Battalion Chief David Smith

18 September 1967 – 25 April 2011

"Your Brothers and Sisters Remember"

Yesterday, 25 April 2011, St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 lost a brother of 23 years. The collective heart of our 144 members is heavy with grief, we are profoundly sad.

Sometime around 4:00 PM, while at his home on Moonraker Drive, Chief Smith's life was taken by a gunman who according to the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office shot David four times. According to the Coroner's Office, any one of the four shots would have been fatal, if it were to have been the only shot.

We appreciate the professional investigative efforts of the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office detectives and the forensic analysis performed by the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office. Sheriff Jack Strain and Doctor Peter Galvin have every right to be proud of the conduct of their offices and the services they provide to our community.

Battalion Chief Smith served the vast majority of his career on the 3rd Platoon. In July of 2010, a Battalion Chief's position opened on the 2nd Platoon and he transferred to accept that promotion.

Chief Smith was very much an island of order in a world where order is not common place. We all remember his impeccable grooming and attention to keeping things clean and neat. We also recall those who would intentionally make a mess of things just to get a rise out of him.

The undercarriage of his Camaro was cleaner than the inside of most of the cars in the United States.

David Smith was an honest man who spoke his mind without having to "over speak" his mind. Chief Smith was a man of earned respect amongst those who had the privilege to serve with him.

Chief Smith leaves behind his wife Kandi, daughter Daphne, and son Brandon. He also leaves behind 143 brothers and sisters.

Our Family Relations Officers, Captain Eric Abney and I.T. Officer Bobby Worchel are assisting Dave's family as they go about the planning of Chief Smith's funeral. We will post that information on this website, when it becomes available.