

Fire Captain Caviness deserves to be remembered, repaid



By Millie Carter
STAFF WRITER

He was courageous in his profession. He put others before himself. He was always the one doing charitable work.

He was Fire Captain William Caviness.

Caviness was a firefighter in the Greensboro area, serving the community as an eight-year veteran of Station 14 on Summit Avenue, just seven miles from Guilford's campus.

He was promoted to captain in December 2010 as recognition of his hard work and dedication.

Caviness tragically passed away while running the Chicago marathon to raise money for the International Association of Fire Fighters' Burn Foundation.

His death is recognized by the IAFF and his family has been awarded the IAFF Medal of Honor to confirm Caviness' charitable intentions while serving as a firefighter.

The IAFF is not responsible for dealing out line of duty death benefits, though, as those are determined by the state.

In this case, his family will not receive the benefits that states provide for other fallen fire fighters because his death is not recognized as a LODD since he was not "on duty" at the time of his death.

More than just a marathon runner, Caviness was running as a member of the IAFF Burn team, and his goal for the race

was to raise \$2,000.

After news of his death, donations towards his sponsorship page kept pouring in and truly exceed his goal, with the last check in at \$18,600 for the team's total.

Caviness collapsed 500 yards from the marathon finish line. He was doing something to better the world for others, and he tragically lost his own life.

Where, exactly, does the line of duty end for servicemen like Caviness?

It does not end, and Caviness' circum-



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stance exemplified this, but he will not be recognized for it.

Death of a member of society who works as a serviceman should be held in higher respect by state policies, especially when either a direct or indirect affiliation with his/her profession is the cause of death, as is the case with Caviness.

Caviness leaves behind a wife and two small children. While attempting to remain sensitive to the fact that the hole created in their family will always remain, the question remains about what a LODD really is in Caviness' case.

Yes, Caviness was off duty in regard to his hours at the station, but his duty as a serviceman never ended.

Charity work, when directed toward a profession, should be classified as on-duty work for cases such as these.

His family will need support, both emotionally and financially, to help cope with the death of a family member. Since his death is unfairly recognized as an off-duty death, this financial support solely comes from the community. Currently, community members have created the Will Caviness Memorial Fund in his memory, which is a step in the right direction, but it is still not enough.

They are the families of first responders, yet when these servicemen and women fall, society's benefit packages are not there to help soften the blow for those that they leave behind.

The LODD policy should be revised to provide for families like the Cavinesses, because recognition of Caviness' death as a LODD would respect his memory more than a medal or a fund.

As a member of society who did so much for so little in return, it is important to give honor to his name and provide for his family in the same way that he provided for others.

He died trying to help others. He was a hero. He was William Caviness, and the LODD policy has left his family high and dry in their time of need.

Occupy Oakland police went too far



By Charlotte Hudson
STAFF WRITER

What do angry Occupy Oakland protesters, rapid riot police, tear gas and a skull fracture add up to?

A complete, utter disaster, some would say.

Or more like a disheveled outcry arisen and a general strike looming.

The Occupy protests all over the world are still continuing, with police trying to keep the crowds in order.

But there is a fine line between trying to keep order and just being plain mean.

On Oct. 25, in Oakland, Calif., the protests turned nasty as police used tear gas and other means of force to deal with the protesters. Scott Olsen, a former Marine and Iraq veteran, suffered a skull fracture caused by a projectile fired by police.

Is firing tear gas and putting people's lives in danger "keeping order"?

I understand if the police are looking to keep order and keep the city safe, but come on. People are getting seriously injured.

The United States of America was founded on the belief of the rights of the people, including freedom of speech. The Declaration of Independence clearly states that people are endowed with rights such as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Is a bunch of policemen using excessive and injurious force

to control people who are taking advantage of their freedom of speech a part of what America should really be about?

I do not think so.

What about the right to "peacefully assemble"? Where is the line between peaceful protesting and assembling an angry mob?

Both the police and protesters are culpable, no matter if one is the "99 percent" or the rich "one percent." Friends and family involved in the protesting side and the police side are all getting injured and harmed in a situation that could be the blame of the city not organizing the movement to be as peaceful as possible.

Due to the events that transpired last Tuesday, Oakland entered the strike zone on Nov. 2, with a citywide general strike.

General strikes tend to involve a great mass of the labor forces in a city, region or country as opposed to just one workplace. The purpose of these strikes is usually to bring important labor, political and economic issues to light.

Even though general strikes tend to happen in European nations, usually by those going through economic hardships, they do not often happen in the United States.

"Those countries all have traditions of general strikes that are more lively and up to the recent time, whereas in the United States general strikes were always more rare," Georgetown University labor historian Joe McCartin said in an article for CNN Money.

However, according to an article in the Huffington Post, the strike went off without many problems. Between 7,000 and 10,000 protesters participated, and the fifth largest port in the nation was soon shut down.

The strike sent a deep message to people all over the world, with the thought that it takes a lot of people to get attention in terms of the situation last week.

Although the strike may be effective, there will be a lot to address in terms of the handling of the protests and the fine line between keeping order and outright police brutality.

Staff Editorial

Staying involved and interested beyond election day

The heated race for Greensboro's next mayor came to a close on Tuesday. Greensboro residents flocked to the polls to cast their vote for current Mayor Bill Knight, a more conservative Republican who fought to reopen White Street Landfill, or Councilman Robert V. Perkins, a more liberal Republican who voted against water-rate tax reductions.

After all the votes were counted, Robbie Perkins took home the title of mayor-elect of Greensboro with 56 percent of the votes.

Perkins' winning platform advocated reform, such as redeveloping roads like High Point Road downtown. Perkins also aims to communicate with other Triad communities in order to bring more jobs to the area.

No matter what you think about the election results, you should still continue, or start, to participate in politics, because a change in policies can come out of nowhere. If those in power do not represent your beliefs, then do something about it: Take a stand. Make a difference.

Everyone says that it is your civic duty to vote, and maybe the outcome of the Greensboro elections is enough to encourage you to vote next time, but there is always more you can do. The Occupy and Tea Party movements should be proof enough that political progress is not just set in motion once a year when communities head to their local school or post office to check the box next to their favorite candidates' names.

Political change can happen anywhere and usually starts with a conversation about what needs to change. The Occupy and Tea Party movements set a good example to people who want to make a stand, but there are other, smaller ways you can spark political change.

Go to a community meeting to engage in a discussion about job creation. Write a letter to the mayor speaking out about tax increases. Go online and read about political happenings in your town and information about how you can join in. Make a phone call to support a candidate or just to encourage people to vote. Create a flier to advertise marches like the Slutwalk or events such as White Street Landfill protest.

No one should complain about policies without actually trying to change them. Guilford is a great place to be politically active; there are people to support and help you, and together, we can change political policies.