

NEW YORK



Thomas Christopher Brick, 30, career firefighter, Fire Department of New York, died December 16, 2003, from burns and smoke inhalation suffered while conducting search and rescue operations at a warehouse fire. He was a member of FDNY's first

post-September 11th class, and served with Ladder 36. In June 2003, Brick was awarded the Thomas Elsasser Medal for bravery. He was a graduate of Nassau Community College and studied hotel service at the New York Institute of Technology. A memorial fund has been established in his name to provide an endowed scholarship at Holy Cross High School in Flushing.

Tommy was as enthusiastic about life as he was about being a firefighter. He was a devoted and loving father, a dear friend, a cherished son, a loyal brother, and a special uncle.



Stephen G. Gavin, 52, volunteer lieutenant, Susquehanna Hose Company #1 of the Owego Fire Department, died September 2, 2003, after suffering a heart attack six days earlier while fighting a lumber mill fire. A 34-year veteran with the

department and a second-generation firefighter, he was an active member of several Firematic Hose Teams. In 2002, he and his three sons received a "Firefighter of the Year" award for their dedication to the department. Gavin also coached Little League, football, and basketball.

Stephen was a humble man who wanted no recognition or thanks for his efforts. He loved life, and his love for his family was immeasurable.

James J. O'Shea, 40, career firefighter, Fire Department of New York, died September 27, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at home after fighting an arson structure fire. A second-generation firefighter and 18-year veteran with the department, he was assigned to Ladder 127 in Queens. O'Shea was the first FDNY firefighter to die in the line of duty after September 11, 2001. He was also a longtime volunteer firefighter and had served with the Brentwood, East Brentwood,

and Lakeland departments on Long Island. A former International Fireman of the Year, he won Firehouse Magazine's 1986 Heroism Award for rescuing two boys from a fire. He read Shakespeare, enjoyed American history, and could sing all of the songs from the Disney classics.

If asked, Jimmy would have said that the greatest accomplishments of his life were his two sons.

George O. Wohl, Jr., 59, volunteer firefighter, Congers Fire Department, died December 13, 2003, from injuries sustained when he fell from a ladder while responding from his home to a fire call. A 34-year veteran, he had previously served as the department's vice president. His two sons are members of the department, his father is a former member, and his brother is a fire commissioner. Wohl worked as an electrician with Local 363. He was an amateur historian, a railroad buff, and an avid postcard collector.



George was always there for his family and friends and will be missed by all who love him.

Lawrence J. "Larry" Yonkin, 56, volunteer chief, Forest View-Gang Mills Fire Department, Painted Post, died November 15, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after fighting a structure fire the previous day. Yonkin came from a family of firefighters and served as a firefighter for nearly 40 years. Recently retired from Corning, Inc., he had been Supervisor of Emergency Response for the corporation's science research park. He was also working to upgrade town fire codes and policies. An EMS instructor, he had recently been appointed as an instructor for the New York State Fire Academy.

He had a passion for education and firefighting. That passion is part of the legacy he leaves to us, his survivors.

NORTH CAROLINA

Terry W. Carroll, 51, volunteer firefighter, Coats-Grove Fire & Rescue, Inc., died January 7, 2003, after suffering a heart attack 11 days earlier while responding to an EMS call. He worked as a truck driver and had served with the department for six years.

He was very dedicated to the community.



Wayne Copeland, 50, career captain, Charlotte Fire Department, died January 25, 2003, after suffering a heart attack at the scene of a live burn training. He was a 23-year veteran with the department. Copeland was an Eagle Scout and an active scoutmaster and merit badge counselor. An avid wildlife advocate and conservationist, he climbed Mt. Rainier in 1981 and enjoyed taking his daughter rock climbing, camping, fishing, and hunting.

He touched so many people's hearts.

Mark T. Franklin, 46, career engineer, Charlotte Fire Department, died November 30, 2003, from complications of surgery to repair a knee injury suffered in the line of duty in April 2003. A 21-year veteran with the department, he was assigned to Engine 2 and had previously served at Station 10. He held a degree in Physical Education from Catawba College.



Randy Neal Jones, 23, volunteer lieutenant, Cool Springs Fire Department, Statesville, died July 28, 2003, in a motor vehicle accident while responding to a structure fire. He joined the Explorer Post at age 14, became a senior trainer at age 18, and was named

Squadman of the Year in 2000 and 2003. He helped start the department's medical response program and personally responded to 90% of calls. Jones was also a captain with Iredell County Rescue Squad. He received a commendation from Wilson Security for his assistance at a 1998 car fire. He was a frequent blood donor and an organ donor. A scholarship program and an annual award have been established in his memory.

I don't think he ever met a stranger. He was always helping someone.



Mark A. Morgan, 41, state ranger/firefighter, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, died April 28, 2003, when he collapsed after participating in a pack test required for eligibility to fight wildfires. A 12-year veteran with the

forest service, he worked as a forest ranger at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest, with primary responsibilities in education and prevention, and was part of a wildland fire crew. An avid outdoorsman and naturalist, Morgan especially enjoyed spending time in the western North Carolina mountains. He was a Christian.

Mark was respected and loved by everyone who knew him.

Gerald Hayswood "Chief"

Williams, 60, volunteer firefighter, Cool Springs Fire Department, Statesville, died September 30, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack after participating in a training the previous evening. A 12-year veteran, he was a father figure within the department. His fellow firefighters gave him the nickname "Chief" because of his Cherokee heritage. Williams worked for Dana Corporation for 25 years and attended Union Chapel Baptist Church. He never missed an opportunity to see his grandchildren play soccer, even if it meant traveling out of state.

Gerald, thank you for loving us so, for serving your fellow man, and for being a friend. We miss your smile!



OHIO

Oscar Armstrong, III, 25, career firefighter, Cincinnati Fire Department, died March 21, 2003, when he was caught in a flashover while fighting a residential structure fire. He served with the department for three years and was assigned to Engine Company 9 in North Avondale. He was a member of the Cincinnati African American Firefighters Association and Local #48. His interest in firefighting began when he helped rescue a fellow student from a dorm fire at Wright State University. Armstrong had worked with children with autism and behavioral disorders and in substance abuse prevention. He was an avid photographer who enjoyed reading and home improvement projects.

Ozzie's life was distinguished because of his dedication to family and friends and his passion for helping others.