

## JULY 2013 Newsletter Happy Fourth of July

We start July's 2013 short newsletter by wishing everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and hope your July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration was a safe and memorable one. Always fun to watch those firework displays and enjoy your favorite BBQ meals and fellowship with family, friends, and sometimes with folks we haven't met before. We forget about all that is going on around us and take time to remember what the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is really about, our nation's birth of Independence and the beginning of the United States of America.

And while remembering the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to the families of the 19 wildfire fighting firemen that lost their lives fighting a fire near Phoenix, AZ on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Nineteen dedicated Emergency First Responders' lives were snuffed out in one single incident of what was called a windblown wildfire. Trained to do what they are supposed to do in incidents as that, nineteen hunkered down to allow the fire to roll over them but the heat and blaze was too intense for what they trained for. Nineteen out of a twenty member team didn't survive the infernal with one member escaping the flames while moving a piece of equipment. Fourteen of those were in their 20's. Let's keep the families of these brave warriors in our thoughts and prayers.

Kevin Woyjeck, 21 Grant McKee, 21 Wade Parker, 22 Anthony Rose, 23 Robert Caldwell, 23 Dustin Deford, 24 John Percin, 24 William Warneke, 25 Sean Miser, 26 Garret Zuppiger, 27 Scott Norris, 28 Travis Turbyfill, 27 Clayton Whitted, 28 Andrew Ashcraft, 29 Christopher Mackenzie, 30 Travis Carter, 31 Joe Thurston, 32 Jesse Steed. 36 Eric Marsh, 43

Of wildfire incidents, this was the largest loss of firefighters since 1933 and the sixth largest loss of firefighters in the United States overall. It is also the deadliest single wildfire event in the U.S. in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the largest loss of firefighters since September 11 attacks.

We are mentioning this and want all of you to remember these men as are members of that special family, group, we refer to as Emergency First Responders (Medical personnel, Firefighters, Law Enforcement) that have a single sole purpose, to save lives and prevent the loss of life. When others are running away from horrible traffic accidents, industrial accidents,

fires, and the sound of gunfire, these people are running toward it. These men woke up that day to do what they were trained to do; prevent loss of life and further destruction of property. Instead, their lives were taken. "For death is nothing but a turning point for us from time to eternity."

We had to cancel the June 29<sup>th</sup>, Advanced Carrying Concealed Weapons class due to not receiving the minimal amount of people registered to conduct. It was most likely due to price of ammunition, warm temps, and time of the year. We will announce another one after August, (cooler temperatures, vacations, and traveling over with) and will conduct a Basic Carrying Concealed Class in September. We will also announce that date and as always, you will be the first to know.

Again, Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Have a safe and good July. Remember to carry concealed when and where you can. As always, any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact us.

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