

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

When I was in the research process back in 1987, for some reason I felt a need to visit the grave sites of the fire fighters who died in the line of duty. I visited all but five grave sites, because those were out of town and a couple were out of state. I discovered that eleven of our fallen fire fighters were buried in unmarked graves. Emil Thompson was buried in the "Firemen's Plot" in Glenwood Cemetery in an unmarked grave. In the early 1990's a group of concerned Houston Fire fighters started an effort to move the large statue back to Glenwood Cemetery from Fire Station 1. The statue was originally on the "Firemen's Plot" in Glenwood Cemetery but in 1975 the statue was moved from Glenwood Cemetery to Fire Station 1, which at the time was headquarters for the Houston Fire Department. In this process, headstones were purchased for Ed and several other fire fighters who were also buried in the "Fireman's Plot". After the 1988 yearbook was published, Molly Walker and Frank Catino's families came forward with information that the plots were indeed marked. That left eight grave sites still unmarked, one of them being a Houston Fire Chief who died in the line of duty in 1907. The committee that was responsible for the memorial wall at the new pension office collected funds to purchase the remaining eight headstones which were placed at the site in the fall of 2001.

Here is the list of the Fallen Fire Fighters for the months of May and June.

May 01, 1924
Denny, Harold A.
Firefighter - Station 9

June 8, 1932
Rusk, Charles Roland
Firefighter - Station 14

May 03, 1971
Walls, James Louis
Firefighter - Station 51

June 13, 1902
Johnson, Clifford W.
Driver - Station 8

May 21, 1962
Contorno, Don J.
Firefighter - Station 37

June 22, 1929
Hendricks, Rudolph "Rudy"
Firefighter - Station 25

May 25, 1912
Wagner, Herman
"Dutch"
Captain - Station 8

June 30, 1962
Hopkins, Claude Jackson
Chauffeur - Station 2

www.houstonfirememorial.org



AFL-CIO UNIONS REPORTING GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP

The average membership of unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO is on the rise, the labor federation reports. Over half the growth comes from workers who were not previously members of any union.

AFL-CIO Organizing Director Mark Splain says that in 2001, about 440,000 workers joined AFL-CIO unions, up slightly from the 400,000 workers organized in 2000.

Overall, 33 unions in the AFL-CIO – about half of the unions in the federation – had net membership increases in 2001. Of those, eight grew by more than 10,000 members.

The unions reporting the most growth included:

- American Federation of Teachers 68,542
- Service Employees International Union 30,600
- Fire Fighters 26,250
- Laborers 17,683
- Teamsters 15,444
- United Transport Workers 15,083
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 12,771
- Office and Professional Employees - 11,061

Splain said that the federation is only about half way to its goal of organizing one million new members a year, but that he's optimistic this goal will be reached.

The AFL-CIO will soon be spending 30 percent or more of its budget on organizing, Splain says, and plans to make "even more intensive efforts" to gain the support of community leaders and elected officials for organizing efforts of workers.

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