



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, Retired

This month's article will consist of two parts. The first part I'll take time to update you on my memorial endeavors and the second part I'll list the Houston Fire Fighters who have died during the year.

– PART ONE –

All those that know me or have followed this column for any amount of time know that I have an almost insane appetite for the historical information on Houston's past Fire Fighters. Houston, in its 113 year history, has had thousands of Fire Fighters who have come and gone. They, at some point in their life, joined the HFD, served and hopefully retired and enjoyed a very long retirement. Each of these Fire Fighters, whether they were the first hired when Houston went to a paid department in August of 1895 or just joined a few months ago, are all part of our personnel history. I still try to spend as much time as possible at the library searching for information on our past Fire Fighters.

When I began writing these articles almost seven years ago, I soon became worried that I would run out of things to write about. I even asked several Fire Fighters for suggestion for future articles and got Zero ideas from them. But that was ok, I did not take it personally. I soon realized that the sky was the limit on future ideas for articles. On occasion, I'll go back and read some of my past articles

and get new ideas from doing that. I just recently started framing some of my favorites, hanging them on the wall right above my computer screen.

As part of my research, I found early on that the historical information should be backed up with photos. I have been getting a steady stream of pictures to add to my collection. I won't be counting each one of them, but I estimate that I have about 3000 digital pictures to date. These pictures are headed to the public library in the very near future.

I have been able to improve my Photo Shop skills quite a bit. Photo Shop, in case you don't know, is a computer program used to repair or improve the quality of an old photograph.

If you would like to have your HFD pictures, old or new, become a part of my great collection, let me know and I can arrange to scan your originals. We have several ways to do the scans, so call me or email and we can make arrangements.

Contact me at scottmel@juno.com or 713 729-6536.

And finally, I have been adding to my memorial website and plan to add more items including pictures so please visit my website:

www.houstonfirememorial.org

– PART TWO –

Below these words you will see a list. The list contains begins with names of all the HFD Fire Fighters who died between January 1, 2008 and ends sometime in December when this publication goes to press. Take a look at the names, read each one if you will, and if you knew them - reflect on them - and take a minute to remember something about them.

Remembering To Never Forget

CLIFFORD MCCLAUGHERTY

*Served HFD 1953 to 1979
Died December 14, 2008*

ROBERTO SANCHEZ

*Served HFD 1962 to 1984
Died October 22, 2008*

JOHN DIXIE FISHER

*Served HFD 1960 to 1990
Died September 20, 2008*

AUGUSTINE SANCHEZ "A. S. SANCHEZ"

*Served HFD 1965-1988
Died December 7, 2008*

JAMES R. JOHNSON, JR.

*Served HFD 1959 to 1994
Died October 21, 2008*

RAYMOND NEAL BAILEY

*Served HFD 1972 to 2003
Died August 24, 2008*

RAYMOND JAMES KOENIG

*Served HFD 1950 to 1987
Died November 29, 2008*

LEONARD BYRD

*Served HFD 1951 to 1976
Died October 18, 2008*

ROY WAYNE DEES

*Served HFD 69 to 1981
Died August 21, 2008*

THOMAS HAROLD VAUGHN

*Served HFD 1960 to 1990
Died November 18, 2008*

JOSEPH EDWARD HADLEY, JR.

*Served HFD 1986 to 2008
Died October 13, 2008*

BONNIE MORRIS COVIN

*Served HFD 1956 to 1976
Died August 9, 2008*

CHARLES RAY CARTER

*Served HFD 1963 to 1987
Died November 5, 2008*

JIMMY FRANKLIN MARTIN

*Served HFD 1965 to 1987
Died October 13, 2008*

DAVID EUGENE ANDERSON

*Served HFD 1958 to 1982
Died August 4, 2008*

CHARLES EDWARD BYRN

*Served HFD 1964 to 1987
Died October 31, 2008*

RICHARD DUKE IRWIN

*Served HFD 1960 to 1983
Died October 6, 2008*

JOSEPH JOSHUA BLACKMON

*Served HFD 1964 to 1984
Died July 21, 2008*

JOSEPH FLETCHER HOLMAN, JR.
Served HFD 1953 to 1991
Died July 2, 2008

DWAYNE FRANCES GULLORY
Served HFD 1996 to 2008
Died May 18, 2008

ARLON FLOYD DRAKE
Served HFD 1953 to 1973
Died March 9, 2008

SCOTT STEWART WINTERHALTER
Served HFD 1959 to 1990
Died June 29, 2008

BILLY ROYCE HESTER
Served HFD 1955 to 1986
Died May 6, 2008

RICHARD HENRY DECKER
Served HFD 1961 to 1984
Died March 6, 2008

MICHAEL ALLEN MAYS
Served HFD 2002 to 2008
Died June 24, 2008

LEON LARA EGUIA
Served HFD 1957 to 1977
Died May 4, 2008

“WHITEY” LESTER O’NEAL MARTIN
Served HFD 1949 to 1988
Died March 2, 2008

JOHN CHARLES EAGLIN
Served HFD 1972 to 1999
Died June 18, 2008

CLARENCE DANIEL BYERS
Served HFD 1951 to 1972
Died May 2, 2008

ERIC DEWAYNE BRADY
Served HFD 1980 to 2004
Died February 15, 2008

ROBERT LOUIS DANBERG
Served HFD 1967 to 1980
Died June 10, 2008

JOEY SHELDON REED, SR.
Served HFD 1989 to 1993
Died April 21, 2008

BRICEY EUGENE CHILDRESS
Served HFD 1959 to 1986
Died February 9, 2008

DELBERT LEE WARWICK, SR.
Served HFD 1956 to 2005
Died June 1, 2008

MICKEY GENE PATE
Served HFD 1979 to 2008
Died April 17, 2008

DAVID LEE NORRIS
Served HFD 1975 to 2003
Died February 1, 2008

CHRISTOPHER JASON BOISVERT
Served HFD 2008 to 2008
Died May 30, 2008

OTTO W. MUELLER
Served HFD 1956 to 1982
Died March 26, 2008

TED W. SANFORD
Served HFD 1946 to 1974
Died January 26, 2008

Total from January 1, 2008 to present - 39 Deaths
Total for the Year 2007 - 43 Deaths

For current information on deceased Fire Fighters, please go to my website: www.houstonfirememorial.org
and click on “Recent Deaths” or email Scott at scottmel@juno.com

**LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**



January 04, 1983
LONNIE LUZETTE FRANKLIN
District Chief, Station 7

January 21, 1949
VERNON JOHN DORSETT
*Assistant Fire Chief,
Station 1*



January 07, 1954
FRANK CATINO
Fire Fighter, Station 1

January 31, 1951
JOSEPH “BULL” CONNOR
Chauffeur, Station 1



The Faces of Local 341

1932 to 2008

Houston Professional Fire Fighter's Association

Photos on this page submitted by Scott Mellott (Retired)



Joe Hector Delgadillo - Fire School - 1978

Photo provided by Joe Delgadillo



Robert Fong and Roy Gonzales - Fire School - 1978

Photo provided by Joe Delgadillo



Fire Station 17 - Sampson and York - 1979

(l-r) Tom Raney, Calvin Mendel, Chris Sanchez, Mark Snider, Ollie Barbary, Bob Tabor, Johnie J. Reneau

Photo provided by J.J. Reneau

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**Houston Fire Department Station 66/B
5800 Teague - August 18, 2008
(l-r) Fire Fighter Edwin Washington,
Captain David Schrader, E/O Bill Love,
Fire Fighter Daryl Dornak**



**Houston Fire Department Station 15B Shift
5306 North Main - May 26, 2008
(l-r) Fire Fighter Kenny Randall,
Fire Fighter Wade Hussey, Captain Johnny Krailo,
E/O Stan Curtis, Fire Fighter Hector Bazan**



**Houston Fire Department Station 46/A
Scott Street & Corder - August 23, 2008.
(l-r top row) Chief Kelly Fisher, Ouzie Belvin,
Jody Polk, Captain Todd Paget, John Nanninga,
Rodney Smith, Anthony Nieto.
(bottom row) Jon Lopez, Jesse Eureste,
Captain Dale Jenkins, Cody Pope**