



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, Retired

The month of April 2007 marks the 3rd anniversary of the Line-of-Duty Death of one of our Brother Fire Fighters. This young man's name is Kevin Kulow. He had been assigned to Fire Station 50 less than 5 months. Shortly after reporting for duty on the morning of April 4, 2004, Palm Sunday, he became the 58th HFD Fire Fighter to die in the line-of-duty.

I happened to be on duty that day at Station 15, our Safety Chief was on the scene and he was able to relay to us by telephone the name of the Fire Fighter. When we heard the name of the Fallen Fire Fighter, no one knew Kevin Kulow.

Three years later, when his name is spoken, we all now know the name of the "Probie" Fire Fighter Kevin Kulow. However most of us know little about him and what kind life he led before his tragic death. For the last couple of years I have kept in contact with Kevin's mom, Elaine. I have been able to hear many great things about Kevin. I asked Elaine a few months ago if she would have any words to share with my readers about her beloved son. I personally know how hard this was for Kevin's mom and I really appreciate her sharing these thought with us.

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The Kevin Kulow we all know and love was the sweetest person on this earth. He loved the Lord, his wife, son's, parents, siblings, and all of his family with his whole heart and soul, they always came first in his life.

He was a gentle, kind and loving to all animals, it was living proof because out of all the dogs he owned they all had to sleep at the foot of the bed, never outside where it was cold or rainy.

This was the Son who was very respectful to everyone, always a response of "yes mame" or "no sir" as well as a big thank you with a smile to follow.

Kevin was the child I could call to help me with anything, he was at my house in 15 minutes or less ready to assist his parents, regardless if it was trimming trees, moving furniture, cutting fire wood, he always had time for his parents.

We were proud to call Kevin our son. He never skipped school and was never sent to the dreaded Principals office. He never got into any kind of trouble with the law and never even got as much as a speeding ticket!

Kevin was one of those true friends that everyone wishes they had. He was always willing to roll up his sleeves to help out and never expected anything in return.

The Kevin that we knew was very very quite and shy, however

once you got to know him he was full of life and laughter and loved to play practical jokes, just ask me about the rubber snakes.

Kevin grew up to be a wonderful Christian and as we knew him, he loved his God and he proved this time and time again. This young man would get off from work on Sunday morning, change clothes and take his son to Sunday School every Sunday. On special occasions he would bake cup cakes for the whole Sunday school class.

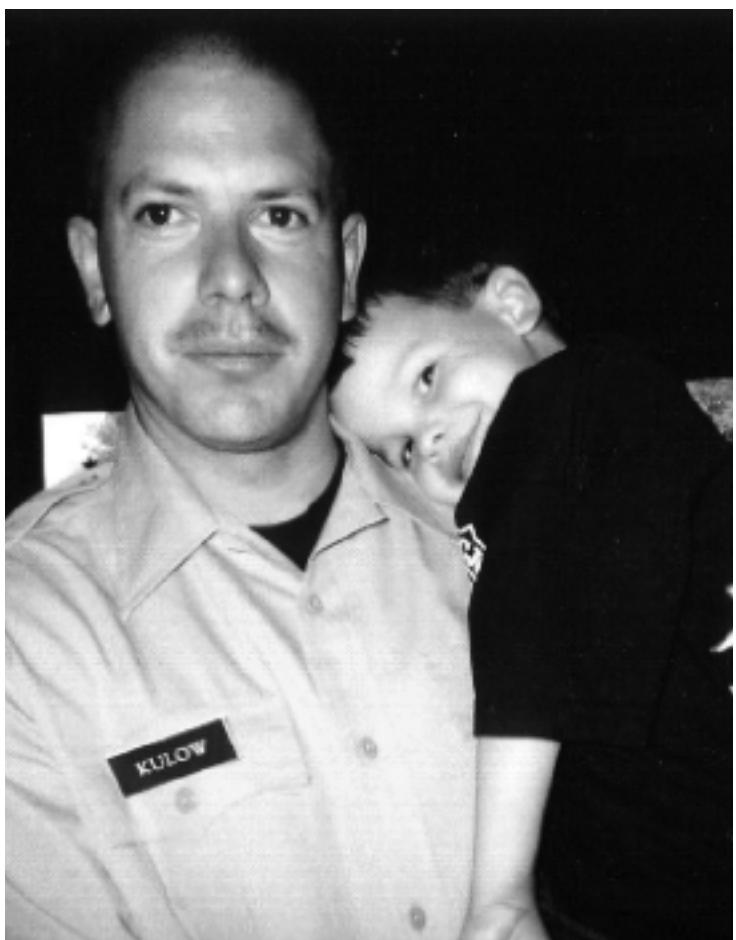
Kevin helped around the house with all the family chores, and he was a very good cook. BBQ was his specialty with chicken and pork ribs his favorites to cook. Sunday evening was his favorite time to crank up the old pit and call Mom and Dad to come over and enjoy the afternoon in the back yard with family and friends. Even a cold and rainy day would not keep him from dragging out the pit and firing it up.

I could go on and on, writing about this wonderful son. We were truly blessed to have him in our lives. We miss that smile, that tender touch, and that warm embrace, but I do know that he is watching over us.

I would like everyone to know that before he was a Fire Fighter he was our Son and now he is our "Guardian Angel."

We love and miss you, Kevin Kulow

Elaine Kulow



Remembering To Never Forget

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*

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

Total for the year from January 1, 2007 to present - 12

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

April 04, 2004

KEVIN WAYNE KULOW
Probationary Firefighter - Station 50

April 14, 1949

ROBERT "BOBBY" WIER MILBURN
Chauffeur - Station 7

April 26, 1908

BARNEY C. MOFFATT
Firefighter - Station 7

April 27, 1899

EMIL "ED" THOMPSON
Firefighter - Station 5

INFORMATION

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 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



Fire Station 6
1702 Washington - Early 1930's

Photo furnished by the family of "Slim" Templeton



Fire Station 16
1413 Westheimer Avenue - Early 1930's

Photo furnished by the family of Walter Dudensing



Fire Station 6
901 Henderson - Mid 1940's - Captain Leo Edmonds
on the right, other Fire Fighter unknown

Photo furnished by the family of Leo Edmonds



Fire Station 34
Barry Road & Jensen - February 1960
(L/R) Bottom Row - Otto Mueller, Andy Sareo,
Edmund "Red" McKee. Top row- Leo Barr, Billy
Simmons, Peter Willis, Benard Thompson

Photo furnished by Chief Leo Barr

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*Captain Frank Maher & Chief Tom Collins,
cave-in Westheimer Road, September 1988*



*Captain Jerry Hunter, 5A Shift
Strip Center fire on Gessner - March 1988*

Photos furnished by Local 341



*Captain Royce Beck
& Chief DeMoss*

Photos furnished by Local 341



*Fire Fighter Wade Gillen
Hardest working man in the HFD
Station 38 - 1980's*

Photos furnished by Local 341