

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE LINE OF DUTY DEATHS**

1. Chevy Chase **FF John Adair**, killed in the line of duty on February 23rd, 1941. FF John Adair died of a heart attack while working on an incident. Remember that approximately 50% of firefighter fatalities are cardiovascular related. Your health and fitness are critical in the safe and effective performance of your duties as a firefighter.

2. Chevy Chase **FF Stephen W. Williams**, killed in the line of duty on November 3rd, 1944. FF Stephen W. Williams died after a car struck him while performing his normal duties at the pump panel. Always remember how dangerous it is to work in the proximity of moving traffic. Properly block collision scenes with large apparatus, use traffic clones to alert motorists, and wear appropriate reflective clothing when working in roadways.

3. Chevy Chase **FF Charles C. Weitzel**, killed in the line of duty on September 9th, 1947. FF Charles C. Weitzel died of a heart attack while on an incident. Remember that approximately 50% of firefighter fatalities are cardiovascular related. Your health and fitness are critical in the safe and effective performance of your duties as a firefighter.

4. Gaithersburg **FF Wesley Biggs**, killed in the line of duty on March 3rd, 1952. FF Wesley Biggs died of injuries he received in a PIC while responding to an incident. Remember to use caution and drive safely to ALL incidents. Wear your seat belt; it is a life saving action!

5. Rockville FF **Elwood H. Smith**, killed in the line of duty on July 21st, 1962. FF Elwood H. Smith died in a swift water incident while trying to assist in a rescue. The force and power of swift water is often underestimated. Always use caution, proper protective equipment, and follow Standard Operating Procedures when operating on swift water rescue incidents.

6. Chevy Chase **FF Ronald B. Biggs** killed in the line of duty on May 22nd, 1962. FF Ronald B. Biggs died fighting a basement fire in a residential style structure. Remain aware that structural fire fighting is extremely dangerous work. Always utilize your personnel protective clothing and equipment properly; follow Standard Operating Procedures, utilize sound strategic and tactical decision making. COMMAND must constantly engage in a RISK/BENEFIT analysis that places the greatest emphasis on LIFE SAFETY.

7. Silver Spring **FF Fred Dunn**, killed in the line of duty on October 2nd, 1964. FF Fred Dunn was electrocuted while lowering an aluminum ground ladder on a structure fire. Remember your life and that of other firefighters raising and lowering ground ladders depends on your looking for overhead obstructions such as power lines **EACH AND EVERY TIME A GROUND LADDER IS RAISED OR LOWERED.**

8. Sandy Spring **FF David Poplis**, killed in the line of duty on December 4th, 1964. FF David Poplis died of injuries he received in a PIC while responding to an incident. Remember to use caution and drive safely to ALL incidents. Wear your seat belt; it is a life saving action!

9. Sandy Spring **FF Richard B. Thomas III**, killed in the line of duty on April 19th, 1968. FF Richard B. Thomas died of injuries he received in a PIC while responding to an incident. Remember to use caution and drive safely to ALL incidents. Wear your seat belt; it is a life saving action!

10. Hillandale **Sgt David Shaw**, killed in the line of duty on October 30th, 1970. Sergeant David Shaw died while trying to make a confined space rescue. FF Shaw died of CO<sub>2</sub> inhalation. Always remember your life depends on incident scene size up follow Standard Operating Procedures, and remember that there are inherent hazards associated with confined space rescue. Never enter a confined space without following applicable procedures.

11. Sandy Spring **FF Elridge M. Pier** killed in the line of duty on April 1st, 1971. FF Elridge M. Pier died of a cerebral hemorrhage while on an incident. Remember that approximately 50% of firefighter fatalities are cardiovascular related. Your health and fitness are critical in the safe and effective performance of your duties as a firefighter.

12. **DFRS Paramedic James Nicewarner**, killed in the line of duty on June 26th, 1977. Paramedic James Nicewarner died of injuries he received in a PIC while transporting a patient to Suburban Hospital. MICU 3 was struck at Democracy Blvd and Old Georgetown Road by a drunk driver. Always use caution and drive defensively. Anticipate the unanticipated actions of other drivers. Be secured in your seat belt.