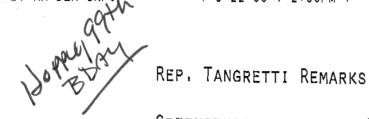
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Aug. 25 , 1990

GREENSBURG

(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, ALL OUR COMMUNITY AND CIVIC OR-GANIZATIONS 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.

THAT \_ HEY, IT'S OUR DUE. US.

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. -4-

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. ~6-

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 E TO HELP FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES RECRUIT AND RETAIN VOLUNTEERS.

Ed. Heth & Kim tost.

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, 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. 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.