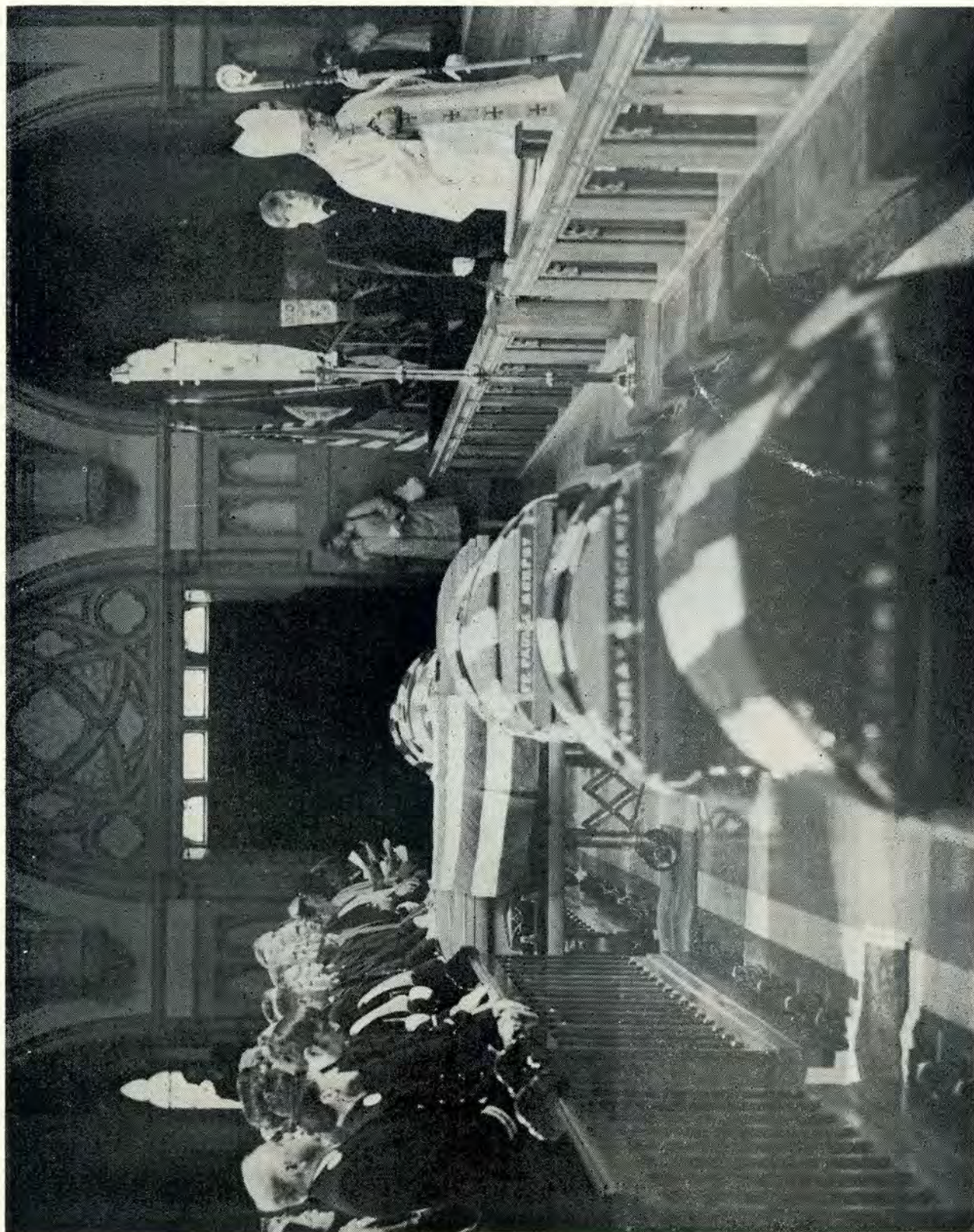


From top, L. to R. —

1. Honorary Pall Bearers salute fallen comrades.
2. One of nine flag draped caskets enters cathedral.
3. Families, Friends, Dignitaries, Comrades throng cathedral to pay final homage to Nine Brave Men.
4. Speaker McCormick, Mayor and Mrs. White, Fire Commissioner Kelly, Chief Paul, Monsignor Keating salute fallen heroes.



IN LINE OF DUTY

Box 1571

Fire Fighter
John E. Jameson



Rest in Peace

Engine Co. 22

APPOINTED MAY 2, 1951

BORN MARCH 29, 1920

DIED JUNE 17, 1972

IN LINE OF DUTY

Box 1571

Fire Fighter
Thomas W. Beckwith



Rest in Peace

Engine Co. 32

APPOINTED JULY 27, 1966

BORN MARCH 22, 1937

DIED JUNE 17, 1972

IN LINE OF DUTY

Box 1571

Fire Fighter
Paul J. Murphy



Rest in Peace

Engine Co. 32

APPOINTED JANUARY 18, 1967

BORN MARCH 5, 1936

DIED JUNE 17, 1972

IN LINE OF DUTY

Box 1571

Fire Fighter
Richard B. Magee



Rest in Peace

Engine Co. 33

APPOINTED JANUARY 17, 1968

BORN SEPTEMBER 17, 1932

DIED JUNE 17, 1972

IN LINE OF DUTY

Box 1571

Fire Fighter

Joseph F. Boucher, Jr.



Rest in Peace

Engine Co. 22

APPOINTED NOVEMBER 11, 1970

BORN JANUARY 10, 1944

DIED JUNE 17, 1972

THE VENDOME BRIGADE

Some soldiers are for gold,
And some by fate are made,
For love and for life's fold:
The call of the brigade.

Some war men, they are bold,
Some, they too are brave,
Yet, all grow soon so cold,
Their honor, and their grave.

Most wars, they are in vain,
For profit or for face,
When the enemy is the flame:
A man of certain grace.

No song, nor has he fortune,
Gaily, to the day,
His step, his silent tune,
The quiet man, his way.

-o-o-o-

From twilight to the dawn,
Silhouettes in the sun,
The brigade, it had fought on,
The Vendome, it was won.

Their courage had been shed,
The peeling of a blossom,
The brigade too was bled,
Some lay there at the bottom.

The earth turned to a hell,
The air into a scream,
A wall caved in and fell,
Nine lay beneath the beam.

The earth turned to a hell,
For naught was all their valor,
The wall had tolled the bell:
Nine, they were no longer.

By an ambulance, men hoping,
Soon to be a hearse,
The 'jakes', they all were standing,
The air bled of its mirth.

And then down from the ladder,
As petals off a rose,
And everyone the sadder,
Knowing where it goes.

Ash, its streak, each his sheath,
Each dream in going by,
With no cross, with no wreath,
With no breath or sigh.

Death at dawn, dawn it was,
Pollen from the trees,
Then no foes, alone it does
Go softly as it leaves.

Blood the sky, bled of blue,
Below, death's ugly cairn,
Death, its aura, vile, its hue,
Bled the day forlorn.

-o-o-o-

Some infants, now are men,
The saviors are unknown,
And all that courage then,
Spared not the brigade's own.

These men died not in vain,
Though each, he died alone,
His duty to the flame,
Grande dame, the lame Vendome.

Go silent, then as nine,
Go slowly, in your passing.
'Raise the cromlech fine',
Their honor, it is lasting.

-o-o-o-

Le silence de la Vendome,
And that which she did know,
La terreur de sa flamme,
Her age was long ago.

Silence, in the passing,
Look unto the sky,
Know life and all is fleeting,
Pass by without a sigh.

Silence, in the passing,
Look unto the sky,
Know life and all is fleeting,
Pass by without a sigh.

And pass by all the rest,
This age of ours be made.
'The flowers of the forest':
McGhee, and the brigade.

Paul Flynn
65 Hancock St., Boston

(His dad was late Capt. Flynn, E-17)

—A TRIBUTE TO NINE MEN—
By Bill McGourty — L. 20

June 17th will be an immortal date
When nine brave men met their fate
They were doing a job we all love
When God called them home, from
his throne above

Their passing brought sorrow both near
and far
As firefighters came here as though
following a star
The largest gathering in the history of
the city
From men of good will to give their
love and their pity

Of the nine I knew only five
I will remember them though they
were alive
Joe Saniuk's laugh, and Dick Magee's
good cheer
Tommy Carroll will be missed with
many a tear

Johnny Jameson worked hard and gave
his all
Florian Hall will be his memorial
Lieut. Hanbury in his own quiet way
Peace to them all we now pray

Beckwith, Dolan, Murphy and Boucher
Will be enshrined in our hearts now
and forever
Help us oh Lord, when our time comes
To be with you among the chosen
ones

— BOX 1571 —

The box was struck and as usual,
The boys were on their way.
There were no premonitions,
Of any harm that day.

The scene was viewed as they rolled in
There was no need to shout.
They ran the lines and raised the sticks,
To put another out.

They did the job as they always did,
And you know they did it well.
They knocked it down and blacked it
out,
And stopped to rest a spell.

Then without a sign of warning,
The building gave away.
And nine of Boston's finest,
Transferred to God's Company that
day.

Now if sometime you listen hard
And look up at the sky,
I'm sure you will be able,
To see them riding by.

Bernie Ryan
AT #1

— BOX 1571 —

For whom do the bells toll,
Boston's firefighters nine.
The fire had been knocked down,
Things were going fine

And then a sickening sound was heard,
The floor began to crumble.
A section of the Hotel Vendome,
Came down in a mighty rumble.

"There are men trapped in there,"
Men shouted above their fears.
The finding of their buddies,
Left their faces all sweat and tears.

Eight men had been injured,
Nine more lay there dead.
It's something they don't think about,
But firefighters dread.

To go in a smoke filled room,
Not knowing what they will find
The saving of a life,
Is all that's in their mind.

To the wives and mothers of these
brave men,
No suitable words can we say.
But to send their souls to the right
hand of God,
We a grateful city pray.

Ptl. Joseph L. Brady
Dist. 4, Boston Police Dept.

- THE LAST ALARM -

They bravely died to let others live.
 They are dead because of mankind's greed.
 Nine precious lives lost as they fearlessly went
 To perform their fatal deed.

They left home that very morning
 Not knowing at all that when
 The fire alarm rang they'd faithfully respond
 But never return home again.

A building can be replaced, but people cannot
 So the world paid a priceless cost.
 Because of a selfishness that some portray
 Human lives were lost.

The whole world felt a pang of sorrow
 Even sad were the songs of the birds
 But the grief felt by the loved ones they left behind
 Just cannot be expressed in words.

Their bodies have died but not their souls
 For them a new life will dawn
 And though they'll always be remembered for their courage
 Life in this world must go on.

They went without fear or hesitation
 When Death's knock came on their door
 And they'll be happily at rest in God's kingdom
 Now and forevermore.

by Mary Jane Hanron
 (June 24, 1972) Age 12

REQUIEM

Up from the rubble and ashes
 On that most fateful day
 In a fire ravaged building
 Nine valiant passed away.

To duty's call responded
 Our brother workers nine
 There last alarm have answered
 'Twas death on the fire line.

Weakened by the onslaught
 The walls upon them crashed
 In a fire ravaged building
 That tongues of flame had lashed.

A haze of smoke is rising
 On a somber scene blow
 As duty and death, arm in arm
 The final kiss bestow.

Now up from the rubble and ashes
 That promised day is born
 These firefighters answered
 The Angel Gabriel's horn.

by J. McKenna, E-25

**CITIES AND TOWNS
 REPRESENTED BY FIREFIGHTER
 DELEGATIONS AT THE FUNERALS
 OF NINE BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS
 ON JUNE 22, 1972**

ALABAMA
 Montgomery
CONNECTICUT
 Greenwich
 Hartford
 Meridan
 Milford
 New Britain
 New Haven
 Puritan
 Waterbury
 West Hartford

DELAWARE
 Wilmington

ILLINOIS
 Chicago

MAINE
 Auburn
 Bangor
 Lewiston
 Old Town
 Orano
 Portland
 South Portland

MARYLAND
 Annapolis
 Baltimore

MICHIGAN
 Detroit

NEW HAMPSHIRE
 Concord
 Derry
 Dover
 Gifford
 Greenfield
 Hampton
 Manchester
 Portsmouth
 Salem

NEW JERSEY
 Elizabeth
 Jersey City
 Newark
 Palisades
 Passaic
 Ridgefield

NEW YORK
 Albany
 Brooklyn
 Levittown
 Long Island
 Local 94
 (N.Y. City)
 Local 854
 (N.Y. City)
 Rochester
 Schenectady
 South Brooklyn
 Staten Island
 Yonkers

OHIO
 Cleveland

PENNSYLVANIA
 Easton
 Philadelphia
 (Local 22)
 Philadelphia
 (Chief Officers)

RHODE ISLAND
 Newport
 Pawtucket
 Providence
 West Warwick

VERMONT
 Brattleboro
 Burlington

VIRGINIA
 Fairtown
 Fairfax County

WASHINGTON, D. C.
 Local #20
 IAFF Officers
 and E. Board

WISCONSIN
 Milwaukee

CANADA
 Montreal
 Ottawa
 Toronto

CANAL ZONE

MASSACHUSETTS
 Abington
 Acton
 Amesbury
 Arlington
 Ashland
 Bedford
 Bellingham
 Beverly
 Billerica
 Braintree
 Brockton
 Burlington
 Cambridge
 Canton
 Chelmsford
 Chelsea
 Danvers
 Dedham
 Dennis
 Dracut
 Everett
 Fairhaven
 Falmouth
 Fall River
 Fitchburg
 Framingham
 Gardner
 Greenfield
 Hanscom Field
 Hanson
 Harwich
 Holbrook
 Hopkinton
 Hudson
 Hull
 Hyannis
 Ipswich
 Lawrence
 Leominster
 Lexington
 Logan Airport
 Lowell
 Lincoln
 Lynn
 Malden
 Marblehead
 Marlboro
 Marshfield
 Maynard
 Melrose
 Milbury
 Milford
 Natick
 Needham
 New Bedford
 Newbury
 Newton
 North Adams
 North Andover
 North Attleborough
 Norton
 North Reading
 Norwood
 Oxford
 Peabody
 Pembroke
 Plymouth
 Quincy
 Randolph
 Reading
 Revere
 Rockland
 Salem
 Sandwich
 Saugus
 Sharon
 Somerville
 Springfield
 Stoneham
 Stoughton
 Southbridge
 Sudbury
 Swampscott
 Tewksbury
 Wakefield
 Waltham
 Watertown
 Wayland
 Webster
 Wenham
 Weston
 West Springfield
 Westwood
 Weymouth
 Whitman
 Wilmington
 Winchendon
 Winthrop
 Worcester
 Yarmouth

Delegations from the State, Metropolitan District Commission and Boston Police. Many police departments in cities and towns surrounding Boston also sent representatives.



From top, L. to R. —

1. Segment of "Fraternity of Firefighters" that turned out for funeral.
2. Visiting Chief and Dignitaries file into cathedral.
3. Presidents Howie McClennan (IAFF) and Joe Hardiman (Local 718) enter cathedral.
4. Visiting delegations give final salute to their fallen comrades.
5. Members of Local 718 file into cathedral.
6. Boston Fire Department Honor Guard enters cathedral.

(Continued from Page 6)

Cortege Committee — Nine Cortege Chairmen were named, whose duties, among other things, were to obtain information from each family as to who the Funeral Director would be; names of Pallbearers; name and location of Cemetery; contact Company officers regarding honor detail at Funeral Home; be liaison between Funeral Director and Committee; be responsible for Cortege approaching Cathedral in proper formation, etc.

Many other assignments were made, with Committees working out of Florian Hall and Fire Headquarters, and meetings of the various committees were held each day and evening attended by Department officials; Funeral Directors; Metropolitan District Commission and Boston Police; bus transportation officials; and Union members. Among many items discussed, and arrangements made for, were: additional parking near Florian Hall (Drive-in theatre); parking of 68 buses near Cathedral (MBTA lot on Albany St.); amplifiers outside Church; inhalators in the area of the Cathedral; Department Band and Rifle Honor Guard; portable radios for Committee and Cortege Chairmen; formations of Boston and out of town Firefighter delegations; routes of buses from Florian Hall to Cathedral during morning rush hour traffic; Police motorcycle escorts for corteges; guarding homes of nearest of kin against looting during funeral services; all apparatus to be brought out of quarters with all members in full uniform at time Mass scheduled to begin; placing of mourning drape on all firehouses for 30 days; Honorary bearers to be members of companies in same houses where deceased members were assigned; procuring such items as plastic raincoats, when heavy rain was (correctly) predicted for day of funerals; mourning badge covers, etc.

Funeral Procession Committee: Jointly Chaired by Deputy Chief Brother John Sullivan and President Joe Hardiman, this Committee had the responsibility of, among many other things, moving the nine funeral processions into position at the Cathedral prior to and after the services, with propriety, and devoid of confusion; and working with the Church committee, the seating of immediate families; Pallbearers; other relatives and friends in the cortege; dignitaries, utilizing protocol; Honorary Bearers; and hundreds of Firefighters. It was impossible for thousands of Firefighters to be seated in the edifice, and arrangements were made for listening to the services via amplifiers outside, and for some to view the Mass via television in schoolrooms adjacent to the Cathedral. Intermittent rain fell while funeral processions were approaching the Church, and during the services, and it rained heavily after the corteges left the Cathedral area.

Prior to the day of the funerals, it was found that nine caskets could be placed across the front of the Church, without recession, in the same order as the procession into the Cathedral, without confusion. To avoid any possible mixup, ribbon containing the name of the deceased, was placed on each casket at the Church entrance, and the same type ribbon was used to mark Church pews for each of the families. Of utmost importance, was to maintain decorum at all times, inside and outside the Cathedral, and the complicated procedure was performed in that manner.

All parking of cars was banned at midnight Wednesday, on Harrison Avenue, Washington and Albany Streets, from Massachusetts Avenue to East Berkeley Street, to expedite movement of corteges. On Thursday morning, all corteges arrived in the area via Albany Street; six proceeding to the Cathedral via Union Park to Reynolds Way, and three coming in by way of Malden to Union Park Street.

Only hearses and immediate family cars moved from each cortege upon arrival on Reynolds Way and on Union Park Street. With three corteges on Union Park Street, space was available for the hearses and family cars to proceed from Reynolds Way to the front of the Cathedral, thence to Union Park Street, Harrison Avenue, Brookline Street to Washington Street, where they were parked near the curb, facing toward the Church, while services were conducted. All other cars in the six corteges remained on Reynolds Way throughout the services.

The hearses and family cars left the corteges on Union Park Street, proceeding to the front of the Cathedral, then out Washington Street in the lane inside the elevated structure, to Brookline Street, Harrison Avenue to their places in front of the corteges on Union Park Street.

In order to give seating priority to nearest of kin, each casket was brought into the Cathedral, followed by the immediate family, and after families of all nine deceased members were seated, other persons in the corteges left their cars, and entered the Church, followed by Honorary Bearers, dignitaries, Chiefs of out of town Fire Departments, Boston and other Firefighters.

His Excellency Archbishop Humberto Medeiros delivered a stirring Eulogy to our departed Brothers. Twelve priests presented Holy Communion, and Local 718 members were altar servers.

THE BROTHERS

The Box came in — it was One-Five-Seven-One

The Brothers rolled out to another one
Looks like a "Good One" somebody said

Minutes later "Nine" were dead
The Brothers, The Brothers

The call went out for volunteers
And they responded, but not for cheers
Their Brothers were down there, Oh!

God could it be
That they were alive under all that debris

The answer did not swiftly come and
when the last were found

The Brothers stood silently praying
and just stared at that hole in the ground

Remember the skies that day how they cried

The rain it came down, it would not subside

It ran down the cheeks and it tasted quite odd

Was this a big shower or tears from our "God"?

The Brothers filled the church and streets that day

But for the Brothers - The Brothers
The names of all "Nine" will be mentioned with pride

The Brothers, The Brothers, What a great bunch that died.

They were Magee, Carroll, Boucher, and Hanbury,
Beckwith, Jameson, Dolan, Saniuk and Murphy.

These names will be remembered for many a day

Not by civilian or politician —
But by members who talk in firehouse kitchens,

By the Brothers, The Brothers.

Fire Fighter Francis Roumacher
June 22, 1972 - Ladder Co. No. 20
Boston Fire Department

~~~~~



Courtesy National Cartoonists Society

~~~~~

The funeral processions left the Cathedral in reverse order. The hearses and family cars of the first cortege proceeded to the front of the Cathedral; and after leaving that position, were followed by all cars in the same cortege from Reynolds Way, Washington Street, Union Park Street to Harrison Avenue. This procedure was followed until Reynolds Way was clear of all cars. The same procedure was then followed by corteges leaving Union Park Street to the front of the Cathedral, thence to Harrison Avenue via Reynolds Way.

Plans had been made for all uniformed personnel to leave the front of the Cathedral via Brookline Street, and form on both sides of Harrison Avenue, to Massachusetts Avenue, as the nine funeral corteges formed into one. However, giving consideration to the lengthy ordeal the families had experienced, it being near one o'clock when the last of nine corteges left the Cathedral, the time-consuming formation of Firefighters and dignitaries on Harrison Avenue was cancelled.

As we write FINIS to this column, prepared for the record, we can only say that there was no "easy way" to carry out the task of burying nine of "our own", because the shock and grief lay heavy upon us, but with the cooperation of the bereaved families, and the combined efforts of Department officials, Union members, and many persons not connected with the Fire Service, it was accomplished with dignity.

We share with the loved ones of the deceased, the deep sorrow the tragedy has incurred, and in memory of our nine Brother Firefighters, we vow to carry on our duties with renewed effort.

Tom Getherall, for the membership
Recording Secretary
Local 718

STATE SENATE PAYS TRIBUTE

The following was received by Fire Commissioner James H. Kelly;

"THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-two

THE FOLLOWING PRAYER WAS OFFERED BY THE REVEREND
FATHER FRANCIS J. GILDAY S.J. OF BOSTON:

Lord of the Living and Dead, our Senate chamber, our commitment to duty here today is overcast with mourning and sorrow as our Commonwealth grieves for the nine Boston Firemen, husbands and fathers all, who proved on the eve of Father's Day their total dedication and commitment to their fellowman by sacrifice of their lives.

This act of heroism, this social martyrdom of 'greater love than this no man has than that a man lay down his life for his friends' moves our total admiration. In Your fatherly love for us, Your People, O Lord, You have placed these men in our midst. May we be encouraged and strengthened in the belief and hope that our Commonwealth builds strong citizens with principles, convictions and a noble standard of values. Heroes, like these Firefighters, mould and complete our work in this Senate. They fulfill our expectations. Their lives shine like the stars. They are the glorification of our State and of all people. Our prayer, O Lord, today rises to You that their glory now may be with You in eternity. Amen.

The above prayer was ordered to be engrossed and a copy forwarded by the Clerk of the Senate to the Fire Commissioner of the City of Boston.

Senate, adopted June 19, 1972.

s/Kevin B. Harrington, Senate President
s/Norman L. Pidgeon, Senate Clerk"

MASS. LAW PROTECTS FAMILIES

For the information of our out-of-State Brothers, we quote part of a law, amended a year ago, which provides a pension for the widows of our deceased Brothers.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 100 of chapter 32 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence, as most recently amended by chapter 318 of the acts of 1970, and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:—Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or any other law, if a fire fighter while in the performance of his duties and as the result of an accident while responding to or returning

from an alarm of fire or any emergency or while at the scene of a fire or any emergency is killed or sustains injuries which result in his death, or of a police officer while in the performance of his duties and as the result of an assault on his person is killed or sustains injuries which result in his death, there shall be paid to the widow of such fire fighter or such police officer an annual amount of pension which shall be equal to the amount of salary which would have been paid to such fire fighter or such police officer had he continued in service in the position held by him at the time of his death; provided, however,

that the amount of pension immediately payable shall be equal to the maximum salary set for the position whether or not such police officer or fire fighter had reached the maximum at the time of his death.

Approved July 12, 1971.

- ARCHBISHOP CELEBRATES -

Principal Celebrant of the Mass for our departed members, was His Excellency, Humberto S. Medeiros, Archbishop of Boston. Concelebrants, were Department Chaplain Monsignor James Keating; Former Chaplain Monsignor John McManmon; Assistant Chaplains Rev. Daniel Hegarty and Rev. Daniel J. Mahoney. Masters of Ceremonies were Rev. Thomas Daily and Rev. William Helmick.

Mayor Kevin H. White and Mrs. White led a delegation of Boston officials, among whom were, all members of the City Council; Deputy Mayor Edward Sullivan; Fire Commissioner James H. Kelly; Chief of Department George H. Paul; Department Medical Examiner Edward H. Hommel, M.D.; Reverend John Barclay and Rabbi Samuel Korff, Department Chaplains; Acting Police Commissioner William Taylor; Penal Commissioner Reginald Eaves; Health and Hospitals Commissioner James V. Sacchetti, M.D.; Frank Guiney, Director of Boston City Hospital; City Messenger Frank Masuret; Heads of all City Departments; School Supt. William Ohrenberger; all members of the School Committee; Mr. John F. Collins, President, Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Russell Codman and Mr. Henry Scagnoli, former Fire Commissioners; Samuel J. Pope, former Chief of Department.

Also, Governor Francis Sargent; Lt. Governor Donald Dwight; Atty. General Robert Quinn; State Public Safety Secretary Richard McLaughlin; Public Safety Commissioner John F. Kehoe Jr., State Fire Marshal Joseph Sneider; and a large delegation of members of the State Legislature; Mr. William Rothermel, President, Mass. Naval League.

President Richard Nixon was represented by Mr. W. Howard McClennan, President of the International Association of Firefighters. Also present were, former Congressman John W. McCormack; Chief Lurt Vollmer, President, National Association of Fire Chiefs; Rear Admiral C. Wylie, Commandant, First Naval District; Monsignor Sullivan, Chaplain, First Naval District.

Mr. Leo Laughlin, President, One Hundred Club of Massachusetts; Mr. Austin Janaskas, President, One Hundred Club of Connecticut; Mayor Barbara Ackerman, of Cambridge; Mayor Lester Ralph of Somerville; Mr. Joseph Rizzo, Fire Commissioner, Philadelphia; and Mr. Robert Quinn, Fire Commissioner of Chicago.

BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS DIGEST
P. O. Box 718
Dorchester, Mass. 02124

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MASS.
Permit No. 57398



A FIREMAN'S PRAYER

**WHEN I AM CALLED TO DUTY, GOD
WHENEVER FLAMES MAY RAGE,
GIVE ME STRENGTH TO SAVE SOME LIFE
WHATEVER BE ITS AGE.
HELP ME EMBRACE A LITTLE CHILD
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE
OR SAVE AN OLDER PERSON FROM
THE HORROR OF THAT FATE.
ENABLE ME TO BE ALERT AND HEAR THE WEAKEST SHOUT
AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY
TO PUT THE FIRE OUT.
I WANT TO FILL MY CALLING AND
TO GIVE THE BEST IN ME,
TO GUARD MY EVERY NEIGHBOR AND
PROTECT HIS PROPERTY.
AND IF ACCORDING TO MY FATE
I AM TO LOSE MY LIFE,
PLEASE BLESS WITH YOUR PROTECTING HAND
MY CHILDREN AND MY WIFE.**

