

*Happy 99th  
Bday*

*Free Comm  
J. Simon  
Mayor J...  
Council members  
- Chief Ed  
- Officers & Members  
Hose Co. # 1*

REP. TANGRETTI REMARKS

GREENSBURG

HOSE

Co,

AUG. 25 , 1990

(USUAL GREETINGS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE YOUR GUEST HERE  
TONIGHT, TO EAT AND DRINK WITH YOU AND  
SHARE YOUR COMPANY.

AND I COME WITH THE PERSPECTIVE OF  
A STATE LEGISLATOR, AND A LEGISLATOR WHO  
-- LIKE MY PREDECESSOR -- IS FULLY  
COMMITTED TO ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF  
VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

NO SERVICES ARE MORE VITAL TO OUR  
COMMUNITIES THAN THOSE PROVIDED BY  
ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE GREENSBURG HOSE  
COMPANY NO. 1 AND THE HUNDREDS OF OTHER  
VOLUNTEER COMPANIES ACROSS THE STATE.

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ALL OUR COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE, BUT NONE RISK LIFE AND INJURY FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR NEIGHBORS AS YOU DO.

NONE INCUR THE ENORMOUS COST OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, AND NONE MAKE THE SAME COMMITMENT OF TIME AND ENERGY WITHOUT COMPENSATION...AS YOU DO.

THESE ARE THINGS WE NEED TO REMEMBER FROM TIME AND TIME. AND IF WE'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE, I'M NOT IN THE LEAST CONCERNED ABOUT IT, BECAUSE WE NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE CHARACTERISTIC OF HUMAN NATURE, MAYBE THE MOST UNFORTUNATE CHARACTERISTIC, THAT WE TAKE OUR GOOD THINGS FOR GRANTED.

SOMETIMES EVEN WITH THE ATTITUDE THAT - HEY, IT'S ~~OUR~~ DUE. *US*.

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I'M SURE YOU RUN INTO THAT WHENEVER YOU CONDUCT A FUNDRAISER...OR TRY TO RECRUIT PEOPLE TO HELP OUT WITH A SPECIAL EVENT.

EVERYBODY LOVES THE WORK THE FIRE COMPANY DOES UNTIL IT COMES TIME TO HELP OUT...THEN PEOPLE START TO DISAPPEAR.

MY GOOD FRIEND, THE LATE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JIM MANDERINO, HAD A SAYING FOR IT: "EVERYBODY WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN," HE'D SAY. "NOBODY WANTS TO DIE."

THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS WORKED TO SUPPORT PENNSYLVANIA'S VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND NO ONE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS DONE MORE THAN THE LATE AMOS HUTCHINSON WHO WAS AN ESTEEMED MEMBER OF THIS HOSE COMPANY.

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AMOS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
CREATION OF THE STATE VOLUNTEER LOAN  
PROGRAM BACK IN THE 1970s.

IT WAS HIS BABY AND HE WATCHED OVER  
IT, NURTURED IT, TOOK CARE OF IT AND  
BROUGHT IT TO WHAT IT IS TODAY.

AND I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE  
GOVERNOR LAST MONTH SIGNED LEGISLATION  
PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO IMPROVE  
THAT PROGRAM EVEN MORE...AN ACTION THAT  
SURELY WAS A MOMENT OF SATISFACTION FOR  
AMOS DURING THE DIFFICULT LAST DAYS OF  
HIS ILLNESS.

THE NEW LAW INCREASES FROM \$50,000  
TO \$100,000 THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT A FIRE  
DEPARTMENT CAN BORROW TO PURCHASE A NEW  
TRUCK...AND THE MAXIMUM LOAN FOR AN  
AERIAL (LADDER) TRUCK WILL BE \$50,000  
MORE...OR \$150,000.



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THE MAXIMUM LOAN FOR A NEW  
AMBULANCE WILL BE RAISED FROM \$25,000 TO  
\$50,000. AND THE TERMS OF LOANS FOR USED  
EQUIPMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN LIBERALIZED.

THE PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES LOANS  
AT A 2 PERCENT INTEREST RATE, HAS NOT HAD  
THE LOAN CEILINGS INCREASED SINCE 1982  
-- AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO  
THE PRICE OF EQUIPMENT SINCE THAT TIME.

THE LEGISLATION ALSO PROVIDES FOR A  
STATEWIDE REFERENDUM ON A BOND ISSUE TO  
FINANCE FUTURE LOANS AND A PROVISION  
ALLOWING FIRE AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES TO  
BORROW MORE MONEY FROM THE FUND IF THE  
EQUIPMENT THEY ARE BUYING WAS  
MANUFACTURED OR ASSEMBLED IN  
PENNSYLVANIA.

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IN ADDITION, THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE HELD A SERIES OF FIVE HEARINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE THIS YEAR TO SEE WHAT THE LEGISLATURE CAN DO TO HELP FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES RECRUIT AND RETAIN VOLUNTEERS.

*Chief  
Ed. Hestch &  
Kim Test.*

THE COMMITTEE CAME UP WITH A TOTAL OF 128 SUGGESTIONS IT RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS WHO TESTIFIED AT THE FIVE HEARINGS.

THE SUGGESTIONS COVER IMPROVEMENTS TO ACT 101 DEATH BENEFITS; EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS; REIMBURSEMENT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING AND RESPONSES; ...ON UP TO EXPANDING THE DUTIES PERMITTED BY MINORS UNDER THE CHILD LABOR LAW.

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MANY OF THESE SUGGESTIONS EITHER  
HAVE BEEN OR SOON WILL BE INCORPORATED  
IN LEGISLATION THAT WILL BE SPONSORED IN  
THE STATE HOUSE.

IN CLOSING, LET ME ONCE AGAIN  
INVOKE THE NAME OF THE LATE  
REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON.

HE WAS PERHAPS THE GREATEST FRIEND  
VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL  
HAVE EVER HAD IN THE LEGISLATURE.

MANY MAY WONDER WHO WILL NOW  
CHAMPION THAT CAUSE.

I CAN'T PROMISE TO BE ANOTHER AMOS  
HUTCHINSON. NO ONE CAN.

AS THE BIBLE SAYS, WE ALL HAVE OUR  
UNIQUE AND INDIVIDUAL GIFTS AND TALENTS,  
AND NO ONE'S ARE EXACTLY THE SAME AS  
SOMEONE ELSE'S.

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BUT I CAN AND DO PROMISE THAT I  
WILL DO ALL THAT I CAN FOR THIS VOLUNTEER  
ORGANIZATION AND ALL THOSE IN PENN-  
SYLVANIA WHO WORK TO PROTECT OUR LIVES  
AND PROPERTY.

TO DO LESS WOULD BE A DISSERVICE  
NOT ONLY TO THIS COMPANY AND ITS LATE  
DISTINGUISHED MEMBER...BUT ALSO TO THE  
LEGISLATIVE LEGACY HE WORKED SO HARD TO  
CREATE AND MAKE PERMANENT FOR  
PENNSLVANIA'S VOLUNTEERS.