



REMEMBERING

Ivy Hill's Annual Salute to Firefighters Takes on Extra Meaning in 2001

Ivy Hill Cemetery's annual Memorial Service for Alexandria, Virginia, fire and rescue personnel was already going to be special in 2001, before the tragic events of September 11 provided another reminder of the sacrifices firefighters make in the line of duty.

For its entire history of 145 years, Ivy Hill has had a relationship with the Alexandria Fire Department, dating back to its founding in 1856, when the city erected in the new cemetery an obelisk as a memorial to seven firemen killed in a fire the year before.

The obelisk is still the central feature of the historic cemetery's entrance. In 1970, a fountain was added nearby, the Friendship Fountain, with water pouring in through a firehose nozzle. That same year, the area with the obelisk and fountain were dedicated as the Circle of Honor.

In 1993, a bronze relief depicting the men and women of the fire and rescue services was added to the area by the cemetery. Last year, improvements were made to the fountain, with the work completed in time for the annual National Fire Prevention Week Memorial Service at Ivy Hill on October 12.

For many years, the Fire Department observed Fire Prevention Week by placing a wreath at the base of the memorial. Eventually the department's entire memorial service, long rotated among area churches, was moved to Ivy Hill.

"The setting is so neat," said Thomas Bowling III, CCE, Ivy Hill's president. The "church yard" style cemetery was once in a rural area, but now is an oasis in an upscale but very urban neighborhood.

"They bring a couple of big hook and ladder trucks in and hang a flag between them over the entrance of the cemetery, and they park all this fire equipment on the street, on the back side of the circle, and it's very impressive," Bowling said.

The service drew emergency personnel and community members together to honor those who lost their lives in 2001. □



At the podium is Callie Terrell, who sang the National Anthem. Fire and other emergency workers and community members filled Ivy Hill Cemetery for its annual wreath laying and memorial service held during National Fire Prevention Week.

(Photos at left and below by Scott Saltgaver of Ivy Hill. More photos at www.ivyhill.org)



Above left is the program for the memorial service. Above right, fire apparatus is parked just outside Ivy Hill's entrance, with the cemetery's office, formerly a tenant farmer's house, visible. The flag flying from the hook and ladder trucks provides a backdrop for the ceremony.



Left, firefighters stand at attention in front of the flag, facing the Circle of Honor. In the foreground is the bell brought in for the memorial ceremony. As the name of each firefighter lost during the past year is read, the bell is rung and a rose is placed in a firehorn (above) in memory of that person.

(Photos at left and above by Louise Krafft of The Alexandria Gazette Packet)

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Left, a wreath was placed in front of the obelisk dedicated in 1856, when Ivy Hill was chartered, to honor fallen firefighters. The bronze plaque added to the area is also visible, as are two of the three flagpoles added to the circle in 2000.

Friendship Fountain is depicted below. Improvements to the fountain were already under way when, after September 11, it was decided to add a special inscription: "911-The numbers used to summon fire and emergency services, have been given a terrible, new

significance by the terrorist attack on America. Today, October 12, 2001, we rededicate this Friendship Fountain and remember, with awed respect and humble gratitude, all from F.D.N.Y. who gave 'the last full measure' on 9-11-2001." Ivy Hill President Thomas Bowling III said the granite was late arriving, so getting the fountain ready in time for the ceremony was a challenge. "It was late in the afternoon the day before when we finished the inscription, and the night before that we were here until 1 o'clock in the morning working under lights to install that granite."



Alexandria firefighter Dan MacMaster, left, performed the laying of the wreath. He had recently returned to Alexandria from the New York Fire Department. His former crew members in New York died as a result of the September 11 terrorist attack. Alexandria firefighters raised money to help the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The \$25,000 earmarked for the New York firefighters was given to MacMaster to deliver. Money was also given directly to the family of another former Alexandria firefighter who died in the New York rescue operations.

(All photos on this page by Louise Krafft of The Alexandria Gazette Packet)