

**Gelinas, John**

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**From:** Gelinas, John  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2007 13:17  
**To:** \*All Fire Employees  
**Cc:** \*All ECC Employees  
**Subject:** Company Journal - Issue 42



## **The Company Journal** **and "The Feederline"**

***Fire Department News***  
***Cambridge, Massachusetts***  
***A Class 1 Fire Department***

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*From the desk of*  
*Chief Gerald R. Reardon*

*Issue #42*  
*Friday, 9 March 2007*

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### ***All Companies Working***

**Box 45-793:** Engines 4, 8, 1, and 9; Trucks 4, 1, and 2; Squads 4 and 2; Rescue 1; and Division Chiefs 2 and 1 operated at this working fire in the 2 1/2 story, wood-frame, OMD at 27 Norris Street, North Cambridge on 5 February 2007. The box was transmitted at 2002 hours and the "45" was ordered at 2018. Aggressive interior attack, coupled with effective ventilation and overhauling quickly contained and knocked down this fire. **Deputy Fire Chief Bob Scott** of Division 2 was in Command, Group 3 was on duty.

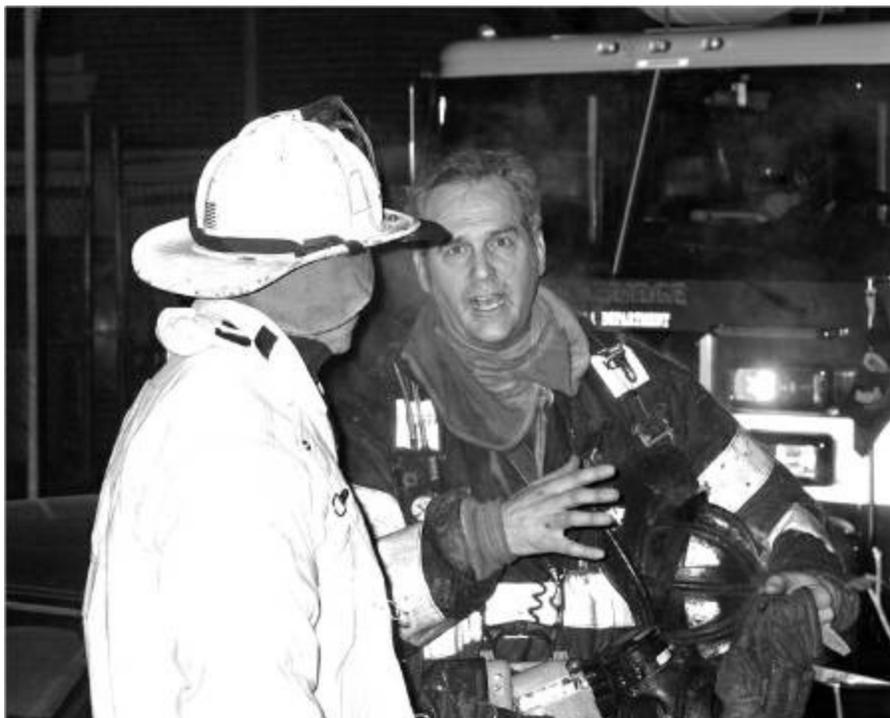


Teamwork: With the Engine Companies operating inside, Trucks 4 and 1 provide effective horizontal and vertical ventilation.

The Squads and the Rescue initially completed primary and secondary searches.



Truck 4 Firefighter Richard Rycroft and Lieutenant Tom Cauchon.  
Truck 1 members are on the peak opening the roof.



**Fire Captain Greg Carter** (Squad 4) briefs Incident Commander **DFC Bob Scott** on progress of interior attack operations.



**Fire Captain Mike Bruno** (Truck 2) changes air cylinder for interior sector officer, **DFC Michael Morrissey** (Division 1.)  
Truck 2 initially was assigned as the FAST company.

*- All photos above were taken by **Ted Pendergast**, Belmont FD*

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**Box 45-465:** The working fire was ordered for the fire in the cellar of this taxpayer at 985 Massachusetts Avenue, at the corner of Dana Street. The box was transmitted at 0027 hours and the "45" at 0043 hours on Saturday, 24 February 2007. Engines 5, 6, 1, and 2; Trucks 3, 1, and 2; Squads 2 and 4; Rescue 1; and Divisions 1 and 2 operated. First-due Engine 2 was assigned fourth-due as the working-fire engine because the company was operating at an unrelated, prior

still alarm at the time of the box. **Acting Deputy Fire Chief Bill Brathwaite** of Division 1 was in Command. Group 4 was on duty.





- photos above by **CFD Photo Unit**

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**Box 2561** was transmitted at 1050 hours on 26 Feb 2007 for the motor vehicle fire in the parking garage at 4 Cambridge Center, Kendall Square. Four engines, 2 trucks, 1 squad, the rescue, and Division 1 operated. Group 3 was on duty. **DFC Morrissey** was the IC.

- photo by **CFD Photo Unit**

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In the photos below, Companies are shown operating at the motor vehicle accident and rendering medical aid to the

injured persons on Cardinal Medeiros Avenue at Broadway. Engines 5 and 2, Truck 3, Rescue 1 with Tactical Rescue 1, Squads 2 and 4, Division 1, Professional Ambulance, and the Cambridge Police worked at the incident.





- photos above by **F.Lt. Fred Ikels** and **FF Reggie Pagan** (Engine 5).

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*photos above: FFs Al Coipel, John Bell, and Fred Ikels (now Lieutenant) practice search and rescue techniques using search ropes at headquarters.*

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***CFD Dive Team Ops***



**Evidence collection from the Charles River, Memorial Drive at the Longfellow Bridge:**

5 October 2006: Fire Captain Bill Brathwaite (Rescue 1) wades and swims through the debris in search of evidence concerning the pet shop fire at 425 O'Brien Highway from 27 Sept 2006.



4 October 2006: FFs Mike Donovan and Albert Coipel search through debris for evidence.

Based on information from a suspect, evidence, including a safe, was recovered from the river following this search .

- above photos by **CFD Photo Unit**

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Massachusetts Broken Stone Quarry in Weston, November, 2006: **Chief Gerald Reardon**, **FF Jeff McGourty** (Rescue 1), **FF Bill Barry** (Engine 1), **F.Lt. Steve Brown**, (Tech Services) and **FF Jay Martell** (Squad 2) participate in this dive training exercise.



**Cambridge Fire Department Dive Team:**

Front row: **F.Lt. Matt Brannelly** (Rescue 1), **F.Lt. Jeremy Walsh** (Squad 2), **FF George Vendetti** (Engine 6), **DFC Lester Bokuniewicz** (Division 1), **F.Lt Steve Brown** (Tech Services), **FF Andy Mello** (Engine 1), **F.Lt. Steve Boyle** (Squad 2), and **Chief of Department Gerald Reardon**.

Second row: **FF Todd Koen** (Engine 1), **FF Mike Donovan** (Rescue 1), **FF Ken Souza** (Rescue 1), **FF Jay Martel** (Squad 2), **F. Captain Bill Brathwaite** (Rescue 1), **FF John Bell** ( Squad 4), **FF Paul Morrison** (Squad 2), and **F.Lt Sean White** (Rescue 1.)

Back row: **FF Jeff McGourty** (Rescue 1), **FF Bill Barry** (Engine 1), and **FF Rich Thorne** (Engine 3.)

Not shown: **DFC Dan Turner** (Fire Prevention) and **FF Steve Landry** (Rescue 1).

- photos above by **CFD Photo Unit**



**FF Ken Cunningham** (Ladder 1)



Ice Rescue Training at Little Fresh Pond: **FF Nicole Zedalis** (Rescue 1) "rescues" **FF Ken Cunningham** ( Ladder 1.)



**Ice Rescue Training at Little Fresh Pond:**

**FF Nicole Zedalis** (Rescue 1), **F.Capt. Ed Morrissey** (Ladder 1), **FF David Croak** (Rescue 1), and **F.Lt. Stephen Boyle** (Squad 2.)

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Dive Rescue/Rescue 3

This 1995 Freightliner/E-One, the former Rescue 1, has been outfitted as the Dive Rescue.

- photos above by the **CFD Photo Unit**

### **What's New**

- Two pieces of apparatus, a conventional pump and a rescue-pumper, are being built by Pierce Fire Apparatus of Appleton, Wisconsin. Delivery is expected for May.
- A CPA (Community Preservation Act) Grant in the amount of \$100,000 has been dedicated to repair work at the quarters of Engine 5 and Division 1. Money will be used to replace the windows, complete exterior masonry repairs, and make repairs to the roof.
- Additional funds have been requested for the following firehouse repairs:
  - Engine 5/Division 1 quarters - to replace the stairs
  - Engine 2/Ladder 3/Squad 2 quarters - to complete interior renovations
  - Engine 4/Squad 4 quarters - \$350,000 to replace the roof
  - Headquarters - \$200,000 to replace the boilers
- Funds have also been requested to perform a complete, factory rehab of Ladder 3's apparatus.
- Equipment has now been received to allow completion of the Cambridge Fire Channel 1 UHF interface. This is part of the UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) radio interoperability project.

### **Who's New - Appointments and Assignments**

Per General Order #05 of 2007:

Effective Sunday, 21 January 2007 at 0700 hours,  
The following members are appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department.

**Firefighter Donald E. Calvert** to Engine Company No. 3  
**Firefighter Andrew G. Carrigan** to Engine Company No. 1  
**Firefighter Margaret E. Carrigan** to Engine Company No. 2  
**Firefighter John R. DeCoursey** to Ladder Company No. 1

**Firefighter Kyle B. Hood** to Engine Company No. 1  
**Firefighter Robert J. Jutras** to Ladder Company No. 3  
**Firefighter Todd J. Koen** to Engine Company No. 1  
**Firefighter Joseph E. Nunley** to Engine Company No. 8  
**Firefighter Howard T. Smith** Ladder Company No. 2

Welcome aboard also to **John Serwecinski**. John is a civilian member working in Headquarters - Administration.

### ***Congratulations***

Congratulations to **George Cotter** (Engine 6, group 2) and wife, **Kathy** on the birth of **Samantha Rose Cotter** on 24 October 2006. Samantha weighed in at 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 21" long. She joins brothers, **George** (age 5) and **Charlie** (age 3) as the newest member of the Cotter family.

Congrats also to **Jerry Hart** (Truck 3, group 2) and wife, **Michelle** on the birth of **Sara Anne Hart**. Sarah Anne was born on 9 December 2006, weighing in at 5 pounds, 6 ounces. She was 18" long. Sarah joins brother, **James** (age 4) and sister, **Camille** (age 3.)

### ***Happy Birthday!***

Congratulations to **Elisa Camara**, grandmother of **Melinda Camara** (Headquarters Administrative Staff) on her 101st birthday. She celebrated 101 on the 5th of March.

### ***Out and About***



**TARU**, the Tactical Advance Response Unit - Reserve Detachment (Southwest Florida Division) recently completed a hands-on tactical exercise under supervision of Division Coordinator Spike Lawless. Members are shown in the "rehab" mode.

*Front row: Ron Mattos, Joe Lawless, Harold Grafe, Bob O'Neil, and Mike Papsedero.*

*Back row: Spike Lawless, Dan Flaherty, Larry Brogan, Ron Ring, Larry Hodgdon, Jack Clark, Ken O'Connor, and Larry Ferazani.*



Members of Engine Company #4, **Acting Fire Lieutenant Jack Brogan, Firefighters Raymond Vaillancourt and Renrick Clarke**, shovel the ice on the Blake Street side of the firehouse.

- photo by **Tara Bithia**

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### **Running on Ice**

In the photos below, the members of Ladder Company #3 and Squad #2 are training in ice rescue maneuvers on the Charles River. The temperature at the time was in the single numbers, with below zero wind-chill.



**FF Kevin Lawson (Ladder 3), FF Dan Mahoney (Ladder 3), F.Lt. Brian Casey (Squad 2), FF Jay Martel (Squad 2), FF Sean Williams (Ladder 3,) and F.Lt. Paul Mahoney (Ladder 3)**



*- photos above by Tara Bithia*



FFs **Dan Mahoney** and **Sean Williams** walking on the river.



- photos above by **FF Kevin Lawson**

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Following nearly 36 years on the job, Steve Boyle pulled the pin at the end of December, 2006. The pictures below were taken at the Lafayette Square fire house during Steve's last tour of duty. Many members showed up to congratulate Steve and wish him the best in his retirement.



**John O'Donoghue (Chief of Operations - retired), Fire Captain Steve Persson (Training,) and Fire Captain Steve Boyle.**



**The members of Engine Company #6, group 1:  
Fire Captain Steve Boyle, Firefighters George Vendetti, Robert Crooker, and Leroy Houston**



- photos above by **Tara Bithia**

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Enigne 6 members: **FF David Liu, FF Kevin Mercer, FF Robert Crooker, FF George Vendetti, F.Capt Steve Boyle, F.Lt. Michael Clinton, FF Leroy Houston, and FF Henry Sisco**



**Steve Boyle** (Engine 6) and **F.Lt. Bill Hugh** (Truck 2)



*front:* **FF Steve Milliken** (L3), **F.Capt. Steve Boyle** (E6), and **F.Lt. Steve Boyle, Jr.** (Sq2)

*middle:* **F.Lt. James Ferreira** (E6), **FF David Croak** (R1), and **DFC John Cotter** (Div.2)

*back:* **F.Lt. Pat Haggerty** (L3), **FF Steve Ryan** (L3), **F.Lt. David House** (E1), **FF Fran Gallagher** (Div.1), **FF Ken Cunningham** (L1), and **FF Craig Yearwood** (Div.2)



**Fire Captain Steve Boyle** (Engine Company #6) and **Fire Lieutenant Steve Boyle, Jr.** (Squad #2)

*- photos above by F.Capt. Gerry Mahoney (LEPC)*

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**F.Lt. Paul Mahoney** (Truck 3) meets the **Chief of Naval Operations Mike Mullen** on board CV67, the USS John F. Kennedy.



*- photo by F.Capt. Brian Gover (Engine 1)*



USS John F. Kennedy, CV67, leaving Boston Harbor

- photo by **Robert Marshall** (Waltham Engine 8)

### **Transfers and Assignments**

Per General Order #03 of 2007:

Effective: Sunday, 14 January 2007 at 0700 hours:

**Fire Captain Kenneth R. Jenness** from Rescue Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 6

**Fire Captain William J. Brathwaite** from Engine Company No. 1 to Rescue Company No. 1

**Fire Captain Brian J. Gover** from Ladder Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 1

**Fire Captain Peter A. Donovan** from Fire Prevention to Ladder Company No. 3

**Fire Lieutenant William A. Wood** from Rescue Company No. 1 to Ladder Company No. 1

**Fire Lieutenant David S. Walles** from Ladder Company No. 1 to Squad No. 4

**Fire Lieutenant Matthew F. Brannelly** from Squad No. 4 to Rescue Company No. 1

**Fire Lieutenant Jeffrey R. Howard** from Engine Company No. 2 to Engine Company No. 8

**Fire Lieutenant Charles M. Anderson** from Engine Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 2

**Acting Fire Lieutenant Charles E. Lowe** from Engine Company No. 8 to Engine Company No. 1

**Fire Lieutenant Steven M. Brogan** from Engine Company No. 6 to Acting Fire Captain, Fire Prevention

**Firefighter James Ferreira** from Engine Company No. 2 to Acting Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 6

### **Transfers**

Per General Order #04 of 2007:

Effective Sunday, January 21, 2007 at 0700 hours:

**Firefighter Michael S. DeAmbrose** from Engine Company No. 1 to Ladder Company No. 4

**Firefighter Robert M. Golden** from Engine Company No. 8 to Ladder Company No. 4

**Firefighter Pedro O. Gonzalez** from Ladder Company No. 3 to Rescue Company No. 1

**Firefighter Brian D. Albert** from Ladder Company No. 1 to Ladder Company No. 3

**Firefighter Raymond E. Vaillancourt** from Ladder Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 4

**Firefighter Joyce T. Bowden** from Engine Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 4  
**Firefighter Bryan B. O'Neil** from Engine Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 4

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### **Promotions and Assignments**

Per General Order #08 of 2007:

Effective: Sunday, 18 February 2007 at 0700 hours:

Acting Fire Captain **Steven M. Brogan** to Fire Captain, Fire Prevention Bureau  
 Acting Fire Lieutenant **Charles E. Lowe** to Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 1  
 Acting Fire Lieutenant **James Ferreira** to Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 6  
 Firefighter **Brandon M. Hugh** from Engine Company No. 5 to Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 3

### **Transfer**

Fire Lieutenant **Michael J. Hughes** from Engine Company No. 3 to L.E.P.C.

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### **Retirements**

Per G.O. #30 of 2006

Effective December 31, 2006, at 1900 Hours, **Fire Captain Stephen J. Boyle** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Captain Boyle was appointed on March 29, 1970 and assigned to the Reserve List.

- January 3, 1971 Ladder Company No. 1
- August 8, 1972 Rescue Company No. 1
- March 13, 1977 Acting Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 9
- June 26, 1977 Promoted to Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 9
- July 2, 1978 Rescue Company No. 1
- October 12, 1986 Acting Captain, Engine Company No. 2
- November 30, 1986 Promoted to Captain, Engine Company No. 2
- May 10, 1987 Rescue Company No. 1
- June 27, 1993 Engine Company No. 6

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Per General Order #02 of 2007:

Effective January 6, 2007, at 1900 Hours, **Captain Peter V. Cignetti III** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Captain Cignetti was appointed on September 21, 1980.

- November 16, 1980 Engine Company No. 2
- January 2, 1983 Engine Company No. 9
- October 12, 1986 Acting Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 1
- November 30, 1986 Promoted to Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 1
- March 31, 1991 Acting Captain, Engine Company No. 3
- April 13, 1991 Promoted to Captain, Engine Company No. 3
- April 24, 1994 Pivot Officer
- July 9, 1995 Pivot Officer

- September 15, 1996    *Headquarters, assigned to Emergency Management*
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*Per General Order #06 of 2007:*

*Effective January 18, 2007, at 1900 Hours, **Fire Lieutenant Jeffrey W. Ashe** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Lieutenant Ashe was appointed on August 7, 1977.*

- October 2, 1977        *Engine Company No. 2*
  - April 15, 1979        *Ladder Company No. 3*
  - April 27, 1980        *Ladder Company No. 2*
  - October 12, 1986      *Aerial Tower 1*
  - August 4, 1992        *Promoted to Lieutenant*
  - August 9, 1992        *Engine Company No. 7*
  - July 1, 1993           *Pivot Officer*
  - January 1, 1995        *Ladder Company No. 2*
  - September 15, 1996    *Engine Company No. 8*
- 

*Per General Order #09 of 2007:*

*Effective February 20, 2007, at 0700 Hours, **Firefighter Rodger B. Johnson** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Johnson was appointed on February 20, 1979.*

- April 15, 1979        *Engine Company No. 4*
  - January 2, 1983        *Ladder Company No. 3*
  - January 7, 1990        *Engine Company No. 1*
  - July 1, 1993           *Engine Company No. 4*
  - March 6, 1994        *Engine Company No. 1*
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***From the Archives***



The Roof Sector - circa late 70s - fire location unknown

Truck 4 members Firefighters **Jules Albert** and **Jerry Leech** take a break after opening the roof.

- *Ed Fowler photo*

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Five engines and 2 trucks from Cambridge operated at the Lynn conflagration in November, 1981. Shown below are pictures of Aerial Tower #1 (Ladder Company #1) operating at the fire. The firefighter facing the camera is probably **FF Kevin Coleman** (now retired.) The multiple-story building well-involved in fire is the Benton Shoe building.





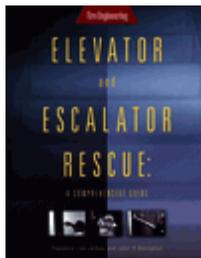


- photos above by **Bill Noonan**

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### ***Elevator Rescue***

A tip of the helmet to **John O'Donoghue** (Chief of Operations - retired) on publication of his latest book. ***Elevator and Escalator Rescue: A comprehensive Guide***, co-authored with **Ted Jarboe**, this book published by PennWell is scheduled to be released in mid-March.




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## Letters

*The following is a sample of the many letters recently received.*

Subject: A long overdue Thank You

Dear Chief Reardon,

My name is Maria Pavidis. I suspect that you don't recognize my name, but perhaps you'll recognize my story. You see, at one point in time I lived at 1248 Cambridge Street in Cambridge. Today, it's home to the Haveli Restaurant, but in 1968 it was home to six families and three businesses. That was until January 28, 1968 (I think it was the 28th. it's been so long), when all the residents of that building became victims of a horrible fire that was set by an arsonist.

On that night I became acquainted with the Cambridge Fire Department and one Fireman in particular. I am sorry to say that I never knew his name, but this nameless Fireman saved my life that night. This man woke me out of a sound sleep (2:30 in the a.m I think) and got me out of my bed in the nick of time. Seconds later the ceiling, which was fully engulfed in flames, came falling onto the bed. Had he not been there I would have been badly burnt or killed. This nameless man was able to get me, my mother and other family members out of the building and to safety. By the time we were on the street the building was completely engulfed in flames . At times I can still feel the heat and the fear that I experienced that night.

We were placed into an ambulance where I sat directly across from my next door neighbor, although I didn't recognize him at first as he was completely charred. His hair was gone, his fingers were burnt beyond recognition, his clothes were stuck to his skin, which was for the most part black from the smoke and he was crying. I was numb at the sight and couldn't say a word. Instead, I kept staring out of the ambulance to see what was going on in the street. All I saw was chaos and sadness. I even thought that some of the Firemen appeared to be crying. I later found out that my neighbor had lost his two small children in that fire and he had sustained severe burns throughout his body trying to save them. I then understood why the Firemen had tears in their eyes.

It's been many years since that horrible night, but a week doesn't go by that I don't think about it. For a long time I focused on the losses. You couldn't help but to do so. My family and I suffered many hardships due to the fire not only financial, but emotional. However, I am very pleased to say that at some point I began to focus on all that I've lived and experienced since that night. I went on to have a good childhood. I've married, had children and have attended more birthdays, graduations, weddings. etc. that I can count. None of this would have been possible if that nameless Fireman hadn't saved me that night.

Although I don't know who he was nor any of the other Firemen for that matter, I'd like like to finally thank him for saving me. And if this long overdue **Thank You** doesn't reach its very deserving owner, I can only say that I am sorry I waited so long. You see, year after year I've thought of writing such a letter but couldn't put my feelings into words. But finally I've gotten the courage not only to write it, but to send it to the person and people that made a difference in my life and the lives of people that I love, my family.

Forever Grateful,  
Mrs. Maria Pavidis

*Editor's note: This very moving letter was received by Chief Reardon.  
At least two children and one adult perished in this fire.*

*A greater loss of life was prevented only due to the fact that fire companies were on the road in the vicinity at the time of the alarm. Somerville companies also on the road in the vicinity immediately responded and joined their Cambridge brothers in rescuing entrapped occupants.*

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January 29, 2007  
Cedar Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140

Dear Chief Reardon,

Yesterday morning I blacked out in my bathroom while my daughter as getting me ready for the day. This has never happened to me before in my 93 years of living. It was most frightening to the both of us. Ruby immediately called 911 and they asked many questions on the phone to help them assess the situation.

Immediately following, the fire rescue and the ambulance showed up at my door. By this time I had come to and was able to answer their questions myself.

Your staff was especially sensitive to my needs and gave me excellent care. I want to thank you and you department for their wonderful service.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. McCaffrey

*Editor's note: Group 4 was on duty. Engine Company #4 (**Acting Fire Lieutenant Jim Bergin, FFs Michael Murphy and Michael Pearson,**) Rescue 1 (**Fire Captain Bill Brathwaite, FFs Ed Fales, Jeff McGourty, and Dennis Vigilante,**) and Professional Ambulance PM3 were assigned to this incident.*

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2 - 2-- 2007

Dear Chief Reardon,

I want to express my deep gratitude for the beautiful tribute given to my husband last Friday by the Cambridge Fire Department. I'm sure he would have been very pleased. I know we were very impressed! Thank you again. Give my best regards to Engine 4, Ladder 4, and the Rescue Squad - they were excellent!

Sincerely,

Dorothy Cremins

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January 18, 2007

Fire Chief Gerald R. Reardon  
Cambridge Fire Department  
491 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Chief Reardon,

On behalf of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, we are writing to express our deepest gratitude for the work of the Cambridge Fire Department in the aftermath of the fire at One Broadway, an MIT building. We are especially thankful for the assistance provided by Deputy Chief Daniel J. Turner and Captain Gerard E. Mahoney.

In the weeks since December 8<sup>th</sup>, you have been responsive and thoughtful advisors and colleagues in assessing and ensuring the long term security of the building and the safety of tenants who moved back into One Broadway last week.

In the days since the incident, you worked tirelessly at One Broadway in order to allow our tenants to safely return to the building and resume regular business operations as quickly as possible.

We are grateful for your response and recognize your efforts to serve and protect our community each and every day.

This was a tragic even for our city, with the loss of Kevin Fidalgo, the NStar employee who was working in the building. It has also, however, been a time of great strength and spirit, when friends, neighbors and public servants rallied together to help each other.

For this hard work and goodwill we thank you, and extend our appreciation.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Marsh  
Managing Director, Real Estate  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Michael K. Owu  
Director, Real Estate  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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February 17, 2007

Dear Captain Robert Morrissey,

I am a sophomore this year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and have been a firefighting enthusiast since birth. Although I am majoring in Aeronautics and Astronautics and have quite a passion for aviation, the entire concept of fire apparatus and firefighting has captivated me since I could barely walk.

This is no official MIT message, but I would nonetheless like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and the thanks of all my fellow students for responding to calls on the MIT campus swiftly and professionally. I often see Engine 2, Ladder 3, Squad 2, and Division 1 on campus and remind myself how fortunate my classmates and I are to be able to count on the protection of our very own ISO Class I fire department.

I must admit that I am entirely mesmerized by the sight of you impeccably maintained (and immaculately clean) apparatus. This care for your equipment conveys the passion you have for your very unique profession, but it also demonstrates your desire to ensure the highest level of preparation possible for your work. I do not see the training you constantly undergo and most of the other measures you take to guarantee the greatest level of firefighting proficiency possible. However, your care for you equipment is definitely something I do see in my everyday life that shows your dedication to being prepared to serve the Cambridge community.

More importantly, I would like to laud the extremely high level of reliability and professionalism with which you conduct your operations in all cases I have witnessed. Not only do you carry out your duties with the high levels of knowledge, skill, and judgment which your training has given you, but I believe you are also very courteous and considerate in you interactions with the members of the community you serve. Despite the urgency of the incidents to which you respond and the physically and mentally demanding nature of the tasks you must complete to carry out an effective response, it is truly impressive to note the calmness with which you operate and the courtesy which I have always seen you show in you interaction with those who work and live in the City of Cambridge.

My sincere appreciation goes to those who protect my friends and me – you and your colleagues in the Cambridge Fire Department.

Thank you.

Constantine Speridakos

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City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
Fire Department  
266 Broadway  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145

December 8, 2006

Dear Chief Reardon:

I would like to thank you and your Department for all the assistance provided during the funeral service for Lieutenant Kevin Hough. Lieutenant Hough was a dedicated 33-year member of our Department who loved his profession.

Your help in covering our stations allowed members of the on-duty crew (Kevin's group) to attend the funeral. They are appreciative of your assistance.

Again, thank you for your support in our time of need.

Respectfully,

Kevin W. Kelleher

Chief Engineer

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American Red Cross  
139 Main Street  
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Chief Reardon,

On behalf of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to you and the Cambridge Fire Department for your guidance and assistance during the explosion and fire at the One Broadway office building. The professionalism of firefighters on the scene allowed the American Red Cross to provide rehab services, blankets, and mental health services to affected individuals in an efficient and effective manner. The information you department provided to Red Cross workers was invaluable and critical to the overall success of our part of the operations.

We are pleased to be new residents of Cambridge and look forward to supporting your responses in the future. Please do not hesitate to call upon the American Red Cross for anything.

Sincerely,

Joselito Garcia-Ruiz

Emergency Services Director

### **Stats and Fires**

During the month of **January, 2007, Engine 2** was the busiest company with **267 runs**. Engine 5 finished with 203 and Engine 1 with 179 runs, followed closely by Engine 3 with 173 runs. **Truck 3** finished the month with **209 runs** and Truck 1 with 194. **Rescue 1** finished the month with **220 runs**. **Division 1** finished with a total of **179 runs**, while Division 2 responded to 118 incidents. **Squad 2** and **Squad 4** completed January with **264** and 158 runs respectively.

There were 1109 emergency incidents during the month, which generated 2890 emergency responses. There were 9 building fires, 49 inside fires, and 53 fires of all categories.

During the month of **February, 2007, Squad 2** was the busiest unit with **227 runs**. **Engine 2** finished with **210**, Engine 1 with 165 runs, and Engine 5 with 154. **Truck 1** finished the month with **169 runs** and Truck 3 with 143. **Rescue 1** finished the month with **182 runs**. **Division 1** finished with a total of **133 runs**, while Division 2 responded to 107 emergency incidents. **Squad 4** completed February with 170 runs.

There were 960 emergency incidents in February, and 2431 emergency responses. There were 10 building fires, 54 inside fires, and 61 fires of all categories.

### **Annual Run Total - 2006**

## Cambridge Fire Annual Totals - Calendar Year 2006

	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Bldg Fires</i>
Engine 1	2123	49
Engine 2	2823	48
Engine 3	1443	29
Engine 4	1504	29
Engine 5	2014	57
Engine 6	1283	43
Engine 8	1181	33
Engine 9	981	25

Incidents	12,149
Div 1 Incidents	6734
Div 2 Incidents	5415
Responses	30,887

Truck 1	2125	76
Truck 2	1287	40
Truck 3	2021	52
Truck 4	1617	35
Rescue 1	2019	73
Squad 2	2843	60
Squad 4	1855	59
Special Units	305	
HazMat 1	44	
Division 1	1789	62
Division 2	1431	49
Mutual Aid Units	199	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30887</b>	

EMS	5442
Building Fires	110
Inside Fires	500
All Fires	627
HazMat	298

Working Fires	6
2nd Alarms	2
3rd Alarms	3
4th Alarms	0

Note: Somerville Engine 3 responded into Cambridge 80 times during 2006.
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### **Retirees**

Join the **Retired Firefighters Breakfast Club**. The club meets at 0730 hours on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at Andy's Diner (across from Engine 4's house) in North Cambridge. Call John O'Donoghue at 781-483-9217 or e-mail him at [jod3502@aol.com](mailto:jod3502@aol.com) for more information. All retired members are welcome. Stay in touch. Have breakfast with good company.

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### **Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events:**

#### **IFBA Convention**

The annual convention of **The International Fire Buffs Association** will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in **August of 2007**. The convention site will be the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

#### **Local 30 IAFF/MDA Golf Tournament**

The 2007 Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, 20 June 2007. Further details will be coming soon!

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### **Signal 10-15**

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Clifford E. Gallant** of Engine Company #4 (retired.) Firefighter Gallant was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 23 May 1965 and assigned to Engine Company #4.

On 23 April 1969, he was assigned to Headquarters.

He retired on 10 May 1970.

Firefighter Gallant was born on 1 March 1932. He was a World War II veteran of the United States Air Force. Firefighter Clifford Gallant died on 30 December 2006.

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The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Chief of Department William J. Cremins** (retired.) Chief Cremins was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 30 July 1939 and assigned to Engine Company #1. His other assignments were as follows:

12 October 1941	Engine Company #6
5 December 1942	United States Navy
9 December 1945	Reinstated to Engine Company #1
7 July 1946	Engine Company #3
12 September 1947	promoted to Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company #4
19 November 1950	promoted to Acting Fire Captain, Drill Master (Training)
15 April 1951	promoted to Fire Captain, Drill Master (Training)
11 July 1954	Engine Company #4
15 December 1955	Deputy Fire Chief
1 November 1965	promoted to Acting Chief of Department
25 January 1966	promoted to Chief of Department

Chief Cremins retired on 16 February 1980

He was born on 23 November 1915. He was a World War II veteran of the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard. Chief William Cremins died on 30 January 2007.



**Chief Cremins** is shown in this picture as Fire Captain-Drillmaster with fire recruits in the 1950s.

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The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Vincent L. Moynihan, Jr.** of Engine Company #6 (retired.) Firefighter Moynihan was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 25 April 1948 and assigned to Engine Company #3.

On 12 September 1948, he was assigned to Engine #6.

He retired on 3 June 1980.

Firefighter Moynihan was born on 9 March 1919. He was a World War II veteran of the United States Coast

Guard. Firefighter Vincent Moynihan died on 10 February 2007.

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### **Condolences**

Condolences to **Fire Lieutenant Bill Wood** (Ladder 1, group 2) on the death of his father.

Condolences to **Firefighter Eric Moore** (Ladder 1, group 2) on the death of his grandfather, **Harold Moore**. Mr. Moore was the former Chief of Police in Topsfield.

Condolences to **Firefighter Dan Maloney** (Division 1, group 3) on the death of his mother, **Mrs. Mary E. (Cunningham) Maloney**.

Condolences to **FF Edward Fales** (Rescue 1, group 4) on the death of his brother, **David J. Fales**.

Condolences to **FF David George** (Engine 3, group 1) on the death of his father.

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### **The Fire Helmet**

Did you see the fire helmet  
that I cradled in gloved hands  
And carried as I marched  
to ancient tunes from bagpipe bands?

That helmet was my Captain's.  
He wore it every day.  
But he shall wear it nevermore.  
My Captain passed away.

Fire Fighting's 'bout traditions;  
what we do and what we wear  
And no part of those traditions  
is more important than our gear.

From the days when men hauled buckets,  
leather helmets were the sign  
that Firefighters were on scene  
and things would soon be fine.

Each Firefighter cherishes  
that strange-shaped piece of hide  
displaying every scratch and burn  
with tons of well-earned pride.

It isn't very often  
o'er the course of a career  
that thirty-some years later  
it's the self-same piece of gear

It took the heat on John Street  
and fell from that roof in Lynn  
but it's the helmet that they handed Tom  
the day they swore him in

It's bent and scratched and twisted...  
the shield is full of soot,  
and where the tail had burned away  
some fiberglass was put

It's funny how grown men become  
attached to certain things.  
Tom really loved this helmet  
despite its dents and dings

Of all the fire gear he owned  
I know he loved this best  
The only item carried by hand,  
the truck would haul the rest.

And when the honor of carrying it  
was offered up to me  
I trembled for a moment  
knowing everyone would see

How weak I'd be when I broke down  
in tears there in the street  
and crumbled into pieces  
at my other brother's feet

There could be no higher honor.  
Was I worthy of the task?  
Then something deep inside me said  
I didn't have to ask.

I would proudly bear his helmet  
and my soul for all to see.  
He was my Captain and my best friend  
Now his best friend I would be.

- Firefighter Ernest Chiaradonna  
Chelsea Fire Department

This poem was written in honor of Chelsea **Fire Captain Thomas Lassiter**.  
Captain Lassiter died in January, 2007 at the age of 56.  
He was also the President of the Chelsea Firefighters union.

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### *America's Heroes*



**Corporal Jason L. Dunham** was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Bush. Corporal Dunham, a 22 year old rifle-squad leader with Kilo Company, Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, died on 14 April 2004 saving

other Marines. President Bush noted, "Corporal Dunham gave his own life so that the men under his command might live." Corporal Dunham was from Scio, New York, about 80 miles southeast of Buffalo, a town of 2000 residents.

The text of the Medal of Honor citation is below:

"The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

CORPORAL  
JASON L. DUNHAM  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt approximately two kilometers to the west.

Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team towards the engagement to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander's convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy. Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons. As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

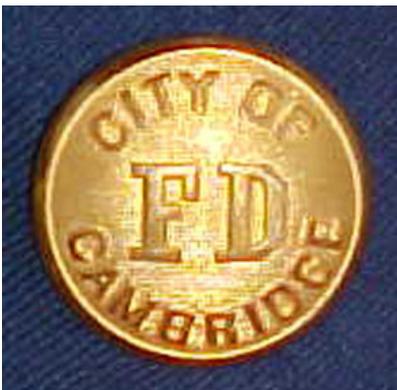
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"There was never a consideration that we would not go into those landing zones. They were my people down there, and they trusted in me to come and get them."

- Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Crandall

Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Crandall, now 75 years of age, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Bush on 26 February 2007 for actions on 14 November 1965. Crandall completed 22 helicopter flights in a 14-hour period, under intense enemy fire to bring in supplies and ammunition and to evacuate wounded Americans during the Battle at Ia Drang Valley. He is credited with rescuing 70 wounded Americans under intense fire. President Bush said that Colonel Crandall another pilot, Captain Edward Freeman, "flew through a cloud of smoke and a wave of bullets. They kept flying until every wounded man had been evacuated and every need of the battalion had been met." Crandall flew 3 different helicopters during this time period as helicopters became too damaged to fly.

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**Information**

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the ***Company Journal***.

**E-mail list**

If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the ***Company Journal*** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

**Websites**

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at [www.Cambridgefire.org](http://www.Cambridgefire.org)

Check out Cambridge Firefighters Local 30's website at <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/>

Visit the the Cambridge Retirement Board website at <http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>

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**REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED SERVICES  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY,  
OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR FREEDOM.  
THANK OUR VETERANS!**

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**Brothers and Sisters,  
STAY BRAVE!  
STAY VIGILANT!  
STAY SAFE!**

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-jjg

*John J. Gelinas  
Chief of Operations  
Cambridge Fire Department  
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