Rescue – Washington***

Career Firefighter

June 4, 2018

Age 54



Remembering



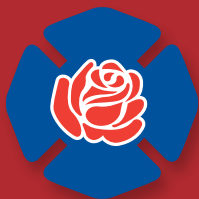
Thomas Ray Craigo

*Pratt Community Volunteer
Fire Department – West Virginia*

Volunteer Lieutenant

March 24, 2018

Age 40



*T*homas Ray Craigo of Hansford, West Virginia, was born in Montgomery, West Virginia, on February 9, 1978, and died at age 40 on March 24, 2018. He was a supervisor with Hutch's Wrecker Service in Handley for 16 years. He was a Masonic member of the Coal Valley Lodge #74 AF&AM in Montgomery.

Thomas was a lieutenant for Pratt Volunteer Fire Department and a volunteer firefighter for 15 years, having served with the Montgomery, Smithers, Handley, and Pratt departments, and he was a swift water swimmer.

His kids always came first and were his top priority. After that, it was helping others. Whether it was with the fire department or at work, Thomas would help anyone who needed it, no matter what, no questions asked. He always had a smile on his face and saw the good in everyone. He could be happy without having anything. You could trust him with anything and ask him anything. He would tell you if he didn't agree, but he never judged you for your actions or opinions.

We never had a honeymoon or even a family vacation, but every Sunday we would go for a drive, usually with no destination. It could take 15 minutes or four hours; we would just pick a different road every time. We would talk and sing all the way. There were so many places in West Virginia that we had never seen or heard of. We never had money to go places or do anything extravagant. Thomas had never even seen the ocean or walked on a beach, but we didn't need all that to be happy.

Thomas loved music and dancing. He knew every song on every station and would sing and dance to them all. He always said he learned to dance from his mother.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Noel Craigo; his children, Koby and Brooke Craigo; his sister, Tasha Craigo, of Clarksburg; his brother, Todd Burnett, of Blakely; his mother, Tammie Starks Hudson, of Comfort; his father, Alan Burnett, of Blakely; his aunt, June Tuck, of Hurricane; and his uncles, David Starks of Comfort and Donald Starks of Blakely.

Remembering

Assistant Chief Michael James Edwards lost his life while responding to an automobile accident with fatalities on March 24, 2018, when the fire engine in which he was a passenger went off the road and hit a rock cliff.

Michael joined the Pratt Volunteer Fire Department at age 16 as a junior fireman, sponsored by Charlie Veazey, the fire chief whom Michael valued greatly. Michael was a very active member of the department for 25 years. He took time away when becoming a member of the Air National Guard for basic training and during the time that he lived in North Carolina. While he was away, his heart remained with the brothers of Pratt Fire Department. He was very serious concerning safety when on the job. The junior firemen said that he was constantly lecturing them on being safe and not clowning around during training. He expected them to do their best. One brother from the department said that he wore a different hat when doing his job as assistant chief.

Michael graduated from East Bank High School in May of 1991. He enjoyed both hunting and fishing. His favorite place to fish was Williams River, and he went to his friend Shawn's farm to hunt or a place close to home called Lower Creek Hollow.

Michael and his fiancée traveled to Tennessee and were married on March 17, 2018, one week before the tragic accident happened. They sent pictures home to let everyone know that they had gotten married. They both said that they were each other's saving grace.

March 24 was a cool, somewhat rainy and overcast day. Michael and his wife were at the station for a meeting when the call came in. He gave his wife the keys, kissed her, and told her he loved her and would see her later at home. His mom, dad, and special younger brother were waiting for them for dinner that evening. Sadly, Michael did not make it home.

Michael is survived by his wife, Juanita (ReRe) Edwards; his three sons, Hunter, Logan, and Joshua; his two daughters, Brittaney (Matt) and Meredith (Dustin); two granddaughters, Jannah and Lyla; his parents, Robert and Julia Edwards; his sisters, Melissa Thomas (Tim) and Sarai Thompson (Alan); his special brother, Jonathan; his granny, Alice; a special great-aunt, Dorothy; and his mother-in-law, Shirley Snodgrass. He also leaves to cherish his memories many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Michael will be missed by many who valued him as family and friend. He is whole again. He is our special angel.

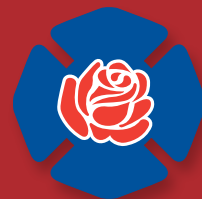


**Michael J.
Edwards**

**Pratt Community Volunteer
Fire Department – West Virginia
Volunteer Assistant Chief**

March 24, 2018

Age 46



Remembering



Cory James Barr

*Sun Prairie Fire Department –
Wisconsin*

Paid-on-Call Captain

July 10, 2018

Age 34



Cory James Barr, 34, was a captain for his volunteer department. He was the first to join when the age was changed from 21 to 18, so he is known for being the youngest to join the department, giving him 16 years of service. He had an extreme passion for the fire department and knew the history of the department, including finding and having Sun Prairie's first fire truck restored. He was knowledgeable and loved collecting antique fire memorabilia. He was a great leader, and everyone looked up to him.

Cory was an entrepreneur. He owned and operated a bar in town and sold real estate. Both allowed him to shine with his outgoing and friendly personality. He would meet and talk to people like he had known them for years. It also demonstrated he was a very hard worker. When asked how he could do all he did, he said, "It's easy when you are living your dream." It gives those that loved him peace knowing he was living the life he dreamed of.

Cory's main passion was family. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, son, brother, and uncle. He did everything for others and never for himself. He did a lot for his parents, would spend as much time as possible with his niece and nephews, and loved getting together with brothers and sisters (including in-laws) to celebrate life. He was most proud of his girls—his wife and two beautiful daughters, Aubrey and Hailey. He always made time for family and couldn't have been prouder to be a twin father.

Even in his final moments, he was doing what he loved. He threw on his fire gear, headed to the scene of a gas leak, and was working to save members of the community he grew up in and loved so much. While doing so, there was an explosion that took out some of the downtown area, and he lost his life.

Through this tragic event, he became a hero to this community. The coming together of Sun Prairie has been awe-inspiring, not just for his family, but for others who lost a lot that day. From fundraisers and donations, to meals, hugs and prayers, the outpouring of support was unbelievable. The city and government in the area is doing a lot to honor him, as well. There is a new sense of pride in this community, and that is the legacy he leaves behind. While he'll be missed deeply by friends and family, they will forever be proud of the man he was and the impact he had on people's lives.

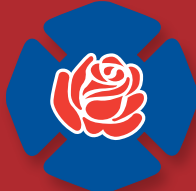
Remembering



**Richard L.
Garner Jr.**

***Madison Fire Department –
Wisconsin***

***Career Firefighter/Paramedic
April 1, 2018
Age 29***



*R*ichard Lance Garner Jr. was born on April 5, 1988, the first of three children born to Richard Sr. and Lennell Garner in Woodland Hills, California. He has one brother, Mitchell, and one sister, Ciara.

Ricky attended Pasadena Christian School, John Muir High School, and the University of Wisconsin.

Ricky joined the Madison Fire Department in September 2012, and served as firefighter/EMT at Fire Station 5 before moving to Fire Station 10, where he eventually became a paramedic in 2017.

Ricky is recognized by his peers for his passion for the fire department, working with the youth, giving back to the community on-duty or off-duty. Rick always wanted to help others in any way he could. He was very proud and always encouraged others to consider a career in firefighting.

He chose paramedic because he felt he would affect more people. He wanted to see life after the ambulance door closes and expand his knowledge. As a firefighter, once the patient was in the ambulance the paramedics would take over, and he didn't get to see the patients' care and the result of his work. As a paramedic, he felt he actively got to see those changes or see how patients recover as he was transporting them to the hospital.

When not working at the Madison Fire Department, Rick enjoyed getting on his Harley motorcycle and cruising the hills, taking his mind off of work and preparing himself for the next shift. He was also a member of the Sable Flames, a non-profit organization of black firefighters in Madison, Wisconsin.



Remembering



Philip H. Neubich Sr.

*Spoooner Fire District –
Wisconsin*

Volunteer Firefighter

April 25, 2018

Age 69



*P*hilip “Phil” Howard Neubich Sr., 69, of Spooner passed away unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. Philip Neubich was born on April 27, 1948, in Springfield, Illinois, the son of Charles and Betty (Leaf) Neubich. He was raised in Springfield and graduated from Springfield High School in 1966. He attended Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, and graduated in 1971.

Phil began his banking with Thorp Finance and later worked for the Bank of Spooner before joining the family business, Walker Lumber in Minong, Wisconsin, where he worked until his retirement.

While in Ashland, Phil met Mary Jane Walker, and they were married on May 23, 1970. Phil and Mary Jane moved to Spooner in 1974, where they raised their family and were happily married for 47 years.

Over the years, Phil was active in many local organizations, including the Spooner Area Youth Hockey Association and the Jaycees. He was a proud member of the Spooner Volunteer Fire Department for 38 years. Phil enjoyed fishing trips to Canada with his friends, Wednesday morning coffee at The Prime, and spending time at the family cabin on Cable Lake.

Phil is survived by his wife, Mary Jane, of Spooner; son, Phil Jr. (Andi) of Spooner; grandchildren, Zeb Swearingen and Levi and Laci Neubich of Spooner; brother, Chuck, of Springfield, Illinois; and niece, Katie (Mike) Dreyer, of Wentzville, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his parents and his daughter, Sarah.



Remembering



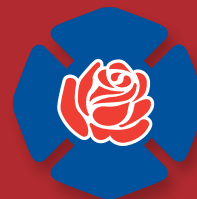
Christopher P. Truman

*Lake Mills Fire Department –
Wisconsin*

Volunteer Captain

December 31, 2018

Age 46



Captain Christopher P. Truman lived his life to serve others. He was kind, loving, fair, honest, and a leader. Chris had a way about him that immediately made you feel like you had known him your entire life. He forged friendships wherever he traveled. Chris always pushed himself to his full potential, never allowing himself to make excuses. He believed education was a top priority and took continuing education classes for the fire department until his last day.

Chris decided to join the Cambridge Fire Department in 2001 after watching the 9-11 attack on the news. He told his dad he had to help in some way and joining the fire department was the perfect fit for him. After a few years he moved to Lake Mills, where he joined their fire department and served faithfully for 13 years until his untimely death.

Chris's final act of kindness was on December 31, 2018, when he stopped to help a young woman who had lost control of her car on a busy highway during a snowstorm. The woman was in shock, walking around her car. Chris positioned his truck to protect her and proceeded to turn on his emergency lights. He walked over to the driver and, considering her safety only, he convinced her to get back in her car. While Chris was standing on the shoulder talking to the driver, another car approached, swerved to miss Chris's truck, but then struck Chris and the woman's car, crushing Chris between the two vehicles. Although Chris survived the ambulance ride to the hospital, he died shortly thereafter.

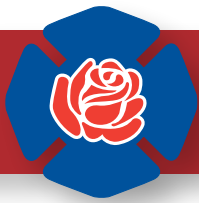
Chris is deeply missed by his friends, the entire fire department, the community of Lake Mills and, most of all, his fiancée, Amber Turfle, and her three children, who Chris raised as his own over the last ten years. Chris left an impression on our family and the Lake Mills community, witnessed by the fact that the police department will be naming their new K9 dog "Truman."

Chris did have another passion, competitive bass fishing. He won many tournaments and even made it to the TBF Nationals in Missouri in 2017. Only the top two people from each state could go to the tournament. Chris spent months researching and planning. He proudly took 23rd place out of 100. If Chris wasn't at home with his family or at the fire station, you could find him on the lake. Chris was full of energy and never stood still. He always wanted to experience everything life had to offer. Chris was an amazing man and will always be in our hearts.



38th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend ★ October 5 - 6, 2019





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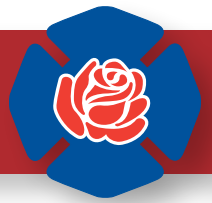
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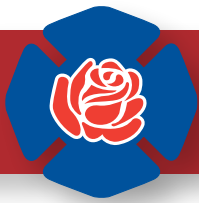
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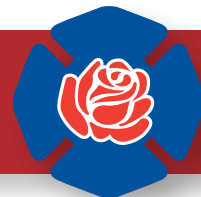
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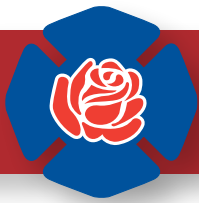
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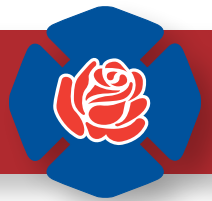
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Daniel Hopkins
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Pafford Emergency Medical Service*

4th Annual Greater Pittsburgh National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament

Jones Consulting & Construction Group, LLC

4th Annual Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association Golf Tournament

*Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
Mission BBQ – California, MD*

6th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament of Connecticut

Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

6th Annual Play It Forward Golf Tournament

6th Annual Protectowire Open Benefiting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

*Contravisory Investment Management
Tracy Lydon
Protectowire Fire Systems
Rockland Trust*

6th Annual Southeast Wisconsin National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament

8th Annual NFFF Fort Wayne and Allen County National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Golf Tournament

*Geanie Edgington
BF Goodrich
Ft. Wayne Professional Fire Fighters Local #124
Huntertown Volunteer Fire Department Inc.
Parkview Health*

9th Annual Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament

HFCA Kauai Conference 2018

10th Annual Chicagoland Memorial Golf Tournament

*Addison Firefighters Local 4727/Addison Fire Foreign Fire Tax Board
AMITA Health
Glenside Fire Protection District/Glenside Firefighters Local 3277
MB Financial Bank
Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc.
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10th Annual Geneva

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament

10th Annual Greater Cincinnati Regional National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Fundraiser

*1-800 BoardUp
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Gold Star Chili, Inc.
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Monarch Beverage Company
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11th Annual SEPA Regional Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Golf Outing

*3M Scott Safety
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11th Annual St. John's Professional Firefighters Local 3883 NFFF Golf Outing

12th Annual Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament

12th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament Hosted by Raleigh Fire Department

Davis Kane Architects, PA

12th Annual Rochester, New York National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament

*Gail Fowler
Diane Turner
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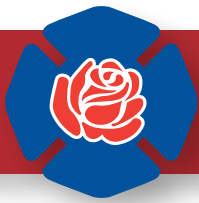
The 11th Wasatch Front and 15th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Golf Tournament

*Graham Fire Apparatus and Rosenbauer
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7th Annual 9/11 Memorial Hill Climb - Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Firefighters Association

Alabama Remembers 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Baltimore 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Kidde Safety

Binghamton Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

*Ameristar Casino Hotel Spa Black Hawk
City of Black Hawk Colorado*

Charlotte Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

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Dearling
Foothills Credit Union
Garlic Knot
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Spinphony
St. Anthony Hospital*

Columbus 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

*24/7 Commitment
Chase Bank
IDEX*

Dallas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Dansville/Wayland 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Denver 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Effingham 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

Fairfax 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Presented by iWomens Conference

FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

*FDIC International
Pelican Products
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Scott Safety*

Firehouse Expo 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Georgia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Kenneth S. Nugent, P.C.

Grand Rapids 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Greenville City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Illinois Fallen Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk

Imperial Valley 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

J.P. Taravella High School 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Foundation for Impact on Literacy & Learning, Inc.

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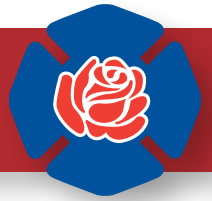
Missouri State Fire Marshal 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

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Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

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Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center

National Stair Climb for Fallen Firefighters
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LION Group Inc.
Oaktree Capital Management, LP
QALO, Inc.

Nebraska 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

New Hampshire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

New York Knicks 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Presented by Chase
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North Dakota 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Knife River

NYS AFC Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Ocean City Memorial Stair Climb

Panama City Beach 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Richmond 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Jenkins Restoration

Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Roanoke Fire Fighters Association Local 1132
Walmart Roanoke

Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K Walk

San Diego 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
San Diego Fireman's Relief Association

Springfield Area 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

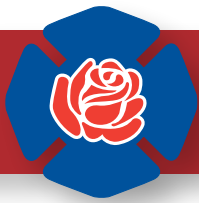
Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Horizon Credit Union
LiftMaster

VCOS 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Wildwood City Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Yellow Springs 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Antioch College
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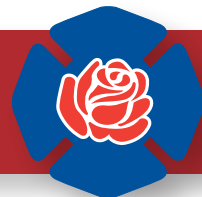
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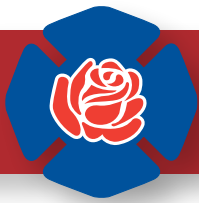
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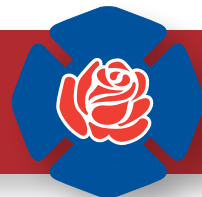
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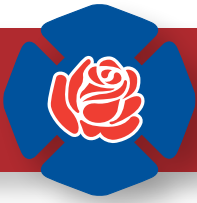
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...and hundreds of others who have helped in so many ways.

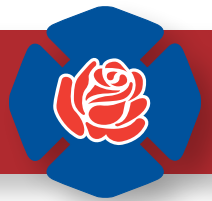
Special thanks to the members of the fire service who assisted and served as family escorts and the honor guard units that participated in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

Special thanks to our fire hero family members who return each year to bring comfort and hope to new families during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.



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★ Staff & Contractors Who Support Families and Co-Workers ★



A special thank you to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation staff and contractors who work tirelessly throughout the year to assist and support the families and co-workers of fallen firefighters.

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Christina Allan	Firefighterskills.com	Captain Frank Leto	Schary Consulting, LLC
Julie Allnut	Firehouse	Mason Consulting Services, LLC	Adam Shannon
Banyan Communications	First Arriving/GoForward Media	Thomas A. Mattingly Jr.	Sleep Inn Emmitsburg
Ian Bennett	Rhett Fleitz	Medical University of South Carolina	Smith & Warren
Olga Berdial	Frederick County Sherriff's Department	MHA Audio, Inc.	SONCO Worldwide, Inc.
Richard Best	Full Vision Productions	Mobile Production Services	STATter911 Communications, LLC
Breaktime Massage	GDG Productions	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	Stonehouse Media, Inc.
Keith Brower	General Motors	Mount St. Mary's University	Douglas Swartz
Scott Burnette	Georgetown Design Group	NextCar	James Tanner
Nick Caputo	William Green	Michael Pfaltzgraff	Vickie Taylor
Children's Center of Walkersville	JoAnn Griffin	OMNI Corporation - NETC	Telescript DC, Inc.
Chronicle Press	NETC/ FEMA Guest Services	PanApps	Tennessee Federation of Fire Chaplains
Codori Memorials	Greg Guise	Phoenix Society	Dennis Thayer
Comcast	Eric Hagman	Premier Production Services, Inc.	The Flower Boutique
Comfort Zone Camps	Tom Hales	John Proels	The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Kevin Conant	Hampton Inn - Gettysburg	Public Safety Resources Management	Lisa DeMarco Tilley
Coolwater Film, Video and Multimedia, LLC	Harbour Fire, LLC	Stephen Raynis	Amy Tippett
Courtyard by Marriott - Gettysburg	JCA	Respect Consulting Limited	Twin Towers
Crandell Research Solutions	Angela Moreland Johnson	Leigh Ridings	Video WallTronics, Inc.
CWPS	Ron Kanterman	Road Safe Traffic Systems	Vista WorldLink
Amy deBoinville	Dr. JoEllen Kelly, LLC	Roaring Spring Water	David Wiklanski
Paul DiBenedetto	Kitchen Table Communications, LLC	Sonya Roth	Wyndham Hotel Gettysburg
DL Smith Consulting	Melissa Knight	Royers Computer Networks	
Educational Development Center	KWL Communications	Patricia Sanborn	
Eyre Bus Service, Inc.			

We would also like to recognize and thank all of the fire service members who serve as advocates for the Everyone Goes Home® program, as members of the Local Assistance State Teams, and as volunteers for the Hal Bruno Camps for Children of Fallen Firefighters.






38th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend ★ October 5 - 6, 2019

*“It's during our darkest hours that we must
focus to see the light.”*

– Aristotle

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a grey stuffed bear. The person is wearing a blue and white checkered button-down shirt. The bear has a colorful fire department patch on its chest with the words "WHISPER" and "FIRE RESCUE" visible. The background is a blurred brick walkway.

“The true legacy of the individuals whom we honor for making the ultimate sacrifice lives in the minds and hearts of each of us. It is there to be shared, to be nurtured, and to be protected, so that it may one day be passed on to another. Protect their memories well. Share in a good-hearted laugh as we remember the personality, vitality and spirit of these individuals. Go forth with those memories. Make them a part of your day-to-day life and cherish them.”

– Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki,
Executive Director, National
Fallen Firefighters Foundation

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