



For extreme devotion to duty in exposing themselves to such personal risk as to result in their making the supreme sacrifice, these members are posthumously awarded the Medal of Valor in the Boston Fire Department.

Awards for Valor

On October 1, 1964, during the long night hours, while engaged in fighting a serious fire at 39 Trumbull Street, in the South End section of Boston, five of our members sacrificed their lives in the performance of their duties.

These heroes need no earthly awards, as they have received the greatest reward man can ever attain, that of God's call to His heavenly abode; however, it is deemed fitting and proper that such devotion to duty should be made evident for posterity.

With this in mind and in an effort to exemplify such deeds to our present generation and all those who may later assume this very hazardous occupation, it has been considered appropriate to incorporate into the activities at the Boston Firemen's Relief Association Ball, held each year, the presentation of a medal posthumously to the nearest of kin of the firefighter who gave his life for a brother.

This medal, first of its kind to be awarded in our department, will be known as the Medal of Valor and shall be awarded to the families of:

- FIRE LIEUTENANT JOHN J. McCORKLE of Engine Company 24
- FIRE LIEUTENANT JOHN J. GESWELL of Ladder Company 26
- FIREFIGHTER FRANCIS L. MURPHY of Engine Company 24
- FIREFIGHTER JAMES B. SHEEDY of Ladder Company 4
- FIREFIGHTER ROBERT J. CLOUGHERTY of Engine Company 3
- all victims of the Trumbull Street fire.

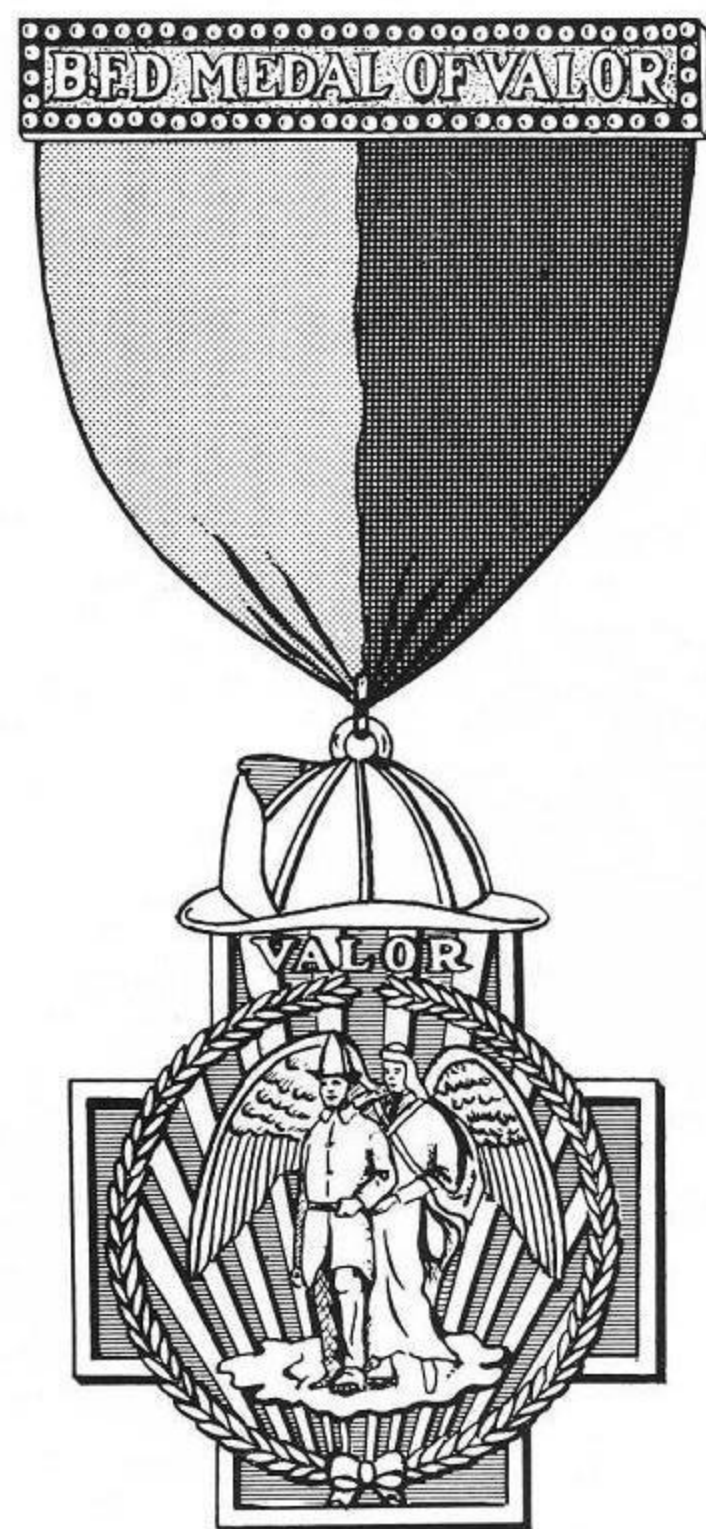
It is intended that henceforth any member of the Boston Fire Department killed in the line of duty shall have a medal struck in his memory, and it shall be presented to his immediate family.

On the front side the medal depicts an angel guiding the firefighter along to his reward in heaven; and on the other side, encircled by a wreath, will be engraved the man's name, date of appointment to the department, his last assignment, and the number of the box and date of the incident resulting in the man's death.

The medal will be encased within a frame, backed by an engrossed parchment, bearing the man's history within the department and the information pertinent to the fire or other incident. This shall all be under glass.

At the bottom of the parchment, below the medal, will be inscribed the following impressive verse, modified for the individual, from the pen of Henry Gillen, a prominent Boston newspaperman:

*"All honor unto gallantry
In reverence we pay
That others might have days to be
He gave his life away
Now glory shall enshrine his name
And time his deeds defy
Since humble men who sought no fame
Have taught us how to die."*



Front View
of
the
Medal
of Valor

Back View
of the
Medal

