



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

List of the 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
Firefighter-Station 51

May 21, 1962

DON J. CONTORNO
Fire fighter-Station 37

May 25, 1912

HERMAN J. "DUTCH" WAGNER
Captain-Station 8

See the list of our brother Fire Fighters who have died in 2006 on the back of this publication.

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As most of you know, that by the time this publication comes out, I will be retired from the Houston Fire Department with a total of 31 great years. HFD has been a great career for me and it introduced me to my life long memorial project. I have been asked several times if I was giving up the memorial things that I do and the answer is a really big NO.

Also, as some of you might know, I have been working part-time at the big airport for Continental Air Lines. I really like it there and the only bad part is that I have to work 5 nights a week until I get off probation. That is where, most of the time, I am able to talk to fellow Fire Fighters.

One night not long ago I was waiting on my last flight and sitting in the break room with a Fire Fighter that works in the same area several times a month.

He asked me if I had heard about John Meador's death. I said that I had heard but really had not gotten any details yet on what had happened to John. The Fire Fighter went on to tell me how John was on the way to his job out at NASA Space Center and was hit by a delivery truck at Highway 3 and El Dorado and died in the crash.

Then he said that when he read John's obit he was disappointed that there was no mention of John's fire department career or his accomplishments with the Houston Fire Fighters Credit Union. I had just seen it because I make copy of the obits for my website and had noticed the same thing. I then told the Fire Fighter that the Houston Chronicle has an obituary department the does it through the funeral homes and sometimes because of the stress and the cost of the obit it turns out less than desired.

The item below is the obit printed by the Houston Chronicle and reprinted in this article with permission of John's family. The picture of John was provided by John's family.

JOHN EDWARD MEADOR, 58, passed away Tuesday, February 28, 2006. He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years Jill Lynn Meador; son John Meador, II, son Trey Harrelson and daughter-in-law Debbie Harrelson, daughter Shelly Crites, and daughter-in-law Audrey Meador. John was "Papaw" to his pride and

joy, his grandchildren, Blake, Brooke, Kayla, Kyle, Garrett, Katie, Ashley, John, Alexis, Mykela and Thomas. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law Geneta and Jay Royce; brother and sister-in-law Thomas, Jr. and Alfreda Meador, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Visitation will be Friday, March 3, 2006 from 5-8 PM at Forest Park East Funeral Home, with funeral services on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at 12:30 PM; interment to follow.

The following is the eulogy written and read by his daughter Shelly...

John Edward Meador was born in Palestine, Texas on September 8, 1947, to Thomas Albert Meador, Sr. and Lenora Wanda Lee Meador. He passed on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. John graduated from Jesse H. Jones High School in 1966. He enlisted in the Houston Fire Department after graduation and served the City of Houston for 23 years and 8 months. During his tenure with the Fire Department, John also worked at the Houston Texas Fire Fighters Federal Credit Union. After retiring from the Fire Department, he continued working for the Credit Union for a total of 27 years. John had an internal drive to care for the safety of others. The Fire Department was not just a job, but a way of life for John, and after leaving the Credit Union, he continued that life with NASA. For the last two years, John was a Fire Protection Specialist with NASA's Safety and Fire Services. John had a love of life, his family and his many, many friends and co-workers. He loved the outdoors, from hunting, fishing, 4-wheeling to just getting away to the country with the love of his life, his wife Jill.



I would like to say that John Meador is high on my list of "people that I have had the pleasure of knowing" during my life time! And to end this article on this note:

God Speed John Edward Meador, may your journey into the hereafter be a good one and your great soul rest in peace!

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UP COMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Future Events - more details on these later.

October 7, 2006 - Dennis W. Holder Scholarship Fundraiser-Houston Fire Fighter' Pension

October 28, 2006 - Medal Day Ceremony

March 17, 2007 - 7th Annual Memorial Service

The "Secret List"

Don't forget to sign up for the "Secret List". This is an email newsletter from Chief Billy Goldfeder (no email junk, and he does not give out your address, I promise!) that will give you line of duty death information from around the country. The newsletter will also give you insight on many safety issues facing this country's fire service. Go to www.firefighterclosecalls.com, the site's menu is on the left, click on "Secret List" and sign up.

Memorial Website - www.houstonfirememorial.org

This is my personal website that is also the Houston Fire Department's official Memorial Site. It contains a listing of Houston's line-of-duty Fire Fighter deaths from when the department went paid in 1895 to 2004. I also list as many Houston Fire Fighters that can be found through research that are now deceased, these are from 1895 to present. I also have, because of 911, all the Fire Fighters who died on September 11th and also FDNY's line-of-duty deaths from 1865 to 2004.