

NEW YORK (CONT.)

John E. Ginocchetti, 41, career firefighter/paramedic, Manlius Fire Department, died March 7, 2002, when he became trapped after a floor collapsed as he fought a house fire. Two firefighters died in this incident. Ginocchetti served with the department for 12 years and was president of Manlius Professional Firefighters Local 3316. He also served with the Fayetteville Fire Department.

He lived his life selflessly, with courage and kindness.



Timothy J. "TJ" Lynch, 28, firefighter/paramedic, Fayetteville Fire Department and Manlius Fire Department, died March 7, 2002, when he became trapped after a floor collapsed as he fought a house fire. He worked full-time for Fayetteville, part-time for the Tully Fire Department, and volunteered with the Kirkville and Manlius Fire Departments. Lynch was a paramedic with Rural/Metro Medical Services for seven years and was a special deputy for the Sheriff's Department. He enjoyed hunting, camping, biking, and scuba diving and was a licensed ham radio operator.

TJ will be remembered every day by all who love him as a role model who embodied the best of humanity—courage, strength of character, high ideals, and a radiant, strong vitality for life.



William J. "Billy" Tripp, Jr., 28, volunteer firefighter, Richford Fire Department, died April 13, 2002, after collapsing at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. He had served with the department for five years and was certified in fire police, hazmat first responder operations, commanding the initial response, basic firefighting, and rescue technician-basic. His uncle is also a member of the department. Tripp worked as a surface mount solderer. He enjoyed going to the movies, fishing, shooting bows, and camping with his daughter.

Billy was always there for anyone in need. He was afraid of nothing and tried everything he could. His daughter retains this gift to this day. This is his legacy.

Rex Walter, 69, volunteer firefighter, Napanoch Fire Company, died February 10, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack at the station while preparing to respond to a fire call. He had served with the department for 43 years and was chosen its Firefighter of the Year three times. In 1994, he ran the most calls for the department for which he received the district's Firefighter of the Year. Walter was a retired correctional officer and served in Korea with the U.S. Air Force. He was active with the Ellenville Elks Lodge #1971 and Wawarsing Lodge #582.

NORTH CAROLINA

Bridgett Nicole "Smurf" Autry, 18, firefighter/EMT, Herring Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Clinton, died June 13, 2002, when the fire truck she was driving overturned as she responded to a structure fire. She served with the department for two years and was its youngest member. She received the "Medic of the Year" award during her first year with the department. Her brother is also a member of the department. Autry was a sophomore Nursing student at Sampson Community College.



Her love for people and dedication to help the sick was her drive to become a nurse.

William J. "Jackie" Beard, Jr., 56, career captain, City of Greensboro Fire Department, died April 10, 2002, when he suffered a heart attack while leading a live burn training exercise for recruit firefighters. He was the department's oldest rookie at age 42 and served there for 12 years. Beard was also active with the Deep River Volunteer Fire Department for 31 years and served as its chief. Along with a degree in Fire Science, Beard earned a degree in Agriculture from North Carolina State University. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he served in Vietnam.



His passion for helping others was only rivaled by his love for animals and working the land. He is greatly missed by his family, friends, and beloved dog, "Jim."



Thomas Earl Brooks, 48, career master firefighter, Lumberton Fire Department, died January 31, 2002, after responding to several calls during a 24-hour shift. Known to coworkers as "Pappa Smurf," he served with the department for 19 years. Certified as a

firefighter, EMT, and hazmat responder, Brooks was a state fire instructor and a member of the Robeson County and North Carolina Firemen's Associations. Called "Flip" by his family and friends, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, took special pride in his daylilies and vegetable garden, and enjoyed sharing his harvest with senior citizens in his community.

He will always be considered a "Hero at Heart" by family members and friends. He was known first as a dedicated and sincere family man.



Joshua Brandon Earley, 23, career firefighter, Harrisburg Fire & Rescue, died March 6, 2002, from burns sustained while fighting a house fire two days earlier. He served with the department for six years, was also a full-time career firefighter with the

Charlotte Fire Department, and was active with the Flowes Store and Midland Volunteer Fire Departments. He received numerous posthumous honors, and two scholarships have been established in his name at the UNC-Charlotte's Fire Safety Engineering Technology program. Earley will be one of the four firefighters depicted on the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Josh was one of the finest men you would ever meet. He was truly a hero.



Sandy Powell, 32, career firefighter, McLeansville Fire Department, Inc., died September 23, 2002, when the pumper tanker overturned as she returned to the station. She was the department's first female career firefighter, one of many firsts she achieved. She joined

the fire service as a volunteer for the City of Eden and became certified as a Firefighter 2, Driver-Operator, Aerial Operator, EMT, and Fire and Life Safety Educator. She later worked as a career

firefighter for the Summerfield, Lewisville, and Colfax Fire Departments. Powell was active with the North Carolina Fire & Life Safety Committee.

Sandy's life was like a bright shooting star. Though seen for only a brief moment, the impact and remembrance will remain with us forever.

NORTH DAKOTA

Barry Lee Dockter, 44, volunteer firefighter, Anamoose Fire Department, died July 5, 2002, when he was struck by a fireworks shell while assisting with a Fourth of July fireworks display. He served with the department for two years. Dockter returned to Anamoose a few years ago to work with his parents on the farm where he grew up. A water plant operator for the City of Anamoose, he was active with several community organizations, and was an elder at his church. He loved spending time with his family, camping, being outdoors, and hunting with his dog, Sadie, his loyal companion.



Barry was always willing to help out, always with a smile. His many friends and family will never forget his quiet manner, his genuine smile and his love for life.

OHIO

Dustin Michael "Dusty" Schwendeman, 26, firefighter, Dunham Township Volunteer Fire Department, Belpre, died January 22, 2002, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident the previous day as he responded to a fire call. He served with the department for eight years and was beginning his second term as president. As a youth, Schwendeman showed horses and won numerous national honors, as well as a world championship in the American Paint Horse Association. When he was 18, he opened a show horse training facility, where he combined his love of horses with his enthusiasm for working with young people. Schwendeman also worked in his family's insurance business.



Dusty had such a big heart and was good to everyone, always the first to lend a helping hand. We feel so very fortunate to have been blessed with him for 26 years.