



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, Retired

I have written a lot of articles since 2002. One of my favorites is an article written in July 2003 about a Fire Fighter who died in the line-of-duty in 1940. I decided to repeat this article with the risk of some saying that I am running out of subjects to write about. However those that know me know that is not the case. I would like to share it with those that did not have the chance to read it the first time and this month marks the 67th anniversary of his untimely death. Also included in this article is one of my favorite pictures of him. So here goes.

In the May (2003) issue I did a profile on a Fire Fighter named Dutch Wagner. This month I decided to profile Molly Walker. July 2003 marks the 63rd anniversary of his death. Molly is the 26th Houston Fire Fighter to die in the line-of-duty.

His real name was Walter William Walker, born in 1881 in Millican, Texas. He entered the Houston Fire Department in 1914 at the age of 33. He had previously worked on the railroad as an engineer and fireman and was most likely hired because of his experience working with steam engines. He began his career in the Houston Fire Department assigned to Station 3 where he was the driver of the horse drawn Steamer No. 3.

He was a small man in stature reaching the height of 5' 7" but had a big heart and was a loving husband and father of 5 children. The oldest of his five children is 83 years old and currently resides in

Last month I ran May's LODD anniversary instead of June and I apologize for the error so this month I am including June with July.

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

June 8, 1932

RUSK, CHARLES ROLAND

Fire Fighter - Station 14

June 13, 1902

JOHNSON, CLIFFORD W.

Driver - Station 8

June 22, 1929

HENDRICKS, RUDOLPH "RUDY"

Fire Fighter - Station 25

June 30, 1962

HOPKINS, CLAUDE JACKSON

Chauffeur - Station 2

Galveston County. She has told me several stories about her father and I would like to share them with you.

While working at Station 3, located at 1919 Houston Avenue, Molly somehow started raising rabbits in cages behind the station. The fun loving Fire Fighters that he worked with named him "Molly Cottontail" after a character in the Peter Rabbit books. The nickname later shortened to "Molly", and stayed with him throughout his career. The nickname became so much a part of him that after his death his wife chose to have the name "Molly" engraved on his headstone.

The City of Houston prior to 1921, was in the process of replacing all horse drawn apparatus. During that time, Fire Station 3 received a motorized chain driven fire truck, manufactured by the American LaFrance Company. Molly was one of the first drivers of this new type of fire apparatus. Molly adjusted to the fact that the horses were being retired and the City of Houston was quickly leaving the horse drawn era and moving in to the more modern motorize age of the fire service.

Some years later, he worked at Fire Station 8, located at 1307 Crawford Street, and had acquired two male brown bear cubs,

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

July 01, 1940

"MOLLY" WALKER

Driver - Station 2

July 02, 1929

EDGAR GRANT

Fire Fighter - Station 18

July 03, 1929

HARRY "RED" OXFORD

Firefighter - 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

Remembering To Never Forget

MAX HENRY MCRAE

*Served HFD from 1955 to 1994
Died July 6, 2007*

JASON TEAGUE

*Served HFD from 2001 to 2007
Died June 21, 2007*

HORRACE FONTENOT

*Served HFD from 1953 to 1966
Died June 4, 2007*

KENNETH JEFF ROBINSON, JR.

*Served HFD from 1948 to 1986
Died May 28, 2007*

DOYLE DWAYNE JOHNSON

*Served HFD from 1981 to 2006
Died May 20, 2007*

ROY ALEXANDER FOSTER, JR.

*Served HFD from 1969 to 2004
Died May 3, 2007*

HENRY HALLIO

*Served HFD from 1952 to 1978
Died May 3, 2007*

ROY ALEXANDER FOSTER, JR.

*Served HFD from 1969 to 2004
Died May 3, 2007*

OSCAR FREEMAN WALLACE, JR.

*Served HFD from 1970 to 2000
Died May 1, 2007*

RICHARD FRANK SMITH

*Served HFD from 1978 to 2007
Died April 28, 2007*

GEORGE W. WARD

*Served HFD from 1945 to 1965
Died April 14, 2007*

LARRY JULIAN BLACKMON

*Served HFD from 1971 to 1978
Died April 4, 2007*

FRANK JACOBS, JR.

*Served HFD from 1947 to 1973
Died March 29, 2007*

BOBBIE JAMES "BJ" EVANS

*Served HFD from 1966 to 2001
Died March 21, 2007*

HOMER EUGENE FRANKS

*Served HFD from 1961 to 1977
Died March 17, 2007*

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*

CURTIS 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*

Total for the year from January 1, 2007 to present - 27 Deaths

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

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.firefighterclose-calls.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



JJ's Dad, Bland Pruitt - Station 27. Picture taken February 1962.

Photo provided by J. J. Pruitt



Chief Grover Adams and Chief W.O. Hunter, 1950's.

Photo provided by the family of W. O. Hunter



Fire Station 20 - 7301 Avenue F, 1964. (l to r) Cecil Bebe, Robert Sherrard, Jesse Salazar, Paul Richardson, Richard Sadler, Robert Godbey, Earl McWilliams.

Photo provided by Earl McWilliams

Celebrating 75 Years

1932 to 2007

Houston Professional Fire Fighter's Association, Local 341



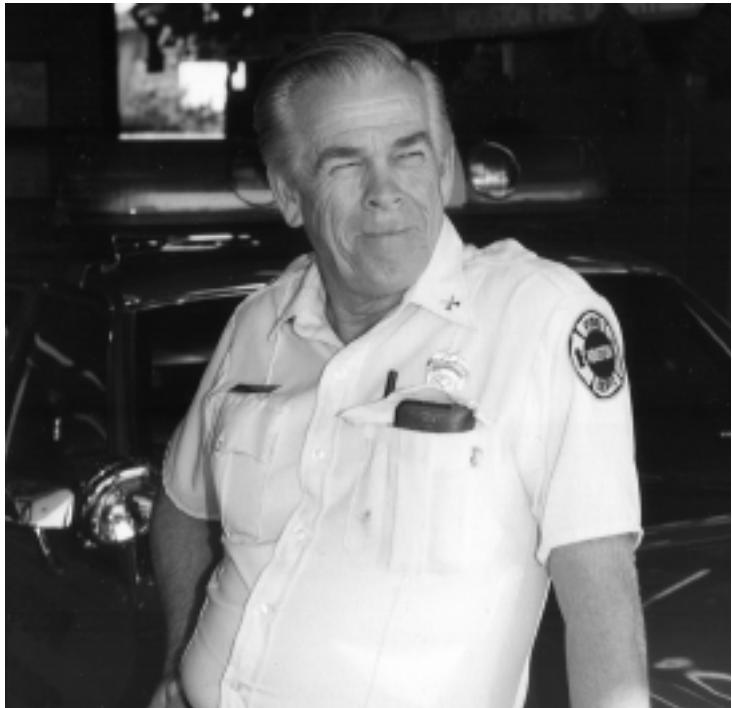
Chief Wayne Grissom - Early 80's



Lonnie W. Franklin - Early 80's



*Chief V. E. Rogers, Lester Tyra
& Channel 2 - Ron Stone - 1983*



Chief Danny Hutchins, District 5 - Nov. 1988

Photos on this page furnished by Local 341

Fallen Fire Fighters

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which he raised in cages behind the fire station. His daughter does not know how he got the bears, but I have been told that the wooded area north of town, which is now Spring, Texas, was heavily populated with brown bears in the early 1900's. The Walker's lived at 1611 Polk Avenue, which was within walking distance to his station. Most Fire Fighters, during the early days of department, either lived at the fire station where they worked or very close to it. They received one hour off for each meal period. One day in 1919, Molly left the station to go home for lunch. He was sitting at the kitchen table with his wife eating lunch when there was a "knock" at the back door of the house. Mrs. Walker got up to see "who" it was, opened the door and was face-to-face with one of the now fully-grown bears. The bear somehow got out of his cage and followed Molly home to also have lunch. As the story was told, Molly calmly got up from the table and went outside and walked the bear to the station and put him back in his cage.

During the early 1930's Molly transferred to Fire Station 2, located on the corner of Bagby and Capitol. His assignment there was driving the reserve pumper that the Fire Fighter's referred to as the "Bull Dog". The brand name of the fire truck was Mack and the Mack Truck Company used a small hood ornament shaped like a bulldog as their company symbol. His job entailed going to whichever fire station in the city was having their fire truck sent to the repair shop. When he arrived at the station needing the reserve fire truck, the crew and the captain would ride that shift with Molly driving the "Bull Dog".

On December 6, 1940, Molly died after trying to overcome injuries he received as the result of an accident on July 1, 1938



Fire Station 3 at 1919 Houston Avenue. Year 1919. Left to right: Herman Hundt, Molly Walker, Unknown Fire Fighter and Pat Daly. Picture taken in front of Steamer Stall. Note the harness for the horses in the background.

Photo provided by Molly Walker Family

involving the "Bull Dog" and a city bus. The day of the accident was Molly's day off, but he took the place of a fellow Fire Fighter who wanted off that day. Molly's assignment that day was Fire Station 17 located at 319 Sampson. Several of the Fire Fighters from Station 17 were injured in the accident but Molly received a serious head injury, which took his life 20 months later.

Molly's legacy has continued through the years with several of his relatives becoming Houston Fire Fighters. His son, Senior Captain James E. "Buddy" Walker served the HFD from 1942 to 1977. His grandson, Captain Robert W. McCarty served from 1956-1995. Both of these Fire Fighters are now deceased but are remembered by those of us who knew them as highly respected officers of the Houston Fire Department. Molly also has a great grandson who entered the department several years ago.

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2	Cruising		
3	Cozumel, Mexico	8:00 am	5:00 pm
4	Roatan, Honduras	9:00 am	5:00 pm
5	Costa Maya, Mexico	7:00 am	3:00 pm
6	Yucatan (Progreso) Mexico	12:00 pm	8:00 pm
7	Cruising		
8	Galveston, Texas	7:00 am	

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 - Cabin857pp
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- Not Included: insurance, gratuities, deposit \$250pp.

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CONTACT: Mona & Larkin "Pudge" Williamson (31/C)

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