



Remembering



Wayne Edward Yarborough

Waynesville Fire Department — North Carolina

Classification: Volunteer

Rank: Lieutenant

Date of Death: March 5, 2006

Age: 59

Wayne Edward Yarborough died in the line of duty March 5, 2006, two days before his 60th birthday. He suffered a massive heart attack at home after responding to a brush fire. A 38-year veteran, he loved the fire department and what it stood for and served as a lieutenant for many years.

After graduating from Waynesville Township High School, Wayne served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in March 1968. He worked for the Town of Waynesville Electric Department for 26 years and had perfect attendance for all those years. He was a class 4 linesman, worked as a supervisor, and was named 1990 Employee of the Year. Wayne planned to retire in June 2006.

For four years, he pastored the small hometown church which he had attended for 55 years. He also served as a Sunday school teacher. He always kept his faith. He was a dedicated, hard-working man who took pride in his church, his work, and the fire department.

Wayne loved helping people and was a very giving, free-hearted person. He came home from a bad fire call many times with his turnout gear soaked and frozen. He would not leave the scene until the job was done and everyone was OK. He did the same

working on the power lines. He would always work until all the power was restored, no matter how sleepy or give out he was, and he never complained. Wayne almost lost his life in April 1982, fighting the Benningfield Chemical Fire. When the bucket truck from the electric department stalled with bucket in mid-air, his and another fireman's turnout gear was almost ablaze they were so close to the fire. Wayne was named 1982 Fireman of the Year.

I have heard the younger firemen say how much they appreciated how Wayne took them under his wing and taught them what he had learned in his many years of firefighting. And what a big impact he had on their lives! You could always count on Wayne to be one of the first with an air pack on, going into a burning business or house.

His son Dwayne is among those younger firemen that looked up to him. Since his dad has passed on, Dwayne has become a full-time lieutenant with the WFD and was named 2006 Fireman of the Year. His dad would have been very proud that he is carrying on the legacy.

Wayne loved to deer hunt and fish, collected antiques of all kinds, and enjoyed doing woodwork and growing his garden. Wayne was loved by everyone who knew him and is deeply missed.

