



# REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

*by Scott Mellott, 15/A*

In the year 2003 we lost 35 brother Fire Fighters. Thirty of these Fire Fighters were retired, some a very long time and some a short time. Five of them were active duty Fire Fighters. Out of these five, Wayne Irvan had 42 years of service when he died and had retirement plans in two months. The youngest, Jeremy Cantu, had less than a year in the fire department, and probably never gave one thought to being retired, simply because he was beginning his career.

Of the 35 Fire Fighters who died, I knew about half of them. Some of them, I had heard of and others were strangers to me. Three of them I considered my friends.

With this month marking the beginning of a new year, I would like to reflect and remember Fire Fighters who passed away in 2003. All I ask is that you look at each name and reflect on that person. If you knew him, think of something you knew about him, think of the last time you saw him or the last time you worked or talked with him.

In my effort to write this article, I have been remembering and would like to share some of my fondest memories regarding a couple of these fine fellows.

The first is Jerry Haude, it was in the early 1990's at the credit union. Jerry came in with another inspector. W. W. Hausinger, Sr. was there with his son to do some banking. He stopped Jerry and started talking to him. Those that knew Hausinger, Sr. knew the man could talk non-stop and could tell some great fire department stories. I was pretty sure Jerry had never had the pleasure of meeting Hausinger, Sr. and before long, I realized Jerry and his fellow inspector's bank transactions were not going to occur anytime soon. However before too much time passed, Hausinger's son saved the day and came over and said, "Dad, let's go, they are ready for us." As father and son headed toward the customer service department, Jerry and his friend were walking toward the teller line and I heard Jerry say, "that is a good old man and he tells great stories."

The next one is about Elmo Delasbour. He loved to tell stories about me during the "old days" working in 28's district. I crossed paths with him over the past couple of years at "his office," HFD Public Information. Now, this man took great pleasure in telling stories about me to the ladies working there. However, more times than not the stories were a combination of several things that happened and who they happened to was not always me, they most likely happened to a certain senior captain that worked at Station 28 at the time. I never corrected him, I firmly believe that the person telling the story should tell it his way and Elmo certainly did that!

So here is the list – take some time remembering those you knew and always keep them in your heart and memory.

## JAMES OWIN BLEVINS

served HFD 1950 to 1974 (Died 1-13-2003)

## ROBERT EDGAR BRADLEY

served HFD 1956 to 1978 (Died 2-13-2003)

## MITCHEL "MICKY" EDWARD BROWN

served HFD 1959 to 1990 (Died 6-28-2003)

## JEREMY ABLE CANTU

served HFD 2002 to 2003 (Died 10-7-2003)

## MONROE DURHAM CHESTER

served HFD 1941 to 1980 (Died 8-04-2003)

## CHARLES O'NEAL CLARK

served HFD 1949 to 1980 (Died 7-16-2003)

## PAUL LAWRENCE CLINE

served HFD 1963 to 1987 (Died 11-10-2003)

## EUGENE G. CORNELIUS

served HFD 1961 to 2001 (Died 3-15-2003)

## ELMO "MO" PHILLIP DELASBOUR, JR.

served HFD 1974 to 2003 (Died 9-30-2003)

## THOMAS IVAN DOWNEY

served HFD 1959 to 1984 (Died 12-31-2003)

## MAURICE JOSEPH DUFILHO, JR.

served HFD 1936 to 1971 (Died 1-01-2003)

## ROY KENT GRANBERRY

served HFD 1959 to 1988 (Died 3-29-2003)

## RAYMOND ALFRED HARD

served HFD 1938 to 1975 (Died 11-26-2003)

## JERRY WAYNE HAUDE

served HFD 1969 to 2003 (Died 8-24-2003)

## CHARLES EUGENE HAWTHORNE

served HFD 1961 to 2001 (Died 12-20-2003)

## PAUL DAVID HAYES

served HFD 1975 to 2003 (Died 2-26-2003)

## DOUGLAS "DOUG" LEE HOLMES

served HFD 1965 to 1988 (Died 6-08-2003)

## WILLIAM WAYNE IRVAN

served HFD 1961 to 2003 (Died 11-24-2003)

## EUGENE CORNELIUS "DUKE" JAHNKE

served HFD 1955 to 1995 (Died 9-14-2003)

## FRED P LALLIER, JR.

served HFD 1950 to 1976 (Died 9-25-2003)

## B. J. MCDANIEL

served HFD 1949 to 1976 (Died 4-02-2003)

## JOHNNY WILLIAM OGG

served HFD 1959 to 1984 (Died 8-17-2003)

## EUGENE W. PILKERTON

served HFD 1966 to 2000 (Died 9-11-2003)

## GEORGE WALTER RADCLIFFE

served HFD 1958 to 1978 (Died 11-15-2003)

## ROCCO RICHARD RAO, SR.

served HFD 1971 to 2001 (Died 5-16-2003)

## KENNETH LEE RICHARDS

served HFD 1968 to 2001 (Died 12-21-2003)

## GAY VESTER SIMMONS

served HFD 1958 to 1988 (Died 9-26-2003)

## CHESTER WILLIAM "C W" SMITH

served HFD 1956 to 1984 (Died 10-20-2003)

## MICHAEL THOMAS SMITH

served HFD 1971 to 1987 (Died 4-23-2003)

## DELPHIA JOE STRICKLAND

served HFD 1950 to 1973 (Died 1-03-2003)

## ED L. WALTHER

served HFD 1961 to 1981 (Died 7-30-2003)

## MARION JASPER "BUDDY" WEAVER, JR.

served HFD 1962 to 2002 (Died 1-16-2003)

## JAMES EARL WEST

served HFD 1972 to 1990 (Died 3-29-2003)

## JIMMY WAYNE WHITE

served HFD 1974 to 1989 (Died 3-13-2003)

## EDWARD JAMES ZALESK

served HFD 1950 to 1992 (Died 8-04-2003)