

**LINE of DUTY DEATHS  
CITY OF BROCKTON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## ***The Firefighters Prayer***

***When I'm called to duty God  
wherever flames may rage  
give me strength to save a life  
whatever be its age***

***Help me to 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  
to 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 neighbor and  
protect his property***

***And if according to your will  
I have to lose my life  
bless with your protecting hand  
my children and my wife***

**I HAVE NO AMBITION IN THIS WORLD BUT ONE,  
AND THAT IS TO BE A FIREMAN.  
THE POSITION MAY, IN THE EYES OF SOME, APPEAR TO BE A LOWLY  
ONE; BUT THOSE WHO KNOW THE WORK WHICH A FIREMAN HAS TO DO  
BELIEVE HIS IS A NOBEL CALLING.  
OUR PROUDEST MOMENTIS TO SAVE... LIVES.  
UNDER THE IMPULSE OF SUCH THOUGHTS  
THE NOBILITY OF THE OCCUPATION THRILLS US  
AND STIMULATES US TO DEEDS OF DARING,  
EVEN OF SUPREME SACRIFICE.**

**Edward F. Crocker  
Chief of Department  
FDNY  
1899-1911**

# **In Memory**

**Firefighter Michael F. Neafsey - Ladder Company 1**

**Firefighter Herman J. Cowdrey, Jr. - Engine Company 2**

**Firefighter Charles S. Daly - Engine Company 2**

**Firefighter Anthony T. Glover - Ladder Company 1**

**Captain John F. Carroll - Ladder Company 3**

**Lieutenant Raymond A. Mitchell - Engine Company 4**

**Firefighter George A. Collins - Engine Company 1**

**Firefighter Bartholomew Herlihy - Ladder Company 1**

**Firefighter Fredrick F. Kelley - Engine Company 1**

**Firefighter Martin E. Lipper - Engine Company 1**

**Firefighter Roy McKeraghan - Squad A**

**Firefighter Mathew E. McGeary - Ladder Company 3**

**Firefighter John McNeill - Ladder Company 1**

**Firefighter Denis P. Murphy - Squad A**

**Firefighter William J. Murphy - Squad A**

**Firefighter Daniel C. O'Brien - Squad A**

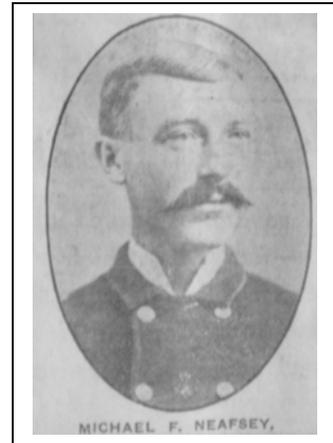
**Firefighter Henry E. Sullivan - Engine Company 1**

**Firefighter Richard J. Barry - Engine Company 4**

**Firefighter Arthur W. Parmenter - Engine Company 2**

**Captain Harold L. Weeks**

**Firefighter Michael F. Neafsey, age 47, Ladder Company 1, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while responding to Box 26 for a fire at 274 Summer Street on Thursday July 4, 1912.**



**Firefighter Neafsey was attempting to board Ladder 1 on School Street, just beyond the railroad bridge, when he missed the running board and was run over by the rear wheel of the 7 ton ladder truck.**

**Firefighter Neafsey was born in Ireland and resided at 48 Taber Avenue, Brockton. At one time he had served as a Director of the Brockton Firefighter's Relief Association and was also the President of the Building Laborers Union at the time of his death. Firefighter Neafsey left a wife, three sons: Edward, John, and Fredrick and one daughter Irene.**

**Firefighter Herman J. Cowdrey Jr., age 32, Engine Company 2, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on October 25, 1920, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while responding to Box 125 for a building fire on Plain Street on Thursday May 17, 1923.**



**Firefighter Cowdrey, along with two other firefighters, was pinned underneath Combination 2 when it rolled over on Plain Street east of Main Street. Firefighter Cowdrey was a Veteran of World War I serving with the Third Cavalry of the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion. Cowdrey was born on January 28, 1891 in Windsor, Vermont and resided at 99 Turner Street, Brockton. He left a wife Mabel (Frawley) and twin 6 month old daughters, Barbara Jane and Beverly Ruth Cowdrey. Ironically, nearly four years later, Barbara Cowdry would later die when her clothing caught fire on April 19, 1927.**

**Firefighter Charles A. Daley, age 34, Engine Company 2, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on May 10, 1909 succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while responding to Box 125 for a building fire on Plain Street on Thursday May 17, 1923. He died the following day.**



**Firefighter Daly, along with two other firefighters, was pinned underneath Combination 2 when it rolled over on Plain Street east of Main Street. He was transported to the hospital and died 35 hours later. At the hospital, Firefighter Daly required 2 blood transfusions. Firefighter Fred J. Cournoyer, of Station 4, donated blood, both before and after an operation in an attempt to save Daly's life.**

**Firefighter Charles Daly was born on September 23, 1889 in Brockton and resided at 30 James Street, Brockton. He was the brother of Brockton Fire Chief William Daly. Firefighter Daley left a wife Elizabeth (Richards) and three children Elizabeth age 7, Kathleen Marion age 6, and Charles Augustus age 4.**

**Firefighter Daly is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter Anthony T. Glover, age 65, Ladder Company 1, appointed a permanent member of the Fire Department on April 27, 1915, who had previously served on the Call Force for 23 years, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 18, Montello Street and Lawrence Street. For a fire in the grain sheds of E.A. & A.M. Fullerton Company, Commercial Yard, on Sunday, November 4, 1923.**

**When the fire was nearly out, Firefighter Glover was checking for fire extension when he came into contact with and was electrocuted by 220 volt wires that operated a grain elevator. The insulation on the wires had been burned off. Firefighter George Hall of Squad A, while attempting to rescue firefighter Glover, also received an electric shock. Firefighter Hall, with the assistance of other members of Squad A, removed Glover to the outside. Firefighter Glover was transported to the Brockton Hospital where he was pronounced dead.**

**Firefighter Glover was born in Kensington, Prince Edward Island, on August 8, 1858 and resided at 36 Highland Street, Brockton. He left a wife Leona (Cedergren), and three sons: Harvey Glover of Montana, Anthony M. Glover of Brockton, and Nason J. Glover of Brockton.**

**Firefighter Glover is buried in Melrose Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Captain John F. Carroll, age 57, Ladder Company 3, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on May 10, 1909, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Captain Carroll was called to respond on the Second Alarm while he was off duty.**

**Captain Carroll was born in Brockton and resided at 118 Lyman Street, Brockton. He left a wife Gertrude and three children John age 21, David age 11 and Marie age 18.**

**Captain Carroll is buried in Saint Michael's Cemetery, Avon.**

**Lieutenant Raymond A. Mitchell, age 48, Engine Company 4, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on August 12, 1918, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Lieutenant Raymond A. Mitchell was born in Bath, Maine and resided at 7 Martin Street, Brockton. He left a wife Junie and two children, Raymond, age 14 and Clayton, age 13. Raymond and Clayton Mitchell would later serve as Firefighters in the Brockton Fire Department.**

**Lieutenant Mitchell is buried in Union Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter George A. Collins, age 62,  
Engine Company 1, appointed to the Brockton  
Fire Department on December 12, 1917,  
succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of  
duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the  
Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School  
Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter George A, Collins was born in Wadsboro,  
Vermont and resided at 19 Wilmington Street, Brockton. He left a  
wife Bess and one son, Lieutenant Commander Howard Collins  
of the United States Navy, who was serving in Honolulu, Hawaii  
at the time of his father's death.**

**Firefighter Collins is buried in Forest Hills Cemetery,  
Boston.**

**Firefighter Bartholomew Herlihy, age 45, Ladder Company 1, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on January 26, 1920, succumbed on March 12, 1941 from injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter Herlihy was born in Brockton and resided at 22 West Park Street, Brockton. Firefighter Herlihy had served in the United States Military. He left a wife, Ethel and two children, Ralph, age 19 and Gladys age 15.**

**Firefighter Herlihy is buried in Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter Fredrick F. Kelley, age 48,  
Engine Company 1, appointed to the Brockton  
Fire Department on November 8, 1926,  
succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of  
duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the  
Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School  
Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter Kelley was called to respond on the Second  
Alarm while off duty. Firefighter Kelley was the last member to  
be removed from the collapse.**

**Firefighter Kelley was born in Haverhill, MA and resided at  
37 Exchange Street, Brockton. Firefighter Kelley had served in  
the United States Army as a Combat Engineer assigned to the  
26<sup>th</sup> Division in France during World War I. He left a wife,  
Margaret and two sons, Robert age 17 and Fredrick age 15.**

**Firefighter Kelley is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter Martin E. Lipper, age 46, Engine Company 1, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on July 19, 1926, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**

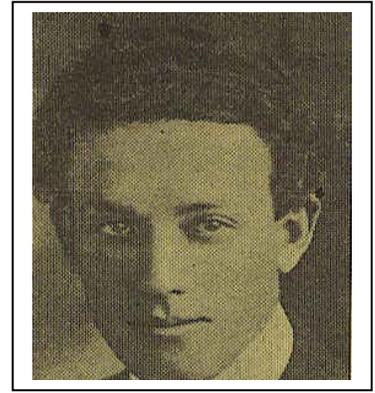


**Firefighter Lipper's brother, William Lipper, was a Brockton Firefighter who also worked at the Strand Theatre fire but fortunately escaped without injury.**

**Firefighter Lipper was born in Brockton and resided at 21 Forest Avenue, Brockton. Firefighter Lipper had served in the United States Military. He left a wife, Emily.**

**Firefighter Lipper is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

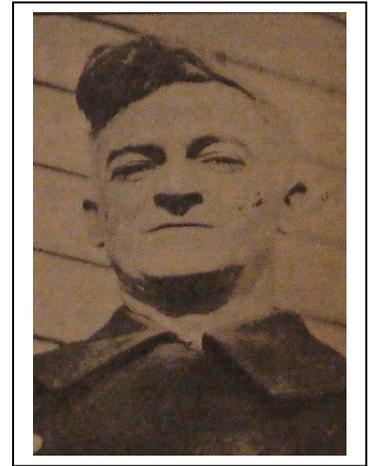
**Firefighter Roy McKeraghan, age 42,  
Squad A, appointed to the Brockton Fire  
Department on June 18, 1934, succumbed to  
injuries sustained in the line of duty while  
operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre  
fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter McKeraghan was born in Brockton and resided  
at 16 Green Place, Brockton. He left a wife, Mable and two sons,  
Roy Jr. age 21 and Richard, age 8.**

**Firefighter McKeraghan is buried in Pine Hills Cemetery,  
West Bridgewater.**

**Firefighter Mathew E. McGeary, age 49, Ladder Company 3, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on January 26, 1920, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter McGeary was born in Brockton and resided at 83 Ford Street, Brockton. He left a wife Nora, two children, Mary Alice, age 26, Irving Anthony, age 17, and a brother, Firefighter James McGeary, Engine Company 3.**

**Firefighter McGeary is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter John McNeill, age 43, Ladder Company 1, was appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on October 31, 1927, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter McNeill was found in the collapse next to his best friend, Firefighter Henry Sullivan of Engine Company 1.**

**Firefighter McNeill was born in Randolph, MA and resided at 35 Mulberry Street Brockton. He had served in the United States Navy. He left a wife Anna and five children, Mary Louise, age 21, John Joseph, age 19, Barbara, age 17, Robert, age 15 and Muriel, age 6.**

**Firefighter McNeill is buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Randolph.**

**Firefighter Denis P. Murphy, age 49, Squad A, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on November 18, 1918, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter Murphy was born in Killarney, Ireland and resided at 551 Warren Ave. He left a wife Mary and three sons, Thomas Joseph, age 19, Robert, age 18, and Edward, age 13.**

**Firefighter Murphy is buried on Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter William J. Murphy, age 29, Squad A, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on May 5, 1937, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter Murphy was born in Brockton and resided at 5 Kingman Avenue, Brockton. Firefighter Murphy, the oldest of seven children, left a wife Grace.**

**Firefighter Murphy is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter Daniel C. O'Brien, age 45, Squad A, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on January 26, 1920, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter O'Brien was born in Brockton and resided at 35 Division Street, Brockton. He had served in the United States Army during World War I. He left a wife Alice (Rudden) and two children Margaret, age 20 and Daniel, age 17.**

**Firefighter O'Brien is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter Henry E. Sullivan, age 45, Engine Company 1, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on May 5, 1930, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 3-1311 for the Strand Theatre fire and collapse, 29-31 School Street, March 10, 1941.**



**Firefighter Sullivan was found in the collapse next to his best friend, John McNeill of Ladder Company 1.**

**Firefighter Sullivan was born in Brockton and resided at 9 Mulberry Street, Brockton. He had served in the United States Military. He left a wife Mary and two daughters Madelyn, age 18 and Rose Marie, age 14.**

**Firefighter Sullivan is buried in Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Brockton.**

**Firefighter Richard J. Barry, age 31, Engine Company 4, appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on July 10, 1939, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while responding to Box 2136 for smoke in the building at 1438 Main St on December 6, 1943.**



**Combination 4 was struck by a police car and rolled over at the intersection of Montello Street and Grove Street. As a result of this accident Lieutenant Robert Murray was pinned underneath the apparatus and seriously hurt. Firefighters Russell B. Hurd, Kenneth White and Robert Campbell escaped without serious injury.**

**Firefighter Barry was born in Brockton and resided at 437 North Main Street. He was a graduate of Bently College and an Instructor-Examiner for the American Red Cross. Firefighter Barry was not married and had no children.**

**Ironically, Firefighter Barry had assisted in the transport of his father, John Barry, to the Brockton Hospital in the Brockton Police Ambulance hours prior to the accident with Combination 4. John Barry was admitted to the hospital unconscious and died shortly after his son died at the same hospital, just rooms away from each other.**

**Firefighter Barry and his father are buried next to each other in Calvary Cemetery.**

**Firefighter Arthur W. Parmenter, age 40, Engine Company 2 (Detailed to Ladder 2), appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on May 28, 1951, succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty while operating at Box 5315 while working at a house fire at 111 Summer Street on November 22, 1961.**



**Firefighter Parmenter resided at 72 Hillside Ave Brockton. He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II who served in Europe. He left a wife, Audrey A. (McBride) Parmenter.**

**Firefighter Parmenter is buried in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Easton, MA.**

**Captain Harold L. Weeks, age 61, Acting Deputy Chief, was appointed to the Brockton Fire Department on October 24, 1939, succumbed to a heart attack sustained in the line of duty while commanding operations at Box 1312 for a fire at 59-65 Main Street on November 3, 1975.**



**Captain Weeks, a member of the Brockton Fire Department for 36 years, had just led some 40 occupants out of the fire building and was directing operations inside the building when he came stumbling outside and collapsed into the arms of his Aide, Firefighter Francis McDonald.**

**Captain Weeks resided at 88 Linwood Street, Brockton. Captain Weeks left a wife Barbara (Jackson) Weeks, and a son, David Weeks.**

**Captain Weeks is buried in Pine Hills Cemetery, West Bridgewater, MA.**

Brother when you weep for me  
Remember that it was meant to be  
Lay me down and when you leave  
Remember I'll be at your sleeve  
In every dark and choking hall  
I'll be there as you slowly crawl  
On every roof in driving snow  
I'll hold your coat and you will know  
In cellars hot with searing heat  
At windows where a gate you meet  
In closets where young children hide  
You know I'll be there at your side  
The house from which I now respond  
Is overstaffed with heroes gone  
Men who answered one last bell  
Did the job and did it well  
As firemen we understand  
That death's a card dealt in our hand  
A card we hope we never play  
But one we hold there anyway  
That card is something we ignore  
As we crawl across a weakened floor  
For we know that we're the only prayer  
For anyone that might be there  
So remember as you wipe your tears  
The joy I knew throughout the years  
As I did the job I loved to do  
I pray that thought will see you through

Author Unknown