

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

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

Sept. 1, 1982 - Cooper, Thomas Norwood
Probationary Fire Fighter - Station 1

Sept. 21, 1913 - O'Hara, Patrick
Fire Fighter - Station 6

RETIREEES WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

Jerry Wayne Haude
served HFD 1969 to 2003 - Died August 24, 2003

Johnny W. Ogg
served HFD 1959 to 1984 - Died August 17, 2003

Edward J. Zalesak
served HFD 1950 to 1992 - Died August 4, 2003

Monroe D. Chester
served HFD 1941 to 1980 - Died August 4, 2003

Ed L. Walther
served HFD 1961 to 1981 - Died July 30, 2003

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

September 11, is here again, there is no way to forget that day. It has been two years and that day never escapes my thoughts. It is not the first thing that comes to my mind in the morning when I wake up, but I don't have to be awake long before it creeps back into my mind.

The great twin towers were crushed by an attack of two 747's loaded with jet fuel and passengers. Then within a short time after the first impact both towers fell to the ground taking with them many human souls, and destroying the lives of their loved ones.

Recently someone sent me a web site link to a 911 related slide show, which was pretty hard to watch. One scene was a falling young female and the caption was "this could be your daughter", well she was not my child and I did not know her but it still hurts to see a picture showing the young woman fall to her death.

If a genie appeared and granted me one wish, it would not be to have September 11, 2001 erased from my mind. The fact remains that although it is hard sometimes to even think about it or see pictures showing people falling out of the towers, or people running for their lives after the towers started collapsing, these vivid memories help us to focus on how fragile life really is. Personally, this process helps me with living my life to the fullest everyday.

In closing (I am sure you will read this every year as long as I write these articles), remember the victims of September 11, 2001 and their loved ones. The friends and family members are the ones that are still here and they have to live the nightmare of September 11th, day after day for the rest of their lives.

HOUSTON FIRE DEPT. BADGES CAST INTO 14K GOLD PENDANTS

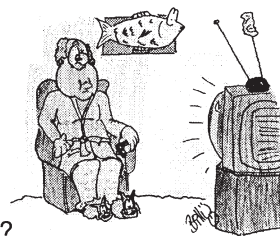


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