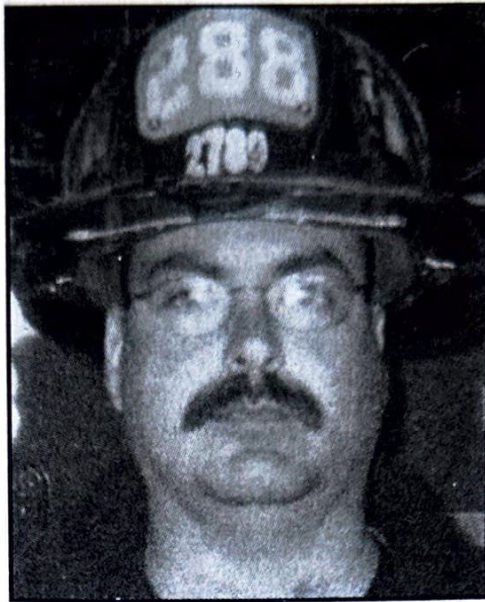


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In Memorium

Squad 288 • Haz-Mat 1

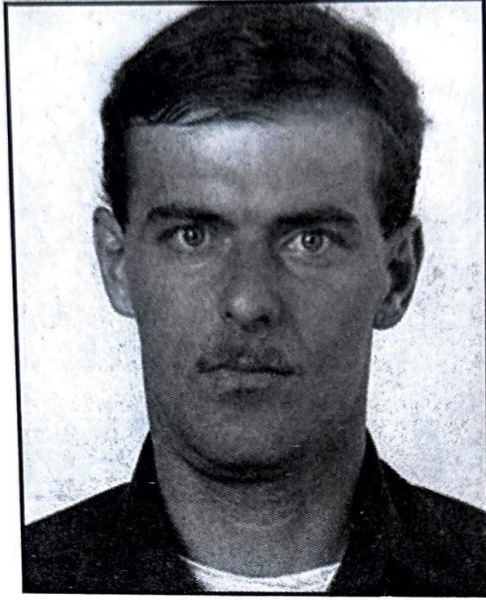


**Firefighter Peter Brennan
Squad 288**

Peter filled his days and nights with humor. He was merciless; everyone and every situation fell victim to one of his jokes. A uniquely personable man, Peter engaged anyone in conversation. He loved taking pictures and rarely left home without a camera. Peter was a loving husband and father who was anxiously awaiting the birth of his second child, a son.

A former NYC Police Officer, Peter began his FDNY career in 1995. To say Peter loved firefighting is a gross understatement. His enthusiasm for fire service was always evident, especially as he served as a Technical Rescue Instructor at the FDNY academy. He showed them the ropes!

Peter was a decorated volunteer firefighter, earning the "Medal of Valor" and "Fireman of the Year" Award for his rescue of three fellow volunteers. Peter was actively pursuing a degree in Fire Science Technology at the time of his death.



Firefighter Dennis Carey
Haz-Mat 1

Dennis will be remembered for his handsome face and his striking stature, which was matched only by the size of his heart. This love was given endlessly to his wife and children. He loved life and traveling and being in the company of family and friends. Dennis was indeed a chef and loved to cook. His fellow firefighters could attest to this, as could all who knew him. His great sense of humor made good times for the people he shared it with. The memory of Dennis, my husband, father of Dennis and Nicole, friend and hero, will never die in our hearts. *We love you.*

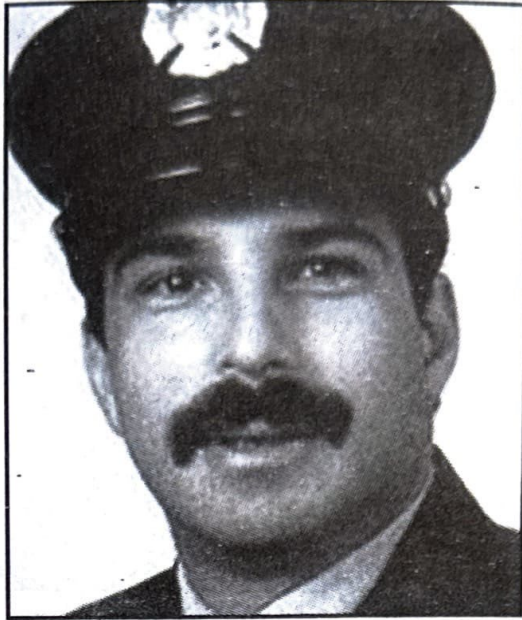


Lieutenant John A. Crisci
Haz-Mat 1

John was a husband, father and friend. We shared thirty years together and he was my best friend. My husband was great at building and got better as the years past. You can tell by the projects in our home. Everything in our house in one way or another was put together by John's hands. He loved his tools! Cooking came naturally to him, whether it was at work or at home. His baby-back ribs were one of his best dishes. Being there for his kids was important to him. He took John, Michael and Joseph to all their games, practices and tournaments.

With a twenty-four year career, John has been in many companies throughout the city, working as a Fire Marshall and teaching at The Rock. In 1989, he received the Chief John J. McElligott Medal for saving a 3-year-old girl from a tenement fire in Harlem.

How can one summarize the life of a man? He is always in our hearts, he lives in his children. John's character was noble, generous, compassionate, and sometimes funny. *We miss and love you forever.* Till we meet again.



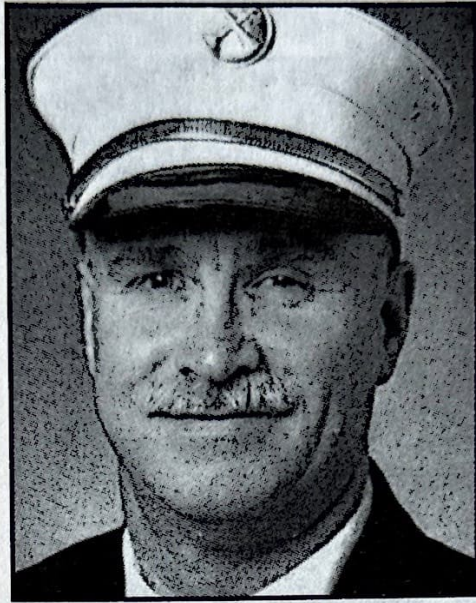
Firefighter Martin Demeo
Haz-Mat 1

Marty, as many already know, was an avid fan of baseball. He not only enjoyed watching the game, but also became an enthusiastic collector of baseball paraphernalia.

More importantly was his passion for family time. Every Friday was “family night,” which consisted of playing board games or cards when the kids were younger and videos as they got older. These evenings usually included pizza, junk-food and chocolate, another favorite of Marty’s.

He juggled his work schedule constantly so as not to miss any of his daughter Kristen’s many concerts or numerous baseball games his son Nick played in. He was always so proud of their many accomplishments.

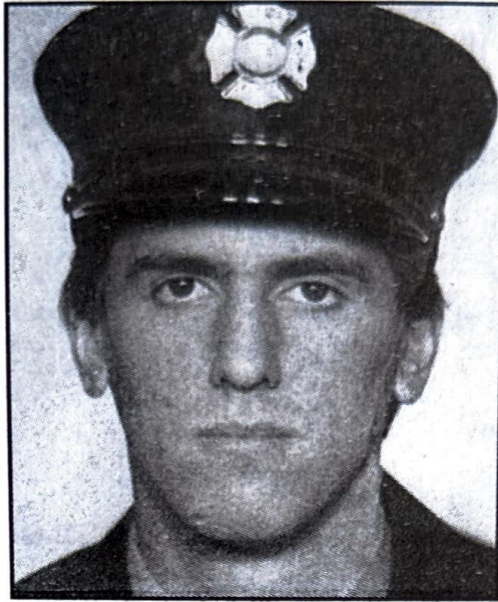
Marty also brought to our family an appreciation for nature. Many great summer days were spent at the ocean. Other vacations included backpacking upstate and yearly camping trips at Hither Hills. Many of our cherished memories of Marty include our time together in Montauk.



Battalion Chief John Fanning
Haz-Mat 1

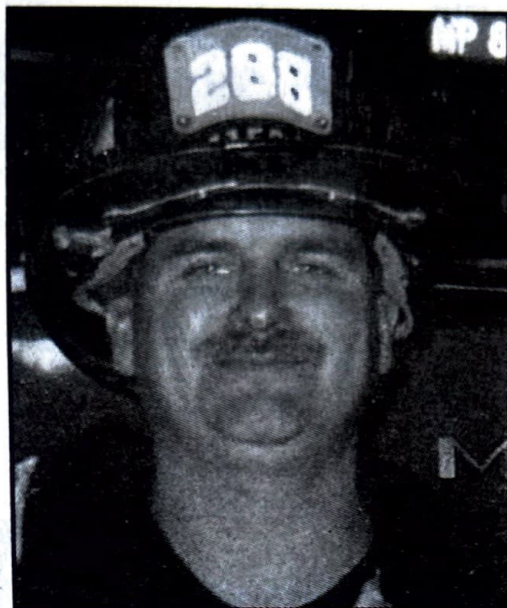
Jack will best be remembered for his sense of humor, dedication to the job, love of family and life itself. His favorite pastime was his computer and helping others work out the “glitches” on their own systems. He always made the time, no matter what other responsibility was calling him. Jack was just a regular guy; 7-11 coffee in his hand, cargo shorts, a T-shirt and a computer magazine tucked under his arm. That is what endeared him to us all.

Jack will be missed by many-especially Maureen, Ryan, Jeremy, Jacqueline, Sean and Patrick. We each have our favorite Jack memory held close to our hearts. We will always cherish the memory of the man that made us smile. Remember his courage for his fellow man and the everlasting love he shared with his family. Jack would want us to remember him smiling...and for us to smile up at him. We are thankful for having him.



Firefighter Thomas Gardner
Haz-Mat 1

Tom Gardner, an enthusiastic learner, completed a science and education degree through Queens College while working as a firefighter in Harlem, NY. He transferred to Haz-Mat 1 where he applied his knowledge of chemistry. Through the IAFF, he became a master instructor of hazardous materials courses and also taught courses at New Jersey City University. A lover of nature, his favorite pastime was walking through the woods and volunteering at area zoos and museums. He had hoped to become a high school science teacher after retirement. His love of adventure took him to Africa, the Grand Canyon, Maine and Montana. When his children were born, he was a "hands-on" father, sharing all the responsibilities of raising a family. His excellent sense of humor and quick wit led him to write jokes and co-host a weekly comedy show on a local radio station. Tom also loved to play hockey on a league with his brother, Joseph. At his memorial mass, the celebrant said: "Tom had the light-hearted passion of God."



Firefighter Ronnie Gies Squad 288

Ronnie, a loving and dedicated husband to Carol for twenty years and proud father of three teenage sons Thomas, 19, Ronnie Joh, 17, and Robert, 14, was always known for his tremendous ability to be there for others. Ronnie spent 24 years volunteering at the Merrick Fire Department, serving as Chief of Department from 1990-1995.

On July 5, 1988, Ronnie was called to the FDNY, beginning his career at 14 Engine in Manhattan. Two years later, he transferred to 308 Engine and, in May, 1998, he was one of the original members of Squad 288. He loved his job and spoke of it often to anyone who would listen. When not working for the Fire Department, Ronnie enjoyed time with his family, especially playing, coaching or watching the boys play baseball or at the ice rink watching Bobby play hockey.

All three sons hope to follow in their father's footsteps and become firefighters whether with the FDNY or the volunteers.

Carol has said that her husband Ronnie is her hero and now her "angel" and that there is nothing neither she nor the boys wouldn't do to have Ronnie back home.



**Firefighter John J. Giordano
Haz-Mat 1**

John J. Giordano, 47, firefighter, FDNY, Hazardous Materials 1. An 18-year veteran. John's first assignment, until it was closed, was with Engine 17, after which he then spent the next 12 years with Engine 37. The desire of always absorbing knowledge and science is what brought him to Haz-Mat. A gentle man with a passion for nature and the preservation of our environment. The dearest and most important to him was his family and the time they spent together. John is survived by his wife of 18 years and children ages 14, 12 and 3. He was very involved with the schools his children attended, often volunteering for functions and school trips. Always ready to kick or throw the ball around, yet known as the quiet one-the "Gentle Giant." John was extremely proud of the child care center he ran and operated with his wife for the past 15 years; it was where he returned to after every tour. When able to get in some quiet time, John would find himself with one of his other loves, his classical guitar. His love for music has been passed down to his children; 2 out of 3 of them currently play. As for the youngest, Jordan-well, he's showing interest in the guitar and the drums. In July of 2002, John's family received his master's degree in Environmental Science.

He has given us so much, and is forever in our hearts.



**Firefighter Jonathan Hohmann
Haz-Mat 1**

John Hohmann was my husband for 17 years. He was a firefighter for 13 years. He was a father, a friend, and a proud American citizen. He had an American flag on his car long before September 11th.

John grew up in a Bible believing home and he passed on that legacy to his own sons. He was a trustee and an usher in our church. We have been comforted by knowing that he read "Daniel 3" from the Scriptures that morning and he carried a personal verse in his wallet: "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him."

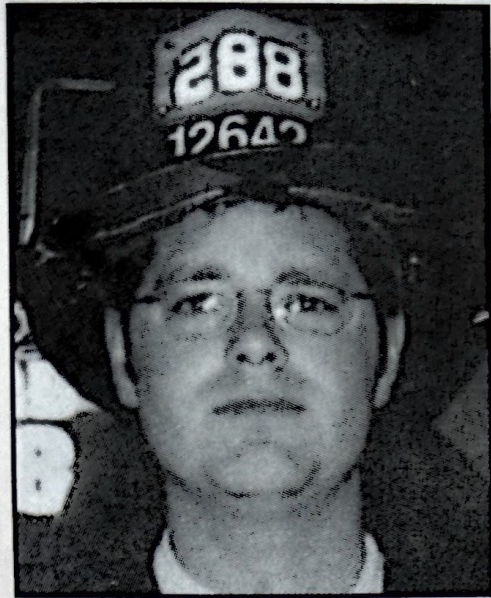
John was a hard-working family man who could do just about anything. He never sat still. He was always learning new things. His passion was mechanics. He loved the outdoors. He was a skier, scuba diver, home remodeler. There is not one place in our home where John's hand can not be seen.

To our sons he was their counselor and mentor and they loved and admired him for the great Dad that he was. We have been blessed to have had him in our lives and he will forever live on in our hearts.



Firefighter Joseph G. Hunter
Squad 288

Joseph G. Hunter was born on September 29, 1969 and was a proud member of FDNY, Squad 288. He was the best of the best as many co-workers put it. Long before he understood the dangers, Joe was love-struck by the sights and sounds of firefighting; he was destined for the profession. At 18, he started as a volunteer firefighter with the South Hempstead Fire Dept. whose firehouse was at the end of his block. A fire truck couldn't pass his house without him racing behind on his Big Wheel. Growing up, Joe loved playing "fireman" and would often hold mock rescue drills in his backyard. he received a Bachelors degree from Hofstra University. He loved golf, especially with his Dad, Joe. He played football in High School and hockey on the firehouse team. He was the tall, handsome, quiet type with an infectious smile. It made everyone that met him love him.



Firefighter Jonathan Ielpi
Squad 288

Jonathan L. Ielpi, 29, firefighter, FDNY, Squad 288. For John, the son of a FDNY veteran, firefighting was priority number one. A longtime hockey player, John gave up his favorite sport after joining the FDNY, worried that an injury could interfere with his work. His North High School team recently retired his jersey. Like his father before him, John served as Chief of Great Neck's Vigilant Volunteer Fire Department. A six-year FDNY veteran, John is survived by his wife and two sons.



**Lieutenant Ronald T. Kerwin
Squad 288**

The fire service was a great part of Ronny's life. In September, 1981, he became a firefighter for the FDNY. He worked in Engine 275 for 10 years and then in Ladder 126 for two years before being promoted to Fire Marshall in 1993. In September, 1997, he was promoted to Lieutenant. He became part of Squad 288 in August 2000. He served twenty years with the FDNY.

He joined the volunteer fire dervice in 1982 in Jericho. He moved to Levittown in 1985 and joined the Levittown Fire Department. Ronny became Deputy Chief in 1993 and served as Chief of Dept. in 2000 and 2001.

Ronny was a loving husband and father of three beautiful children. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a spontaneous personality. He enjoyed a day of golf or fishing and doing things with his family. He will be remembered as a hero and for the way he lived. He dedicated his life to helping others. His family and friends dearly miss him and he will forever be in our hearts.



**Captain Thomas Moody
Haz-Mat 1**

Captain Thomas Moody came from a family of firefighters. Like his father Charles, brothers and uncles before him, Tom developed a love and respect for the firehouse and his fellow firefighters. Tom also placed a great deal of importance on education and taught his children this value through example. Tom earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from SUNY Buffalo and continued his engineering education by earning a NY State Professional Engineering Certification while also studying for the FDNY promotional tests. Tom also was an adjunct professor at Suffolk County Community College, teaching Fire Technology.

Although Tom was very quiet, he had a keen wit. He loved a good prank and was famous for "teasing." Tom had a spirit for adventure and a love of family. Tom always had one of his younger children on his shoulders, but that was fine with him because that left his arms open to hug one of his older children. At any given family event, Tom would always be found with the kids. Whether it be bodysurfing at Robert Moses or shooting hoops, it was always about having fun.

On the day of the attacks, Tommy was detailed to Haz-Mat 1 from SOC where he had been working on the development of a new hazardous materials course.



**Firefighter Adam Rand
Squad 288**

Adam David Rand, 30, firefighter, FDNY, Squad 288. A six-year FDNY veteran, he was also chief training officer for the Bellmore Volunteer Fire Department in his hometown, where he had served since graduating from High School. Rand was engaged to be married and loved children. His five nieces and nephews looked forward to boating and hiking with him and listening to his ghost stories. Rand owned a boat and enjoyed fishing, scuba diving, skiing and hunting. he had a great sense of humor and made everyone laugh. He lived a full life.



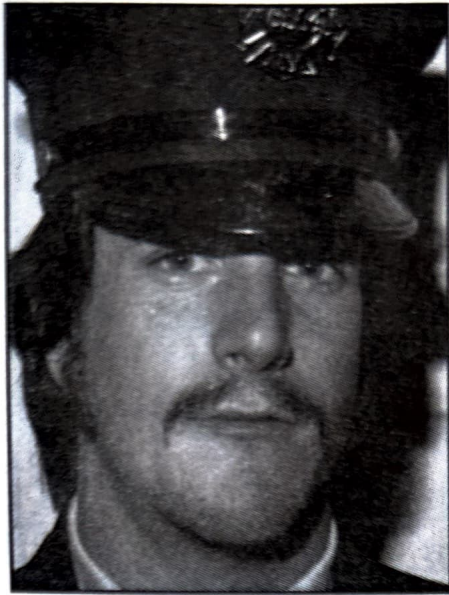
Firefighter Dennis Scauso Haz-Mat 1

Dennis was a family man, devoted loving husband, father, son and brother. He took great pleasure in his home building projects and discarded item restoration. Dennis was happiest when his home was filled with family and friends. He enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Firefighting wasn't Dennis' initial chosen career. However, he was a natural to the profession since he regarded all life as sacred, a true rescuer. As a child, he continually brought home lost and injured wildlife. For many years he enjoyed the company of a rescued raccoon he named "Sammy."

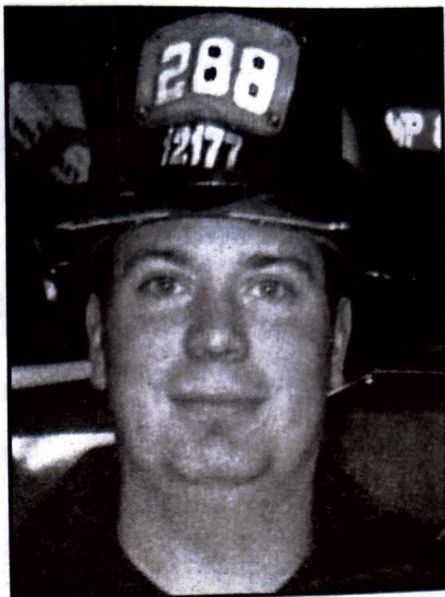
A seasoned 12-year veteran of the FDNY, assigned to Special Operations Haz-mat 1, Dennis was a highly experienced man who possessed many areas of expertise. He was often referred to as MacGyver; he was quick to respond with a plan of action and could build or fix nearly anything.

He is a great loss to the FDNY, but an incalculable one to his family. Dennis' compassion for others, integrity of character, selflessness, knowledge base and countless other talents will forever be missed. Our hearts shall forever remain broken.



**Firefighter Kevin Smith
Haz-Mat 1**

Firefighter Kevin Smith was a 23-year veteran of the FDNY and a charter member of their Hazardous Materials Company. Service to his country began at 17 years of age when he joined the US Marine Corps. Throughout his fire career he was part of FEMA/USAR, volunteered as a firefighter and EMT in Suffolk County and was a Hazardous Materials Instructor with their Fire Academy. While detailed in NYC OEM, he assisted in researching, writing and teaching the Plan in Response to Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction. Above this, Kevin was a loving son, brother of five, father of eight, grandfather of two, and husband. His family believes that his contributions throughout his career may have been responsible for saving many thousands of lives on that fateful day. It's an honor that he died in his effort and we must accept his death as unselfishly as he gave his life.



Firefighter Brian Sweeney Squad 288

Brian liked to have a good time. He enjoyed being around people, especially his family and many friends. Always ready for a party, he was the organizer. Whether it was "Boys Night Out" with his fellow firefighters, the firehouse dinner dance, a picnic, the neighborhood block party, or just a backyard barbeque, he would give everyone a job and in no time a party was in full swing.

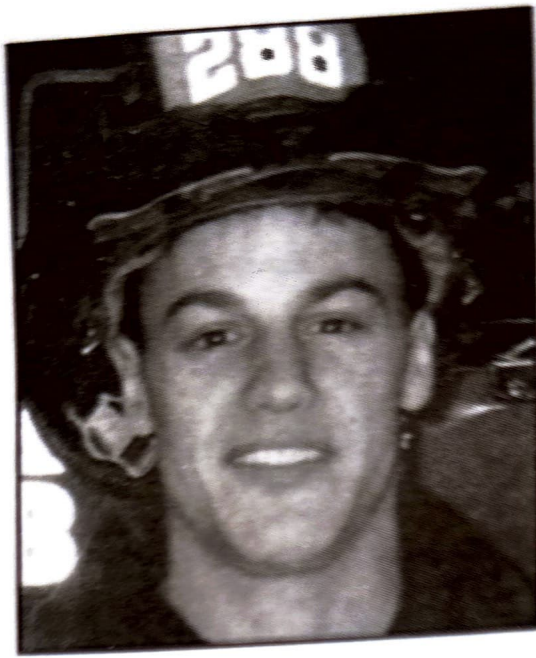
Brian loved outdoor activities. Snowboarding was probably his favorite. He would spend as much time at the "Hunter House" as possible. Skiing, mountain-biking, climbing, scuba diving and rafting were also interests he shared with his friends. Traveling to new places always excited him. Just mention a trip to him and he'd be packing his bag.

His parents, Ed and Mary Ann, his sister, Lynn and brother, Matt, and the special person in his life, his girlfriend Melissa, were all important to him. And, like his father, he loved being a firefighter. He was so excited to receive the notice that he would be joining the FDNY in July 1995. Brian was always enthusiastic about learning new rescue techniques, instructions on the use of new equipment and firefighting strategies. Brian had a personal goal that he did not even tell his family about until he was about to attain it. That was to be assigned to Rescue 1. His dream became a reality on August 1, 2001. He never stopped smiling about that. All other dreams and goals were not to be, and, although it was a short time, we are happy he lived that dream.



Captain Patrick Waters
Haz-Mat 1

Captain Patrick J. Waters was much loved by his two boys, Christopher and Daniel, and his wife, Janice. He was a terrific husband, outstanding father, and good friend to many. A dedicated basketball and hockey coach, and serious firefighter, he was always a teacher, always a friend and never forgot where he started from. Being part of the brotherhood of the FDNY was as important to him as his family. He was always willing to step up; as PTA president, a coach or breaking in a new "probie." He loved working as a firefighter in Engine 217, Ladder 108, and as a Lieutenant in Ladder 106 and Ladder 124. He became a member of Special Operation Command and, as a Captain, worked in Rescue, Squad and Marine companies and was in command of Haz-Mat 1 on September 11, 2001. He always had a cup of coffee in his hand, loved putting out fires, doing Building Inspection, paperwork, and always ready for a good joke. We will miss him *Always and Forever.*



**Firefighter Timothy Welty
Squad 288**

Firefighter Timothy Welty was a strong, wiry man who could do pull-ups with his fingertips. A natural athlete, he played hockey and volleyball for the fire department. A skilled carpenter and mechanical engineer, he was always busy building new things or fixing old ones. Tim's risk-taking personality and constant thrill-seeking drove him to enjoy skiing, sky-diving and motorcycle riding, not to mention firefighting. He was honest, outspoken, reliable, hard-working and fun-loving. He was a thinking man, a philosopher. "Tim taught me to see everything from a different angle," said Delia Welty, his wife. He was a trusted friend to many, and a real family man. He was a devoted husband, cherished son and brother, and a truly involved father with his two children, Jake and Julia. Delia says, "Tim was more alive than anyone I know, and he seized all opportunities to live as large as humanly possible. He encourages me and inspires all who know him."