



PRESS RELEASE

City Expresses Condolences on the Passing of Battalion Chief Brian Wolf

Downey, CA, July 25, 2013: With profound sadness and deep regret, the City of Downey wishes to express its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Battalion Chief Brian Wolf, who passed away on Sunday, July 21.

Downey Fire Department Battalion Chief, Brian Wolf, passed unexpectedly at his home while recuperating from cancer treatment. Battalion Chief Wolf was diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer in June 2011. He was 44 years old.

"It is a very sad time for our City, as we have lost one of our own, one of Downey's finest. I had the privilege, just as many others, to have known Chief Wolf and he was a true gentleman. He was a special man in a class by himself and I was proud to have called him a friend. To the entire Wolf family, please know that we hold you all in our thoughts and prayers, and hope you soon find peace and comfort in your hearts," said Mayor Mario A. Guerra.

Battalion Chief Wolf grew up in Downey, graduating from Warren High School in 1987. While in high school, he joined the Downey Fire Department's Explorer Program. After high school, he attended the Rio Hondo Fire Academy and was hired by the Downey Fire Department in 1989. For seven years, Battalion Chief Wolf served as a Firefighter until earning Paramedic certification in 1996. He was promoted to Fire Engineer in 2001, and in 2003, he was assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau. Wolf promoted to Fire Captain in 2005 and served as a department training officer. In 2012, he was promoted to Battalion Chief and assigned to the "C" platoon.

In 1990, Wolf was recognized for his heroic rescue actions during the PACE Police Officer shootings and was named the 2002 Masonic Lodge Firefighter of the Year, 2005 Metropolitan Lodge Firefighter of the Year, & 2008 American Legion Firefighter of the Year. He remained actively involved with the Fire Explorer program throughout his career. He received his B.A. degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern, where he was currently working towards a Master's Degree in Fire Administration.

"Brian was one of the most talented, dedicated and loyal Firefighters to have ever worn the Downey Fire Department uniform. I am grateful to have known Brian his entire life and to have served with him as Downey Firefighters for our entire adult lives. I will truly miss him, not only as a fellow Chief Officer, but my dear friend," stated Fire Chief Lonnie Croom.

As a general contractor off-duty, Wolf's construction knowledge and skills developed him into a talented member of the department's Urban Search and Rescue (*USAR*) team. He was also certified as a Hazardous Materials Specialist with the California State Training Institute.

Battalion Chief Wolf leaves behind his wife April, daughter McKenzie, and son Logan, as well as mother Gayla, step-father Stephen Emerson, father Gary Wolf, sisters Aime Wolf, Markie Rudolph, grandfather, Donald Russell and numerous loving aunts, nieces and nephews.

Battalion Chief Brian Wolf will be remembered for his love for the Fire service and his "can-do" attitude.

"The Downey City family is mourning the passing of Battalion Chief Brian Wolf and we extend our deepest condolences to the Wolf family during this difficult time. We have lost a true hero in our community and he will be deeply missed by everyone," said City Manager Gilbert A. Livas.

The following funeral arrangements have been confirmed for **Friday, July 26, 2013**:

11:00 a.m. Memorial Service
St. John of God Catholic Church
13819 South Pioneer Blvd.
Norwalk, CA, 90650
(Open to public)

Graveside Services
Rose Hills Cemetery
3888 Workman Mill Rd.
Whittier, CA 90601
(Family & Downey Fire Department personnel only)

2:00 p.m. Open Reception
St. Raymond's Catholic Church
12348 Paramount Blvd
Downey, CA 90242
(Open to public)

For those wishing to send condolences and donations to the Wolf family, please mail in care of: **Brian Wolf Foundation** - P.O. Box 4965, Downey, CA 90241.