



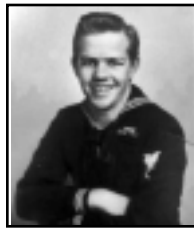
# REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS

by *Scott Mellott, Retired*

## HENRY JACKSON CAMPBELL

Henry Jackson "Jack" Campbell was born on April 15, 1927 in Cross, Grimes County, Texas and was the son of James Roby Campbell and Addie Elizabeth Ramsey.

Jack entered the U.S. Navy as a Seaman Apprentice on October 25, 1942 at Houston, Harris County, Texas and was sent to the Naval Training School at Great Lakes, IL where he completed Recruit Training (Boot Camp) on December 21, 1942 and was promoted to Seaman Second Class (S2c).



He was then sent to the Amphibious Training Base at Portsmouth, VA from Jan. 1, 1943 until Feb. 19, 1943 whereupon he was transferred to the USS LST 351 (Tank Landing Ship) on Feb. 24, 1943. According to his records, he assisted with the fitting-out of the ship and was on board when the ship commissioned on Feb. 24, 1943. This made him a "plank owner." (A "plank owner" is an individual who was a member of the crew of a ship when that ship was placed in commission and applies only to crew members present at the ship's commissioning ceremony).

He remained aboard the USS LST 351 until Mar. 2, 1943 when he was transferred to the Amphibious Training Base at Little Creek, VA for training in landing craft (small boat crews). On Mar. 28, 1943, he was sent to the RS, Brooklyn, NY until May 4, 1943.

On May 4, 1943 he was assigned to the Advanced Amphibious Training Base at Arzew, Algeria where he remained until June 1, 1943 when he was assigned for temporary duty as a member of a small boat crew pursuant to verbal orders of the Commander Small Boat Flotilla, Advanced Amphibious Training Base at Bizerte, Tunisia.

On June 8, 1943, he was assigned to the USS LST 157 at Bizerte, Tunisia. On July 10, 1943, Jack was a member of a small boat crew that participated in the invasion of Sicily in the vicinity of Licata. On Sept. 9, 1943, Jack was a member of a small boat crew that participated in the invasion of Italy in the vicinity of Salerno. On Oct. 21, 1943, his status was changed from temporary duty to permanent duty as a member of small boat crews aboard this ship. During October 1943, the ship carried thousands of German and Italian Prisoners of War (POWs) from the Salerno area to Naples, Italy.

Jack remained aboard until March 23, 1944 when he was transferred to the Advanced Amphibious Training Base at St. Mawes, Cornwall, England. On April 5, 1944, Jack appeared before a Captain's Mast (a form of non-judicial punishment) for being one hour and 24 minutes AWOL. His punishment was loss of liberty on shore for 2-weeks.

On April 29, 1944, Jack was transferred as a crew replacement aboard the USS Thomas Jefferson (APA-30) (Auxiliary fleet

Personnel complement Attack force). Throughout Feb. and March, the ship had been undergoing "dress rehearsals" in the Irish Sea. She arrived at Weymouth, England on May 27, 1944 for the Invasion of Europe, which was just a few days away. She spent 9-days here loading and preparing for the invasion. On May 28, 1944, Jack was picked-up by the Shore Patrol at Weymouth for being out of uniform with "his hat on the back of his head and the cuffs of his uniform rolled-up." He was ordered back to the ship.

On the night of June 5, 1944, the ship left England with a mighty armada of warships and transports. The Jefferson was at her assigned position of the Normandy beaches early in the morning of June 6, 1944 and her boats were filled with combat troops and equipment which were lowered into the rough, choppy waters of the Bay of Seine while the coast rocked with explosions from air and sea bombardment. At 0630 hours (6:30 a.m.) the little landing boats hit the beaches and the troops were poured ashore in the face of stiff resistance and heavy fire from the beaches. Jack was manning one of the small landing craft. According to the ship's records, Jack made five more trips to shore that day taking troops to shore under heavy enemy fire.

To get an idea of what Jack experienced that early morning during the landing, you should watch the first 20-minutes of the movie "Saving Private Ryan" and just know, he was one of those very brave young men landing those Army troops ashore. At sunset on D-Day, the Jefferson returned across the channel to England.

On June 8, 1944, after surviving the D-Day landings, he

*continued on page 19*

### **LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:**

**August 4, 1923**

**J. A. "BOB" BOYD**

**Assistant Fire Chief - Central Station**

**August 6, 1941**

**HORRACE OSCAR GASSOWAY**

**Fire Fighter - Station 10**

**August 19, 1926**

**CLAUDE W. "RED" EDMONDS**

**Captain - Central Station**

**August 21, 1938**

**ALFORD HENRY SCHUTZE**

**District Chief - Station 7**

**August 22, 1934**

**ESKER J. ROGERS**

**Fire Fighter - Station 17**

# Remembering To Never Forget

**ALBERT LEE ZUBRIK**

*Served HFD from 1972 to 2002*

*Died July 26, 2007*

**OSCAR FREEMAN WALLACE, JR.**

*Served HFD from 1970 to 2000*

*Died May 1, 2007*

**JIMMY EARL LILLEY**

*Served HFD From 1969 to 1991*

*Died January 20, 2007*

**DANIEL "DANNY" WAYNE CASANOVER**

*Served HFD from 1970 to 2002*

*Died July 25, 2007*

**RICHARD FRANK SMITH**

*Served HFD from 1978 to 2007*

*Died April 28, 2007*

**LARRY ANTHONY WESLEY**

*Served HFD From 1979 to 2000*

*Died January 19, 2007*

**MARSHALL ROBERTS, JR.**

*Served HFD from 1948 to 1980*

*Died July 20, 2007*

**GEORGE W. WARD**

*Served HFD from 1945 to 1965*

*Died April 14, 2007*

**GEORGE EARL LOWDERMILK**

*Served HFD from 1950 to 2005*

*Died January 12, 2007*

**LLOYD EARL THYER**

*Served HFD from 1942 to 1965*

*Died July 16, 2007*

**LARRY JULIAN BLACKMON**

*Served HFD from 1971 to 1978*

*Died April 4, 2007*

**KENNETH RAY JUDD**

*Served HFD from 1963 to 1994*

*Died January 7, 2007*

**JOHN RILEY VOLLENTINE**

*Served HFD from 1973 to 1989*

*Died July 12, 2007*

**FRANK JACOBS, JR.**

*Served HFD from 1947 to 1973*

*Died March 29, 2007*

**LEE DITTA**

*Served HFD from 1948 to 1978*

*Died January 1, 2007*

**WILLIAM "BILL" LEE WHITE**

*Served HFD from 1974 to 1976*

*Died July 10, 2007*

**BOBBIE JAMES "BJ" EVANS**

*Served HFD from 1966 to 2001*

*Died March 21, 2007*

**MAX HENRY McRAE**

*Served HFD from 1955 to 1994*

*Died July 6, 2007*

**HOMER EUGENE FRANKS**

*Served HFD from 1961 to 1977*

*Died March 17, 2007*

**JASON TEAGUE**

*Served HFD from 2001 to 2007*

*Died June 21, 2007*

**JOHN TURNER COMSTOCK**

*Served HFD From 1978 to 1988*

*Died March 11, 2007*

**HORRACE FONTENOT**

*Served HFD from 1953 to 1966*

*Died June 4, 2007*

**DOYLE SHELTON HOLDER**

*Served HFD From 1974 to 2005*

*Died February 25, 2007*

**KENNETH JEFF ROBINSON, JR.**

*Served HFD from 1948 to 1986*

*Died May 28, 2007*

**CURTIS E. MORRIS**

*Served HFD From 1962 to 1986*

*Died February 20, 2007*

**DOYLE DWAYNE JOHNSON**

*Served HFD from 1981 to 2006*

*Died May 20, 2007*

**AUSTIN PEAVY KENNADA**

*Served HFD From 1956 to 1983*

*Died February 18, 2007*

**ROY ALEXANDER FOSTER, JR.**

*Served HFD from 1969 to 2004*

*Died May 3, 2007*

**MAXIE GENE JONES**

*Served HFD From 1959 to 1979*

*Died February 9, 2007*

**HENRY HALLIO**

*Served HFD from 1952 to 1978*

*Died May 3, 2007*

**WILLIAM RAY YOUNG**

*Served HFD From 1955 to 2007*

*Died February 5, 2007*

**ROY ALEXANDER FOSTER, JR.**

*Served HFD from 1969 to 2004*

*Died May 3, 2007*

**WILBER MARTIN JONES**

*Served HFD From 1945 to 1966*

*Died January 21, 2007*

**Total for the year from January 1, 2007  
to present - 33 Deaths**

For current information on deceased  
Fire Fighters, please go to my web site  
[www.houstonfirememorial.org](http://www.houstonfirememorial.org)  
and click on "Recent Deaths"  
or email Scott at [scottmel@juno.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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*



***Fire Fighters 1960's***

*Photo provided by the Houston Fire Department Arson Photo Lab.*



***Amoco Virginia ship fire - Hess Terminal - Nov. 1959***

*Photo provided by the Houston Fire Department.*



***Station 16 - 1413 Westheimer - 1950's. Walter Dudensing, Captain***

*Photo provided by the Family of Walter Dudensing.*

# *Celebrating 75 Years*

**1932 to 2007**

## **Houston Professional Fire Fighter's Association, Local 341**



***Lenny Higgins - October 7, 1973***

*Photo provided by Lenny Higgins. Photographed by Chuck Buschardt.*



***J. D. Fisher - Ladder 28 - 1983***

*Photo provided by the Houston Fire Department.*



***Station 28/C - 1975 - 5116 Westheimer.  
Steve Hargrett, Scott McManus, Jody Harris,  
Captain Wallace Mitchell, & Rikii Rogers***

*Photo provided by Wallace Mitchell.*



***Amado Garza, Kenneth Whitehorn & Ben Brymer -  
1980's***

*Photo provided by Local 341.*

***For more pictures, see the back page of this publication.***