



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, Retired

List of the line-of-duty death anniversaries for the month of July:

July 1, 1940

“MOLLY” WALKER
Driver, Station 2

July 2, 1929

EDGAR GRANT
Fire Fighter, Station 18

July 3, 1929

HARRY “RED” OXFORD
Fire Fighter, Station 18

July 11, 1929

JOHN LITTLE, SR.
Captain, Station 18

July 14, 1913

CLIFFORD WIESE
Fire Fighter, Station 3

July 26, 1923

HARRY DODD
Fire Fighter, Central Station

July 29, 1953

JOSEPH “JOE” SOLITO
Chauffeur, Station 8

July 29, 1953

FIDEL CHABOLLA
Fire Fighter, Station 1

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

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As most of you know by now, I have officially retired from the Houston Fire Department. I served a little bit over 31 years with the last 12 years driving Engine 15. I may not be working as an E/O anymore, but I will still be doing what I have been doing for the last 19 years and that will be memorializing our deceased Fire Fighters. My endeavor is always “a work in progress.”

I am involved in several on-going projects and will attempt to give you as much information as possible.

The memorial website, www.houstonfirememorial.com came about after I produced the “Memorial Section” for the HFD 2000 yearbook. The “Memorial Section,” which was originally produced for the 1988 yearbook contains the information on HFD’s line-of-duty deaths.

Here are the highlights of the memorial website. The site contains the list of Houston’s line of duty deaths from 1895 when the paid department began. Each Fire Fighter has a page that gives as much information that we have found. I am always trying to update the information and this is a continuing research project.

Next is the list of the deceased HFD Fire Fighters, these names were originally obtained for the memorial wall located on the grounds of the pension office. The original list for the wall contained about 1200 Fire Fighter names. These names are listed on my site and each one contains their birth and death date and their service years. Some of them, however, do not have all of their information listed. I depend on the family members to help me complete each Fire Fighter’s information. This section is also an ongoing project.

There are many sections to the website and I could go on and on about the items contained in the site, but I won’t, however I will encourage you to spend some time going through the many sections of this web site.

The last thing I will tell you about is the helmet project. This came about because of my involvement with the “HFD Annual Memorial Service” which is held every 3rd Saturday in March. During the ceremony, helmets representing each LODD Fire Fighter are placed on the memorial wall as their names are being called out. In the past several years, the helmets have been black with no helmet fronts. I came up with an idea with the help of my research assistant. The idea being, we raise the money to purchase 60 helmets and 60 helmet fronts. Each helmet front will be custom made for each of the Fire Fighters. Below is what the helmets will look like. I had to pick one Fire Fighter so of course I picked Jay.



“Jay Jahnke”

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Information and Future Events - more details on these later.

October 7, 2006 - Dennis W. Holder Scholarship Fundraiser, Houston Firefighter’ Pension

October 22, 2006 - Annual Firefighter Mass

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.