

NEW YORK (CONT.)

Vincent G. Fowler, 45, a 21-year veteran of the Fire Department of New York, died on June 4, 1999, while trying to get a probationary firefighter out of a fire in a residential structure. The department awarded him its Medal of Valor posthumously. Because of his outstanding community service, an elementary school in South Ozone Park was renamed after him. Fowler's father is a retired New York City fire officer; two of his brothers are currently members of the department.

A leader and teacher, he is remembered for his willingness to help, his generous nature, and as a true gentleman.

William Korte, 59, a volunteer with the Southampton Fire Department, died of a heart attack on November 4, 1999. He collapsed at the scene of an automobile accident after closing the road for traffic control.

Alton L. Lewis, 55, a volunteer with the Montour Falls Fire Department, died on November 29, 1999, after returning from a motor vehicle accident response. A nationally known arson investigator, he had moved to Montour Falls from Syracuse in 1981 to teach at the state fire academy. In 1977, he was selected as the New York State Volunteer of the Year while a member of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department.

A devoted husband of 32 years and a great dad to three sons.

James H. McGroarty, 43, a 20-year veteran fire investigator with the Syracuse Fire Department, died on January 19, 1999, from injuries sustained while investigating a recent fire scene. A chimney collapsed onto McGroarty causing severe trauma. The line-of-duty death was the first in a decade for the department.

He was a complete professional and a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He was greatly loved and is greatly missed.

NEW YORK (CONT.)

Dan O'Connell, 58, a volunteer with the Putnam Lake Fire Department, died on January 25, 1999, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a structure fire 17 days earlier. A former Marine, he was a lifetime member of the department and served as an officer for 23 years, including three years as chief. His son Jim also served as chief, the first father and son chief combination in the department's history. Jim died in an automobile accident six months before his father's death.

He was instrumental in recruiting young men as members, many of whom went on to make firefighting their chosen profession.

Wayne S. Rosen, 24, a 6-year member of the Akron Volunteer Fire Company, died on June 22, 1999 from injuries received while en route to participate in training at the firehouse. A drunken driver struck Rosen who was riding a motorcycle. His father, an active member of the department, had died in a motorcycle accident 10 years earlier. Rosen worked as a paid paramedic for the Batavia Fire Department.

Active with the Boy Scouts for many years, he also helped with youth activities through his church.

Jerome "June" Taylor, 69, a volunteer with the Hillburn Volunteer Fire Department died on March 12, 1999, of a heart attack. He collapsed at the scene of a fire at a waste management building.

He overcame polio to achieve many things. The sky was the limit, and before he left this world, he touched the sky.

NORTH CAROLINA

Kenneth Alan Strain, 28, a member of the Hemby Bridge Volunteer Fire Department, died on May 2, 1999, in an apparatus accident while returning from a motor vehicle accident call. He lost control of the pumper

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while pulling over to let other traffic pass. Strain, who owned an automotive business, joined the department in 1993 and was an Emergency Rescue Technician and an EMTD.

A loving husband and father.

OHIO

Kenny Cashman, 29, a volunteer with the Auglaize Township Volunteer Fire Department, died on September 13, 1999. A truck pulled out in front of Cashman as he responded to a residential fire.

He enjoyed every day and accepted people for who they were.

Michael E. Cupp, Sr., 48, Chief of the Cygnet Volunteer Fire Department, died on August 6, 1999. He suffered a heart attack after fighting a brush fire on a vacant lot. Very active in state and local fire service organizations, he had been a member of the department for 30 years. Over the years, his father, grandfather, three uncles, two brothers and son have also served on the department.

Second to his family, the department was his life. He was always so willing to lend a helping hand.

Paul L. Haislop, Sr., 51, a member of the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department, died on March 23, 1999, after he had a heart attack while preparing to respond to a structure fire. He had been a member of the department for 16 years.

He served his department with pride.

Brad A. Michener, 24, a volunteer with the Scipio-Republic Fire Department, died on December 3, 1999. He had suffered a heart attack the day before after returning from a field fire. He graduated in 1997 from Terra Community College as an architecture engineer.

He loved life and people and will be remembered in his small community as always being there to help someone.

OHIO (CONT.)

Gregory E. Rodgers, 50, a member of the Dresden Volunteer Fire Department, died on December 13, 1999, after he collapsed while filling a tanker during a mutual aid response to a barn fire. Department medics, including his son and wife, worked to save Rodgers who later died of a heart attack. He had worked for General Electric for 32 years.

He was well-known and a very dedicated individual. He was always willing to go that extra mile to help anybody out.

OKLAHOMA

James E. Clark, III, 42, a career firefighter with Midwest City Fire Department, died on August 8, 1999, from injuries sustained at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A passenger vehicle struck Clark and he died three days later. A 15-year member of the department, he was the first Midwest City firefighter to die in the line of duty.

Jackie Mac Garnett, 54, a 14-year member of the Quapaw Volunteer Fire Department, died on November 20, 1999, as he prepared to respond to a grass fire. After serving 22 years in the Air Force, he returned home and enrolled in college. As a member of the Ottawa Indian Tribe, he helped maintain the tribal cemetery and improve the tribe's land base. At the time of his death, he was close to becoming a traditional leader of his tribe.

Never idle, he left footprints on this earth that would serve others well to follow.

PENNSYLVANIA

Eric Noel Casiano, 41, a career member of the Philadelphia Fire Department, died on May 3, 1999, from injuries sustained when he fell through a floor at a residential fire. A 7-year veteran of the department, he had received a citation for bravery. He served in the Army prior to joining the fire department.

He gave his life so unselfishly to save others.