

THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Fallen Heroes

E. THOMPSON	F. MEDLENKA	C. JOHNSON	B. MOFFATT
T. O'LEARY	H. WAGNER	C. WEISE	P. O'HARA
R. GLASS	H. A. HARRIS	H. DODD	J. BOYD
H. DENNY	G. BISHOP	C. EDMONDS	J. SMITH
R. HENDRICKS	E. GRANT	H. OXFORD	J. LITTLE SR.
A. O'BRIEN	M. WARD	C. RUSK	E. ROGERS
A. SCHUTZE	W. WALKER	H. GASSOWAY	J. LOWTH
J. ADAMS	V. DORSETT	R. MILBURN	J. CONNOR
R. TEMPLET	C. MIDDLEKAUF	F. CHABOLLA	J. SOLITO
F. CATINO	W. ERWIN	D. SHERFY	W. KERSTEN
W. MCWHORTER	C. JEDLICKA	D. CHANDLER	D. CONTORNO
C. HOPKINS	S. BARANOWSKI	J. WALLS	T. HATHAWAY
L. RICHARDSON	J. LUDWICK	T. COOPER	L. FRANKLIN
R. REYES	R. LOPEZ	S. MAYFIELD	L. MAYO III
K. SMITH	J. JAHNKE	K. KULOW	G. BURKE
J. HARLOW	D. HOBBS	C. JOHNSON	T. DILLION
M. RENAUD	R. BEBEE	R. GARNER	A. SULLIVAN
D. GROOVER	D. BAZILE	S. WHITFIELD	M. ROBERTS
W. DOWLING	K. STAVINOHIA	K. LEAGO	L. LUCIO
G. PACHECO	T. SEARCY	L. BRUCE	T. REED
J. DOWNING	W. GRAVES JR.		

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

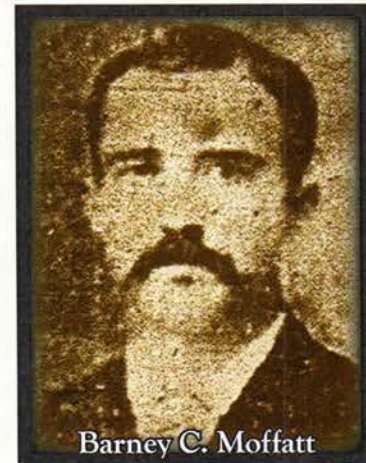
Killed when horse-drawn
Hose Wagon #8 overturned at
the corner of McKinney and
Jackson.



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 Com-
pany at 1215 Hardy street when
the ceiling collapsed.

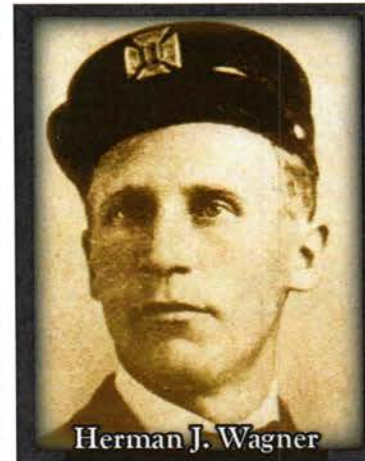
1910-1920



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.



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

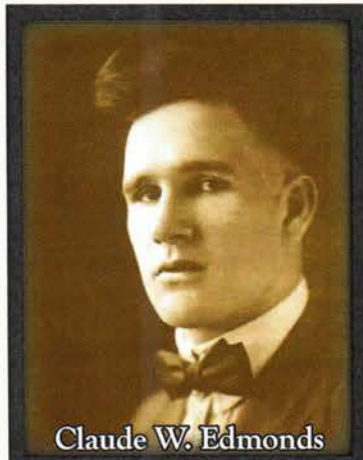
Died when Engine #9 was struck by a streetcar while en route to a fire at the Bluefront Boarding House.



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.



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.

Clifford A. Weise



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.

Patrick O'Hara

1920-1930



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.

Robert Rutherford Glass



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.

H. A. Harris



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.

Harry Dodd



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.

John A. Boyd



Born: July 3, 1895
Dallas, Texas
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.

Harry L. Oxford



Born: November 19, 1883
Knoxville, Tennessee
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.

John Sellis Little Sr.



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.

Aaron Loyola O'Brien



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.

Michael J. Ward

1930-1940



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.

Charles Roland Rusk



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.

Esker Jackson Rogers

1940-1950



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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 pick-up 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 loca-
 tion 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 at-
 tack 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 Freder-
 ick 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 de-
 layed it's response and Engine
 #8 was replacing Engine #10
 that was on another call. Both
 apparatus reached the intersec-
 tion 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.

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 ac-
cident 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 loca-
tion 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

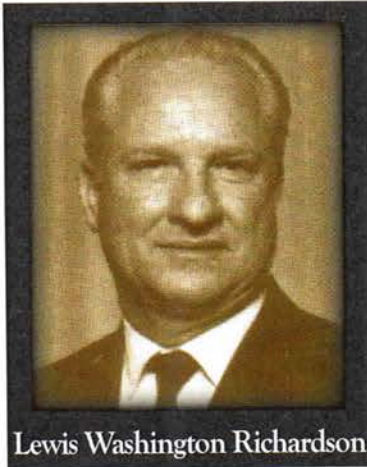
Died while driving Ambulance
51 when it was struck by a pas-
senger vehicle at the corner of
Chimney Rock and Westheimer.



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 Acad-
emy

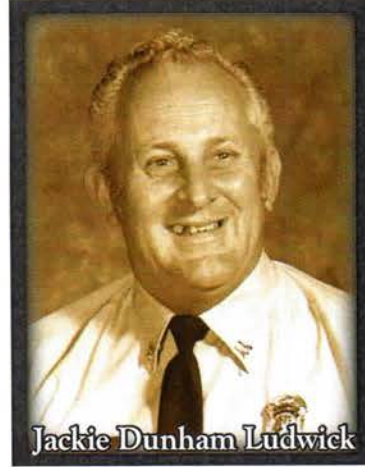
Killed at the infamous Mykawa
Road catastrophe where two
railroad tank cars, one carrying
vinyl chloride and the other
butadiene, exploded. The blasts
came 40 minutes apart with the
second doing the most damage
and killing firefighter Hathaway.



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

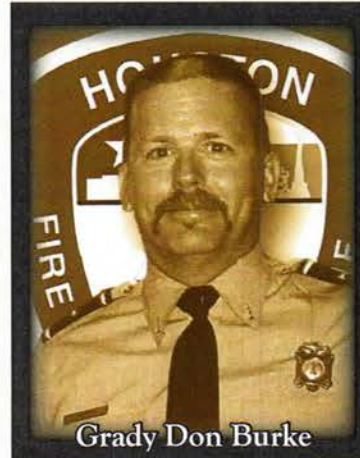
Died while fighting a 6-alarm
 high-rise fire in the Galleria
 area. He is buried next to his
 beloved father, Claude.



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 unaware 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 Training 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.



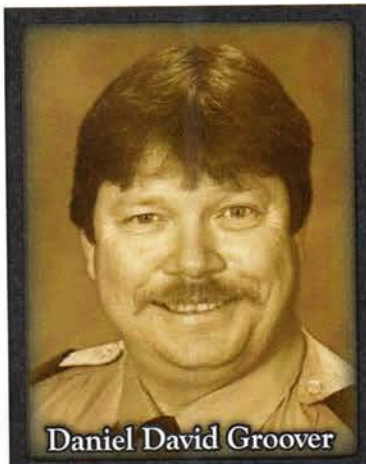
Born: April 14, 1984
Port Arthur, Texas
Died: May 31, 2013
Age at Death: 29
Entered the Fire Department:
 October 18, 2010
Assignment: Firefighter at
 Fire Station #68

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

18



L. Delray "DJ" Bruce Jr.

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.

79



Tanner Graham Reed

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.



Jordan Dane Downing

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.



Walter Graves Jr.

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.

MAN
11/20/2022

In Memoriam

Active Member/Retiree Deaths 10/02/23- 10/01/24

Alex Arizpe
Jessie Arnold
James Arredondo
Larry W. Black
Ralph Boshears
Lathan Bradford
Billy Bromonsky
Regginal Brown
Frank Bryan
Kenneth Bryan
Jarvis Butler
Dennis Byrd
Arthur Calley
Roy Caudillo
Don Christensen
Jessie Cortez
Billy Craighead
Larry Damrell

Carl B. Daniels
Manuel Davila
Sam DeForke, Jr.
Kenneth Denman
Curtis Dennis
William Edmonds
Douglas Duncan
Frank Gilbert
Richard J. Gillory
Stephen Gooch
James Griffin
Michael Hand
Jody Harris

William P. Henderson
Christopher Hiebel
Robert L. Johnson
Henry Juenke
Charles Julian
William Kimmey
James Knoll
Otis Latin
Charles Mason
Theldon Mayo
Jerry L. Moore
Roy B. Moore
John Norris Jr.

Lawrence Pander
Milton Parks
Anthony Passante
Stephen Polikowsky
Jessie Price
Jesse Pruitt
Thomas Roberson
Richard Sadler Jr.
Lucius W. Scott
Richard See
Billy Sheffield
Robert Steward
Richard Stone

Alan Taylor
Gary Taylor
Arthur Tone
Edgar Tucker
Ronald Tymel
William Underwood
Herbert T. Vaughan
Charles Warner
Fred Watters
Robert Webb
Charles Wheeler
Jimmie D. Whitley
Michael Whitney
William T. Wilcox
Frank Willis
Charlie S. Wilson Jr.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THOSE
WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.



HPFFA
LOCAL 341



Atascocita
Lake Houston
FLORIST



Panaderia Tierra Caliente



HOUSTON FIREFIGHTER
SUPPORT NETWORK

LINE OF DUTY DEATH READERS

COH SPECIAL EVENTS

HFD HONOR GUARD AND PIPES & DRUMS

THE HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS'
RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND

HFD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



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