

NORTH CAROLINA



James Henry Haigler, 44, career driver/operator, Sanford Fire Department, died January 19, 2001, after working a 24-hour shift and responding to calls. Known as "Big Jim," he served with the department for 20 years and had recently taken

the captain's exam. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and telling stories.



Eddie Dean Mathis, 45, lieutenant, Dallas Volunteer Fire Department, died July 16, 2001, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while responding to the scene of another accident. He served with the department for 24 years. He was a mechanic and motorcycle enthusiast, a member of the Carolina Cycle Association and TarHeel Rod-tiques.

He was one of a kind—a loving, caring man who would do anything for anybody. The fire department, Harley-Davidson, and his family were everything to him.

OHIO



William A. Ellison, III, 38, career firefighter/paramedic, Miami Township Fire Department, Cleves, died March 20, 2001, from complications of burns sustained earlier when a floor collapsed during a house fire. In addition to his part-time work with Miami Township,

he worked full-time for the Anderson Township Fire Department. He spent hours reading to expand his paramedic and firefighting knowledge, a practice that earned him the nickname "Doc."

He was the type of person who never looked for the spotlight, yet he was always there ready to lend a hand. His keen insight and exceptional abilities earned him the highest respect from his peers.

Cynthia J. Verburg, 47, part-time paid firefighter/EMT, Clayton Fire Department, died July 10, 2001, from injuries sustained on duty. She served the department for 18 years. For most of her life, she was self-employed in retail bicycle

sales and service. She worked with at-risk children and was a driving force in building a BMX track, which was later named in her honor. She was an advocate for bicycle helmet safety and trained fire and police personnel on helmet fitting and safety.



In her 47 years, she reached out and touched a lot of people. This world was left a better place because of how she lived her life.

OREGON

John Robert Hazlett, 52, volunteer firefighter, Odell Fire District, died August 19, 2001, from injuries sustained in an accident while driving a tanker truck back to the station after servicing. An Oregon Department of Transportation employee for 23 years, he was an avid hunter and fisherman who loved the outdoors.



He was a happy, uplifting person who made the best of every situation.

PENNSYLVANIA

Richard C. Canouse, 69, volunteer firefighter, Milford Fire Department, died April 9, 2001, after responding to the scene of a reported structure fire. He served the department for 46 years, including twice as chief. He also served as the Pike County Firemen's Federation's fire coordinator for over 25 years. He was a hunter and outdoor enthusiast.

He loved being a volunteer firefighter.

Anthony V. Murdick, 25, assistant chief, Unionville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., Butler, died April 8, 2001, while attempting to recover the body of a kayaker trapped in a swift-moving current. He and firefighter Scott Wilson, who also died in this incident, joined the department's Junior Firefighter Program together when they were both 16. The father of a young son, Murdick was an advanced diver who was only a few months away from qualifying as a dive master.

He once said that having a child was the best thing he ever did with his life.