



## Steven Reid Whitfield II

**Born:** March 17, 1984 in Beaumont, Texas

**Died:** March 31, 2016, at age 32

**Entered the Fire Department:** October 26, 2015

**Assignment:** Cadet at the Val Jahnke Training Facility, Class 2015G

**Buried:** Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Beaumont, Texas, Garden of Love, Plot D, Lot 76, Space 2

**On the morning of March 31<sup>st</sup>, Class 2015G were doing the obstacle course at the Survival House. Steven had almost completed his turn when he collapsed. His classmates quickly brought him outside and began CPR while attempting to lower his body temperature. Medic 44 was on the grounds involved in a drill. They transported him to Memorial Hermann Hospital. Several hours later efforts to save him failed. His cause of death was ruled dehydration and hyperthermia.**

**Steven was a well respected cadet, mentor and motivator to many of his classmates and had only two and a half months left of his training. He was 32 and older than most of his fellow cadets. Class 2015G placed a memorial plaque at the Val Jahnke Training Facility in his honor. His class graduated June 16<sup>th</sup> and dedicated the ceremony to him.**

**In 2014 he became a member of the Texas National Guard. After completing infantry and airborne school he was in line to attend Army Ranger School. The Army offered him an opportunity to attend the testing process to join the Green Berets, he declined the offer.**



## **William Ross Dowling** **“Iron Bill”**

**Born: March 14, 1973 in Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Died: March 7, 2017, at age 43**

**Entered the Houston Fire Department: March 21, 2000, Class 1 2000**

**Assignment: Captain Fire House 68 “A” Shift**

**Buried: Wellborn Cemetery, College Station, Texas, Plot DD 54**

**Bill Dowling was a man of courage and service to others. He graduated in 1993 from Klein Oak High School. Soon after, he joined the United States Marine Corps, only after convincing his recruiting officer that he would succeed as a member. When he fulfilled his commitment to the Corps, he continued his quest to serve others as a member of the Houston Fire Department.**

**On May 31, 2013 Captain Dowling was seriously injured while leading his crew during the Southwest Inn Fire. The fire started in the Bhojan Indian Restaurant. During the fire, the roof collapsed, trapping him and four crew members. Captain Dowling was the only firefighter rescued from the collapsed building. He was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he was treated for his injuries and fought to stay alive. During his fight for his life, he was given the nickname, “Iron Bill”, for his relentless efforts to heal and return home to his family. “Iron Bill” succumbed to his injuries almost four years later. Bill is survived by his soulmate Jacki, and his three children, Forrest, Faith and Foster.**