

HERO OF THEM ALL

Boston's "bravest fireman" is dead. All firemen are brave. Their very job is heroic. But the firemen themselves called Captain Dennis M. Condon of Ladder 1 the "bravest fireman." That makes him the hero of them all.

He held every medal and award for bravery which the fire department gives. Advancing years had not robbed him of any of his grit and determination and heroism. He was commended for bravery as often during his middle age and in recent years as he was when he was a young fireman ready to take any chance.

The fire department loses more than a good fireman, more than a hero, in the death of Captain Condon. He was an inspiration to the new men, the pride of the old.

He will always be a tradition—Boston's bravest fireman.

In honoring Captain Dennis M. Condon, we also remember his children, William, Daniel, Dennis M. Jr., Ruth, Margaret, Lucy, Ann, and Marie Condon. May his bravery and dedication to others serve as an inspiration to all of us in our daily lives.

Memorial Bench Dedication IN HONOR OF Captain Dennis M. Condon



Boston Fire Department
1905-1937



Dennis M. Condon was born on February 22, 1880 in ^{TN}Boson^{MA} Massachusetts to William and Mary Condon. Dennis married Nora Haggerty on October 22, 1905 and together they raised eight children, William, Daniel, Dennis M. Jr., Ruth, Margaret, Lucy, Ann, and Marie Condon.

Dennis joined the Boston Fire Department on June 30, 1905 and thus began his heroic career. His first assignment was to Chemical Company 9, Charlestown. He rose through the ranks from Ladderman of Ladder Company 1 to Lieutenant of Engine Company 5 to Captain of Ladder Company 1, Bowdoin Square. While Captain of the Bowdoin Square Company he also served as Acting District Chief of District 4.

Captain Condon was one of the heroes of the department and was highly commended by three Boston Mayors. He held every medal the Boston Fire Department bestows on a member for bravery. Captain Dennis M. Condon was one of the best known members of the Boston Fire Department. His fellow fire fighters called him, "the bravest of them all."



Boston Fire Department Honors

Walter Scott Medal

For Valor

1922

John E. Fitzgerald Medal

For The Most Meritorious Act

1927

Roll of Merit

The Highest Honor That Can Be Bestowed On A Member
Of The Fire Department

1927

Very High Commendation

December 5, 1917

High Commendations

June 12, 1919

August 15, 1933

Commendations

March 23, 1911

January 27, 1915

August 15, 1917

February 1, 1918

January 15, 1919

July 15, 1919

January 4, 1922

July 24, 1928

Walter Scott Medal For Valor



The Walter Scott Medal for Valor is presented by the Boston Fire Commissioner to the fireman who in his judgement has during the calendar year specifically distinguished himself for valor in the performance of his duty as a fireman.

The Walter Scott Medal for Valor was awarded to Lieutenant Dennis M. Condon of Engine Company 5 for his valor demonstrated on July 30, 1922 while Ladderman Condon of Ladder Company 1. On that date the Boston Fire Department responded to an alarm at 84 Prince Street. As spectators gazed in horror a man hung from the ledge of a fourth story window as his room filled with smoke. The man was growing weaker when Ladderman Condon ascended a ladder to rescue him. Just as Condon reached the fourth floor the 200 pound man fell. Miraculously, Ladderman Condon caught the man and was able to carry him safely to the street.

Dennis M. Condon was the first recipient of the Walter Scott Medal for Valor.



John E. Fitzgerald Medal For the Most Meritorious Act



The John E. Fitzgerald Medal for the Most Meritorious Act is presented to the fireman, who in the judgement of the Fire Commissioner, has performed the most meritorious act and whose conduct has called for special attention.

The Fire Commissioner ordered that Lieutenant Dennis M. Condon be placed on the Roll of Merit and be awarded the John E. Fitzgerald Medal for his courageous heroic conduct, regardless of his personal risk, in affecting the rescues of Hoseman Thomas R. O'Brien of Engine Company 44 and Hoseman Edward I. O'Dowd of Engine Company 27. Lieutenant Condon rescued the two Hoseman from drowning when on active duty at the fire on the Floating Hospital Skip moored at North End Park Pier in the middle of the night, June 2, 1927 when they fell overboard. O'Brien attempted to jump with a line in his hand onto the breakwater, and fell into the water. Unhesitatingly, Lieutenant Condon dove in and rescued him. The second Hoseman, Edward O'Dowd, working with several companies amidships, was hit and flung into the water when a super structure gutted by flames gave way and fell. Again Lieutenant Condon dove straight in and with another fireman swam with the unconscious Hoseman to safety.

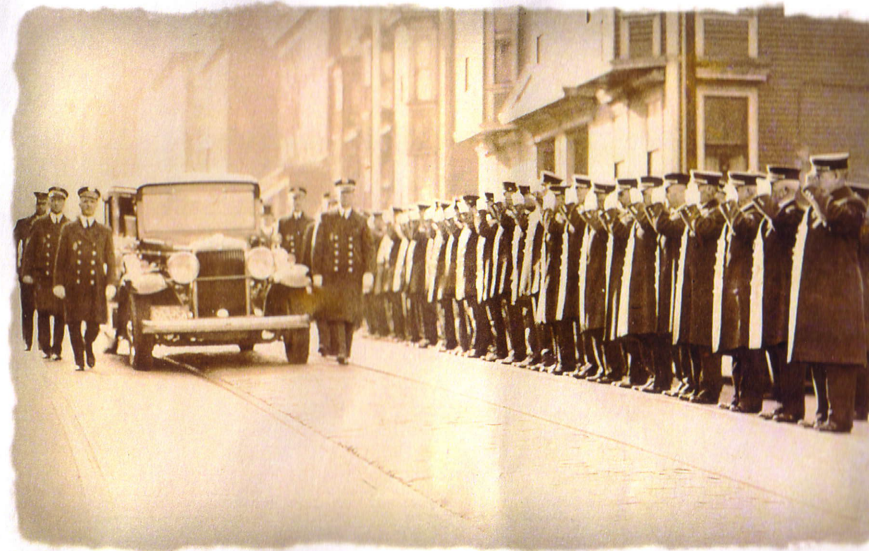


ROLL OF MERIT

The Roll Of Merit

The Roll of Merit of the Boston Fire Department was established in 1880 and contains the names of those members who have distinguished themselves in the discharge of their duties by saving human life at the risk of their own.

The Fire Commissioner ordered that Lieutenant Dennis M. Condon be placed on the Roll of Merit for the rescue of Hoseman Thomas R. O'Brien and Hoseman Edward I. O'Dowd on the night of June 2, 1927 when both men fell into the harbor while fighting a fire on the Floating Hospital Skip moored at North End Park Pier.



Captain Dennis M. Condon died on January 25, 1937 at Boston City Hospital after ailing for more than a year, the result of injuries received in the line of duty. A congregation of fellow members of the Fire Department and his legions of friends and neighbors thronged Saint Francis de Sales Church in Charlestown to remember Captain Condon at a solemn high mass as bells tolled in a tribute of respect.



*Old quarters
remodeled
Oct 17
1933
to Bureau
quarters*

