



# REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

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

### **KEVIN WAYNE KULOW**

Probationary Fire Fighter - Station 50 A-Shift  
Died in the line-of-duty April 4, 2004 - Palm Sunday  
*A member of the Houston Fire Department for only 202 days.*

**April 14, 1949 - MILBURN, ROBERT W. "BOBBY"**  
Chauffeur - Station 7

**April 26, 1908 - BARNEY C. MOFFAT**  
Fire Fighter - Station 7

**April 27, 1899 - THOMPSON, EMIL "ED"**  
Fire Fighter - Station 5

On Sunday, April 4, 2004 I arrived at my fire station for work at 0615. By 0630 I was in the kitchen getting ready to start cooking breakfast. I could hear a lot of talk on the radio and noticed a couple of guys had walkie talkies on the table in the lounge, it was a no brainer for me - I knew something was going wrong at a fire.

By 0630 the alarm had gone to two taps, for those who don't know what that means, it is when two additional Engines (pumpers) are dispatched to a scene. Two taps is usually an indication that something isn't going well at a fire scene.

By 0635, the on-duty deputy, who I have known for many years, was already on the scene. The fact that he arrived there so quickly indicated to me that he went to the scene before a 2nd alarm was sounded. Things were going bad and he had probably sensed this before he left the slab of Fire Station 17.

I started breakfast and went to the table in the lounge and sat down to listen to what was going on. By then there was a frantic search to find a missing fire fighter from Station 50. I looked up a couple of times and noticed that I was getting strange looks from some of the guys. I did not pay much attention because I was actually listening to the fire department radio.

Some time later I heard an order for everyone at the scene to turn off the engines on their apparatus. I realized then to expect the worse. This indicated that they were attempting to hear the alarm on his breathing apparatus in order to locate him in the building. I then got up from the table and made a couple of phone calls and finished my job in the kitchen. Now I knew

## RETIREES WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

### **JAMES DANIEL HUTCHINS**

Served HFD 1956 to 1988, Died on April 2, 2004

### **DAVID BETHEL MIZE**

Served HFD 1969 to 1990, Died on April 1, 2004

### **JOHNNIE LEGGIO**

Served HFD 1948 to 1978, Died on March 25, 2004

### **FRANKIE ELMO GORE**

Served HFD 1977 to 2004, Died on March 15, 2004

*For updated retired Fire Fighter deaths refer to:  
<http://www.houstonfirememorial.org>  
Click on Recent Houston Fire Fighter Deaths.*

what the looks were for, my fellow fire fighters knew that I would be writing an article on the most recent fire fighter killed in the line of duty.

I recalled that I had the same feeling in my gut the morning that Jay Jahnke died. I was coming into work that day also. That morning, I came in the back door of the station and the whole B shift was sitting in the TV room, several with walkie talkies watching the news and waiting to find out who had just perished in a high rise fire in the Galleria area.

This time it would be Kevin Kulow who was the fire fighter that died that awful day, April 4th, which also happened to be Palm Sunday. He will always be remembered on Palm Sunday.

Kevin's tragic death on Palm Sunday hits a personal chord with me, my family experienced a personal tragedy on Palm Sunday almost 10 years to the day of Kevin's death. On March 27, 1994, three of my cousins were attending Palm Sunday services at the Goshen United Methodist Church in northern central Alabama. A tornado struck the church killing 20 people including the Pastor's infant daughter, and injuring 120 people.

Three of those victims were my cousins Derek and Kaye Watson both age 24 and their infant daughter Jessica. They, like Kevin, had a full life ahead of them and were taken away from us way too early.

*Please visit my web site for more information on Kevin:  
[www.houstonfirememorial.org](http://www.houstonfirememorial.org).*