

NORTH CAROLINA

Harold D. Chappell, 53, volunteer firefighter, Arlington Fire & Rescue, Inc., died July 12, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to a call the previous evening. Known as “Dean,” he served in the public service field all of his life. He owned Dean’s Auto Sales and was a member of the staff at Starmount High School. He was the co-owner of Highway 21 Shell for 13 years. He had many friends all over the United States.

He was a loving father and husband and was willing to help neighbors, friends, and strangers. If you needed something, you could call him and he would be right there to help you.



Phillip Stephen Hulen, 19, volunteer firefighter, Vann Crossroads Fire Department, died April 6, 2004, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident while en route to a mandatory training class. A firefighter for only two years, he was named 2003

Firefighter of the Year at Vann Crossroads, was an EMT with the Newton Grove Rescue Squad, and had recently earned his red card to fight forest fires. A student at Johnston Community College, Hulen planned to transfer to North Carolina State University. He was an assistant manager at Smithfield Chicken and Barbecue and worked summers for Agri-Tech, collecting soil samples and checking crops for insects.

He touched the lives of many in his life and somehow managed to fulfill God’s purpose for his life in such a short time.

NORTH DAKOTA



George H. Raber, 69, volunteer crew chief, Hebron Fire Protection District, died July 31, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack at the scene of a prairie fire. A 41-year veteran and the oldest member of the department, he missed only one meeting during his many

years of service. Before the creation of the fire protection district, he served as a rural fire chief. A former mayor of Hebron, Raber was also president of the local school board for a number

of years and filled in as a substitute bus driver. He owned the local Ford dealership for 30 years and enjoyed hunting and trapshooting.

George was a devoted husband and father and a dedicated firefighter.

OHIO

Edward Patrick Conricote, 55, volunteer firefighter, Liberty Fire Department, died February 23, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack while operating at the scene of a fire. A 15-year member, he had dreamed of being a firefighter since he was young and had a special love for his childhood neighborhood station, Engine 7 in Youngstown. An ordained Catholic priest, he served the Youngstown Diocese for over 15 years and was a fire chaplain in Youngstown, Alliance, and Warren. After leaving the priesthood, he continued to serve as a lector and Eucharist Minister in his parish. Conricote enjoyed collecting fire memorabilia. The department has established a scholarship in his honor.



He had an unassuming, non-judgmental approach and saw the good in all people. His funny laugh and big heart were open to anyone.

Donald Eugene Ward, 46, career firefighter, Columbus Division of Fire, died March 14, 2004, when he suffered a heart attack after responding to several calls during an overtime shift. A 12-year member of the department, he served as a firefighter, paramedic, haz-mat technician, and the Station 4 firehouse cook. He received three Awards of Merit for outstanding service and a Battalion Chief’s Commendation for an off-duty rescue. Ward began his service as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Beallsville. He owned a contracting business and built 1-2 houses a year in the community, with help from some of his firefighter buddies.



Eugene was a wonderful husband and father. I know he is in Heaven and I will see him again one day.