

Remembering Our Fallen Fire Fighters

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

The purpose of writing this article is to make this Union's membership aware of the Houston Fire Fighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice. When I first started, in 1987, researching the names of these fire fighters, I found that the Houston Fire Department had not kept up with their names and information concerning their deaths. A lot of information was lost or distorted through the years. After eight months of research, I was able to correct information on how they died.

My research was published in the

1988 and 2000 HFD Yearbook as the memorial section. After the book was finished, I was able to place the information on a web site attached to the HFD home page. I was later able to link to the Local 341 home page.

Each month I plan to list the fire fighters who died in the line of duty for that month. The purpose of this list is to make you aware of the names of these fire fighters and keep them in your minds and hearts.

In the month of March the following Fire Fighters died in the line of duty:

March 1, 1928
George L. Bishop,
Captain Station 4

March 10, 1953
Charly A. Middlekauf,
Assistant Chief Central Station

March 12, 1951
Rufus J. "Bullet" Templet
Captain Station 5

March 31, 1947
James Edward Lowth
Fire Fighter Station 26

More information on these fire fighters can be found in the Memorial Section of HFD 2000 Millennium Year Book or on my website:

www.houstonfirememorial.org.



Steward's Monthly Update

by George LaRue, 6/D

At the February Stewards meeting, a number of topics were discussed including: The Southern Fire Fighter Federation Convention, HPFFA, Local 341 endorsements for 2002, and the recent thirty two (32) cadets which joined Local 341. This last topic brought up some heated discussion.

Joe Fitzpatrick (93/D) led the charge. "You know the rookies come to

the Union Meeting, get sworn in and you never see them again." This is definitely a true statement. I do not know where we lose them, or why, but we do lose them.

When a new rookie comes out of a cadet class, they have developed a relationship with their fellow classmates. After all, they just went through six (6) months of hell together to get here.

They will talk to each other about the fires they have made or the EMS calls they have run on. They have a natural bond between each other, and after graduation and being sworn in at the Union Meeting, we lose this bond.

When a major project arises and this union needs participation from the members, the majority of the members participating have been older mem-

bers. It seems most new members spend five (5) to ten (10) years on the job before they begin to take an interest in this Union. This is a damn shame. It is an intimidation factor we need to change. Their future, along with our future, is at stake.

Joe said we should personally extend, to the brand new thirty two (32) rookies who signed up into this union, an invitation to the next union meeting. Like any dog on the street will tell you, there is safety in numbers.

Donald Kubiak



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