

The 5th Symposium of Fire and Forest meteorology and the 2nd International Wildland Fire Ecology and Management Congress recently held (16-20 Nov. 2003) in Orland, Florida were each dedicated to prominent individuals in the wildland fire business in the USA. Following are the dedication remarks sent to me by Ron Masters from the Tall Timbers Fire Research Center. – Chuck Bushey, FireNet Moderator

Dedication

Dave Goens

The Fifth Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology is dedicated to the memory of David W. Goens who passed away on September 2, 2003. Dave was instrumental in organizing the first three Symposia on Fire and Forest Meteorology.

After serving nine years in the Air Force, Dave started his career with the National Weather Service (NWS) as a Fire Weather Forecaster in Pendleton, Oregon in 1971. He went on to become lead Fire Weather Forecaster in Missoula, Montana, a position he held for many years. While in Missoula, he earned a Master's degree in Forestry at the University of Montana. He was qualified as a Fire Behavior Analyst as well as an Incident Meteorologist.

From 1990 to 1994 Dave served as the NWS Western Region Fire Weather Program Manager. He went on to become Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) at Pocatello, Idaho. Dave finished his career with the NWS as MIC at Missoula, Montana, retiring in December 2000. He remained active in providing training and consultation to the fire management agencies after retirement.

Dave's dedication to Fire Weather was unsurpassed. His strength of character, his warm friendship, his humor, and his devotion to duty will all be sorely missed. When asked last summer if he would be attending this meeting, Dave, an avid outdoorsman, replied "Nope, wrong time of year." Good hunting Dave, wherever you are.

Paul Gleason

The Second International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management

Congress is dedicated to Paul M. Gleason. Paul passed away in February 2003 after a battle with cancer. His Wildland fire career spanned almost 40 years- from his teenage days as lead brush hook on Southern California's Dalton Hotshots in the early 1960s, to his time as an adjunct professor for Wildland fire science at Colorado State University. His passion for Wildland firefighter safety and his deep professional interest in wildland fire behavior will be sorely missed. Teaching and learning about fire ecology and fire management was a passion for him. When asked about what he wanted his legacy to be he replied "I suppose I would want my legacy to be that firefighters begin to realize the importance of being a student of fire and that I was able to make that happen."

Paul's Farewell Letter published in Fire Management Today:

"When you have walked to the edge of all the light that you know, and are about to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is believing that one of two things will happen:

- there will be something solid to stand on *or* you will be taught to fly.

The scores of letters, e-mail, photos, tapes, calls and visits that I've received from you has meant everything in the world. It made me feel like my life was meaningful.

The path that I was on has resulted in me passing on, but I want you to know how much each of you has meant to me. I have loved you with all my heart.

When you get to the other side, I'll be in the most beautiful mountains you can ever imagine, laying on a grassy bench a few feet above a mountain stream.

Please stop by and visit me.

Paul"

We are grateful for the contributions of both of these men. This dedication is given in the spirit of a celebration of their lives and the difference they made. Calvin Coolidge noted "People are not honored for what they receive, honor is given for what they give."