



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by Scott Mellott, 15/A

List of the line-of-duty death anniversaries for the month of April:

April 04, 2004

KEVIN WAYNE KULOW
Probationary Fire Fighter - Station 50

April 14, 1949

MILBURN, ROBERT "BOBBY" WIER
Chauffeur - Station 7

April 26, 1908

BARNEY C. MOFFATT
Fire Fighter - Station 7

April 27, 1899

THOMPSON, EMIL "ED"
Fire Fighter - Station 5

See the list of our brother Fire Fighters who have died in 2006 on the back of this publication.

★ ★ ★

Recently there were two events that had a major effect on me. First was the death of a gentleman named John Meador. John, a retired Fire Fighter, perished in a traffic accident on the morning of February 28, 2006. The next event was the news of a retired Fire Fighter friend that several months ago was diagnosed with cancer. About the same time I heard the news about John, my friend with cancer was admitted into "Hospice". As you probably know "Hospice" is the last leg of a dying person's journey on this earth.

Each week I walk several times with a Fire Fighter friend. We walk about 45 minutes at a brisk pace. This, for both of us, is a form of therapy for the body and the mind. During the walks, we hit on many subjects and probably have the ability to find the solutions of many of our problems and could probably find solutions to some of the problems of the world if we tried hard enough!

My friend, of many years, has been involved in quite a few of my memorial projects and he is one of the few people in my life who is able to understand the emotions that I go through in order to accomplish what I do. He also really knows where I am coming from.

Both of us have experienced the mass devastation that cancer

causes the patient and their friends and families. Myself, I lost both my parents to cancer a very long time ago. My friend lost his wife a few years ago after she lost a hard fought battle with cancer.

One day not too long ago I posed a very hypothetical question. Is it easier dealing with a death of a loved one knowing that a loved one is losing their battle with a terminal disease, and probably won't make it to the next year. Or on the other hand is this worse. Getting a call from the police or a knock on your front door to find out that your loved one is not coming back home?

As you can probably tell, there is no one answer to either question, so here is a part of a poem that my cousin Barb sent me and it is truly a fit for this subject.

*Around the corner, a vanished friend.
Remember to always say what you mean.
If you love someone, tell them.
Don't be afraid to express yourself.
Reach out and tell someone what they mean to you.
Because when you decide that it is the right time it
might be too late.
Seize the day. Never have regrets.
And most importantly, stay close to your friends
and family, for they have helped
make you the person that you are today.*

★ ★ ★

UP COMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Future Events - more details on these later:

October 7, 2006 - Dennis W. Holder Scholarship Fundraiser

October 28, 2006 - Medal Day Ceremony

March 17, 2007 - 7th Annual Memorial Service

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

This is my personal web site that is also the Houston Fire Department's official memorial site. It contains listing of Houston's line of duty Fire Fighters from when the department went paid in 1895 to 2004. I also list as many Houston firefighters that can be found through research that now deceased, these are from 1895 to present. I also have, because of 911 all the fire fighters who died on September 11th and also FDNY's line of duty deaths from 1865 to 2004.