

“Don’t Bail – Dig In” STEWARD'S MONTHLY

by: **George LaRue (6/D)**

Remember the movie Backdraft, in the warehouse scene when the fire was coming at the crew of Engine 17 and Bull told them to “dig in”?

This month I had a very interesting conversation with a member of the Steward’s Committee, Captain William Green, 28/B. Those of you may know him as he is a regular at the Union meetings and he is very knowledgeable on Fire Fighter issues, laws and city ordinances.

Captain Green was with Captain Jahnke on the fatal 4 Leaf Towers fire that took the life of our Jay Jahnke and civilian James Dill.

After reading the line of duty death investigations, I made notice that after Fire Fighter Mike Phillips and Fire Fighter Dan Matt left unit 52, these two captains “dug in” to make an effort to find James Dill and take on the fire till it was time to go. A maximum effort by both captains with a short crew.

It was announced on the news that new information was reported that at least two New York Fire Fighters made

it to the 78th floor of the World Trade Center. These smoke eaters “dug in” and went 25 floors further than anyone expected them to before the building came crashing down around them. Another maximum effort.

When Chief Connealy resigned from this union, I was disappointed and saddened. I know we are miles apart on everything but don’t bail – “dig in”.

Local 341 is in business for all Fire Fighters. If you don’t like the way George LaRue is doing things, vote me out. We had around 900 votes cast in this last election. We have over 3000 Union members and the complaints are up and the participation is down. I don’t care how bad it gets, I’m not leaving. Thank you Fire Fighters for re-electing me to my 2nd term.



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by **Scott Mellott, 15/A**

For the month of September, we acknowledge the anniversary of the following Fire Fighters who died in the line of duty.

September 01, 1982
Cooper, Thomas Norwood
Probationary Firefighter, Station 1

September 21, 1913
O’Hara, Patrick
Firefighter, Station 6

Please visit my Website for more information on these Fire Fighters and many others that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

www.houstonfirememorial.org

Since last September I have anticipated the first anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Over 400 Fire Fighters, Police Officers, Emergency Personnel and several thousand Civilians died on that fateful day at The Pentagon, The World Trade Center, and in a field in Pennsylvania.

On September 11, 2002 we should to stop and think about the victims’ loved ones. They are the ones that deal with the continuous pain. A son or daughter will not be able to look up and see mom or dad come home from work. The mother will not be able to pick up the phone and call her son or daughter. Their lives are changed forever.. There will be emptiness in the hearts of these “survivor’s.” Take a moment to reflect back and remember how you felt that day.

Keep the victims in your mind, but also in your heart.



ALL HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES:

Planet Ford has just announced an extraordinary Savings and VIP Treatment plan for all Houston Police Department Employees and Houston Fire Department Employees. We like to think of it as “Doing our part for the men and women who *PROTECT AND SERVE*” making our town a safer place.

If you aren’t familiar with Planet Ford’s new facility, Planet Ford Autotainment Mall, the first and only Autotainment Mall, then now is the time to come visit us and save. We are offering a discount of 15% off parts and labor for repairs in our service department. Just show your badge or if you are support personnel, just bring this letter and coupon. Due to the extraordinary nature of this offer, department identification may be required.

You will receive the discount on any service done in our service department. You will receive VIP service from our service staff, priority parts pickup if we happen not to have a particular part in stock to repair your vehicle.

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GOOD THRU MAY 2003**