



Portland Firefighters Association



Line Of Duty Death Memorial

Lives Given In Service To Portland

Firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession, claiming dozens of lives annually across the United States. Physical exertion, smoke exposure, exposure to infectious disease, and psychological stressors are but a few of the factors that place firefighters at an increased risk for illness or death.

When a firefighter dies during an emergency response, the story makes front-page news, and the whole community mourns. But firefighters are also at risk of career-ending illnesses and injuries that may not garner media attention.

This book is dedicated to the

Portland Firefighters

who were unable to continue their careers due to untimely death, injury, or disease and made the ultimate sacrifice for their community



James Reed

August 21, 1881

Protection Engine, Company #4

Reed collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack after pulling a hand-pulled fire engine to a fire.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, South 204



Fred Wagner

February 28, 1890

Firefighter

Wagner was fatally injured while testing a new fire engine at the corner of SW 7th and Salmon. He was struck in the head by a nozzle and never regained consciousness.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, South 105



Tom O'Keefe

August 21, 1891

Firefighter

O'Keefe was killed while responding to a fire at 16th and "B" Street. He fell from the hose wagon while rounding a corner and was crushed beneath the wheels.

Interred – Mt. Calvary Cemetery – Section G, Block 2, Space 40



John G. Hewston

October 3, 1892

Firefighter

Hewston was at the scene of a fire in the Kamm Block when he was knocked from his ladder by a falling timber. He died of a fractured skull.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, North 62



Tom Grenfell

March 25, 1896

Firefighter

Death was attributed to injuries received on a fire call in January of 1896. Grenfell assisted in hauling a fire engine up a steep grade to reach a house. He fell, badly rupturing himself. A few days before his death in March, he met with a similar injury, which convinced him to enter the hospital for an operation for a perforated appendix. He died at the hospital.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Section 15, Lot 111, Grave 4



David Campbell

June 26, 1911

Chief

Campbell entered the structure fire at the Union Oil building to alert his crews of an impending building collapse. All others escaped before the building fell, crushing the Chief in the collapse.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Section 9, Lot 173, Grave 8



William Higdon

June 6, 1912

Firefighter, Engine 6

Higdon was the driver of Hose 6 when a sudden lurch threw him beneath the wagon. His head was crushed beneath the wheel. He was rushed to the hospital and died soon after. Interred – Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery (Sugarfork NC) First Large Monument from Back Door



Emil G. Gustafson

March 16, 1916

Electrician, Fire Alarm Telegraph

Gustafson died when he came in contact with a 10,000-volt power line while working on the fire alarm telegraph wires.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, North 100



Francis H. McCormick

August 15, 1919

Hoseman, Truck 1

McCormick and several other firefighters were knocked from a train trestle after being hit with a fire hose while fighting a fire at the Northwest Box Factory. He hit his head on the railroad track below and died the next morning.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, South 107



Fred B. May

April 22, 1920

Captain, Engine 8

May was standing watch in the watchroom of Station 8. His crew found him at 7:30 pm, having suffered a stroke. He died minutes later.

Interred – Rose City Cemetery – Section 39-D, Lot 41, Grave 3



Karl Gunster

June 15, 1921

Lieutenant, Engine 22

Gunster was suffocated at a fire on the third floor of the May Apartments. He was found lying on the floor, unconscious by another firefighter. He was dragged to a window where fellow firefighters could assist but it was to no avail.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery –
Section Sunset, Lot 226, Grave 5



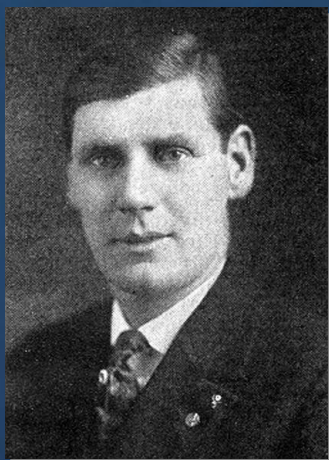
Oscar Lehman

October 3, 1921

Lieutenant, Engine 1

Lehman died as a result of a skull fracture sustained in a collision between two fire engines while responding to an emergency.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery –
Section Sunset, Lot 226, Grave 1



James S. Baldwin

June 19, 1922

Hoseman, Truck 1

A basement fire was extinguished and the basement flooded with several inches of water. Baldwin was descending the steps to the basement when his neck came in contact with a live electrical wire across the basement opening. He fell into the water while in contact with the energized wire and was electrocuted. He died on the scene.

Interred – Wilhelm's Portland – Hyacinth B,
Tier 2, Niche 11



Oscar B. Gabriel

October 25, 1922

Hoseman, Engine 12

Gabriel was killed when a wall fell on him during a fire at Washington High School. Interred – Rose City Cemetery – Section M, Lot 101 NE Quarter, Grave 1



Fred H. Rittenour

February 1, 1923

Hoseman, Engine 19

Rittenour died when he fell from a loft in the engine house at Station 19. Interred – Rose City Cemetery – Section E, Lot 232, West Side, Grave 4



Adolph W. Wefel

June 1, 1923

Lieutenant, Engine 13

Wefel was killed when a brick chimney fell on him during the overhaul phase of a multi-house fire.

Interred – Rose City Cemetery – Section M, Lot 197, W Half, Grave 3

"Service Before Self"



William E. Wilbur

April 7, 1926

Hoseman, Engine 18

Wilbur was at a house fire when, after climbing down a ladder, he had a seizure and died.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Section 13,
Lot 346, Grave 3



Charles A. Ryan

May 20, 1928

Hoseman, Truck 3

While rehearsing for the Rose Festival Parade Ladder Drill Team, a leather safety belt holding Ryan to Firefighter William McCreery broke, causing both men to fall from the ladder to their deaths.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's
Section, South 146



William John McCreery

May 20, 1928

Hoseman, Truck 3

While rehearsing for the Rose Festival Parade Ladder Drill Team, a leather safety belt holding McCreery to Firefighter Charles Ryan broke, causing both men to fall from the ladder to their deaths.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's
Section, South 143



Harry Josephson

July 23, 1928

Electrician, Fire Alarm Telegraph

Josephson died when he lost his balance and fell 25 feet from a power pole. He landed on the pavement and fractured his skull.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, North 105



Walter W. McBride

December 19, 1929

Hoseman, Engine 9

McBride was found unconscious in bed at Station 9, possibly due to a stroke or hemorrhage of the brain. He was taken to the hospital and later pronounced dead.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Veterans Circle, Lot 76



Richard D. Laisner

July 4, 1930

Captain, Engine 31

Laisner had been working at the interior of a house fire. He entered the house and apparently became dizzy because he seated himself in a chair. A moment later, witnesses saw him pitch forward on the floor, and he was found dead when he was picked up. His death was attributed to heart disease.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery – Section Fairview, Lot 61, Grave 9



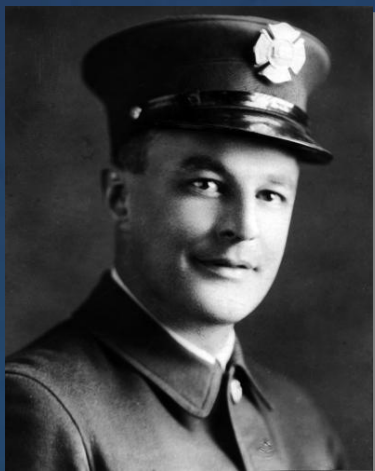
Henry Krimbel

October 23, 1932

Hoseman, Truck 2

Krimbel fell through a skylight at a 3rd Alarm fire at the Counselor Apartments on August 16, 1930. He suffered spine and kidney injuries from the fall. He returned to work for a time but died on October 23, 1932, apparently due to kidney damage from the effects of the fall two years prior.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, South 145



Clement M. Kemmer

April 21, 1933

Hoseman, Engine 8

Kemmer died of a heart attack while on duty at Station 8. He was playing handball as part of the physical fitness program.

Interred – Mt. Calvary – Section T, Block 6, Lot 51, Grave 4



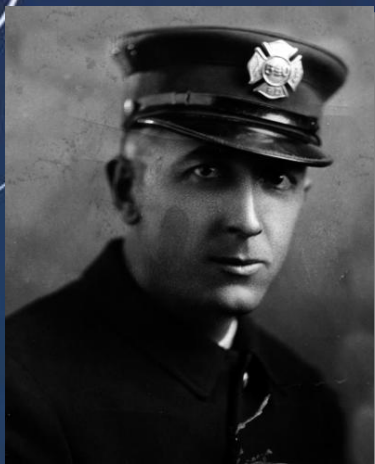
Gustave Adolph Stephan

June 26, 1933

Lieutenant, Fire Marshal's Office

Stephan (a theater inspector) died of an apparent heart attack at 68 NE Stanton, where he stopped to rest after having taken ill while on duty. He died at that site.

Interred - Unknown



Frank L. Kearney

January 7, 1934

Hoseman, Engine 21

Kearney died instantly in a collision between Engine 21 and Squad 1 as they both responded to an emergency at the Holly Dairy at 406 NW 14th Avenue. Nine other firefighters were injured in the collision.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, North 108



Harry B. Morrow

July 1, 1934

Firefighter, Engine 23

Morrow died of an apparent heart attack while fighting an automobile fire.

Interred – Wilhelm's Portland – Section Grant West A, Tier 4, Vault 7



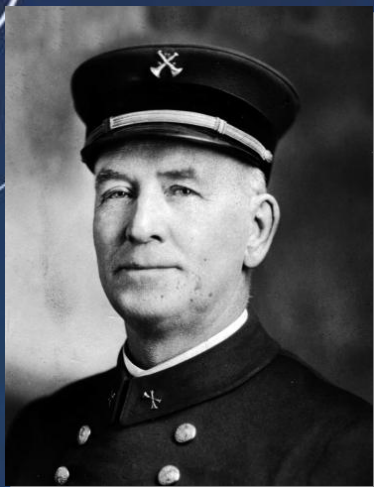
Harry U. Gardner

January 19, 1935

Engineer, Engine 28

Gardner was overcome by smoke and died of an apparent heart attack while fighting a house fire at 2305 NE 51st Avenue.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, North 109



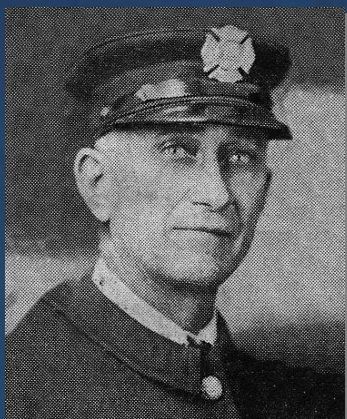
William D. Heath

March 18, 1935

Battalion Chief, Station 22

Heath had overseen his crews at a fire at the Hotel Lindquist during the night. After returning to the station, he did not feel well and went to bed. Sometime in the night, he suffered a heart attack. His crew heard him and tried to revive him, but he was unable to survive.

Interred – Wilhelm's Portland – Section Harding West D, Tier 1, Vault 12



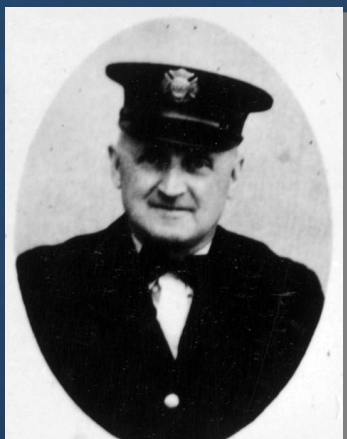
Frank E. Platt

March 11, 1937

Hoseman, Engine 10

Platt was performing his daily checks on Engine 10 when the driver mistakenly stepped on the starter. The Engine was in reverse and lurched backward, crushing Platt into the wall. He died at the scene.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery – Section Lilac, Crypt 321



Harry R. Howard

December 31, 1939

Hoseman, Engine 36

He had an apparent heart attack while on duty at Station 36.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – section 08, Lot 165, Grave 5



Ernest W. Bills

June 3, 1940

Firefighter, Engine 4

While responding to a fire at the Portland Furniture Manufacturing Company, Bills' canister mask failed and he was overcome by smoke. Other firefighters tried to rescue him. One would-be rescuer, Carl Markstrom, would also die during the rescue attempt. Bills did not respond to lengthy rescue attempts.

Interred – Wilhelm's Portland – Section Wilson East D, Tier 1, Vault 18



Carl G. Markstrom

June 3, 1940

Junior Captain, Engine 4

During a fire at the Portland Furniture Manufacturing Company, Markstrom found Firefighter Ernest Bills unconscious due to a failed canister mask. Markstrom tried to rescue him but suffered the same mask problem. He too would fall unconscious. Both men were rescued but failed to respond to lengthy attempts to revive them.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Firefighter's Section, South 150



Peter P. Kumpf

December 5, 1940

Senior Captain, Engine 23

Kumpf succumbed to a heart ailment while on duty at Station 23 and was taken to a local hospital. He died a few hours later.

Interred – Rose City Cemetery – Section G, Lot 12, West Side, Grave 3



Owen D. Peterson

October 28, 1943

Captain, Last assigned Engine 5

Pension determination – ruptured appendix and peritonitis.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery – Veterans Section 3



Joseph Frederick Allerton

October 2, 1945

Captain, Fireboat 3

Allerton commanded the Fireboat Laudenklos at the Oregon Shipyard fire. He reported sick following shift and never returned to duty. He died of bronchial pneumonia a few weeks later..

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Section 4, Lot 346, Grave 3



Elmo St. Clair Bradford

October 25, 1945

Captain, Engine 15

Bradford and his crew were dispatched to a fire at SW Hoffman Road and Broadway Drive. While fighting the fire, Bradford suffered a stroke or heart attack and died at the scene.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery – Veterans Plot, Lot 3, Grave 101



William M. Inglesby

July 19, 1946

Captain, Engine 33

Inglesby died while on duty at Station 33 of Coronary Thrombosis.

Interred – Mt. Calvary Cemetery – Section T, Wall Block 3, Lot 34, Grave 1



Gregory A. Warner

December 30, 1946

Senior Captain, Engine 6

Warner responded to a fire with Station 6 and, upon return to the station, suffered a heart attack and died a week later.

Interred – Wilhelm's Portland – Section Wilson East F, Tier 1, Vault 12



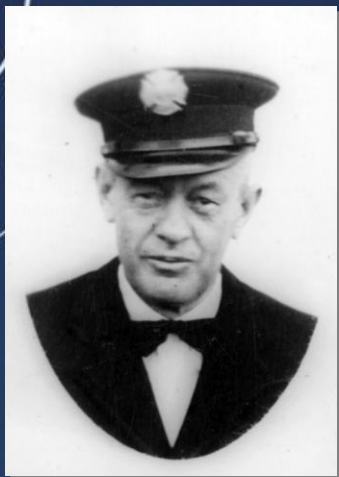
Marion R. Stark

March 31, 1947

Battalion Chief 3, Station 8

Stark was found dead in bed at fire Station 8 in the morning following his shift.

Interred – Lone Fir Cemetery – Section 17, Lot 216, Grave 2N



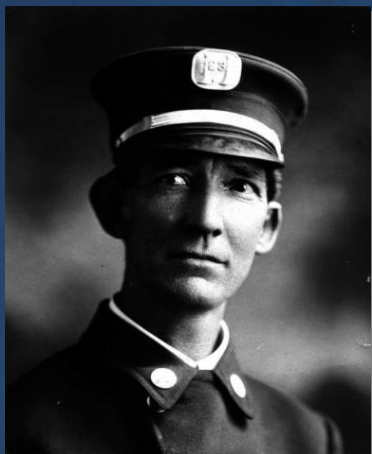
Alfred J. Berg

November 2, 1948

Engineer, Engine 33

A 2nd Alarm fire was called at the Independent Marine Propeller Manufacturing Company. Berg and his crew on Engine 33 responded. While fighting the fire, Berg had a heart attack. The first aid squad from Truck 7 spent 30 minutes trying to revive him, but he would be pronounced dead at the scene.

Interred - Rose City Cemetery – Section L, Lot 78, East Half, Grave 2



Daniel C. Shaw

April 24, 1949

Senior Captain, Engine 14

Shaw was directing his crew at a house fire at 432 NE Russell Street. He collapsed while raising a ladder. His crew tried to resuscitate him but he died at the scene.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Main Mausoleum, Corridor 1, Crypt 517



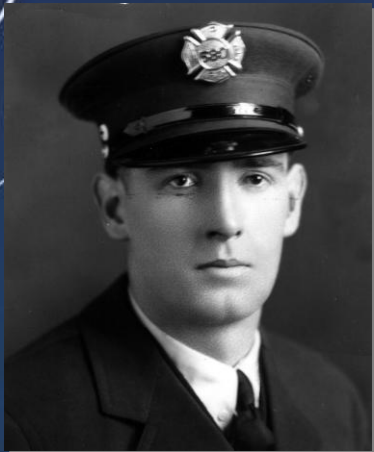
Victor D. Brown

December 4, 1957

Firefighter, Engine 14

Brown died of acute pneumonia and generalized arteriosclerosis .

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – H, 2695



John C. Drain

April 12, 1960

Firefighter, Last assigned Fireboat 3

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Riverview Cemetery – Cor 17, Crypt 523



John T. Metcalf

August 14, 1960

Captain, Engine 7

While responding to a fire at 2203 SE Orange, Truck 4 collided with a Rose City Transit Company buss. Metcalf was thrown from the Truck. Four other firefighters and several bus passengers were also injured. Metcalf was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Interred – Bethany Lutheran Cemetery (Warren OR) – First Addition, Lot 2, Grave 5



Frank R. Benedict

July 4, 1963

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 21

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred - Unknown



Benjamin Z. Steele

November 21, 1963

Lieutenant, Last assigned Engine 21

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Mt. Calvary – Section W, Lot 839,
Grave 1



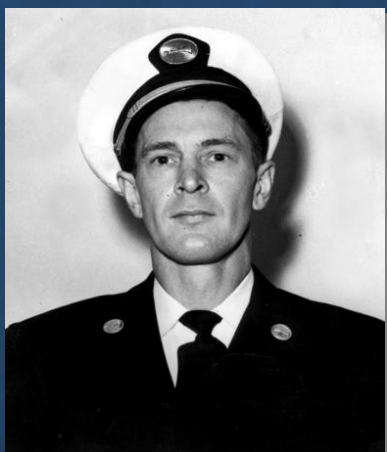
Robert Edner

January 10, 1965

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 6

Pension determination – stroke.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – F,
6019



James M. Hamilton

July 21, 1965

Firefighter, Last assigned Truck 10

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – F,
O, 5370

"Service Before Self"



Virgil L. Spencer

October 29, 1966

Lieutenant, Engine 5

Spencer and his crew responded to the BP Johns Furniture Factory for a fire. The firefighting efforts triggered a dust explosion that knocked Spencer off a catwalk. He fell 40 feet into the flames below. He never regained consciousness and died at the scene.

Interred – Crescent Grove Cemetery (Tigard OR) – Block 1080, Lot 2, Grave 4



Louis E. Merchant

March 2, 1969

Captain, Last assigned Fireboat 1

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Lincoln Memorial Cemetery
– Fuchsia Corridor, Niche 10



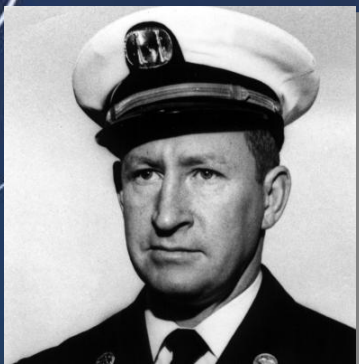
Randy B. Hammer

March 30, 1970

Firefighter, Last assigned Truck 3

Pension determination – car wreck.

Interred - Unknown



Jack L. Stephens

February 8, 1971

Captain, Engine 2

Stephens died of an apparent heart attack following a run to 329 SW Woods for a "smoke scare." After returning, he went to bed and was found dead at shift change.

Interred – Riverview Abbey Mausoleum – Madrona Corridor, West Wing, South Wall, Tier 2



Donald G. Turner

July 5, 1971

Lieutenant, Last assigned Engine 22

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – T, 2705



Roy A. Bray

September 15, 1971

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 21

Pension determination – pneumonia/cancer

Interred - Unknown

"Service Before Self"



Aldro J. Stuck

April 5, 1972

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 7

Pension determination – colon cancer.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – U,
441



Jefferson Morris Jr.

October 2, 1974

Battalion Chief, Public Information Officer

Pension determination – lung cancer.

Interred – Riverview Abbey Mausoleum –
Primrose Corridor, West Wall, Tier 2



Melvin W. Sethmann

November 24, 1975

Firefighter, Last assigned Fireboat 2

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – A,
1487



John L. Devaney

February 15, 1977

Firefighter, Engine 15

Engine 15 was dispatched to 4000 SW Shattuck Road for a shed fire. While fighting the fire, Devaney suffered a heart attack. He was transported by Rescue 1 to Kaiser Hospital where he died two days later.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – O, 1714



Charles A. Weberg

December 11, 1979

Captain, Last assigned Engine 17

Pension determination – lung and liver cancer.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – P, 11



Tommy Tucker

January 3, 1984

Lieutenant, Last assigned Training

Pension determination – cancer.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – E, 1204



Willis Hubener

May 5, 1987

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 17

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – D,
2642



Thomas G. Tyner

December 18, 1987

Firefighter, Truck 6

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – D,
3252



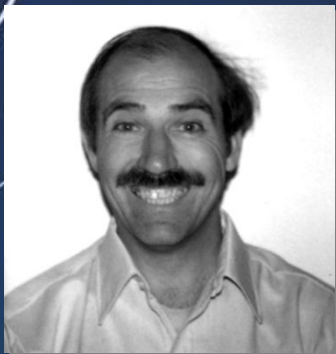
Richard H. Bradley

May 12, 1988

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 10

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – D,
O, 2120



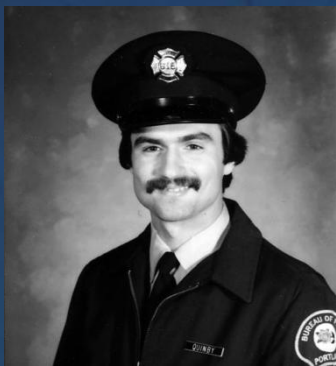
Lonnie M. Zimmerman

November 14, 1990

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 27

Pension determination – pneumonia.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – COL
1, M, 807



Gerald Quinby

December 27, 1991

Firefighter, Last assigned Truck 4

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred - Unknown



Jeff Tuggle

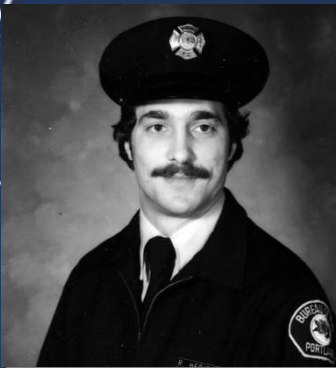
April 1, 1993

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 13

Pension determination – cancer.

Interred – Cremation – Retained by family

"Service Before Self"



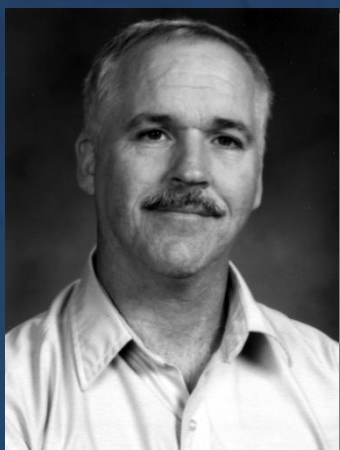
Robert J. Hebisen

February 28, 1995

Firefighter, Last assigned Truck 22

Pension determination – stress related.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – X,
O, 711



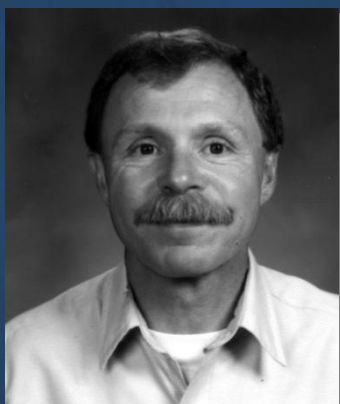
Richard A. Harder

November 21, 1996

Firefighter/Paramedic, Last assigned Rescue 41

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery – C, O,
2103



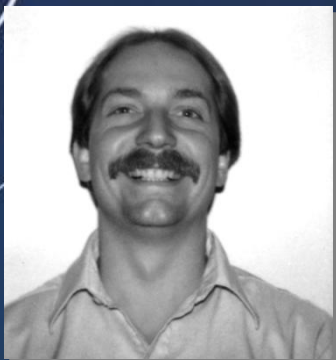
Paul T. Kahn

July 15, 2001

Firefighter, Last assigned Engine 13

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred - Unknown



James T. Woodward

February 28, 2002

Firefighter/Paramedic, Last assigned Rescue 22

Pension determination – pancreatic cancer.

Interred - Unknown



Jeffrey S. Calvi

July 3, 2003

Captain, Last assigned Truck 13

Pension determination – medication reaction.

Interred – Cascade Locks Cemetery – Row N,
Plot 16



Steven E. Higley

December 30, 2004

Lieutenant, Last assigned Truck 3

Pension determination – cancer.

Interred - Unknown



George L. Godson

June 11, 2007

Lieutenant, Last assigned Engine 22

Pension determination – heart failure.

Interred – Camas Cemetery – Block 104, Plot 17



Keith E. Kosky

July 30, 2013

Firefighter, Retired

Pension determination – cancer

Interred – Willamette National Cemetery –
Section 6 A, 492.



Jerry Richardson

November 19, 2021

Lieutenant, Last assigned Engine 17

Pension determination – Cancer -
Mesothelioma

Interred – Cremation – With Family



Final Resting Place

Lincoln Memorial Cemetery (Portland, Oregon)

1969 Merchant
1945 Bradford
1943 Peterson
1937 Platt
1930 Laisner
1921 Lehman
1921 Gunster

Lone Fir Cemetery (Portland, Oregon)

1947 Stark
1940 Markstrom
1935 Gardner
1934 Kearney
1932 Krimbel
1928 Josphson
1928 McCreery
1928 Ryan
1919 McCormick
1916 Gustafson
1892 Hewston
1890 Wagner
1881 Reed

Mt. Calvary Cemetery (Portland, Oregon)

1963 Steele
1946 Inglesby
1933 Kemmer
1891 O'Keefe

Riverview Cemetery / Abbey (Portland, Oregon)

1974 Morris
1971 Stephens
1960 Drain
1949 Shaw
1945 Allerton
1939 Howard
1929 McBride
1926 Wilbur
1911 Campbell
1896 Grenfell

Rose City Cemetery (Portland, Oregon)

1948 Berg
1940 Kumpf
1923 Wefel
1923 Rittenour
1922 Gabriel
1920 May

"Service Before Self"



Final Resting Place

Wilhelm's Portland (Portland, Oregon)

1946 Warner
1940 Bills
1935 Heath
1934 Morrow
1922 Baldwin

Willamette National Cemetery (Portland, Oregon)

2013 Kosky
1996 Harder
1995 Hebison
1990 Zimmerman
1988 Bradley
1987 Tyner
1987 Hubener
1984 Tucker
1979 Weberg
1977 Devaney
1975 Sethmann
1972 Stuck
1971 Turner
1965 Hamilton
1965 Edner
1957 Brown

Bethany Lutheran Cemetery (Warren, Oregon)

1960 Metcalf

Camas Cemetery (Camas, Washington)

2007 Godson

Cascade Locks Cemetery (Cascade Locks, Oregon)

2003 Calvi

Crescent Grove Cemetery (Tigard, Oregon)

1966 Spencer

Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery (Sugarfork, North Carolina)

1912 Higdon

Unknown

2021 Richardson
2004 Higley
2002 Woodward
2001 Kahn
1993 Tuggle
1991 Quinby
1971 Bray
1970 Hammer
1963 Benedict
1933 Stephan

"Service Before Self"



St. Florian's Prayer

*The Patron Saint of
Firefighters*

*Dear God, Through the intercession
of our patron, Saint Florian, have
mercy on the souls of our comrades
who have made the supreme sacrifice
in the performance of their duty,
and on all who have gone before us
after years of faithful discharge of
their responsibilities which now rest
on ourselves.*

*Give us Grace to prepare each day
for our own summons to Thy
tribunal of justice. Into Thy hands
O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Withersoever Thou callest me, I am
ready to go.*

*Merciful Father of all men, save me
from all bodily harm, if it be Thy
will, but above all, help me to be
loyal and true, respectful and
honorable, obedient and valiant.
Thus fortified by virtue, I shall have
no fear, for I shall then belong to
Thee and shall never be separated
from Thee.*

Amen.

*By:
Richard Cardinal Cushing,
Archbishop of Boston (dec.)*



About The Portland Firefighters Association Memorial

This display was dedicated in June 2019. It incorporates many distinctive elements of Portland Fire & Rescue in its presentation.

The headpiece is carved in the shape of the Firefighters Cross. While sometimes thought to be a Maltese Cross or Florian Cross, the design is actually unique to the United States Fire Service, first designed for FDNY in 1867. It has come to serve as a universal symbol of the United States Fire Service.

The headpiece is engraved with a Portland Firefighter-specific logo used for, and with, the Firefighter's Section of Lone Fir Cemetery. The words Honor, Service, and Sacrifice are also engraved to indicated the accolades given to the members listed in the book.

The book itself is cradled in a framework of wood and supported by the jacket of fire hose, the tool firefighters rely upon to protect themselves and others in the commission of their duties.

The display is braced by a ladder, which is decorated by a fire axe. These are principle tools of a firefighter in service to others.

The display is capped by a fire helmet. The helmet is also an essential tool that protects the firefighter so they may continue their duty, even in perilous conditions. It is colored black, to be absent of rank and to designate the place at which all firefighters begin their career, as a trainee.

The display is made from Pacific Northwest Douglas Fir. This is the preferred material for fire department ladders because of its strength and durability, qualities that well suit the firefighter.

Don Porth