



Remembering



Nemeth F. Sanders

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources — North Carolina

Classification: Career

Rank: Firefighter/Fire Equipment Operator

Date of Death: July 27, 2007

Age: 43

Nemeth Fitzhugh Lee Sanders died on Friday, July 27, 2007, in a motor vehicle accident, returning home from pump training school in the North Carolina mountains with the North Carolina Forestry Service.

Nemeth always excelled at whatever he set out to accomplish. He earned the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America by achieving the Eagle Scout Award. He was a certified crane operator with designations in TSS and TLL. He also had his CDLs, of which he obtained the highest grade point average the school had ever recorded in the course. This is not surprising, because he had been driving large trucks his entire life. He was an all around “jack of all trades.”

Nemeth believed in living each day to the fullest. He was devoted to his family and friends. He loved spending time with his children. He enjoyed being outside and expressed that we should not live in such a hurry that we overlook the beauty that surrounds us. He chose careers that would keep him caring for the land. He farmed for over 20 years before joining the North Carolina Forestry Service as an equipment operator.

Nemeth was truly an outdoorsman. He enjoyed everything that would keep him outside. He was a member of

several hunting clubs. He loved the sportsmanship in hunting and fishing. He often would take his son, Matthew, along with him. He enjoyed going on canoe trips, weekend camping trips, riding horses on trails (sharing this love with his daughter, Amanda), riding four-wheelers, and cooking (especially on the grill). He liked to look through cookbooks and watch cooking shows to get new ideas to try, as well as coming up with his own creations. Still today, people are requesting his “secret recipe” for potatoes.

Nemeth had a heart of gold. He had a sense of humor that could make you laugh and bring a smile to your face regardless of the circumstance.

He could take any negative situation, turn it around and have you laughing before it was over. Nemeth fell off his horse during a trail ride in May 2007 and fractured his right wrist.

During the time he wore the cast, he would refer to his arm as a “broken wing.” He was always willing to help, offering advice or just being supportive.

Nemeth will be forever missed by his children, Amanda and Matthew Sanders; his mother, Della Sanders; his sister, Lori Sanders; fiancée, Gwen P. Rigsby; co-workers and friends. Oh, that we would be able to look into his beautiful, penetrating blue eyes just one more time!

