

Remembering

Ronald P. Allen, Jr.

Tar Heel Fire Department — North Carolina

Classification: Volunteer

Rank: Lieutenant

Date of Death: September 22, 2006

Age: 36

Ron Allen died on September 22, 2006, when another vehicle struck the brush truck he was operating as he marked fire hydrants along a state highway. He worked as an officer at the Department of Corrections prison camp in White Lake, but firefighting was his passion. An 18-year veteran with the fire department, he joined as a teenager and attended as much training as he could. At the time of his death, he served on the department's Board of Directors.

Born December 4, 1969, to Ronald Phillip Allen, Sr., and Alice Gibson Allen, he



grew up in the Tar Heel community and was dedicated to community service. On his days off, he often volunteered with the department and in the community. He was a member of the Tar Heel Baptist Church, where he served as a Bible school teacher and coached the youth basketball team.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer; his daughter, Allison "Alli" Allen; his son, Cody Arnold; his daughter, Cheyanne Arnold; his parents, Ronald and Alice Allen; and his grandparents, T.G. and Joyce Edwards and John and Mozelle Henry.

I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a firefighter. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the firefighter has to do believe that his is a noble calling.

— Edward F. Croker