

Salute to

FIRE & RESCUE

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 4 - 10

Seward Volunteer Fire Department



HOPE MOURAL/SCI

Members of the Seward volunteer fire and rescue squad from left, are: (front row) Chris Newton, Jessie Yant, Cody Pollak, Brock Maloy, Zach Pilfold, Connie Languain, John Hayek and Lisa Kimsey; (second row) Nick Blair, John Singleton, Dan Brumm, Brian VanDerslice, Brent Tempel, Thomas Suhr, Travis Pollak, Kelby Nitz, James Kimsey, Dan Molsen, Mark Suhr and Tami Svehla; and (third row, above) Bryan Niebrugge, Tyler Dickinson, Landon Dirks, Tayler Hoffman, Dakota Fernau, Jeff Neihardt and Kent Auman. Not pictured are Zeb Kotil, Justin VanDerslice, Jordan Germer and Joshua Shoemaker.

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Preserving history, future for Milford's fire department

By Craig Jones
craig@sewardindependent.com

A "visual representation" of the dedication of members of the Milford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department to the community they serve.

That is how one of its members, LaDonna Howe, described a memorial wall recently established in the meeting room of the community's fire department. One of its wall's features are individual plaques with names of members of the department throughout its nearly 120-year history who have passed away.

"We wanted to try to preserve the memory of people who served and show the respect that people that have passed on deserve," she said.

The project was made possible through memorial funds donated by the family of Scott Burroughs, a member of the department from 1998 to 2013. Howe – who was approved as a member of the department at a meeting on Sept. 11, 2001 – said Burroughs was a 1st Assistant Rescue Chief and a 2nd Assistant Rescue Chief while he served.

But some of his most notable contributions were geared toward grant writing, which resulted in the Milford department receiving a lot of equipment it might not have had access to otherwise.

He passed away this May after a battle with cancer.

"He was an amazing mentor to a lot of people in the department," she said.

Wendy Burroughs, Scott's wife, said hearing of the proposed plans for the memorial wall was "very emotional. The people Scott served with

were a family ... they truly become your brothers and sisters ... and he was grateful and honored to be a part of it.

"When you serve on a (fire and rescue) department, it goes beyond time served. It's a lifelong membership and they are remembered even when they are not physically present."

Wendy, who now lives in Columbus, said they left Milford in 2013 so Scott could go to work on his family's farming operation in Morton, Illinois. Scott was diagnosed with cancer in his eye in 2015 which eventually spread and claimed his life.

"He had the heart of a servant," she said, "and was very honored to be a part of the team to help the community any way he could."

Howe said she talked to Burroughs as his health was declining and he shared at that time that memorial money would be donated to the Milford department. It was eventually determined to pursue the concept of the memorial wall, and thus the Burroughs memorial funds – along with a donation by Copley's Carpentry of Lincoln of a large wood piece for a sign that was prepared for placement by Howe and her husband, Mike – now has a place in the meeting room.

The dominant black wood piece has the words along the top "In memory of our fallen brothers and sisters" then the "Thin Red Line of Courage" and finally another wood piece with "Heroes are never forgotten" printed on it. The red line represents the last ounce of courage firefighters find deep in their blood to conquer their darkest fears in order to save and protect life and property.



CRAIG JONES/SCI

A memorial wall at the Milford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has been established to recognize members throughout the history of the department who have passed away.

"We put it in the meeting room as that is the place where members help each other deal with things – good and bad – and to help keep the morale positive," she said.

As well, when activities such as the department's pancake feed are again placed on the calendar, the public can see the new display. Along with the names, the display features a bell that was taken from a truck in the department's fleet that was purchased in about 1949 and retired in the early 1960s. In the future, it will be rung as a tribute to a deceased team member after their name is mentioned in the roll call the first meeting after their passing.

The Milford Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1902, according to Howe. She said the earliest documented member she could find was D.E. Warnke in 1908. Thus far, 85 names of past members who have passed away have been registered and are represented by nameplates attached to the wall.

Howe said she would welcome people to contact her with names of their family members who served on the department, as there are generally not detailed membership records. They could send a message via the Milford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department Facebook page.

Milford Volunteer Fire Department



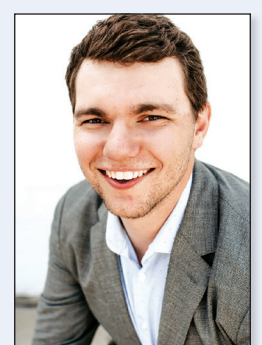
CRAIG JONES/SCI

Members of the Milford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Unit include, kneeling (from left), David Ulrich, John Melena, Tony DeLong, Jesi Allen, Brad Freeman and Jeremy Dinges. Standing, Mike Stewart, Scott Bashore, Delton Stauffer, Derrek Yoder, Tim Stewart, Tyler Gingerich, Ron Erb, Kyle Fastenau, Stu Schweitzer, Travis Keilig, Chad Brown, Troy Pickerill, Trevor Plessel, Travis Fougerson, T.J. Buchli and Andrew Yoder.

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Tom Suhr



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Bee Volunteer Fire Department



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Members of the Bee Volunteer Fire Department are, from left, (front row) Pamela Brentmann, Jackie Corner, Nathon Emmons, Dave Jirovsky, (back row) Sherri Slack, Lucas Brentmann, Tom Kouma, Bobby Kozisek, Rick Craig and Robert Corner. Not pictured: Danielle Shipley, Bob Viger, Dave Nieburgge, Donald Corner.

Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department



HOPE MOURAL/SCI

Members of the Pleasant Dale volunteer fire and rescue department for 2020-2021 are pictured, from right: (front row) Larry Lawton, Mitch Bennett, Charlie Bennett, Colby Yeackley, Roger Michaelis, Earnie Krenk, Leroy Trease and Nick Dankers; and (back row) Jeremy Seffron, Jason Klug, Jonathan Piening, Nate Keller, Colton Wehrs, Trevor Piening, Joey Carder, Cody Rohrig and Michael Badgford.

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Staplehurst Volunteer Fire Department



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Staplehurst Volunteer Fire Department members (from left) Tyler Strong, Trey Brandenburgh, Mike Sheehan, Justin Singleton, Dakota Fernau, Justin Hemphill, Bill Brauer, Colton Hood, Richard Steckly, Jason Schaefer, Lance Todd, Amy Prochaska, James Hood and Shawn Kitzing. Not pictured: Paul Duer, Ben Sheehan, Shaun Benedict, Jackie Corner.

Malcolm Volunteer Fire & Rescue



COURTESY PHOTO

Front row (from left), Jack Tarr, Jared Ritze, Gary Heidtbrink, David Wacker, Steve Heidtbrink, Vinny Bittinger, Brent Nordmeyer, Kevin Klink, Marty Stolley, Shaun Donahoo, Vince Meyer, Melvin Lindner, Kendall Hawthorne, Dustin Green, Aaron Schmidt, Doug Heidtbrink, Dale Heidtbrink, Cody Densberger, Justin Matthes, Jim Densberger. Back row, Kelly Burianek, Melissa Wilcox, Lexi Gropp, Ginger Andrews, Adam Benischek, Levi Magnuson, Corey Heidtbrink and Rick Kaluz.

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When we turn caring into doing, we can change lives. I'm proud to support firefighters and the work they do to make the world better.



Goehner Volunteer Fire Department



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Members of the Goehner Volunteer Fire Department (from left) Ryan Arborgast, Colton Hackbart, Matt Howe, Clinton Bialas, Jon Schulz, Clint Ostrander, Jesse Meinberg, Jeff Adams, Shawn Nagel, Jamie Knisley and Jeff Luebbe pose for a picture.

Beaver Crossing Volunteer Fire Department



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Back from left: Shawn Briney, Mark Kreutzer, Chris Butzke, Aaron Stinson, J.B. Black, Brandon Allen, Irwin Crawford, Jerry Zieg, Scott Petersen; Second row: Robin Butzke, Heather Black, Marissa Pfile, Garry Grantski, Kent Suepter; Front: Bonnie Grantski, Becky Clark, Mike Stutzman. Not pictured: Chris Kreutzer, Jeremy Craig, Alex Kohout, Shannon Steckley and Bryan Pethoud.

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Ringling the bell, answering the call to serve

Members of the Garland Volunteer Fire Department proudly sat in front of the new memorial adopted outside of the department for pictures. Behind them sat a resorted bell, surrounded by brick and stretches of chain.

In a way, the bell came with the place. Not the new place where it's perched next too now, but the original Garland fire hall.

Originally built in 1926 when Garland Fire and Rescue was first chartered, that bell fastened to a metal pole was rang to gather firefighters on emergency calls. The bell already served fits purpose for decades when the original fire station was torn down and replaced with the current fire station in the 1970's. By that point, the bell was taken down because the steel poll used to support it rusted too badly for use.

Garland Volunteer Fire Department Secretary/Treasurer Phil Hargis said that at that point a member of the department asked what to do with the bell.

The 94-year old bell was stored for decades before the idea for new memorial came about. Plans for the memorial, dedicated to all of the past, present and future members of the Garland Fire and Rescue Department, went into motion. The bell was sent to Lincoln where it was refurbished by TMCO and the department held its annual soup supper and auction fundraiser in February to help pay for the memorial.

"The generosity shown by the residents of Garland and the surrounding area was record setting and is greatly appreciated," Hargis said in an email. "We hope they like what we have done."

Outside of the bell brick pedestal and concrete flat-work designed by Dave Wurderman of Blue Valley Contracting in Garland, members of the fire department put the rest of the memorial together following tedious planning by the village board, Garland Planning Commission and the fire department itself.

Lights have been installed next to the memorial so the bell stays illuminated at night.

Additional fundraising will be needed to fund new plans for the memorial that have formed.

The fire department was going to hold a dedication in September for the new memorial only for its celebration to get canceled because of health directives related to the pandemic.



COURTESY PHOTO

The newly-dedicated memorial sits outside of Garland Volunteer Fire Department's building. The memorial, dedicated to past, present and future members of Garland Fire and Rescue, was built with funds raised in February.

GARLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Members of Garland Fire and Rescue Department are, from left, (front row) DR Herrold, Jake Bennett, Jason Swerczer, Mark Henning, Phil Hargis, Diane Montoya, (second row) Duane Broeken, Mitchell Brorwich, Cory Madsen, David Wesely, Deb Robotham, Terri Schrad, Nicole Wegman, Cork Wagenrrecht, Chuck Luebbe, (third row) Brian Johnson, Lance Jarzynka, Taylor Jamison, Toby Beckmann, Rod Bromwich, Brandon Schaefer, Seth Schaefer, Tom Schaefer, Brandon Crook, Mark Stevens, Mike Luebbe.

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Cordova Volunteer Fire Department



PHOTO BY MICHELLE MCCLELLAND/YORK NEWS TIMES

Members of the Cordova Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are, from left: AJ Hansen, Travis Due, Ryan Pavlish, Darel Petersen, Jeff Hansen, Brian Zastrow, Tom Jensen, Lars Larsen, Blake Due, Duane Barnes, Rick Ricenbaw, Kent Olsen, Heather Eberspacher, Darrell Eastin, Tammy Sladek, Dan Wittnebel, Delayne Eberspacher, Paul Jurgensen, Chevy Hansen, Steve Rhodes and Lance Larsen. Not pictured are Janet Duba, Mark Due, Jeniece Kimminau, Andrew Kimminau, Norman Lutz, Bill Sladek, Kris Winters, Jackson Classen and Bernie Stych.

Tamora Volunteer Fire Department



HOPE MOURAL/SCI

The Tamora volunteer fire department from left include: (first row) Bob Viger, Kristen Meredith, Cody Meredith, Ray beese, William Kimsey, Doug Cutshach and Jon Propst (second row) Johnny Bapat, Tim Classen, Adam Hladky, Justin Crumley, David School, Gary Douthit, Mike Pflughaupt, Matt Miller and Adam Miller (third row) Kenna Crumly, Josie Propst-Scholl, Taylor Nuttleman and Zandra Miller.

Waco Volunteer Fire Department



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the 2019 Waco Volunteer Fire Department included (first row), from left, Gale Wellmann- Ret., Kevin Butzke, Alex Lekai, Chris Farley, Connor Wiese, Chris Butzke, Lauren Bestwick, (second row) Jacob Brouillette, Justin Scamehorn, Aarik Naber, Todd Bauder, Renee Dinkelman, Matthew Mau, Jason Able, Jeff Due, Jacob Stutzman, (third row), Sam Hall, Jeremy Hogue, Gale Dinkelman, Keven Dye, Wayne Sackchewsky, Rex Heiden- Ret., Randy Barnes. Not pictured is Gordon Wellman- Ret.

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Utica Volunteer Fire Department



EMILY HEMPHILL/SCI

Members of the Utica Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are, from left: (front row) Jon Koski, Curtis Deremer, Craig W. Wolf, Coleman Outhet, Bill Deremer, Allen, Klepper, Adam Simmerman, and Travis Grantski; (middle row) Andy Fehlhafter, Eugene Hinze, Tammy Sladek, Amanda Struble, Lanette Simmerman, Callie Rathjen, Byron Kraus and Gary Ehlers; and (back row) Ben Koski, Steve Fehlhafer, Todd Murphy, Wes Rhodes, Cody Nuttleman, Adam Fritz, Jeremy Gumaer and Lloyd Erks. Not pictured are Jim Avery, Josh Struble, David Lehn, Gordon Luebbe, Colette Stelling, Jay Stelling, Larry Barth, Garry Dittmar, Dick Greenwood, Jerry Hemphill, Richard Rieger, Jerry Springer, Lavern Stuhr, Don Butzke and Roger Cradick.

Ulysses Volunteer Fire Department



EMILY HEMPHILL/SCI

Members of the Ulysses Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are, from left: (front row) President Randy Semin, Justan Wynegar, Assistant Rescue Chief Amy Prochaska, Treasurer Wendy Klement and Assistant Fire Chief Jon White; and (back row) Secretary Jim Klement, Mike Fiala, Mitch White, Fire Chief Joe Soukup, David Rech and Don Rech. Not pictured are Rescue Chief Laurie Elder, Justin White, Jenny White, Dan Rech, Sam Stara, Clayton Schmitt, Ann Rech, Justin Fiala, Doug Stara, Alluson Ziteck, Gary Zitek and Jason Muenchrath.



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