



P O N D E R O S A

FIREFIGHTER

HARRIS COUNTY ESD #28

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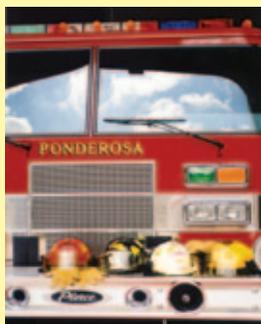
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Construction Begins On New Fire Station

The Ponderosa Fire Department is thrilled to report that construction is now moving forward on the new Station 62 - located at 4362 Louetta Road, between Kuykendahl and Ella, adjacent to the power substation. Emergency Services District #28, the funding arm of the Ponderosa Fire Department, approved the funding (via Prosperity Bank) of the \$2.4 million station and awarded the build contract to LDF Construction of Spring, Texas on September 7, 2010.

The new station will serve as a replacement for the current #2 station located within the Cypressdale Subdivision. That station has served us well, and we owe our thanks and gratitude to the Cypresswood Utility District and Cypressdale residents for their continued support since the mid 80s when the first fire station was constructed in their neighborhood. After much consideration, it became apparent that due to increased responses and the rising risk exposure entering and leaving Cypressdale, it was time to rebuild in a location that would not only reduce our total response time by an estimated five minutes, but also decrease risk to the surrounding community during those emergency responses.

Land for the new location was purchased in April of 2008. During the initial planning stages, BRW architectural firm did a superb job of assuring effectiveness and value engineering, and they brought to us a beautiful, aesthetically-pleasing and modern facility design that the community can be proud of. We believe the residents, business owners,



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and our dedicated volunteer and paid staff deserve the best facilities and service possible. This state-of-the-art building will surely provide that for decades to come.

The utilities (water, sanitary and storm water) at the new location have now been completed and in September of this year, CenterPoint moved one power pole to the site to allow for better access to the property. We'd also like to show our appreciation for the support and professionalism of the Bilma Public Utilities District and Jones & Carter Engineering. Without all of the teams of people mentioned in this article, we would not be where we are today.

And speaking of appreciation, we would like to extend a Texas-sized "THANK YOU" to the Cypresswood Community Association for donating \$4,000 of the profits from their July 4, 2009 celebration to help PFD purchase a firefighter statue and pay the shipping costs to receive a steel beam from the World Trade Center disaster. The statue has been purchased and is currently in storage at Station #3 and a 6-foot metal beam from the WTC will soon be delivered. Both will stand proud at the new station as a tribute to all of the brave firefighters who risk their lives every day to protect the citizens of this great country.

Completion of Station 62 is scheduled for mid-2011. Visit the PFD website (www.ponderosavfd.org) to see the latest construction details and photos, and to find out information on the grand opening and dedication that will introduce the completed facility to the community!

The Ponderosa Fire Department is here for you. Duty. Pride. Commitment.

New Fire Engines Mean Even More Reliable Service

Serving this community with excellence is PFD's main objective – our mission. To do so, we must have high-quality professionals and equipment. During mid-2010, your fire department received three (3) Pierce Manufacturing new/replace-ment fire engines – one going to each of our three fire stations. The acquisition of this new equipment was made possible by an 8-year lease/purchase (L/P) agreement with OshKosh Capital. Within this agreement, we are able (at the end of the lease period) to trade the fire engines in or pay a balloon payment to retain them. This is the second installment of the L/P plan that was enacted in 2003.

Prior to the first L/P of seven years, we did extensive research to ensure the process was efficient and effective. That study proved, without a doubt, that lease/purchase was the way to go. In fact, we discovered a predicted net savings of about \$80,000 (compared to the prior method of buying one fire engine at a time with lending institution loans and selling those units outright). And during the 2003-2010 timeframe, our maintenance costs for batteries, tires and brakes were actually less than predicted! The L/P method also allows us to have the latest technology, safety innovations, better braking and handling, and a host of other benefits, plus a full year of bumper-to-bumper warranty. And running newer equipment means fewer breakdowns - our fire engines remain in service (and out of the shop) the majority of the time, and the trade-in value is greater at the end of the relatively short LP time. We are also able to move the trucks around to equilibrate mileage use. The intangibles

are a bit more difficult to measure. Driving, operating and equipment storage are essentially the same.

We did opt for the eight year program this time for various reasons - one of which is the amount of significant work required to re-install all equipment – radios, computers, lights, tools, and hoses (and our members do that)! The design of the new vehicles utilizes the "front end" of the ladder truck and the "back end" of the 2003 engines. This was part of our 2003 plan, and allows us to transfer all the "stuff" with reduced work in newer and more reliable models.

In the end, we were able to negotiate a very fair trade-in for two of the 2004 models and our existing 2002 model. Our local dealer, Martin Apparatus, a solid and reliable company we have done business with for decades, was a true partner throughout the two lease/purchases, and continues to partner with us in other endeavors. We retained ownership of one 2004 model and it continues to serve you as our "reserve" fire engine...even newer apparatus may require repairs and the national fire service rating system requires a reserve engine specifically for this purpose. A firehouse without a fire engine simply does not work! Remember, we are your partners in this community, and our doors are always open. Stop by anytime to check out how your dollars are helping to keep our area's homes, businesses, and families protected!



Don't Let Criminals Steal Your Holiday Joy

When we think of the Holidays, words like joy and family, faith, thankfulness and giving come to mind. We welcome or visit loved ones, dig up delicious recipes, hang lights and help others in need. We also shop. Grocery stores and malls are packed to the gills. It is a time to celebrate, but it is also a time to be aware. The hustle and bustle, distractions and sometimes pricey gifts can make us an easy target for criminals looking to take advantage of the unsuspecting.

In preparation for the busy season, the Houston Police Department has compiled some "Holiday Safety" guidelines that will help us all stay safe.

While Shopping

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit, or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your driver's license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack (on the front side your body).
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket.
- Be alert, criminals look for the "high dollar store" shopping bags with your purchases.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags as well as purses can easily be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost as well as what to do if a "stranger" should try and take them.
- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages. Either make multiple trips to your vehicle or have your packages sent to package pick-up where you may retrieve them in a well-lit and heavily populated area.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.
- If you do return to your vehicle to unload packages and continue shopping, place your purchases in the trunk. Be observant of anyone watching, and if possible, move the vehicle to another parking space to deter a burglary of your vehicle.
- Try not to shop until the store closes. Remember, fewer people are present at this time.

In Parking Lots

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during the hours of darkness.
- DO NOT park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows. Waiting assailants can be obscured from view upon your return.
- Before shopping, lock all your valuables in the trunk prior to parking in the parking lot.
- Leave the store with a group of people, not alone.
- Ask the Security Officer to escort you to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside the store. If you suspect you are being followed, report it immediately to the store or mall Security.

THE REALITIES OF BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Readers of this newsletter are aware of significant budget reductions across the region, state and nation. We are experiencing the same situation. All of our funds are derived from ESD#28's ten cents property tax rate and this year total revenue is down about \$300,000, which is about 12%. We feel confident the 2011 budget year will be very tight but with no service reductions. This newsletter's basic intent is to allow our community to understand what we do – and what we cannot do. 2012 and beyond may require service reductions or alternative revenue sources such as billing for services, fundraising for tax exempt properties, restricting response resources and a host of other alternatives. At this time, efficiencies have already been implemented but we cannot predict cost savings until further study.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF..

Did you ever wonder what really goes into the operation of a full-service, high performance fire department? As children, we envision big red trucks, flashing lights, loud sirens and brave firefighters. That is certainly part of who we are, but there's much more happening behind the scenes...important people and processes that not only helped to create this entity, but those that keep it running smoothly and efficiently today. Let's pull back the curtain and take a peek!

Exactly How Does PFD Operate?

Many are not aware of our expertly run organizational infrastructure. There are many "things" that operate in the background to ensure our service provisions (within our available resources) are the highest of quality and that our business model operates efficiently. Following is a quick look at the major components that make our wheels turn:

Ponderosa Fire Department

In 1972, Station 3 of the Spring VFD was formed by a small group of very dedicated individuals. In 1976, that same group split from Spring and created the Ponderosa VFD. I remember those days well. With a budget of less than \$25,000 and a goal to minimize as many losses from fire as possible, we knocked on a lot of doors for donations. During that era, the population in the 13-square-mile district was about 10,000, with around 35 businesses. Boy, have times changed! Over the years, we've worked hard to expand with our area's growth - always attempting to at least stay even with the ever-increasing needs. Today, PFD serves about 50,000 people, over 1,000 businesses, the Houston Northwest Medical Center and related services, and over 11,000 apartments in 52 complexes. Whew! We've had to be flexible, proactive and economical to keep up with the growth, all the while working to bring this great area the quality and service you all deserve. It's been a true team effort between PFD and those we serve. We've come a long way, and if the past is any indication, we'll continue to grow and evolve in the future.

Who Runs This Ship?

Our bosses are now, and have always been, residents of our community that serve on the board of the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Association (PVFA) - a Texas chartered and IRS non-profit association. With the fire chief as CEO at the helm and with fabulous assistance from a highly dedicated command staff, the board of directors of the PVFA meet monthly to ensure

we deliver quality services and continue to operate under a flexible business model. The strength of this system is that all directors are citizens of this community. Some have been with us for decades, and all have the drive and dedication to provide the very best services for you, the customer - their fellow residents.



Chief Windisch

The members of the PVFA are elected by the community (you can view the bylaws on our website and see their names on the front page of this newsletter). As with neighborhood civic associations and water districts, there is not much outside citizen involvement. We tend to view that as a sign that we are serving you well - "if it isn't broken, don't fix it". But as always, we are open and available if you have any comments or questions. We are here to protect you and your property.

Emergency Services District #28

The growth of the area during the early 1980's necessitated an election to form Rural Fire Prevention District #28 and the Association contracted to provide fire and rescue services. The ongoing donations method consumed tremendous resources and it just wasn't sufficient to maintain service levels, so in the early 1990's, RFPD #28 converted to an Emergency Services District (as per Texas statutes) and the growth continued causing the tax rate to increase nominally over the years. The RFPD started at 3 cents (each cent equates to \$30 per year, per \$100,000 of property valuation by the Harris County Appraisal District), and now is at 10 cents - the maximum allowed for all operations and capital expenditures. ESD #28 commissioners are also elected (every two years) by the citizens of the district. Commissioners were previously appointed by Harris County, but state law changed to the elective process. The next ESD #28 election will take place in 2012. Funding through taxes is extremely important and necessary for the Ponderosa Fire Department to keep up with the community's growth and

ever-changing needs, but the future of sufficient funding is now questionable. The current 10 cent tax rate is simply not enough to maintain staff and meet rising operations and capital costs. Property evaluations recently decreased over 12% (which equates to about \$300,000 per year), and we hope the state legislature understands the importance of fire and rescue services and allows for a local election to increase the tax cap to sustain service levels. The reality, however, is that is unlikely to happen and we will have to seek out other revenue sources. The alternative is to reduce services and we strongly believe that is not part of our culture.

Where We Are Today

The Ponderosa FD operates three fire stations with state-of-the-art fire and rescue equipment, and the construction of a replacement station is currently underway on Louetta. We have a full-time fire chief, a part-time Command Staff, an office manager, nine full-time firefighters, a cadre of part-time paid firefighters, and 50 volunteers. We refer to this type of organization as a “combination agency”, which allows us to provide you with the best bang for your buck. Our budget is \$2,000,000 per year for all expenses, payroll and capital. We work daily with our mutual aid neighbors and we have our own training facility at Station 3 on Imperial Valley.

Since 2001, the PFD has been rated by the insurance companies as a Public Protection Class 3 fire department, and we were the first agency in our area to achieve this level. This national system sets your home/business insurance rate on risk, with Class 10 being no fire department and Class 1 meeting all requirements. Our “3” rating ranks in the top 5% of our nation--not bad considering our history and evolution. This impressive rating saves you insurance dollars every year which help to offset your real estate tax. To give a specific example, consider the difference in a \$150,000 home with a PPC 3 rating to one with a PPC 5. The annual insurance savings is about \$50 per year, thereby offsetting the \$150 per year in taxes you pay. Maintaining the PPC 3 rating is very important to us and we work hard every day to assure compliance.

My job as the fire chief of this wonderful organization and outstanding community is to ensure we work hard, we train right and we are at your doorstep as soon as humanly possible with highly qualified professionals. We take that challenge very seriously, and we thank you for all you’ve done to help us achieve those goals. Happy Holidays to you and your family from all of us at PFD!

J. C. Woodard

PFD Firefighter Spotlight:

Kevin Wiseman

Many firefighters come from families with a rich history in the emergency services field, but how many can say that lineage dates back almost 150 years? Ponderosa Fire Department’s Station



2 Captain, Kevin Wiseman, certainly can. **Every male** in his mother’s family, dating back to the Civil War era, has been a firefighter or policeman. It’s no surprise, then, that after watching a garage fire at 15-years-old, he too caught the bug.

A native of Flint, Michigan, Wiseman has lived in Texas for the better part of his life. He became a member of PFD at 16 and has been with the department for 14 years. He also attended Oklahoma State University and obtained a fire protection engineering degree in 2003. And if serving as PFD Station 2 Captain isn’t enough, Wiseman also works full-time as a career firefighter with the Woodlands Fire Department, and in 2008, he started his own fire protection consulting company, Wiseman Fire Protection.

“This is who I am...it’s what I love,” said Wiseman. “I enjoy the camaraderie, the fact that we do honest work and help the community in a positive way, and the friendships. My best friends...those I can most rely on are firefighters.”

Kevin, his wife, Elisa, and their 2-year-old daughter, Caroline, even live across the street from fellow firefighters – Assistant PFD Chief, Tony Spitzenberger and former Station Captain, Robert Logan, both Houston firefighters in their full-time careers.

“Living within our service area really affects how I think about my role at PFD,” said Wiseman. “There is a good chance that an emergency within this District will impact someone I know or live near. Protecting this community is personal to me.”

As Station 2 Captain, Wiseman’s day-to-day duties consist of a lot of managing. He works closely with his two Lieutenants, David Paige and Mark Calub, both of whom have extensive fire service experience with PFD and at their full-time career jobs at the Houston Fire Department.

“The daily duties of a captain are pretty extensive – from the oversight of the fire station, the crew and all of the apparatus, to effectively balancing everybody’s skill sets, personalities, and training needs,” said Wiseman. “It can be pretty overwhelming, but David, Mark and the rest of the crew help me tremendously in getting it all done.”

PFD Fire Chief, Fred Windisch is also well aware of

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Firefighter Spotlights: Tony & Joe Spitzenberger



It's all in the family. That's what a fire department is all about. Family – a unit that comes together, lives together, fights together, protects together and plays together. It doesn't require the same DNA, but sometimes it works out that way. Back in the day, it was quite common for sons to follow in the footsteps of their fathers. When it came to firefighting, it was odd for them not to. But times have changed. With a plethora of career opportunities now available to young folks, joining the ranks of their family's firefighting legacy is no longer a guarantee. These days, it's often the exception rather than the norm. For some, however, the legacy is still strong, the history is in their blood and the need to serve – just as their family members did before them – wins out. They grew up in the fire house. They watched their fathers ride off on the big red trucks. And the only thing they ever wanted to do – was follow.

PFD has six firefighter families among our ranks: Fred Windisch (Fire Chief) and his son, Scott (Deputy Chief); Patrick Longoria (Station 63 Captain) and his son, Steven; brothers David (Lieutenant Station 62) and Jeff Paige; Jim Nusser and son, Justin; brothers Ed and Mark Calub; and the father/son team we are proud to highlight in this newsletter – Tony Spitzenberger (Assistant Chief) and his son, Joe.

Tony – the “dad” in this duo – joined PFD in 1979, and became Assistant Chief in 1999. His son, Joe, joined the department in 2003 (as a junior member) at the age of twelve. He became a rank firefighter at the age of sixteen.

Read on to find out more about each of these talented PFD members – what makes them tick, their accomplishments, hopes and dreams, and what it means to stand alongside their family member in this sometimes dangerous, and always rewarding career of a firefighter.

Tony Spitzenberger – “Dad”

With 31 years under his belt at PFD, Tony Spitzenberger is one of our most valued and talented members. His interest in firefighting goes back to his childhood – watching related TV shows and witnessing actual fires.

“As a child, I was mesmerized watching Johnny and Roy in the TV show, *Emergency*,” said Tony. “Then shortly after moving to Houston with my parents in 1972, our neighbor's house was struck by lightning and caught fire. I watched, wide-eyed, as the members of PFD fought the fire. I knew then...that's what I wanted to do.”

Several years later, Tony's family moved to a home across from the original PFD Station 1. He immediately started hanging around, and the rest is history!

Tony has served as Assistant Chief for eleven years, and the responsibilities of that position continue to grow. In addition to his duties coordinating all departmental training, providing training and oversight to PFD's rescue team, and ensuring compliancy with the state agencies in regards to training and certification, he is responsible for managing all existing facilities and overseeing the design and building of the new ones. Tony also assists Deputy Chief, Scott Windisch, with operational issues and Chief, Fred Windisch, with budget preparation and management. That probably doesn't give him much free time. Oh, but wait, Tony has also been with the Houston Fire Department for 20 years, where he is a Captain and acting in the capacity of EMS Supervisor, covering approximately 150 square miles of southeast Houston, including NASA. Free time? What's that!

But after decades of experiences, countless fires and rescues, endless moments, when asked about his best moment as a firefighter, Tony replied:

“My proudest moment was when my son, Joe, joined the fire service. This profession is truly a calling and not all answer it. I love the fact that I get to work

alongside Joe and see him grow. Having a family member in the service allows you to share a special bond with someone who understands the mental and physical demands of the job. I will always remember when Joe graduated from the fire academy, and I smile a little every time I see him grow with each new experience and lesson he learns, each making him better at his chosen profession.”

As is the same with many firefighters, Tony believes in helping his community – making it a better and safer place to live.

“My parents emphasized this in me in everything they did. Getting involved was what they were all about,” said Tony. “I wanted to be there for my family as well as the community. And I do have to admit, the adrenaline rush from going into a burning building that is dark, hot, and dangerous is pretty cool, too! I am proud of where this organization has come from and where it is heading. As long as I live here, I plan to be a part of it.”

Tony is married to his loving and wonderful wife of 22 years, Rhonda (a former member of PFD), and in addition to Joe, he has two other children – Nicole, Joe’s fraternal twin and a Pre-Med student at Texas A&M, and Daniel, a sophomore at Klein Collins High School. He is proud of them all, and supports them in everything they seek to achieve in life.

Joe Spitzenberger – “Son”

Joe Spitzenberger, a member of PFD for the past seven years, and a firefighter for the past three, also felt drawn to his chosen profession at a very young age.

“I knew this was what I wanted to do the first time I went out on a call with my Dad,” said Joe. “I was just a kid, but I felt the same adrenaline rush the other guys felt. It was exciting then, and still is today.”

Joe is a graduate of Klein Collins High School and is currently a student at Lone Star Montgomery College – where he is working towards his Career Firefighter Certification and Fire Protection degree.

As a junior firefighter (from the age of 12-15), Joe was able to watch, learn and perform duties such as connecting hoses, swapping out air bottles and fighting fire from the exterior. It wasn’t until he was 16 and had graduated from the fire academy that he got to do what he had always dreamed of doing – fight fire from the inside - go into that burning building. His main duties now include helping with rescue and fire extinguishment, and he is also in training to become part of the rescue team that extricates car accident victims from their vehicles with the cutters and *Jaws of Life*®.

It’s no surprise, however, that Joe’s most memorable moment since joining PFD involves his Dad.

“My best moment at Ponderosa would have to be when my Dad pinned my badge on me at graduation,” said Joe. “I know he was proud that I’d followed in his footsteps. It was a really emotional day for the whole family.”

But being the son of the Assistant Chief isn’t always a cake walk. There are high expectations, and someone is always around who knows your capabilities, and when you may not be meeting them.

“It’s not always easy,” said Joe. “A lot is expected of me and every time I make a mistake, it is known! But, all in all, I wouldn’t change a thing. Having my Dad there really helps. We know what we are both capable of and what is expected, so there is less confusion. I love working with the big guy!”

When he’s not at the fire station, Joe is either at work (at Discount Tire), in EMT class, at the gym, or hanging out with friends and family. His goal is to become a career firefighter with PFD and possibly a big department, like HFD, and he hopes to one day become a Captain, just like his “old man”.

“I’ve always wanted to give back to the community, and I feel that firefighting is one of the best ways to do that,” said Joe. “It’s in my blood. It’s what my Dad has dedicated his life to, and my great-grandpa as well, who was a fire chief in Spencer, Iowa. I truly can’t imagine doing anything else, and I’m so grateful to PFD for allowing me the opportunity to pursue my dream at such a great organization.”

Kevin Wiseman - Continued from page 5

the team effort it takes to run an effective fire department.

“How can a fire chief fail with dedication and talent like Kevin’s and so many others in our great organization?” said Windisch. “It’s the people that make us work, and Kevin is one of the best.”

Wiseman hopes to continue to learn and contribute in his role as Station 2 Captain at PFD, and would also like to ascend the ranks to Driver Operator and Lieutenant at the Woodlands Fire Department, all the while continuing to grow his fire protection firm.

That doesn’t leave Wiseman a whole lot of spare time, but when he does find it, he enjoys fishing, spending time with his family, and racing his Nascar 360 Pro Truck at the Houston Motorsports Park near Humble and the Thunderhill Raceway south of Austin.

We thank Kevin for all of his hard work and dedication and we wish him the best of luck – on and off the racetrack!

**17061 Rolling Creek Dr.
Houston, TX 77090**



December 2010 9.3k

Volunteers are needed! If you are hard-working, dedicated and interested in becoming part of the Ponderosa VFD, call 281-444-8465 today!

This publication is intended for the residents within the Ponderosa VFD service area. If you received it in error, we hope you'll still read it and utilize the fire safety information.

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In Memoriam of Our Brother, *John Joseph Lampl*



On Thursday, October 28th, Ponderosa Fire Department lost a dear friend and fellow firefighter, John Lampl, in a vehicle accident in Huntsville, Texas. This entire department, and our neighboring departments, will miss John tremendously and we will do our best to honor his years of stellar service by continuing to live up to the high standards of firefighting excellence he committed himself to on a daily basis.

John was a hero in every sense of the word. In fact, in 2008 he was awarded the Medal of Valor for rescuing and providing medical attention to a man trapped in an apartment fire on Cypresswood Drive. Six months prior (in his full-time role at the Woodlands Fire Department), John rescued a woman from a burning home and also received The Woodlands FD Medal of Valor. Humble as always, John characterized these acts as "what anyone else would do".

But as we stated in his Medal of Valor highlight in PFD's Summer 2009 newsletter: "the friends and family of the victims saved would call it something else entirely...they would call it heroic". He truly was the epitome of what this profession of community service stands for.

Born on April 28, 1971 – the youngest son of Gloria and Daniel Lampl – John grew up in Spring, Texas and began volunteering at Ponderosa Fire Department as a teenager. After graduating from Klein Oak High School in 1991, he attended the Texas Engineering Extension Service at Texas A&M University. He obtained his certificate, continued volunteering with PFD and also began working with the Champions Area Volunteer Fire Department. John signed on as a career firefighter with The Woodlands Fire Department in 2002, but in his true committed and generous fashion, he also stayed on as a volunteer at PFD, Champions and Spring.

As outlined above, John received impressive accolades for his service, but it was the day-to-day brethren, the passion for the job and a commitment to serving his community that he cherished the most about this chosen career.

John is survived by his loving wife, Deborah (Johnson) Lampl, his

mother Gloria McLean, mother and father-in-law Ronald and Sharon Johnson, sister and brother-in-law Samantha (Lampl) and Gil Melman, nephews Noah and Evan Melman and niece Rachel Melman, brother Daniel Livsey, brother and sister-in-law Brandon and Angelique Johnson, nieces Stormi and Ashlyn Johnson, and his countless "brothers" and "sisters" within the fire service community.

"John was one of 'my kids'. He grew up with us, served with us, and played with us," stated PFD Fire Chief, Fred Windisch. "He had a great sense of humor, but when the going got tough, he was the tough one to see it through. John leaves behind a cadre of local fire department comrades, and we will surely miss his wit, dedication, and most importantly, his friendship."

John Lampl was laid to rest with honor by his family and fire and EMS friends on Wednesday, November 3rd. All of us at PFD extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. Rest in peace, John. Until we meet again.

For those interested in helping a great cause in honor of John Lampl, memorial contributions may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at www.cff.org or to the Fallen Firefighters Foundation at www.firehero.org.