

**1999 DRAFTING REQUEST**

**Assembly Resolution**

Received: 12/20/1999

Received By: **dykmapj**

Wanted: **Soon**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Phil Montgomery (608) 266-5840**

By/Representing: **Flynn, John**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **dykmapj**

May Contact:

Alt. Drafters:

Subject: **Memorials - miscellaneous**

Extra Copies:

**Pre Topic:**

No specific pre topic given

**Topic:**

Commemorating the six firefighters who died in a December 4, 1999 blaze in Worcester, MA

**Instructions:**

See Attached

**Drafting History:**

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/1	dykmapj 12/20/1999	jgeller 12/20/1999	martykr 12/20/1999	_____	lrb_docadmin 12/20/1999	lrb_docadmin 01/10/2000	

FE Sent For:

<END>

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1?	dykmapj	1 12/20 jlg	2 12/20	2 12/20			

FE Sent For:

<END>

**Dykman, Peter**

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**From:** Flynn, John  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 1999 10:05 AM  
**To:** Dykman, Peter  
**Subject:** 1999 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION



1999 Assembly Resolution  
(Fire...

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## 1999 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ??

**Relating to:** commemorating the six firefighters who died in a December 4, 1999 blaze in Worcester, MA and thanking all members of the Fire Service in Wisconsin.

Whereas, Worcester, MA Fire Service members Paul A. Brotherton, Jeremiah "Jerry" M. Lucey, Thomas E. Spencer, James F. Lyons III, Timothy P. Jackson, and Joseph T. McGuirk died while searching for potential victims of a deadly inferno inside an abandoned warehouse; and

Whereas, from 1988 through 1998 571,385 injuries have been sustained and 1,103 lives have been lost in the line of duty by members of the nation's Fire Service; and

Whereas, members of Wisconsin's Fire Service bravely put themselves in harms way to protect property and lives at all times of the day and night, every day of the year; and

Whereas, the President of the United States has called upon every American to thank their local contingent of firefighters; now, therefore, be it

***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the Assembly thanks all members of Wisconsin's Fire Service who stand ready every day to put their lives on the line when the alarm bell rings.

(END)



State of Wisconsin  
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4103/1

PJD.....

TODAY

jk

**1999 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to:** commemorating the <sup>6</sup> ~~six~~ firefighters who died in a December 4, 1999,  
2 blaze in Worcester, Massachusetts, and thanking all members of the Fire  
3 Service in Wisconsin.

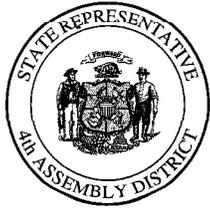
4 Whereas, Worcester, Massachusetts Fire Service members Paul A. Brotherton,  
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6 Jackson, and Joseph T. McGuirk died while searching for potential victims of a  
7 deadly inferno inside an abandoned warehouse; and

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9 1,103 lives have been lost in the line of duty by members of the nation's Fire Service;  
10 and

11 Whereas, members of Wisconsin's Fire Service bravely put themselves in  
12 harms way to protect property and lives at all times of the day and night, every day  
13 of the year; and

14 Whereas, the <sup>✓</sup> President of the United States has called upon every American  
15 to thank <sup>his or her</sup> ~~their~~ local contingent of firefighters; now, therefore, be it





# Phil Montgomery

Serving the Communities of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, De Pere and Green Bay

LRB 4103

12-16-99

Dear Mr. Dykman—

Please have the enclosed  
Assembly Resolution drafted and  
returned to my office.

Thank you in advance for  
your assistance.

---

# 1999 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ??

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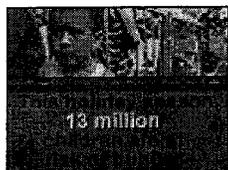
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13 million

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- [Britannica Internet Guide](#)

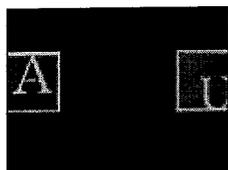
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## 6 Massachusetts Firefighters Honored

### 30,000 Mourners Led by Clinton Pay Tribute to Men Killed in Fire

By Pamela Ferdinand

Special to The Washington Post  
Friday, December 10, 1999; Page A03

WORCESTER, Mass., Dec. 9—Nearly a week after authorities said two homeless people accidentally toppled a candle in an empty warehouse here and sparked this city's deadliest blaze, about 30,000 mourners paid tribute to six firefighters embraced as old-fashioned heroes for running into a burning building to save someone's life and forfeiting their own.

Their deaths, in a labyrinthine inferno last Friday, [redacted] without fathers in the advent of Christmas.

President Clinton, Vice President Gore and a legion of firefighters in full dress uniform from as far away as Australia thronged the streets of New England's second-largest city in a three-hour procession punctuated only by the mournful sound of bagpipes and drums and the lingering stench of smoke. Black bunting draped Rescue Unit 1, where firefighters in soot-stained uniforms placed hands on their hearts and saluted the passing columns.

Wearing black ribbons, the heavyhearted crowd slowly packed a downtown stadium for a memorial service recalling the dedication and courage of "Our Six." Hundreds more who could not fit into the 15,000-seat Worcester Centrum Centre walked to the warehouse, where Gore later joined firefighters still searching for the remaining four bodies of their comrades.

The fire--the nation's worst loss of firefighters' lives since 14 died in a Colorado wildfire five years ago--prompted Clinton to urge every American to thank their local contingent. At a time when fires are at a historic low, the Dec. 3 blaze caused the deadliest loss of Massachusetts firefighters' lives since nine were killed in 1972 at Boston's Hotel Vendome. Worcester had not lost a firefighter in the line of duty since 1962.

"[We] hope that by our collective presence we will speak louder than words in saying that your tragedy is ours; your men are ours; our whole country honors them and you," said Clinton, who met privately with the families and earlier this week declared a state of emergency in the area. "We grieve with you, and we will stay with you."

Said Mayor Raymond Mariano: "In Worcester, these are not the faces of unknown heroes. They are members of our family."

Six shiny yellow fire helmets sat on the stadium stage next to photographs of the firefighters and dozens of bouquets. Each family received a folded American flag and medal of honor, and the names of the six men will be inscribed on a memorial wall for fallen firefighters in Colorado Springs, Colo.

One firefighter's father buried his face in the flag and sobbed, while a grieving wife looked heavenward to stem a flood of tears and clutched the hands of her three young sons, all wearing blue Rescue 1 sweat shirts.

"The families and the kids are the hardest to look at," said New York City Lt. Robert Daly, a 20-year fire department veteran. "This is a little bit remembrance and a little bit kick in the butt because you don't know what's going to happen to you sometimes."

Authorities awaiting an investigation have only speculated about how the Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. facility, a brick building built to be a giant refrigerator, transformed into a red-hot oven in a matter of seconds. Nuisance fires and squatters had been reported at the five-story structure, which had stood vacant for about a decade.

When the fire broke out about 6 p.m. Friday, it began as a normal operation, said District Chief Michael McNamee, the first officer to arrive on the scene. A local coffee shop owner alerted firefighters to the possibility that homeless people were inside, and more crew members headed in.

As the blaze grew, they became disoriented, losing their way in rooms lined with meat lockers on windowless floors. Two men were missing at the first roll call, two more at the next. Rescue teams went in and out, McNamee said, searching each floor several times until one half of the crew could not contact the other, and the heat became too intense.

"I said, 'We've lost four,' and then we found out at roll call there were two missing. Then it became six, and that's when you say, 'Oh my God,' " he said. "It could have been anyone of us. We could have lost 20."

The building's design may have contributed to the sudden conflagration, which led to the collapse of all five floors, McNamee said. The maze-like building had 18-inch brick walls and 6-inch cork paneling; polyurethane foam, a type of petroleum product, had been sprayed on its walls.

"It was the worst thing I've ever gone through," he said.

Paul A. Brotherton, 41, the father of a firefighter who died in the fire, said he was "in shock" and "didn't know what to do."

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who graduated  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] whose  
[REDACTED]

"I'm very proud of him," said Lucey's wife, Michelle, gripping a charred firefighter's helmet in her hand at the fire scene Wednesday. "You know the danger at the back of your mind, but you never expect it to be reality. When it's your turn, it's reality."

Police charged Julie S. Barnes, 19, and Thomas S. Levesque, 37, with six counts each of involuntary manslaughter, which carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison. Authorities said the homeless couple, who are being held on \$1 million cash bail, left the building and never reported the fire after they had tried but failed to put it out.

Six days later, private funerals have been scheduled only for Lyons and Jackson, whose bodies were recovered. Even as the president delivered his eulogy, firefighters here toiled at the still-smoldering building knowing four comrades lay entombed in the ruins.

Occasionally, they paused to watch the memorial service on a large outdoor television screen as a lone bagpiper played against the din of cranes. From their perch on the building, they also could see visitors flocking to a red fire engine nearby that had taken friends to their last alarm. And for some, the sight of the truck strewn with ribbons, photos, cellophane-wrapped carnations and children's cards was more than they could bear.

"It's awful, awful," said one Worcester firefighter. "As bad as the screams over the radio."

### Risking Their Lives

Firefighter casualties have dropped over the past decade.

### Deaths Fire injuries

1988 136 61,790

1989 118 58,250

1990 108 57,100

1991 109 55,830

1992 75 52,290

1993 77 52,885

1994 104 52,875

1995 96 50,640

1996 95 45,725

1997 94 40,920

1998 91 43,080

SOURCE: U.S. Fire Administration

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 21 1998**

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
STATE DOCUMENTS

**A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, members of the Fire Service in Wisconsin stand ready to serve the citizens of our state at all times of the day and night, every day of the year, through all the seasons; and

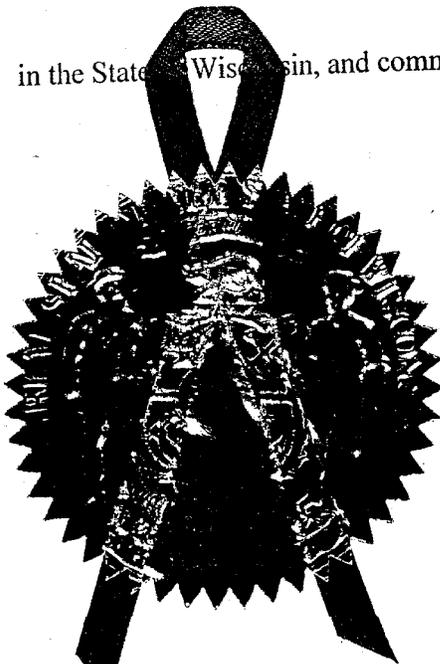
WHEREAS, such service is not without sacrifice, with many members of the Fire Service injured in the line of duty every year. Regrettably, many members of the Fire Service have paid with their lives; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and pay tribute to those members of the Fire Service in Wisconsin who dedicate their lives to helping others;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 6, 1998 as

**FIREFIGHTERS DAY**

in the State of Wisconsin, and commend this observance to the citizens of this state.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this sixth day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-eight.

*Tommy G. Thompson*  
TOMMY G. THOMPSON

By the Governor:

*Douglas La Follette*  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

# Firefighters come from far away to memorialize six who died on duty

By JOHN McELHENNY  
Associated Press

Worcester, Mass. — With six shiny yellow fire helmets placed at the stage of a packed arena, six firefighters who died in a warehouse blaze were honored as fallen heroes Thursday by thousands of their brethren from around the world.

"Most cities have one hero. The city of Worcester was blessed with six," said Frank Ruffa, president of the local firefighters union, quoting a handwritten sign along the procession route.

To the mournful sounds of drum taps and bagpipes, a three-mile stream of 30,000 firefighters marched through the city, past flag-waving crowds and the stations where the six men were assigned, en route to the two-hour memorial service. Many mourners couldn't get past the doors of the 15,000-seat Worcester Centrum.

Schools, municipal offices and most businesses in this blue-collar city of 170,000 were closed for one of the biggest firefighter memorials the country has ever seen. President Clinton and Vice

"The support is universal. It goes throughout the world."

Gerard Woods, firefighter from Dublin, Ireland

President Al Gore were there.

On tables right in front of the stage, the fire helmets were placed next to photographs of the firefighters —

McGuirk, 38; James Lyons III, 29; Timothy P. Johnson, 31; Paul J. ... and ...

"Too often, we take them for granted, our firefighters," Clinton told the crowd. "In the days ahead, I hope every American will find an occasion to thank those in their communities who stand ready every day to put their lives on the line when the alarm bell rings."

Each of the dead firefighters' families was presented with a folded American flag and a medal of honor, a tribute reserved for those who die bravely in the line of duty.

As Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) handed over a flag, Lyons' father — James F. Lyons Jr. — buried his face in the fabric, heaving with sobs.

Thousands of firefighters came from across the country, including three from Milwaukee, and from such places as Australia, Ireland, Nova Scotia and Quebec to pay their respects.

Gerard Woods arrived from Dublin, Ireland, along with five of his fellow firefighters. "We all support each other, and this is such a tragic event. The support is universal. It goes throughout the world."

A homeless couple allegedly started the blaze in the abandoned warehouse last Friday night by knocking over a candle during a quarrel. They are charged with involuntary manslaughter.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters mourn Thursday in Worcester, Mass., during a service for if their colleagues who died in a warehouse fire last week. A three-mile stream of 30,000 firefighters marched through the city, whose schools were closed for the observance.

**SUBMITTAL  
FORM**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
Legal Section Telephone: 266-3561  
5th Floor, 100 N. Hamilton Street**

The attached draft is submitted for your inspection. Please check each part carefully, proofread each word, and sign on the appropriate line(s) below.

Date: 12/20/1999

To: Representative Montgomery

Relating to LRB drafting number: LRB-4103

**Topic**

Commemorating the six firefighters who died in a December 4, 1999 blaze in Worcester, MA

**Subject(s)**

Memorials - miscellaneous

1. **JACKET** the draft for introduction \_\_\_\_\_

in the **Senate** \_\_\_\_ or the **Assembly**  (check only one). Only the requester under whose name the drafting request is entered in the LRB's drafting records may authorize the draft to be submitted. Please allow one day for the preparation of the required copies.

2. **REDRAFT.** See the changes indicated or attached \_\_\_\_\_

A revised draft will be submitted for your approval with changes incorporated.

3. Obtain **FISCAL ESTIMATE NOW**, prior to introduction \_\_\_\_\_

If the analysis indicates that a fiscal estimate is required because the proposal makes an appropriation or increases or decreases existing appropriations or state or general local government fiscal liability or revenues, you have the option to request the fiscal estimate prior to introduction. If you choose to introduce the proposal without the fiscal estimate, the fiscal estimate will be requested automatically upon introduction. It takes about 10 days to obtain a fiscal estimate. Requesting the fiscal estimate prior to introduction retains your flexibility for possible redrafting of the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the above procedures, please call 266-3561. If you have any questions relating to the attached draft, please feel free to call me.

Attorney Peter J. Dykman, General Counsel  
Telephone: (608) 266-7098