

PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

KNOWN MEMBERS who DIED in the LINE of DUTY

Date Died	Rank	Member	Company	Badge #	Box
1 April 28, 1903	Call Hoseman	Thomas W. Burnham	Engine 2	51	3-64
2 May 22, 1903	Call Hoseman	Clarence A. Johnson	Engine 3	41	3-64
3 October 2, 1908	Hoseman	Charles W. Barrett	Engine 1	5	Still Alarm
4 January 1, 1913	Deputy Chief	William H. Steele	District 1	***	Still Alarm
5 January 2, 1913	Lieutenant	Ralph H. Eldridge	Chemical 1	136	Still Alarm
6 March 18, 1913	Call Hoseman	Harry E. Harmon	Engine 6	130	2-64
7 September 4, 1915	Ladderman	Ralph E. Smith	Ladder 4	197	Still Alarm
8 May 21, 1921	Captain	James C. Kent	Engine 6	112	3-921
9 May 13, 1926	Lineman	John M. Hardy	Electrical Div	-	85 Spring
10 February 17, 1930	Private	Edward F. Fowler	Chemical 1	81	4-1291
11 May 13, 1932	Lieutenant	Walter M. Jackson	Engine 1	36	3-43
12 August 22, 1932	Private	Walter P. Webster	Ladder 5	32	2-814
13 February 24, 1945	Private	Thomas L. Walsh	Engine 8	78	3-922
14 May 3, 1952	Captain	Frank J. Mullins	Engine 1	2	325
15 August 27, 1956	Captain	John E. Tolan	Engine 6	10	2-917
16 July 12, 1960	Private	Thomas G. O'Connor	Ladder 3	53	Still Alarm
17 November 18, 1970	Lieutenant	William E. Nugent, Jr.	Engine 1	44	2-52
18 January 30, 1972	Captain	John F. Rafferty	Rescue 1	5	EMS Run
19 March 24, 1980	Firefighter	Joseph E. Cavallaro, Jr.	Engine 1	143	3-53
20 September 14, 1993	Firefighter	Frank E. Cowan	Ladder 1	246	2-622

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1903 TO PRESENT

On Tuesday, April 28, 1903, Ex-Hoseman Thomas W. Burnham, age 69, badge no. 51, Engine Co. 2, home address 213 Oxford Street, died as a result of being badly burned two days earlier at a General Alarm fire at Box 3-64, at Sturdivant Wharf. He was a Call Man, whose full-time occupation was Cabinetmaker. He resigned from the Department in 1877 after 21 years of service, but was apparently pressed into service to help fight the fire.

On Friday, May 22, 1903, Hoseman Clarence A. Johnson, age 47, badge no. 41, Engine Co. 3, home address 232 Brackett Street, died as a result of being badly burned 27 days earlier at the above incident, on April 26, 1903. He was a Call Man, whose full-time occupation was Brick Mason.

On Friday, October 2, 1908, Hoseman Charles W. Barrett, age 41, badge no. 5, Engine Co. 1, home address 182 Grant Street, died as a result of an electrical shock of heavy voltage at a still alarm at the Congress Square Hotel, 579-581 Congress Street, at 7:15 PM. He was a Permanent Member of the Fire Department, who had given his resignation effective October 1st. He agreed to stay on-duty until his replacement could report on-duty October 4th. He was returning to the occupation of Sheet Metal Worker, to be home more to care for his sick and invalid wife and their six children, all under 11 years of age.

On Wednesday, January 1, 1913, Deputy Chief William H. Steele, age 46, Fire District 1, home address 9 Myrtle Street, died at 9:00 PM as a result of inhalation of nitric acid fumes from a carboy spill in the basement of H.H. Hay's Drug Store, at Middle and Free Streets, at a Still Alarm, at 8:45 AM.

On Thursday, January 2, 1913, Lieutenant Ralph H. Eldridge, age 36, badge no. 136, Chemical Co. 1, home address 109 Pearl Street, died at 4:00 AM as a result of inhalation of nitric acid fumes at the above incident at H.H. Hay's Drug Store at Middle and Free Streets on January 1, 1913.

On Tuesday, March 18, 1913, Hoseman Harry E. Harmon, age 41, badge no. 130, Engine Co. 6, home address 491 Portland Street, died from pneumonia as a result of exposure to smoke at a two-alarm fire at Box 2-64, Royal Remedy Company, 432 Commercial Street on March 7, 1913. He was a Call- Man, whose full-time occupation was Driver for W.H. Thaxter Company (grain dealers).

On Saturday, September 4, 1915, Ladderman Ralph E. Smith, age 31, badge no. 197, Ladder Co. 4, home address 252 Woodford Street, died shortly after 6:00 PM at Saint Barnabas Hospital on Woodford Street, as a result of multiple injuries he received from being thrown off the ladder carriage between the horses and carriage to the cobble-stone street, when the wheels caught in the trolley tracks on Stevens Avenue near Pleasant Avenue in Central Square at Deering Center, while responding to a still alarm, at 100 Revere Street, for a report of a shed fire at 8:40 AM, caused by children playing with matches.

On Saturday, May 21, 1921, Captain James C. Kent, age 60, badge no. 112, Engine Co. 6, home address 19 Sherman Street, died at 2:10 PM as a result of injuries suffered at a General Alarm fire at Box 3-921, Deering High School, 522 Stevens Avenue. Captain Kent was swept from a ladder and buried beneath bricks, as the roof collapsed, knocking out the cornice at the front-center of the building.

On Thursday, May 13, 1926, Electrical Division Lineman John M. Hardy, age 24, home address at 1446 Forest Avenue died shortly before 8:00 PM at Maine General Hospital of a head injury, resulting from a fall from a ladder 8 hours earlier at 85 Spring Street, while changing fire alarm wires on a building.

On Monday, February 17, 1930, Private Edward F. Fowler, age 33, badge no. 81, Chemical Co. 1, home address 85 Market Street, died at home of chronic bronchitis, an illness of more than two years, as a result of cold and exposure to smoke at a General Alarm fire at Box 4-1291, at Winslow Pottery Company, 253 Forest Avenue, on October 24, 1927. He had not been on full-duty since the fire.

On Friday, May 13, 1932, Lieutenant Walter M. Jackson, age 47, badge no. 36, Engine Co. 1, home address 125 Pearl Street, died at Maine General Hospital of Heart Disease. He had been taken to a hospital for exposure to smoke at a three-alarm fire, at Box 3-43, at the Sacknoff Block, 147 Commercial Street, at the corner of Silver Street on February 21, 1932, and had not returned to duty since the fire.

On Monday, August 22, 1932, Private Walter P. Webster, age 56, badge no. 32, Ladder Co. 5, home address 180 Pearl Street, collapsed and died shortly after 1:31 PM of a heart attack, resulting from overexertion while on the roof of a building at a two-alarm fire, at Box 2-814, at # 2b Monroe Place.

On Saturday, February 24, 1945, Private Thomas L. Walsh, age 39, badge no. 78, Engine Co. 8, home address 349 Woodford Street, was killed shortly after 2:00 AM, when he was crushed beneath a brick wall, which fell out as the result of an explosion, while fighting a three-alarm fire, at Box 3-922, at the Stevens Avenue Armory, at 780 Stevens Avenue.

On Saturday, May 3, 1952, Captain Frank J. Mullins, age 62, badge no. 2, Engine Co. 1, home address 55 Morning Street, descended an aerial ladder, then collapsed and died from a heart attack, while fighting a single-alarm fire at Box 325, at 17 Cove Street, shortly after 10:16 PM.

On Monday, August 27, 1956, Captain John E. Tolan, age 47, badge no. 10, Engine Co. 6, home address Sterling Street, Peaks Island, died shortly after 9:33 AM, while fighting a two-alarm fire, at Box 2-917, at 96 Highland Street. The cause of death was determined as "heart ailment aggravated by smoke inhalation and asphyxia."

On Tuesday, July 12, 1960, Private Thomas G. O'Connor, age 43, badge no. 53, Ladder Co. 3, home address 249 Vaughan Street, died at Maine Medical Center in the afternoon as a result of multiple injuries he suffered from a collision between Ladder 3 and Engine 4, at the intersection of Brackett and Spring Streets, at 6:03 PM the previous day. Both trucks were destroyed when responding to a still alarm at 14 Orchard Street to check on a report of smoke in the area.

On Wednesday, November 18, 1970, Lieutenant William E. Nugent, Jr., age 47, badge no. 44, Engine Co. 1, home address 25 Sawyer Street, died in the morning of a heart attack. He was hospitalized on July 25, 1970 as a result of smoke inhalation at a two-alarm fire at Box 2-52, at 45-49-51 Parris Street, with three buildings on fire. He had not returned to full-duty since the fire.

On Sunday, January 30, 1972, Captain John F. Rafferty, age 59, badge no. 5, Rescue Co. 1, home address 13 Eastern Promenade, collapsed and died in Rescue 1 after 12 AM, while returning to quarters from Maine Medical Center, after transporting a teenage girl from an emergency call at 31 Kellogg Street.

On Monday, March 24, 1980, Firefighter Joseph C. Cavallaro, Jr., age 26, badge no. 143, Engine Co. 1, home address 24 Jordan Avenue, South Portland, died shortly after 2:31 AM, as a result of burns and asphyxiation, while fighting a three-alarm fire at Box 3-53, at the Phoenix Nightclub, 83 Oak Street.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1993, Firefighter Frank E. Cowan, age 44, badge no. 246, Ladder Co. 1, home address 6 Autumn Lane, Yarmouth, died at home of a heart attack. He had previously suffered a heart attack on January 5, 1993, at a two-alarm fire at Box 2-622, at the Kabob-N-Curry Restaurant, at 629 Congress Street during ventilation operations on the roof. He had returned to full duty March 9th.

Since 1903, (20) known Portland Fire Department Members have died in the line of duty.
