

A photograph of a memorial ceremony at the Houston Fire Department. In the background, a large American flag flies on a tall pole. In the foreground, a stone wall features a large fire department emblem in the center. The scene is set outdoors with trees in the background.

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

A photograph of a Houston Fire Department officer in uniform, wearing a peaked cap and a dark jacket. He is standing in front of a fire engine, with his hand resting on the hood. The background shows a fire station with other vehicles.

Houston Firefighters Relief & Retirement Fund
October 18, 2025

1899-1910



Emil Thompson

Born: 1868, Europe
Died: April 27, 1899
Age at Death: 31
Entered the Fire Department: January 1, 1897
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #5

First paid Houston firefighter to die in the line of duty. Killed falling off horse-drawn Hose Wagon #5 into the path of a freight train.



Frank W. Medlenka

Born: June 15, 1859
 Louisville, Kentucky
Died: November 23, 1901
Age at Death: 42
Entered the Fire Department: September 21, 1895
Assignment: Driver at Fire Station #8

Killed when horse-drawn Hose Wagon #8 overturned at the corner of McKinney and Jackson.



Clifford W. Johnson

Born: 1878, Houston, Texas
Died: June 13, 1902
Age at Death: 24
Entered the Fire Department: Early 1899
Assignment: Driver at Fire Station #8

Died while driving Assistant Chief Arto's buggy en route to pick up the Chief and respond to a fire at 1611 Franklin.



Barney C. Moffatt

Born: October 10, 1858
 Location unknown
Died: April 26, 1908
Age at Death: 50
Entered the Fire Department: 1895
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #7

Was killed fighting a large fire at the Mercantile Grain Company at 1215 Hardy street when the ceiling collapsed.

1910-1920



Thomas Andrew O'Leary

Born: 1860,
 New Port Monmouthshire,
 England
Died: December 24, 1908
Age at Death: 48
Entered the Fire Department: September 1895
Assignment: Fire Chief

Died while trying to extinguish a fire in a railroad car full of fireworks when the large shells in the car exploded.



Herman J. Wagner

Born: June 2, 1871
 Chicago, Illinois
Died: May 25, 1912
Age at Death: 41
Entered the Fire Department: 1894
Assignment: Captain at Fire Station #8

Died while fighting the Stower's Building fire when a heavy building timber fell on him.



Clifford A. Weise

Born: June 10, 1891
Houston, Texas
Died: July 14, 1913
Age at Death: 22
Entered the Fire Department:
July 4, 1913
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #3

Was killed when his mule-
drawn supply wagon was hit
by a train crossing the tracks at
Johnson Street.



Patrick O'Hara

Born: March 17, 1878
Washington State
Died: September 21, 1913
Age at Death: 35
Entered the Fire Department:
1906
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #6

Was killed attempting to put on
his fire coat when the engine
he was riding hit a twelve-inch
hole in the street throwing him
from the vehicle.

1920-1930



Robert Rutherford Glass

Born: September 14, 1882
Houston, Texas
Died: December 1, 1913
Age at Death: 31
Entered the Fire Department:
1902
Assignment: Firefighter at the
Central Station

Died after Auto Service Truck
#1 slammed into Car #119 of
the Galveston-Houston Electric
Railway Company as he and
two other firefighters were rid-
ing on the side of the truck.



H. A. Harris

Born: October 24 1873
Calvert, Texas
Died: February 14, 1921
Age at Death: 48
Entered the Fire Department:
November 1920
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #10

Was killed at a fire at Texas
Lamp and Oil Company when
a backdraft caused three bar-
rels of denatured alcohol to
explode, blowing out a wall
trapping Harris and seven other
firefighters.



Harry Dodd

Born: November 17, 1883
Kinney, Texas
Died: July 26, 1923
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department:
January 1, 1921
Assignment: Firefighter at the
Central Station

Died when Ladder Truck #1
struck a passenger car and a
streetcar at the intersection of
Dallas and Milam.



John A. Boyd

Born: November 3, 1870
Galveston, Texas
Died: August 4, 1923
Age at Death: 53
Entered the Fire Department:
1895
Assignment: First Assistant
Chief at the Central Station

Was killed while riding Chemi-
cal #1 when it hit a telephone
pole trying to avoid a collision
with a car at the intersection of
Congress and Hamilton.



Harold Denny

Born: September 6, 1905
Houston, Texas
Died: May 1, 1924
Age at Death: 19
Entered the Fire Department: 1924
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #9

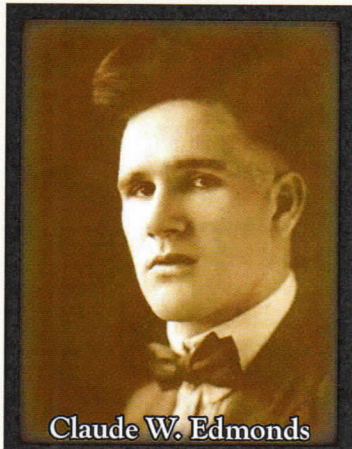
Died when Engine #9 was struck by a streetcar while en route to a fire at the Bluefront Boarding House.



George L. Bishop

Born: 1884
Houston, Texas
Died: March 1, 1926
Age at Death: 42
Entered the Fire Department: 1916
Assignment: Captain, Fire Station #4

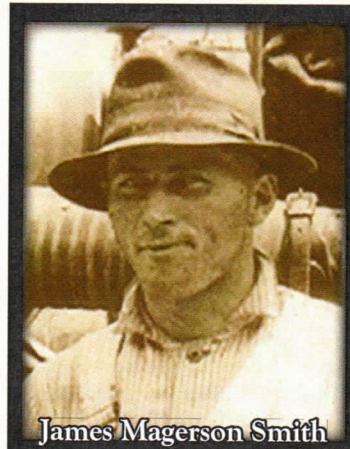
Was killed while responding to a fire at 2707 Grant Street when he was struck by a chimney that collapsed while he and his crew were attacking the fire from the back porch.



Claude W. Edmonds

Born: September 25, 1894
Mississippi
Died: August 19, 1926
Age at Death: 32
Entered the Fire Department: December 16, 1916
Assignment: Captain at the Central Station

Died during a ladder drill when the eighty-five foot ladder on Ladder Truck #1 collapsed as he reached the top. The ladder then fell across Preston Street.



James Magerson Smith

Born: August 23, 1891
Taylor, Texas
Died: February 9, 1929
Age at Death: 38
Entered the Fire Department: May 4, 1920
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #10

Died when he was struck in the head by a hose coupling as he attempted to connect Engine #10 to a hydrant.



Rudolph Hendricks

Born: September 29, 1906
Colorado County, Texas
Died: June 22, 1929
Age at Death: 23
Entered the Fire Department: January 4, 1928
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #25

Died when he was electrocuted by an electrical line that had burned loose during a house fire at 3552 Reeves Street.

Hendricks photo not available.



Edgar H. Grant

Born: March 20, 1902
Houston, Texas
Died: July 2, 1929
Age at Death: 27
Entered the Fire Department: February 18, 1928
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #18

July of 1929, the Houston Fire Department experienced the first multiple line-of-duty deaths when Engine #18 was struck broadside by a train. Grant died at the scene.



Harry L. Oxford

Born: July 3, 1895
Died: July 3, 1929
Age at Death: 34
Entered the Fire Department:
 November 16, 1928
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station #18

Died the day after sustaining
 injuries when Engine #18 was
 hit broadside by a train.



John Sellis Little Sr.

Born: November 19, 1883
Died: July 11, 1929
Age at Death: 46
Entered the Fire Department:
 June 4, 1913
Assignment: Captain at Fire
 Station #18

Died nine days after sustaining
 injuries in the accident that
 killed Firefighters Grant and
 Oxford.



Aaron Loyola O'Brien

Born: September 15, 1906
Died: December 20, 1929
Age at Death: 23
Entered the Fire Department:
 July 12, 1929
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station #19

Killed with Firefighter Ward
 when Engine #19 was struck by
 a train only five months after a
 similar accident took the lives
 of Firefighters Grant, Oxford
 and Little.

O'Brien photo not available.



Michael J. Ward

Born: 1895 Evansville, Indiana
Died: December 21, 1929
Age at Death: 34
Entered the Fire Department:
 Unknown
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station #14

Killed with Firefighter O'Brien
 when Engine #19 was hit by
 a train. Ward was assigned to
 Station #14 but was visiting
 Station #19 when they received
 the fire call.

Ward photo not available.

1930-1940



Charles Roland Rusk

Born: June 3, 1880
Akron, Ohio
Died: June 8, 1932
Age at Death: 52
Entered the Fire Department:
 April 24, 1918
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station #14

Was fatally injured when
 Ladder #14, en route to a
 house fire, was struck by an
 eastbound streetcar at 17th and
 Yale.



Esker Jackson Rogers

Born: May 18, 1906
Buckholtz, Texas
Died: August 22, 1934
Age at Death: 28
Entered the Fire Department:
 September 1929
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station #17

Was killed when Engine #24,
 en route to a location, collided
 with a streetcar crushing him
 between the two vehicles. Due
 to a firefighter shortage, Rogers
 was substituting for another
 firefighter at Station #24.

1940-1950



Alford Henry Schutze

Born: September 22, 1887
Location: unknown
Died: August 21, 1938
Age at Death: 51
Entered the Fire Department: November 5, 1917
Assignment: District Chief at Fire Station #7

Died when the Chief's Chemical #1 Truck, housed at Station #7, overturned as it hit an esplanade while responding to a house fire at 2012 Bolsover.



Walter "Molly" Walker

Born: October 23, 1881
Millican, Texas
Died: July 1, 1940
Age at Death: 59
Entered the Fire Department: March 1, 1914
Assignment: Driver at Fire Station #2

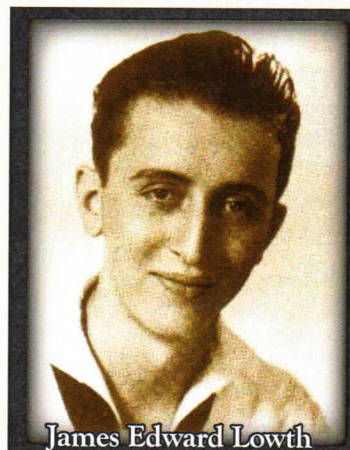
Died 18 months after sustaining injuries when the reserve pumper he was driving collided with a city bus. Nicknamed after Molly Cottontail, from the Peter Rabbit books, when he began raising rabbits in cages behind the station.



Horace Oscar Gassoway

Born: July 18, 1904
Winsboro, Texas
Died: August 6, 1941
Age at Death: 37
Entered the Fire Department: September 1928
Assignment: Pipe and Ladderman at Fire Station #10

Killed while riding Service Truck #1, en route to a large supermarket fire when Engine #2 collided into the rear of the vehicle. Gassoway was temporarily assigned to Station #1 due to a manpower shortage.



James Edward Lowth

Born: June 26, 1923
Houston, Texas
Died: March 31, 1947
Age at Death: 24
Entered the Fire Department: January 1946
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #26

Was killed instantly when Engine #26 was hit by a train on the way to a fire at the Eastern States Refinery. He had been married just two weeks, returning from his honeymoon just six days before his death.



John Benjamin Adams

Born: February 25, 1899
Wheelock, Texas
Died: March 7, 1948
Age at Death: 49
Entered the Fire Department: January 22, 1941
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #18

Died of a massive heart attack on location of a small house fire at 2840 Lidstone.



Vernon John Dorsett

Born: November 15, 1902
Nacogdoches, Texas
Died: January 21, 1949
Age at Death: 47
Entered the Fire Department: December 5, 1919
Assignment: Assistant Fire Chief at the Central Station

Killed while responding to a fire at the Hub Lumber Company, 5519 Lawndale, when his Chief's car collided with a passenger vehicle.

1950-1960



Robert Wier Milburn

Born: March 31, 1911
Palestine, Texas
Died: April 14, 1949
Age at Death: 38
Entered the Fire Department:
September 4, 1933
Assignment: Driver at Fire
Station #7

Died while responding to a false alarm at the corner of McGowen and Sauer. The Chief's car he was driving collided with a pickup truck at Fannin and McGowen.



Joseph Earl Connor

Born: April 1900
Houston, Texas
Died: January 31, 1951
Age at Death: 50
Entered the Fire Department:
January 1, 1922
Assignment: Chauffeur at the
Central Station

Died of a heart attack on location at a fire at the Alaskan Fur Factory on Main Street.



Rufus John Templet

Born: October 5, 1894
New Iberia, Louisiana
Died: March 12, 1951
Age at Death: 57
Entered the Fire Department:
January 1, 1922
Assignment: Captain at Fire
Station #5

Died from a massive heart attack while fighting a fire at the Alaskan Fur Company at Main and Texas, during freezing weather and icy conditions.



Charley Albert Middlekauf

Born: February 7, 1888
Canton, Illinois
Died: March 10, 1953
Age at Death: 65
Entered the Fire Department:
January 1, 1910
Assignment: Assistant Fire
Chief at the Central Station

Died of a heart attack while on location of a fire at the Frederick Poultry and Egg Company at 1817 Center.



Fidel Chabolla

Born: April 24, 1918
Moore, Texas
Died: July 29, 1953
Age at Death: 35
Entered the Fire Department:
October 4, 1951
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #1

Was killed with Firefighter Solito when Engine #8 and Ladder #1 collided at the intersection of Preston and Crawford.

Chabolla photo not available.



Joseph James Solito

Born: August 24, 1914
Lake Charles, Louisiana
Died: July 29, 1953
Age at Death: 39
Entered the Fire Department:
1938
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire
Station #8

Many factors contributed to the accident that killed Firefighters Chabolla and Solito. Engine #1 had trouble starting which delayed its response and Engine #8 was replacing Engine #10 that was on another call. Both apparatus reached the intersection at the same time.



Frank Catino

Born: February 10, 1892 on a boat from Sicily
Died: January 7, 1954
Age at Death: 62
Entered the Fire Department: May 15, 1911
Assignment: Firefighter at the Central Station

Died while responding to a call box at Gable Street and the MKT railroad tracks. The truck carrying Catino collided with a passenger car at Preston and Crawford.



Woodrow Wilson Erwin

Born: March 2, 1914
Palestine, Texas
Died: February 24, 1954
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department: July 8, 1940
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire Station #24

Died of a heart attack on location of a fire at 2705 Clay Street. Was acting Captain at the scene because the regular Captain was off-duty.



Delbert Harvey Sherfy

Born: April 19, 1913
Houston, Texas
Died: October 31, 1954
Age at Death: 41
Entered the Fire Department: June 25, 1941
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire Station #17

Died en route to a call to wash down a fuel spill when Engine #17 hit a passenger car at the intersection of Smith and Canal.



William Henry Kersten

Born: November 6, 1914
Houston, Texas
Died: December 18, 1954
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department: December 11, 1941
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire Station #19

Was fatally injured when the District Chief's car he was driving collided with a Houston Transit Company Bus at Lockwood and Lyons. He was scheduled to be off-duty when the alarm was dispatched.



Willis Neal McWhorter

Born: April 17, 1927
Madisonville, Texas
Died: November 6, 1959
Age at Death: 32
Entered the Fire Department: June 1, 1953
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #30

Was killed along with Firefighter Jedlicka when Engine #30 was struck by a transport truck carrying steel at the intersection of Berry and Fulton.



Doyle Hubert Chandler

Born: December 13, 1932
Rusk, Texas
Died: November 9, 1959
Age at Death: 27
Entered the Fire Department: July 1, 1958
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #19

Died while fighting a fire aboard the Amoco Virginia a 150,000 gallon tanker ship. During fire cleanup, he fell through a hole in the deck and drown in the ship's hold that was full of gasoline.



Frank Catino

Born: February 10, 1892 on a boat from Sicily
Died: January 7, 1954
Age at Death: 62
Entered the Fire Department: May 15, 1911
Assignment: Firefighter at the Central Station

Died while responding to a call box at Gable Street and the MKT railroad tracks. The truck carrying Catino collided with a passenger car at Preston and Crawford.



Woodrow Wilson Erwin

Born: March 2, 1914
 Palestine, Texas
Died: February 24, 1954
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department: July 8, 1940
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire Station #24

Died of a heart attack on location of a fire at 2705 Clay Street. Was acting Captain at the scene because the regular Captain was off-duty.



Delbert Harvey Sherfy

Born: April 19, 1913
 Houston, Texas
Died: October 31, 1954
Age at Death: 41
Entered the Fire Department: June 25, 1941
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire Station #17

Died en route to a call to wash down a fuel spill when Engine #17 hit a passenger car at the intersection of Smith and Canal.



William Henry Kersten

Born: November 6, 1914
 Houston, Texas
Died: December 18, 1954
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department: December 11, 1941
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire Station #19

Was fatally injured when the District Chief's car he was driving collided with a Houston Transit Company Bus at Lockwood and Lyons. He was scheduled to be off-duty when the alarm was dispatched.



Willis Neal McWhorter

Born: April 17, 1927
 Madisonville, Texas
Died: November 6, 1959
Age at Death: 32
Entered the Fire Department: June 1, 1953
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #30

Was killed along with Firefighter Jedlicka when Engine #30 was struck by a transport truck carrying steel at the intersection of Berry and Fulton.



Doyle Hubert Chandler

Born: December 13, 1932
 Rusk, Texas
Died: November 9, 1959
Age at Death: 27
Entered the Fire Department: July 1, 1958
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire Station #19

Died while fighting a fire aboard the Amoco Virginia a 150,000 gallon tanker ship. During fire cleanup, he fell through a hole in the deck and drown in the ship's hold that was full of gasoline.

1960-1970



Charles Alphonse Jedlicka

Born: September 27, 1922
Cameron, Texas
Died: November 17, 1959
Age at Death: 37
Entered the Fire Department:
June 1, 1953
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #30

Died eleven days after sustaining severe injuries in the accident that also claimed the life of Firefighter McWhorter and injured two other firefighters.



Dominic J. Contorno

Born: March 12, 1911
Houston, Texas
Died: May 21, 1962
Age at Death: 51
Entered the Fire Department:
December 16, 1941
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #37

Died 19 days after suffering a severe heart attack while fighting a 2-alarm fire at the Wanda Petroleum Company on Almeda-Genoa Road.



Claude Jackson Hopkins

Born: January 20, 1932
Bryan, Texas
Died: June 30, 1962
Age at Death: 30
Entered the Fire Department:
November 1, 1956
Assignment: Chauffeur at Fire
Station #2

Was fatally injured as he was driving Ladder #2 en route to a sprinkler alarm at the Bayou Products Company when it collided with a transport truck carrying grain.



Steve Charlie Baranowski

Born: July 9, 1907
Chappell Hill, Texas
Died: February 3, 1969
Age at Death: 62
Entered the Fire Department:
December 11, 1941
Assignment: Captain at Fire
Station #37

Died of a heart attack on location of a house fire at 3931 Underwood during the after fire clean up.

1970-1980



James Louis Walls

Born: March 8, 1945
Langleyfield, Virginia
Died: May 3, 1971
Age at Death: 26
Entered the Fire Department:
May 5, 1969
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #51

Died while driving Ambulance 51 when it was struck by a passenger vehicle at the corner of Chimney Rock and Westheimer.



Truxton Joseph Hathaway Jr.

Born: January 9, 1940
Houston, Texas
Died: October 19, 1971
Age at Death: 31
Entered the Fire Department:
February 15, 1961
Assignment: Fire Inspector
assigned to the Training Academy

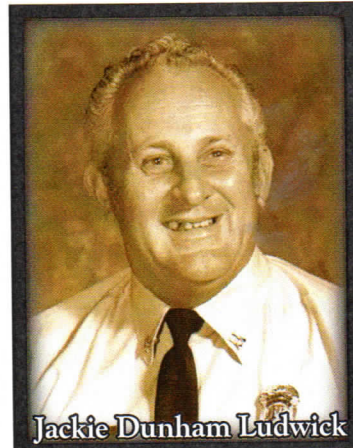
Killed at the infamous Mykawa Road catastrophe where two railroad tank cars, one carrying vinyl chloride and the other butadiene, exploded. The blasts came 40 minutes apart with the second doing the most damage and killing firefighter Hathaway.



Lewis Washington Richardson

Born: January 18, 1916
Groveton, Texas
Died: February 3, 1973
Age at Death: 57
Entered the Fire Department:
August 1, 1941
Assignment: Captain at Fire
Station #7

Died as a result of a heart at-
tack while fighting an intense
apartment fire at 1400 Rich-
mond. The large amount of
heat and smoke contributed to
the attack.

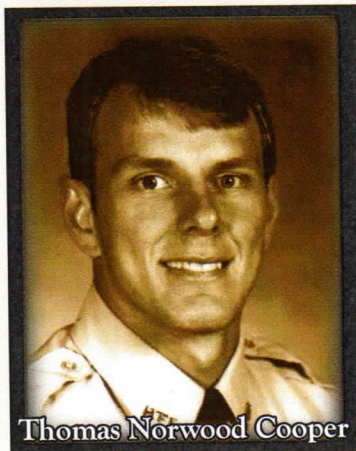


Jackie Dunham Ludwick

Born: August 17, 1933
Austin, Texas
Died: February 4, 1977
Age at Death: 44
Entered the Fire Department:
July 16, 1956
Assignment: Senior Captain at
Fire Station #7

Suffered a fatal heart attack
while fighting a fire at 3700
Wheeler months after his
knowledge as a firefighter was
tested. His instinct at that fire
helped save the lives of several
firefighters from a serious flash-
over incident.

1980-1990



Thomas Norwood Cooper

Born: February 17, 1959
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Died: September 23, 1982
Age at Death: 23
Entered the Fire Department:
February 8, 1982
Assignment: Probationary Fire-
fighter at Fire Station #1

Died as a result of injuries
sustained as Engine #1 was
responding to a trash fire.
Firefighter Cooper attempted
to stop a rolled hose from fall-
ing off the apparatus while on
route and he lost his balance
and fell.

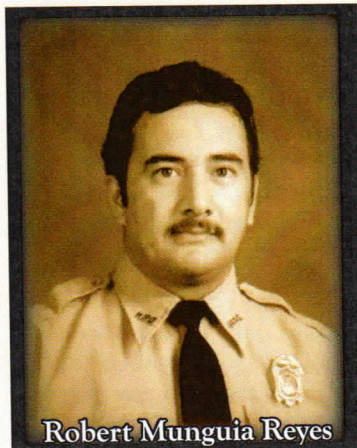


Lonnie Louzette Franklin

Born: November 23, 1929
Houston, Texas
Died: January 4, 1983
Age at Death: 54
Entered the Fire Department:
August 5, 1950
Assignment: District Chief at
Fire Station #7

Was killed when his District
Chief's car was struck broad-
side by passenger vehicle at
the intersection of Elgin and
Hutchins.

1990-2000



Robert Munguia Reyes

Born: August 30, 1952
Houston, Texas
Died: December 1, 1984
Age at Death: 32
Entered the Fire Department:
January 26, 1981
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #62

Fell to his death off Engine #15
while traveling on the North
Freeway to a car fire.



Ruben Lopez

Born: October 12, 1957
Victoria, Texas
Died: December 4, 1996
Age at Death: 39
Entered the Fire Department:
1987
Assignment: District Chief at
Fire Station #25

Died during a flashover inci-
dent at a house fire at 4006
Roseneath while attempting
to rescue trapped victims.
Firefighter Lopez is the only
Houston Volunteer death in
the history of HFD.

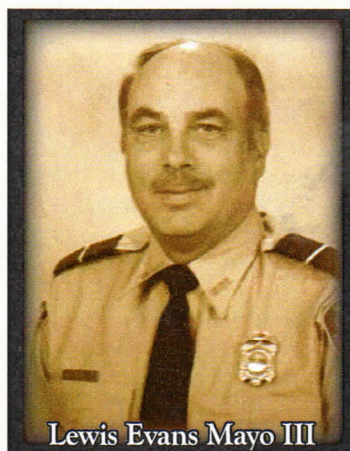
2000-2010



Steven Clyde Mayfield

Born: October 5, 1951
Pasadena, Texas
Died: December 2, 1998
Age at Death: 47
Entered the Fire Department:
March 31, 1975
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #92

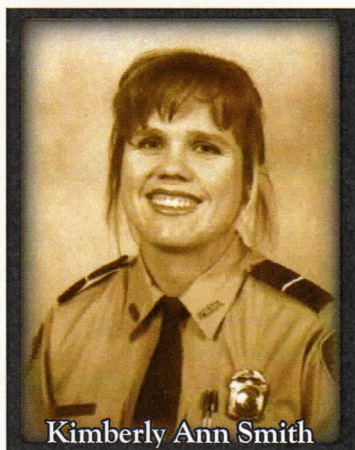
Died from a heart attack while
participating, with other air-
port firefighters, in a live burn
at the DFW Airport in Dallas,
Texas.



Lewis Evans Mayo III

Born: December 13, 1955
Florida
Died: February 14, 2000
Age at Death: 45
Entered the Fire Department:
June 29, 1981
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #76

Killed along with Firefighter
Smith when they responded to
a fire at a McDonald's restau-
rant at 12602 Bissonnet. Both
firefighters died when the ceil-
ing collapsed on top of them as
they entered the location.



Kimberly Ann Smith

Born: November 20, 1969
El Paso, Texas
Died: February 14, 2000
Age at Death: 30
Entered the Fire Department:
April 11, 1994
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
Station #76

It was determined that the fire
that killed Firefighters Mayo
and Smith was started by teen-
agers who set the structure on
fire after several failed attempts
to break in. Smith is the first
female firefighter killed in the
line of duty.



Jay Paul Jahnke

Born: September 16, 1961
Houston, Texas
Died: October 13, 2001
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department:
December 2, 1981
Assignment: Captain at Fire
Station #2

Died while fighting a 6-alarm
high-rise fire in the Galleria
area. He is buried next to his
beloved father, Claude.



Kevin Wayne Kulow

Born: November 2, 1971
Died: April 4, 2004
Age at Death: 32
Entered the Fire Department:
September 15, 2003
Assignment: Probationary Fire-
fighter at Fire Station #50

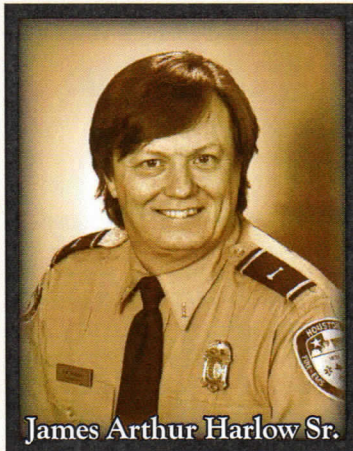
Died at the scene of a fire in-
volving hazardous materials on
Kempwood Street. After enter-
ing the facility, the fire intensi-
fied and Firefighter Kulow was
unable to reach safety.



Grady Don Burke

Born: January 31, 1966
Died: February 19, 2005
Age at Death: 39
Entered the Fire Department:
March 3, 1993
Assignment: Captain at Fire
Station #46

Killed fighting a fire at an aban-
doned building in the 8500
block of Bradon, when the roof
collapsed almost immediately
as Captain Burke and his crew
entered the structure.



James Arthur Harlow Sr.

Born: May 18, 1958
 Beeville, Texas
Died: April 12, 2009
Age at Death: 50
Entered the Fire Department:
 August 1979
Assignment: Captain at Fire
 Station #26

Was killed with Firefighter
 Hobbs on Easter morning as
 the crew of Station 26 were
 responding to a house fire at
 7811 Oak Vista. Harlow and
 Hobbs entered the house to
 rescue the elderly residents un-
 aware they had already escaped
 the fire and were safe.

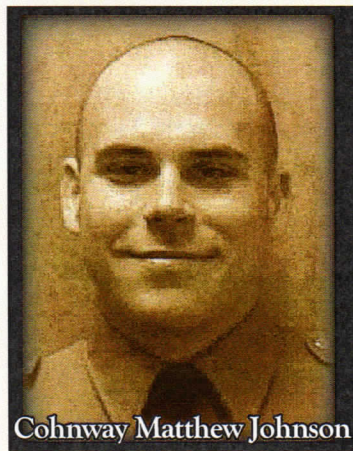


Damion Jon Hobbs

Born: December 24, 1978
 Galveston Texas
Died: April 12, 2009
Age at Death: 30
Entered the Fire Department:
 March 3, 2009
Assignment: Probationary Fire-
 fighter at Fire Station #26

Was killed along with Captain
 Harlow only one month after
 graduating for the HFD Train-
 ing Academy. Firefighter Hobbs
 enrolled in the academy after
 serving 2 tours of duty in Iraq
 with the U. S. Army. This was
 his first fire.

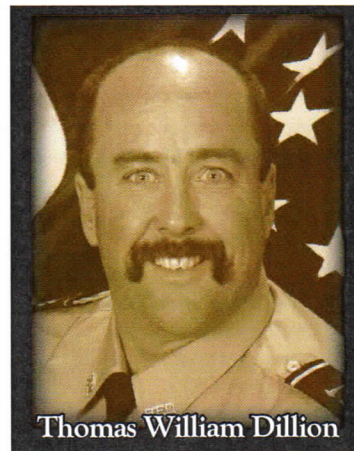
2010-2020



Cohnway Matthew Johnson

Born: October 4, 1982
 Austin, Texas
Died: May 4, 2009
Age at Death: 26
Entered the Fire Department:
 April 20, 2009
Assignment: Cadet-Val Jahnke
 Training Facility

On the morning of April 29,
 2009, Cadet Johnson collapsed
 during physical training. Five
 days later he lost his life due to
 complications from
 hyperthermia and dehydration.
 HFD will truly miss not being
 able to work with such a great
 Firefighter.



Thomas William Dillion

Born: March 25, 1962
 Houston, Texas
Died: March 14, 2012
Age at Death: 49
Entered the Fire Department:
 June 5, 1989
Assignment: Senior Captain
 at Station #69

Suffered a massive heart attack
 after arriving on scene of an
 apartment fire in southwest
 Houston. Sr. Captain Dillion
 was working a fill-in shift at
 another station at the time of
 the incident.



Matthew Rena Renaud

Born: July 2, 1977
 Houston, Texas
Died: May 31, 2013
Age at Death: 35
Entered the Fire Department:
 October 30, 2001
Assignment: Captain
 at Fire Station #51

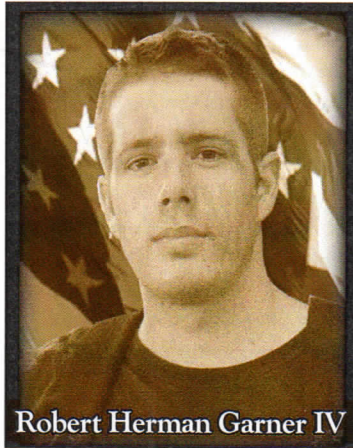
Was killed at the massive
 Southwest Inn hotel fire just a
 month after receiving a valor
 award for heroism.



Robert Ryan Bebee

Born: January 14, 1972
 Corpus Christi, Texas
Died: May 31, 2013
Age at Death: 41
Entered the Fire Department:
 August 6, 2001
Assignment: Engineer Operator
 at Fire Station #51

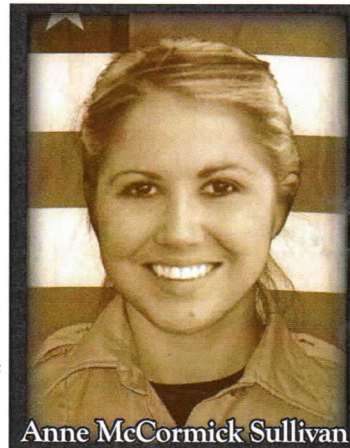
Was also killed at the Southwest
 Inn hotel fire. E/O Bebee's
 compassion and commitment
 extended well beyond the fire
 service though his work with the
 homeless citizens and animals.



Robert Herman Garner IV

Born: April 14, 1984
Port Arthur, Texas
Died: May 31, 2013
Age at Death: 29
Entered the Fire Department:
 October 18, 2010
Assignment: Firefighter at
 Fire Station #68

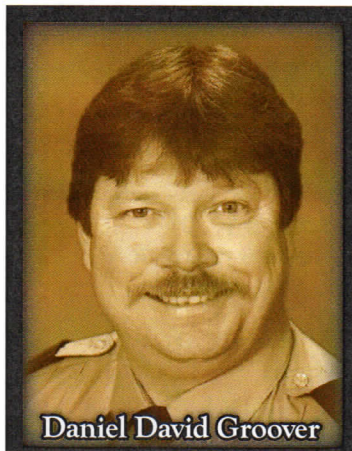
Lost his life at the Southwest
 Inn hotel fire. Firefighter
 Garner joined the Houston Fire
 Department after serving two
 tours of duty in Iraq with the
 U. S. Air Force.



Anne McCormick Sullivan

Born: December 4, 1988
Houston, Texas
Died: May 31, 2013
Age at Death: 24
Entered the Fire Department:
 April 11, 2013
Assignment: Probationary
 Firefighter at Fire Station #68

Died at the Southwest Inn fire
 one month after graduating
 from the academy. Her tenacity
 and optimism are celebrated
 at each graduation when one
 cadet is selected to be honored
 with the Anne Sullivan Award.

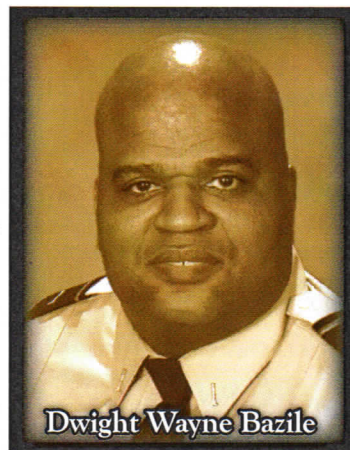


Daniel David Groover

Born: December 15, 1967
Jacinto City, Texas
Died: July 9, 2014
Age at Death: 46
Entered the Fire Department:
 February 15, 1993
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station 104

Died while fighting a house
 fire in Kingwood Texas.
 Firefighter Groover was also a
 paramedic for HFD from April
 9, 1997 to June 21, 2012.

He was widely known for his
 compassion to others that
 reached well beyond the fire
 department.



Dwight Wayne Bazile

Born: June 14, 1958
Houston, Texas
Died: February 21, 2015
Age at Death: 56
Entered the Fire Department:
 October 24, 1977
Assignment: Captain at Fire
 Station 46

Died two days after collapsing
 at the scene of a house fire in
 southeast Houston.

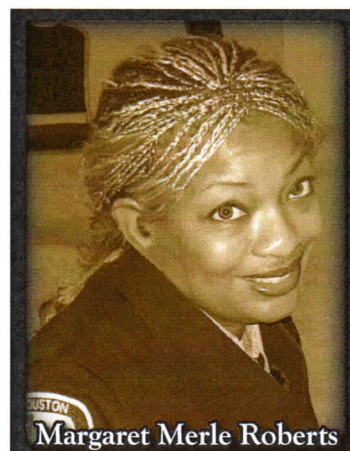
Captain Bazile was a 37 year
 veteran of the Houston Fire
 Department and also a found-
 ing member of the Houston
 Black Fire Fighters' Association.



Steven Reid Whitfield II

Born: March 17, 1984
Beaumont, Texas
Died: March 31, 2016
Age at Death: 32
Entered the Fire Department:
 October 26, 2015
Assignment: Cadet at the Val
 Jahnke Training Facility
 Class of 2015-G

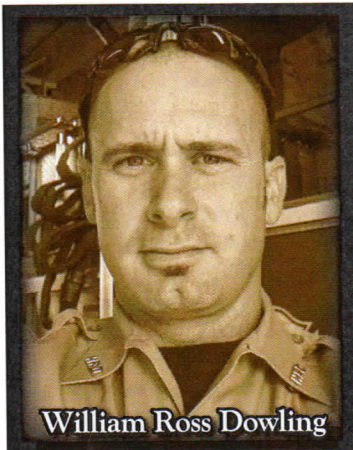
Cadet Whitfield collapsed and
 died while participating in an
 obstacle course exercise at the
 Val Jahnke Training Facility.



Margaret Merle Roberts

Born: March 21, 1970
Houston, Texas
Died: January 4, 2017
Age at Death: 46
Entered the Fire Department:
 August 29, 1994
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station 99 A-Shift

Firefighter Roberts died from
 cancer caused by extended
 exposure to highly toxic envi-
 ronments during her years of
 service including the 7-alarm
 Market Street fire in 1995.



William Ross Dowling

Born: March 14, 1973
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Died: March 7, 2017
Age at Death: 43
Entered the Fire Department:
 March 21, 2000
Assignment: Captain at Fire
 Station 68

Captain Dowling was the last victim of the 5-alarm Southwest Inn Fire that claimed the lives of four other firefighters in 2013. Captain Dowling passed away after a four-year battle with complications from the injuries sustained in that fire.

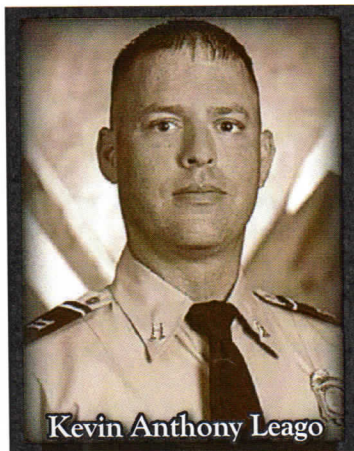


Kenneth Dale Stavinoha

Born: April 13, 1983
Houston, Texas
Died: September 21, 2019
Age at Death: 36
Entered the Fire Department:
 January 29, 2018
Assignment: Firefighter at Fire
 Station 27

Firefighter Stavinoha suffered a fatal heart attack while attending to his station duties at Station 27.

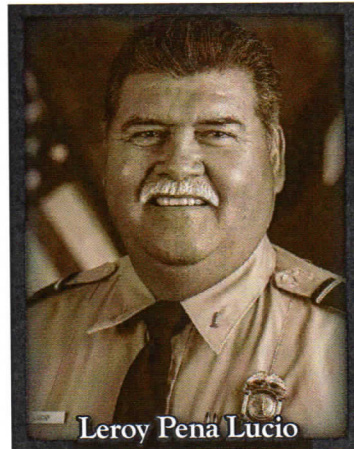
2020-2024



Kevin Anthony Leago

Born: August 14, 1979
Baytown, Texas
Died: December 12, 2019
Age at Death: 40
Entered the Fire Department:
 2001
Assignment: Sr. Captain at
 Fire Station 29

Captain Leago passed away after a long battle with cancer caused by exposure to the extremely hazardous and toxic environments firefighters have to face every day.



Leroy Pena Lucio

Born: June 5, 1958
San Antonio, Texas
Died: July 20, 2020
Age at Death: 62
Entered the Fire Department:
 December 10, 1990
Assignment: Captain at
 Fire Station 103

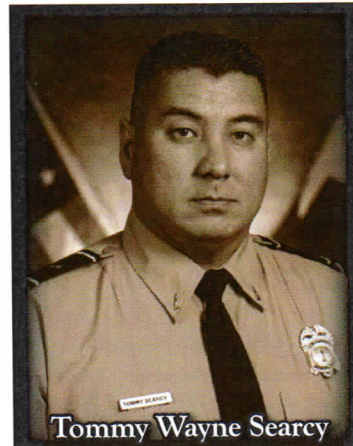
Captain Lucio was the first HFD Firefighter to pass away from Covid-19 after exposure to the virus while on duty.



Gerardo I. Pacheco

Born: January 3, 1970
Monterrey, Mexico
Died: August 3, 2020
Age at Death: 50
Entered the Fire Department:
 January 5, 2004
Assignment: Firefighter/
 Paramedic at Fire Station 101

Firefighter Pacheco passed away from complications due to Covid-19 after exposure while on duty.



Tommy Wayne Searcy

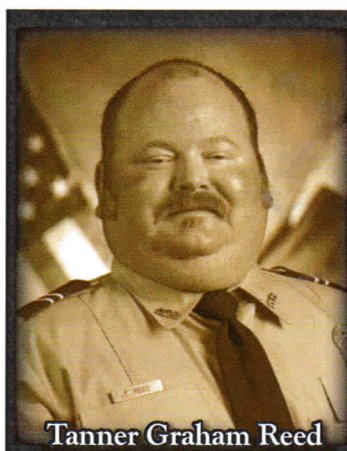
Born: January 5, 1975
Houston, Texas
Died: September 8, 2020
Age at Death: 45
Entered the Fire Department:
 August 8, 2002
Assignment: Captain at
 Fire Station 67

Captain Searcy passed away after a months-long battle with Covid-19 after exposure while on duty.



Born: August 23, 1976
Houston, Texas
Died: October 16, 2020
Age at Death: 44
Entered the Fire Department:
March 24, 2003
Assignment: Arson Investigator

Investigator Bruce was shot to death by a suspect while investigating a series of arson fires in the Heights. He was the first Arson Investigator to die in the line of duty.



Born: October 28, 1981
Stephenville, Texas
Died: September 3, 2021
Age at Death: 39
Entered the Fire Department:
December 1, 2003
Assignment: Engineer Operator
at HFD Fire Station 10

E/O Reed passed away due to complications from Covid 19 after exposure while on duty.



Born: April 6, 1983
Portales, New Mexico
Died: December 2, 2021
Age at Death: 38
Entered the Fire Department:
May, 2005
Assignment: Firefighter at
HFD Fire Station 44

Firefighter Downing passed away after a long battle with cancer caused by exposure to the extremely hazardous and toxic environments firefighters have to face every day.



Born: March 9, 1968
Hughes, Arkansas
Died: July 6, 2022
Age at Death: 54
Entered the Fire Department:
January 7, 2003
Assignment: Firefighter at
HFD Fire Station 53 B Shift

Firefighter Graves passed away after a long battle with cancer caused by exposure to the extremely hazardous and toxic environments firefighters have to face every day.



Born: June 24, 1982
Houston, Texas
Died: November 6, 2024
Age at Death: 42
Entered the Fire Department:
July 20, 2015
Assignment: Firefighter at
HFD Fire Station 23 B Shift

Firefighter Garcia died while fighting a three-alarm warehouse fire in the Magnolia Park area when a wall collapsed on top of him.

The Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God
Wherever flames may rage
Give me strength to save a life
Whatever be its age.

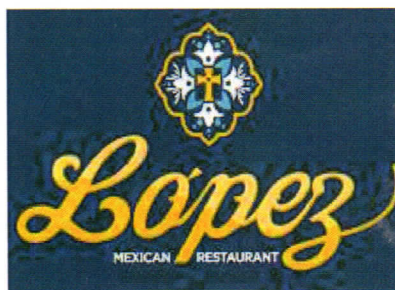
Let me embrace a little child
Before it is too late
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert
And hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling
To give the best in me,
To guard my friend
and neighbor
And protect their property.

And, if, according
to Your will,
I must answer death's call,
Please bless, with Your
protecting hand,
My family one and all.

A Special Thanks



Nothing Bundt Cakes
Atascocita Lake Houston Florist
Panderia Tierra Caliente
Bright Event Rentals
Chick-fil-A
Katz Coffee

Leslie DelasBour, FOX 26 Houston
Yvonne Molina - National Anthem
Matt Milam - Photography
Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 341
Houston Fire Department Public Information Office
Houston Fire Department Honor Guard
Houston Firefighters Relief & Retirement Fund
Mayor's Office of Special Events

In Memoriam

Active Member/Retiree Deaths 10/01/24 - 10/01/25

Lawrence Benson
Edmund D. Trevino Jr.
Robert Pecht
Darryl Tice
Tommy Shelton
Steven Lostumbo
Robert Putnam
Charlie Benson
Ronald Worsham
John S. Runnels
Kenneth Martin
Ruben Sanchez
VM Peschke Jr.
Melvin Fischer
Ronnie Jahnke
Dennis G. Richard
George Alexander
Rudolph Thompson
Steven Lunsford
Richard Dujay

E.R. Barrett Jr.
Howard Sims
Darrel W. Mahalec
Jack C. Fly Sr.
Larry L. Buchanan
Roy Schultz
Russell Hartman
Harvard Schroeder
Donald Crowder
Albert R Jackson
Aaron Rios
Jerry Repka
Edward Maher Jr.

Troy Steinberg
William G. Burnett
David Johnson
Donald Parrish
Oliver Lewis
Edmund Ogradowicz
James Carroll
Phillip McKinney
Douglas Davis
John Crotchett
Eric Hobbs
Edward W. Mitchell
Noel Simmons

Robert Conners
Andrew Brown
Robert E. Swisher
Harry Matthews
Milton C. Alford
Gerald Tamplin
David P. Barr
John C. Chambers
Henry D. Ainsworth
Roy Paul
Olin Musgrave
Ulysses Armstrong
Johnnie Reneau

Charles Tatom
James R. Glover
Thomas White
Leonard E. Byrd
David Jahnke
Travis Quinn
David Easley
Randal Cockrell
George Bailey
Harvey Hartman
William Frankum
Cliff Harris
John Caveness Jr.
Russell Obar
Freddy L. Cunningham
Lethaniel Hawkins Jr.
Larry Gonzales

gone but not forgotten