



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

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

September 01, 1982
THOMAS NORWOOD COOPER
Probationary Fire Fighter - Station 1

September 21, 1913
PATRICK O'HARA
Fire Fighter - Station 6

FIRE FIGHTERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

JERRY WAYNE ANDERSON
Served HFD from 1974 to 2002 • Died on Wednesday August 10, 2005

CHARLES "CHUCK" ABRAHAM ADAMS
Served HFD from 1940 to 1970 • Died on Monday August 8, 2005

FORREST QUINCEY FOREHAND
Served HFD from 1963 to 1981 • Died on Thursday July 28, 2005

SAMUEL JOSEPH BYINGTON, JR.
Served HFD from 1950 to 1984 • Died on Wednesday July 6, 2005

JERRY MICHAEL POWERS
Served HFD from 1986 to 2005 • Died on Tuesday July 5, 2005

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For more information visit my web site www.houstonfirememorial.org. Items include Houston's line-of-duty Fire Fighters, and the deceased retired Fire Fighters. For a current list of deceased Fire Fighters click on: "Recent Houston Fire Fighter Deaths" from the site menu.

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I am starting this month's article out with a quote from Dennis Smith. Dennis Smith is a retired New York City Fire Fighter. He became known as an author when he wrote a book in early 1970 titled "Report from Engine Company 82." This book is a chilling account about New York City Fire Fighters in the South Bronx. After his first book, he went on to write several more books about Fire Fighters and firefighting and became the founder of "Fire House Magazine".

The quote is taken from his latest endeavor called "Report from Ground Zero". The quote which is about September 11, 2001 is as follows:

"There is no center to this day, no middle or end. All it's remaining minutes and hours will be collapsed into that single instant at

8:48 A.M. when September 11, 2001, became the saddest day of our history."

This quote fits me personally because there is no end or middle, and for sure, only a beginning. On this fourth anniversary nothing has changed much for me, the day is still clear in my mind as that fateful day of the attack on the World Trade Center. Every day since 911, I think about that day at least once and on some days the thought of that day goes through my mind many times. There are not many that don't remember exactly what they were doing that day unless they were too young to have the image of that day embedded in their minds forever.

The FDNY is moving on the best they can and from my visits to fire houses throughout the city, the Fire Fighters that died that day keep a high profile on the walls of firehouses throughout the city and in the minds and hearts of the FDNY Fire Fighters.

After the dust settled, the New York City Fire Department started an audit to account for each and every one of the 11,000 Fire Fighters and the 4,000 members of their EMS Division. After that grim task was completed, the total of FDNY Fire Fighters lost or missing was 343. HazMat One unit lost nine men from their team. As the lists were sent out by the fire department, I can only imagine the impact, as many of the remaining Fire Fighters personally knew someone on that list.

The list named the confirmed dead or missing Fire Fighter and where they worked, but there was one thing that the list did not reflect. What the list did not tell was the job experience that the Fire Fighter had.

The loss of the human life for FDNY that day was totally unimaginable. Along with 343 fallen Fire Fighters went hundreds of years of experience. The FDNY lost their Fire Chief, Peter Ganci who had 33 years on the job, William Feehan 1st Deputy Commissioner, who was dedicated to the FDNY for 42 years. Two of FDNY's Assistant Chief City Wide Commanders died that day, with a total of 70 years of experience.

Because of the massive problems that New York City has had through the years and the potential of major problems that could occur on any given street in any of the 5 boroughs in New York City proper, they have developed the Special Operations Division. This includes hazardous material units, rescue units, the squads and the aerial trucks that carry specialized rescue equipment.

The City of New York has 5 rescue units, one in each of the five boroughs. All five suffered heavy losses. Rescue 1 lost 11 men with a total of 210 years experience. Rescue Units 2, 3, 4 and 5 lost 32 highly trained men with a total of 456 years of service to the FDNY.

While the citizens of New York City depend upon their fire department to protect them day and night, after 911, amazingly FDNY did not miss a beat. Soon manufactures were sending replacement tools, air packs and all types of fire equipment to replace the hundreds of pieces of equipment lost that day.

The FDNY began training Fire Fighters to help replace the lost special operations Fire Fighters and soon after 911 they were able to start a class of brand new recruits who were already on the eligibility list.

What comes to my mind to finish out this months article is a catch phrase that made it to many t-shirts printed soon after that horrible day:

"911 - Never Forget"