

NEW MEXICO



Samuel J. Tobias, 47, a 25-year member of the U.S. Forest Service - Lincoln National Forest, died on May 15, 2000, in a plane crash while flying a surveillance mission. Because of his outstanding service, a local campground and road were renamed in his memory. A bronze memorial on the Billy the Kid Scenic Byway at the White Mountain Wilderness Vista Point also honors him.

Sam was a strong, gentle man— a peacemaker, an adventurer, a builder, a hunter, a lover, and a best friend. He was quick to laugh, gave heart-warming bear hugs, and placed the love of his family above all else.



NEW YORK

Fred Brain, 76, a volunteer with Miller Place Fire Department, died of a heart attack on April 24, 2000, after collapsing in March at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

He was a family man; and the members of the Miller Place Fire Department were his second family, and the fire house his second home.



Kenneth W. Kerr, 44, a 14-year veteran of the Fire Department of New York, died of a heart attack after returning from a fire on November 15, 2000. He served in the U.S. Air Force. At Engine Co. 90, he was known as "Special K" and the "Back Step Commander."

Ken's love for his wife and children was always a top priority, and being a firefighter was in his blood. To his wife Lorraine he gave passion, and to the world he gave kindness.



Keith P. Purcell, 46, a 16-year volunteer with Southold Fire Department, died on December 17, 2000, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a house fire. Purcell was named "Fireman of the Year" in 1988.

He was a good guy, and a collector of real fire trucks. He loved the fire department and was a dedicated member.

NEW YORK (CONT.)

Bernard "Pete" Scannell, 70, a 45-year volunteer with the Waterloo Fire Department, died on September 21, 2000, of a heart attack while responding to a vehicle fire. He was also a captain with the Seneca County Fire Police and a life member of Waterloo Sportsman's Club.



He believed that the best part of being a firefighter is "how well people work together and how firefighters can depend on each other." He loved his family, community and stock car racing.

NORTH CAROLINA

Gary L. Bankert, Sr., 37, a member of the Roanoke-Wildwood Volunteer Fire Department, drowned on January 15, 2000, during a dive training exercise. He was an original member of the department's Search and Recovery Dive Team.

When Gary put his mind to something, he wouldn't stop until he accomplished it, whatever it was. He will always be here with us no matter how much time goes by.

Lisa A. Farrow, 30, a volunteer with Engelhard Fire and Rescue Department, died of a heart attack on August 9, 2000, after collapsing at the scene of a residential fire.

Michael R. Fossett, 45, a member of the North Carolina Division of Forest Services, died in a helicopter crash en route to a training/education field day on September 7, 2000. He served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years.



Michael loved his job, something he had dreamed of. He loved his helicopters and also the mountains. Our memories keep us going.

David Timothy "Tim" Newman, 40, of the North Carolina Division of Forest Services, died in a helicopter crash en route to a training/education field day on September 7, 2000. He was a highly decorated U.S. Army veteran of the Gulf War.



Tim's greatest love and joy was his family. He was a loving, dedicated husband of 16 years and an involved, loving, caring father of three children.