



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

LIST OF THE LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH:

- 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

LIST OF RETIREES WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

- Robert E. Bradley served HFD 1956-1978, Died February 13, 2003.
Buddy Weaver served HFD 1962-2002, Died January 16, 2003.
James O. Blevins served HFD 1950-1974, Died January 13, 2003.
Delphia Joe Strickland served HFD 1950-1973, Died January 3, 2003.
Maurice J. Dufilho Jr. served HFD 1936-1971, Died January 1, 2003.

*For an updated list of retired Fire Fighter deaths refer to:
<http://www.houstonfirememorial.org> Click on Recent Houston
Fire Fighter Deaths. Please copy and place it on the station
bulletin board.*

In light of the recent Columbia STS-107 Shuttle Disaster, I decided to dedicate this month's article in memory of the seven shuttle astronauts.

CREWMEMBERS OF THE NASA SPACE SHUTTLE

COLUMBIA STS-107 – LOST FEBRUARY 1, 2003:

RICK DOUGLAS HUSBAND, Commander, age 45, from Amarillo, Texas, married, father of two children.

WILLIAM C. MCCOOL, Pilot, age 41, from San Diego, California, married, father of three children.

KALPANA CHAWLA, Mission Specialist, age 41, from Karnal, India, married.

DAVID M. BROWN, Mission Specialist, age 46, from Arlington, Virginia, single.

MICHAEL P. ANDERSON, Mission Specialist, age 43, from Spokane, Washington, married, father of two children.

LAUREL BLAIR SALTON CLARK, Mission Specialist, age 41, from Racine, Wisconsin, married and mother of one.

ILAN RAMON, Payload Specialist, age 48, from Tel Aviv, Israel, married, father of four children.

On Saturday, February 1st, I was in North Texas visiting our daughter. Every morning I have my routine three mile morning walk and this day would not be any different. Of course, that would all change in an instant. It was during my walk that the Shuttle Columbia flew south of us on its way to land in Florida. I did hear a strange noise but did not pay attention because in Houston we live a few miles away from a concrete crushing plant and noises are usually the norm. When I arrived back at my daughter's house, the television was tuned to

the news and revealing to the world about the tragedy.

I thought of several things during this time. My first thought was that I did not know any of the astronauts names and secondly, I did not even realize they were in space. Lastly, I could only name one astronaut that perished in past space shuttle accidents.

There have been manned spaced flights for most of my lifetime. To the layman like myself, the act of strapping humans to a rocket and putting them in space had become very routine.

After watching news coverage of the disaster, I soon realized the men and women that are in the NASA space program are similar to Fire Fighters. They are unsung heroes. Unless something terrible happens, the general public rarely takes notice of what Fire Fighters do on a daily basis. The crew of any given space mission can leave and go to outer space to do scientific experiments that could make a major impact on our lives and our children's future, and most of us never notice.

The astronauts of NASA are like the Fire Fighters and police officers of this country, truly unsung heroes.

It is a Fire Fighter's job to take a risk and step into "unknown" territory to save a life. It is not until a Fire Fighter is lost or injured that they are honored for being a hero. This is a time to reflect and try and remember all of the unsung heroes that risk their life for the good of mankind. It should never seem routine when a life is put on the line.

