



94 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnynyfa.org



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September 2007

From the Editor

The summer has brought to us some sad news and some cause for concern.

We mourn the loss of Ex-Chief Stephen Dembski of the Ridgefield Park Fire Dept. Dembski "didn't feel well" and collapsed after fighting a mutual aid alarm while assisting the Bogota FD. Medical teams including President Robert Kirsch worked feverishly to revive Dembski but to no avail. We as fellow firefighters lost a dedicated brother in the line of duty.

I experienced the sad honor of being part of the "sea of blue"; hundreds of firefighters from all over that came to offer condolences to his wife, children and family. It seems appropriate to quote the closing line from the Fireman's Prayer, "...please bless with your protecting hand my children and my Wife."

We also experience the concern of Garfield firefighter Radoslaw Polanski who was seriously injured while responding to an alarm of fire. Sure, there are circumstances involved with this accident but the bottom line is a *dedicated volunteer was seriously injured while responding to a call for help*. Lets offer our prayers for his fast recovery and continue to support his family and members of the Garfield Fire Dept.

These recent events emphasize the need for us to look out for each other and help whenever and wherever we can. As I mentioned last issue accidents can happen to anyone and we all have families that would have to deal with our recovery if we ever got hurt or worse yet, not return home. So let's think of them in whatever we do.

Be Safe and remember our troops!
Frank

E-mail submissions and photos to ffuchs9595@aol.com. Please put "Signal" in the subject line. Or send to: Frank Fuchs—The Signal 25 Union Ave. Little Ferry, NJ 07643

2007 Annual Convention

We'd like to offer a sincere Thank You to Chief John Domville, the officers, members and Auxiliaries of the Westwood Fire Dept. for hosting our annual convention meeting on June 1st. From the Presentation of the Colors to the closing of the meeting your members went out of their way to make us feel at home in your fire-house. We thank you for your active participation in our Association.

Congratulations to the winners of our Service Awards and Scholarships. Your bravery and commitment to the fire service and academic achievements have earned you the recognition you deserve. More photos and details inside.



Pres. Robert Kirsch and First VP Stu Gates present plaque to Chief John Domville



*God Bless America
and
Remember Our Troops!*

Wear Your Seat Belt



ALWAYS!

2007 Convention Highlights



President Robert Kirsch open the convention and welcomes all to Westwood.



1st Vice President Stu Gates offers invocation.



Presentation and posting of the colors by the Westwood Fire Dept. Color Guard.



Westwood Chief John Domville welcomes guests to Westwood.



Stu Gates comments on new Fireman's home in NY.



Financial Secretary John Schwedhelm recaps membership status.



Treasurer George Saigh presents financial report to membership.



NJ State Association Vice President George Heflich



Gerry Naylis offers report



Milt Cole reports on 100th Anniversary Committee.

Important Benefit Update

The lottery starts on October 1, 2007. SO FAR, THE RETURNS HAVE BEEN VERY POOR. Out of 132 sent we've only received returns from 19 NJ member companies and 1 NY member company. Only 194 calendars sold so far. This calendar lottery is our main source of income for our Death Benefit. The Death Benefit is now \$1,000.00 and we pay 7 to 10 claims a year. At this rate, we will not have enough funds to keep this going for too long. When we start dipping into reserves to make prize payments and Benefit payments, the whole program will be gone. If all member companies send in \$50.00 to cover the calendars sent them we would be starting out with \$6,600.00 in the prize pool. Unless we have more participation, we may have to discontinue future calendar sales. PLEASE HELP NOW!

2007 Convention Scholarship Awards



Kimberly M. Raimondi
Lafayette College



Michael Koch
Seton Hall University



Timothy Carroll
East Stroudsburg University
Accepted by Neil Carroll



Lauryn Kerr
Bergen Community College



Rebecca Molinaro
Rutgers University



Courtney Scheideler
Albright College



Annelysa Koch
Rutgers University



Robert Aitken, Jr.
Montclair State University



Elizabeth Guenther
Boston College



Michelle Hartman
University of Rhode Island

**Congratulations to our
Scholarship Award
winners.**

Remember!
Scholarships are made
possible through your support
with our scholarship calendar
drive.



Christopher Naylis
New Jersey City University

2007 Convention Service Awards



UNIT CITATION AWARD—DUMONT FIRE DEPT. Deputy Chief Daniel Molinaro, Captain James Molinaro, Firefighters Peter Daniele, James McGloin, Robert Stevens.

On June 21, 2006 the Dumont Fire Dept. received numerous calls of a working fire. Upon arrival Chief Molinaro was informed that three occupants were in the building. Without regard for his own safety and without protective equipment he entered the structure and attempted a quick search of the apartment.

Deputy Chief Molinaro located the first victim and brought her to safety. He re-entered the apartment but was pushed back by the fire and heavy smoke just as the first arriving engine was pulling up to the scene. He

advised the members of Engine Co 3 that two residents were still inside. At the same time Captain James Molinaro, Firefighters James McGloin and Peter Daniele entered the structure to complete the primary search. Firefighters McGloin and Daniele located the second victim who was unconscious and was brought out to safety by Firefighter McGloin. At the same time, Captain James Molinaro and Firefighter Daniele continued their search.

Firefighter Daniele located the third victim in the front bedroom, unconscious and not breathing. Daniele then broke out the front window and returned to the victim, losing his face mask in the process. Daniele was able to hand the victim to the police who immediately began life saving measures and were able to get the victim breathing again. After passing out the victim, Daniele also bailed out the front window due to losing his mask. At the same time Firefighter Robert Stevens entered with an attack line and along with Capt. Molinaro was able to knock down the fire in the rear bedroom and hallway.



2007 PRESIDENTIAL VALOR CITATION—NANCY K. NAYLIS

On Friday Sept. 29 2006 after a general business meeting of the NJNY-VFA Pres. Robert E. Kirsch was enjoying dinner when a large piece of food became lodged in his throat. He had difficulty breathing and could not speak. Bergenfield Firefighter Nancy Naylis noticed his difficulty and quickly moved behind the victim preparing to perform the Heimlich maneuver, all the time asking him if he was OK, if he could breath or speak. Once Pres Kirsch indicated no she immediately applied the maneuver with one quick and sudden inward and upward thrust. With this move she was able to dislodge the obstruction from his throat. After being called be a fellow member who witnessed the incident members of the

Leonia Fire Dept came running into the room to assist. Thankfully President Kirsch was able to clear the obstruction with the assistance of Ms. Naylis. Thanks to Nancy Naylis for her quick response in using her expertise in saving the life of a fellow firefighter.



2007 RUDY APPELD SERVICE AWARD—MILTON R. COLE

Milton R. Cole was admitted to the Hook & Ladder Co of the Westwood Fire Dept in April 1956 after serving 3 years 11 mos. On the Ridgefield Park FD. and became an exempt member in 1964. During his tenure Milt served the department in various positions: Secretary 1963—1967; Vice President 1965, 1967, 1983; President 1968, 1969, 1984, 1985; Lieutenant 1965, 1967; Captain 1968, 1969; Captain of Emergency Truck 1971; 2nd. Asst. Chief 1972; 1st. Asst. Chief 1973; Chief of Department 1974; Department Secretary 1977-1986. Milt also served as Secretary of the New Jersey & New York Volunteer Firemen's Assn. for many years and also served numerous offices of the Association: 2nd. Vice President

1988—1990; 1st. Vice President 1990—1992; President 1992—1994. Milt is currently Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Committee of the Assn. He served as Exec. Committeeman of the NJ Sate Assn from 1993-2003. Milt is also Past President of the Bergen County Firemen's Home Assn. Hats off to Milt who remains very active in all the associations in which he has contributed 55 years of dedicated service and still counting.

Ex Chief Stephen Dembski

As printed in The Record



DEMBSKI Stephen R., age 41, on July 15, 2007 of Ridgefield Park. He was a photo imaging manager for Hoffmann La Roche in Nutley for 17 years, former Fire Chief of the Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department 2005-2006 and a member of

Truck Co. #2., Junior Fireman Trainer, Ridgefield Pk. Little League Baseball Coach, a graduate of Ridgefield Park High School and member of National Art Honor Society and a graduate of Jersey City State College. Beloved husband to Nancy (nee Scheideler). Devoted father to Raymond and Kyle. Loving son to Raymond and Carole (nee Mc Kenna). Dear brother to Justin Dembski and his wife Mari Ann, Dr. Christopher Dembski and his wife Alyson. He is also survived by his father-in-law and mother-in-law Ex. Fire Chief Andrew Scheideler, Sr. and Eleanor, brother-in-law Ex. Chief Andrew Scheideler Jr. and his wife Rose, Diane Sharpe and her husband Gary and the late Karen Luke. Stephen is also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

If desired donations may be made to: The Stephen Dembski Memorial Fund 93 Hazelton St. Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Support your Association...Come to a meeting! Meeting locations and directions via Mapquest are listed on our Web site at www.njnyvfa.org

September—Elmwood Pk FD. Co #4

September 22—Little Ferry Hose Co Wetdown 1-5PM

October 15—Westwood FD Fall Classic Golf Outing

October 26—Carlstadt NJ FD

November 16—New Milford Co #1 (1 week early due to Thanksgiving holiday)

Westwood 7th Annual Golf Classic

October 15—Blue Hill Golf Course, Orangeburg NY. Tee times start @ 11AM. Lunch & Dinner 150.00. Reservations call 201-478-1007 or e-mail jcole519@verizon.net



In Memory of our departed members

The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed members:

Albert Krause—River Vale, NJ

Charles F. Graves—Ridgefield Pk, NJ

Warren Morgan—West Nyack, NY

Carl H. Bergman—Falmouth, MA

Mark F. Tighe—Nalcrest, FL

John Tomasura—Toms River, NJ

William Mittendorf—Garfield, NJ

Frank Mendola—Moonachie, NJ

Lester N. DeVries Jr.—Spring Lake Hgts, NJ

Listing of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.

Shamrock

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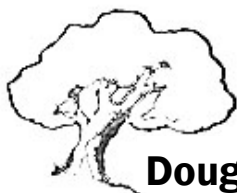
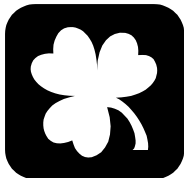
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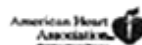
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