



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, Retired

Last year I attended a fire department function, one of many I try to make each year. This function is one that is not well known in the HFD, but has been held since October 13, 2002. Before I left this the function I had decided to write about it this summer. So summer is here and here I go.

Each year the Jahnke/Johnson family have gathered at Fire Station 2 on Woodway near Bering Street to honor the memory of their relative Jay Jahnke. Jay, as most of you know, died shortly after the World Trade Center where the Twin Towers were destroyed by terrorist, taking many lives's including several hundred rescue workers.

Ironically, Jay died almost a month to the day of the horrible tragedy in New York City. And to continue the irony, Jay died in a high

rise building and the building happened to be a set of twin towers.

The Jahnke family, as I know, are very traditional. Many of their relatives have served or are presently serving the Houston Fire Department and the Citizens of Houston, Texas.

The Jahnke tradition began on the 2nd anniversary of Jay's death. Jay's family headed out that morning to visit Jay's grave site. Jay is buried next to his Dad, Claude Jahnke, who died suddenly June 5, 1984. Father and Son are buried side-by-side in Memorial Oaks Cemetery.

After the grave site visit, the family went on to Fire Station 2 to spend some time with Jay's crew. The crew served the family lunch and after lunch all went down stairs where a small memorial service took place to commemorate Jay's life. Thus, the tradition was started.

Each year the family continues this tradition. Most of the Fire Fighters who worked at Station 2 at the time of Jay's death have moved on, but the new Fire Fighters have helped continue the tradition. The event is held on October 13th each year starting at 1pm. This event can be attended by anyone who wishes to join the family to help keep the memory of Jay alive. I personally admire this family's strength to continue this tradition and I am confident that it will continue for many years to come. I would like to close this article with several pictures taken during this event.



Laying of the Roses - Karen Johnson



*Preparing the
Ceremony Flag.
(l-r)
Kay Jahnke,
Rod Johnson,
Ryan Johnson
and
Karen Johnson*



*Raising the Flag - Capt. Billy Martin, Karen Johnson,
Kay Jahnke, Rod Johnson, Ryan Johnson*



*Command Staff in attendance:
(l-r) Chief Adrian Trevino, Fire Chief Phil Boriskie,
Chief Bill Barry, Chief Omero Longoria*

Remembering To Never Forget

ROY ALEXANDER FOSTER, JR.

*Served HFD from 1969 to 192004
Died May 3, 2007*

HENRY HALLIO

*Served HFD from 1952 to 1978
Died May 3, 2007*

OSCAR FREEMAN WALLACE, JR.

*Served HFD from 1970 to 2000
Died May 1, 2007*

RICHARD FRANK SMITH

*Served HFD from 1978 to 2007
Died April 28, 2007*

GEORGE W. WARD

*Served HFD from 1945 to 1965
Died April 14, 2007*

LARRY JULIAN BLACKMON

*Served HFD from 1971 to 1978
Died April 4, 2007*

FRANK JACOBS, JR.

*Served HFD from 1947 to 1973
Died March 29, 2007*

BOBBIE JAMES "BJ" EVANS

*Served HFD from 1966 to 2001
Died March 21, 2007*

HOMER EUGENE FRANKS

*Served HFD from 1961 to 1977
Died March 17, 2007*

JOHN TURNER COMSTOCK

*Served HFD From 1978 to 1988
Died March 11, 2007*

DOYLE SHELTON HOLDER

*Served HFD From 1974 to 2005
Died February 25, 2007*

CHARLES E. MORRIS

*Served HFD From 1962 to 1986
Died February 20, 2007*

AUSTIN PEAVY KENNADA

*Served HFD From 1956 to 1983
Died February 18, 2007*

MAXIE GENE JONES

*Served HFD From 1959 to 1979
Died February 9, 2007*

WILLIAM RAY YOUNG

*Served HFD From 1955 to 1976
Died February 5, 2007*

WILBER MARTIN JONES

*Served HFD From 1945 to 1966
Died January 21, 2007*

JIMMY EARL LILLEY

*Served HFD From 1969 to 1991
Died January 20, 2007*

LARRY ANTHONY WESLEY

*Served HFD From 1979 to 2000
Died January 19, 2007*

GEORGE EARL LOWDERMILK

*Served HFD from 1950 to 2005
Died January 12, 2007*

KENNETH RAY JUDD

*Served HFD from 1963 to 1994
Died January 7, 2007*

LEE DITTA

*Served HFD from 1948 to 1978
Died January 1, 2007*

LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

May 1, 1924

HAROLD A. DENNY

Fire Fighter, Station 9

May 3, 1971

JAMES LOUIS WALLS

Fire Fighter, Station 51

May 21, 1962

DON J. CONTORNO

Fire Fighter, Station 37

May 25, 1912

HERMAN J. "DUTCH" WAGNER

Captain, Station 8

Total for the year from January 1, 2007 to present - 21 Deaths

For current information on deceased Fire Fighters,
please go to my web site

www.houstonfirememorial.org

and click on "Recent Deaths" or email Scott at
scottmel@juno.com

INFORMATION:

MEMORIAL WEB SITE:

www.houstonfirememorial.org

Please visit my personal website, the Fire Fighter Memorial Website. It contains listings of Houston's line-of-duty Fire Fighters from when the department went paid in 1895 to 2004. We also list as many Houston Fire Fighters (that can be found through research) that are now deceased, from 1895 to present. We have added, because of 911, all the Fire Fighters who died on September 11th and have added a link to FDNY's line-of-duty deaths from 1865 to 2004.

Scott Mellott

Celebrating 75 Years

1932 to 2007

Houston Professional Fire Fighter's Association, Local 341

As some of you may already know, this publication will be doing a two page picture spread each month for the year 2007. We will focus on the faces of our past and the present membership to celebrate Local 341's 75th year.

Scott Mellott



First group of Fire Inspectors - 1945

Photo furnished by the family of Cecil Benson



Fire Station 15 - 3401 Houston Avenue - 1933
Captain on the left is J. B. Calhoun. He entered
HFD in 1895. One of our first paid Fire Fighters.

Photo furnished by the family of John Little, Jr.



Station 7 - 2304 Milam - 1969.

Last picture taken at the old Station 7.

(l-r) Top row: Clyde Harris, Donald Gunnels, Arnold Whitehorn, Pumper Chauffeur Bobby Jernigan, Capt. James Stahl, Capt. Rufus Smith. Bottom row: Richard Gillis, Truck Chauffeur Hilario Torres, Larry Benson, Charlie Green, Chief Chauffeur John Martin.

Photo furnished by Lawrence Benson

Celebrating 75 Years

1932 to 2007

Houston Professional Fire Fighter's Association, Local 341



Chief Duke Jahnke - mid 1980's

Photo furnished by Local 341



Chief Troy Lunsford - mid 1980's

Photo furnished by Local 341



Captain Jerry Stansel

Cave in - Westheimer Road, Sept. 1988

Photo furnished by Local 341



Wayne Highfield - mid 1980's

Photo furnished by Local 341

Missing Station Dedication Plaques

By Scott Mellott



I wrote my first article about missing Fire Station Dedication Plaques in September 2003. Early in my life, I figured out that if you did not ask for something, odds were pretty great that you would never get it. That is why I began writing about the missing plaques. I knew that some of the plaques had survived, somehow, all these years and that one or two would show back up. I had a theory that since some of the fire stations had been razed, there was a possibility that they were still on the building when the crew came to do the demolition. If that was the case, even a great detective like myself would have only a small chance to come up with clues as to the fate of some of the plaques. Well, I retrieved more plaques than I anticipated and that is a great windfall for the history of this department.

I will continue these articles from time-to-time just to let you know that I did not give up the search.

STATION 2

**Bagby Street and Capitol
opened 1926 - closed 1965**

STATION 15

**Houston Avenue and North Main
opened 1923 - closed 1947**

STATION 22

**7825 Harrisburg and 78th
opened 1926 - closed 1969**

STATION 23

**824 San Antonio and Manchester
opened 1926 - closed 1976**

STATION 26

**3815 Broadway
opened 1930 by HFD - closed 1953**

STATION 30

**514 King and Helmers
opened as an HFD Station 1949 - closed 1977**

STATION 31

**522 Crosstimbers and Haygood
opened as an HFD Station 1949 - closed 1982**

Station 32

**822 West 34 and Brinkman
opened as an HFD Station 1950 - closed 1980**

Station 35

**Holmes Rd. and South Park
opened 1953 - closed 1965**

Station 45

opened 1956 - closed 1985

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