

In Memory of



Wayne W. Cramblit

November 4, 1948 - August 30, 1998

Captain - Sunnyside Fire Department

President - IAFF Local 3542

Wayne W. Cramblit died August 30, 1998 at 1:15 P.M., secondary to massive head injuries sustained in a fall on August 28, 1998. At the time of the accident, Wayne was aiding a fellow brother and friend. Wayne was a charter member of IAFF Local 3542 and the Local's current president. Wayne served the Sunnyside Fire Department since 1972 and as a full time fire fighter since 1979.

He is survived by his wife, Kristi; sons, Paul and Pat;
and the members of IAFF Local 3542, Sunnyside.

Services will be held:

Saturday, September 5, 1998

1:00 P.M.

Grace Brethren Church

Corner of 7th and Franklin

Sunnyside, Washington.

At the request of Wayne's beloved wife, Kristi, in lieu of flowers, a donation to the Sunnyside Firefighters Wayne Cramblit Fund, is appreciated.

Once again I would like to thank anyone who was instrumental in your efforts to find Wayne. Mabton is a town of maybe 2,000 people it has one grocery store and one gas station. We actually have a Mabton address and a Sunnyside phone number as Sunnyside is about 5 miles north of Mabton. Wayne was a firefighter/EMT for Sunnyside City, starting out as a volunteer in 1972 until becoming a paid employee in 1979. He and I met in 1982 (I'm an emergency room RN) and married in 1983. We bought a 40 acre farm in 1984 (I use the term "farm" lightly as we never really farmed, just bought a house on a "big" lot where we could control the lack of neighbors). Wayne has 2 children from his first marriage. Paul who is 35 and Patrick who is 33.

Wayne loved his firefighting job, didn't much enjoy the medical part of the job as they did a lot of ambulance transfers. Every time he would bring a patient in from the nursing home he would say "don't let that happen to me". On August 28, 1989 he was helping a friend re-roof his house. He was pulling on a piece of tar paper, it was hot, the tar paper tore, he fell, probably head first onto the driveway. They took him to the hospital where I worked, he was then transferred to a Level I trauma center in Seattle where he was hooked to a ventilator for 2 days. He had such massive head trauma the choices I was given were put him on a medical floor and "we just won't feed him", he will probably die in 2 weeks or turn off the ventilator, put him on a large amount of morphine, and see what happens. I chose the latter.

Back then I wondered how a person who had survived an ambush team in Vietnam and 20 years of vigorous firefighting could have possibly fallen off a roof and been fatally injured. I still don't have answers but am comforted by the fact that I will see him later in heaven.

Thanks again for the wonderful pictures of Wayne while he was in the service. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Kristi Cramblit-Powers
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