

- I. THANK YOU IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE
TO SAY A FEW WORDS AT THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
OUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
- II. NOT ENOUGH CREDIT CAN BE GIVEN
 - A. COURAGEOUS INDIVIDUALS
 - B. DISTINGUISHED BY YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR
COMMUNITY
- III. WE TAKE FOR GRANTED
 - A. FIRE, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OR OTHER EMERGENCIES
 - B. YOU WILL BE THERE HELPING PEOPLE SO OF WHOM
ARE STRANGERS
 - C. WE ENTRUST TO YOU WE CIVILIANS, OUR LIVES AND
THOSE OF OUR FAMILIES
 - D. IN ADDITION, MOST TIMES WE DO NOT EVEN GIVE IT
SECOND THOUGHT AND WE SHOULD!
 - E. EVERY DAY THAT WE WAKE UP IN OUR SAFE WARM
BEDS OR START OUR CARS WE SHOULD CALL TO MIND
WHAT YOU DO FOR US
- IV. THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT YOU ALL HAVE AND THE
SACRIFICES THAT YOU MAKE ON OUR BEHALF IS ONLY

COMPARABLE TO THOSE WHO SERVES OUR COUNTRY IN
TIME OF WAR.

A. YOU ON A DAILY BASIS RISK YOUR OWN LIVES ON
BEHALF WITHOUT ANY REWARDS EXCEPT THE
SATISFACITON OF KNOWING THAT YOUR VOLUNTEER
SERVICE IS THE HIGHEST CALLING THAT ANYONE ON
THIS EARTH CAN ASPIRE TO

B. THAT YOUR'S IS A THANKLESS JOB THAT REQUIRES
NOTHING LESS THAN INTESTINAL FORTITUDE, PRIDE IN
YOUR PERFORMANCE, PROFESSIONALISM SKILL AND
DETERMINATION

V. BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS IT IS TO CALL ATTENTION
TO YOUR SPECIAL CALL TO PUBLIC SERVICE DURING
YOUR LIFE TIMES IT IS ALSO AS IMPORTANT TO HONOR
THOSE OF YOUR RANKS THAT PASSED ON

A. THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THOSE WE HONOR
TODAY IS STILL DEEPLY APPRECIATED

B. AND THAT WE SHOULD NEVER EVER FORGET THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR WELFARE AND SAFETY

VI. PA HAS HAD A PROUD TRADITION OF VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS

A. AND AS I AM SURE THAT EVERYONE IN THE ROOM
KNOWS OUR COMMONWEALTH WAS THE BIRTHPLACE
OF THE VOL. FIRE COMPANY STARTED BY BEN
FRANKLIN

B. IT SHOULD MAKE US ALL PROUD THAT THOSE WE
HONOR ARE PART OF NOBLE TRADITION STARTED
HUNDRED OF YEARS AGO

C. IN ADDITION, WE CIVILIANS SHOULD PONDER
FREQUENTLY HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE TO SUCH
BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN TO CONTINUE THAT
TRADITION.

1. YOU GIVE SO FREELY AND GENEROUSLY FOR THE
GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

2. SO ON BEHALF OF ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN HARRISBURG I
SALUTE THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ON AFTER SERVING
SO WELL AND FOR SO LONG; AND FOR THOSE WHO

ARE IN THE TRENCHES EVERYDAY STILL LET ME
SIMPLY SAY THANK YOU.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS'
MEMORIAL SERVICE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1998
REP. TOM TANGRETTI

IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO SAY

A FEW WORDS AT THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR OUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

NOT ENOUGH CREDIT IS GIVEN TO

THESE COURAGEOUS INDIVIDUALS, WHO

HAVE BEEN DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR

DEDICATION TO THEIR COMMUNITY.

WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT IN

CASE OF A FIRE, TRAFFIC ACCIDENT OR

OTHER EMERGENCY, SOMEBODY -- MOST

LIKELY STRANGERS, PEOPLE TO WHOM WE

HAVE NO PERSONAL OR FAMILY TIES -- WILL
BE THERE TO HELP.

IT MAY BE OUR HOME, OUR LIFE, THE
LIFE OF A FAMILY MEMBER, EVEN THE LIFE
OF A BELOVED PET, THAT IS PUT INTO
SOMEONE ELSE'S HANDS.

THAT'S QUITE A RESPONSIBILITY. IT'S
ALSO A TREMENDOUS SACRIFICE FOR A
VOLUNTEER TO RISK LIFE AND LIMB WITH
NO APPARENT REWARD.

SO WHILE PROTECTING LIVES AND
PROPERTY MAY BE SIMPLY DUTY TO A

FIREFIGHTER, WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET

WHAT IT IS WE ASK OF OUR VOLUNTEERS.

SO AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS FOR US TO

HONOR FIREFIGHTERS DURING THEIR

LIVES, IT'S JUST AS IMPORTANT THAT WE

CONTINUE TO HONOR THEIR MEMORY IN

DEATH.

THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SHOULD ALWAYS KNOW THAT THE SELF-

SACRIFICE DEMONSTRATED BY OUR FALLEN

HEROES WAS, AND STILL IS, DEEPLY

APPRECIATED.

(PAUSE)

PENNSYLVANIA HAS HAD A LONG AND
PROUD TRADITION OF VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS. IN FACT, OUR
COMMONWEALTH WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF
THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, WITH
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AS ITS FATHER.

I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT THE
INDIVIDUALS WE REMEMBER TONIGHT
WERE PART OF THAT NOBLE TRADITION.

I'M EQUALLY ENCOURAGED THAT
TODAY THERE ARE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE THAT
TRADITION.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK NOW THAT WE
TAKE A MOMENT TO OFFER A SILENT
PRAYER OF GRATITUDE TO THE MEN AND
WOMEN FIREFIGHTERS WHO HAVE GONE ON
TO THEIR REWARD.

THEY GAVE SO FREELY AND
GENEROUSLY OF THEMSELVES FOR THE
GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY. THEY DESERVE
A HEART-FELT TOKEN OF APPRECIATION
FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

I ALSO THINK THAT IT'S APPROPRIATE
THAT AS WE LEAVE HERE THIS EVENING, WE
SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE

FIREFIGHTERS IN ATTENDANCE. LET THEM
KNOW WE SUPPORT AND APPRECIATE THEIR
EFFORTS.

THANK YOU.