

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE/EMS STORIES WANTED

June 2006

Dear Fellow Volunteer,



I am a Firefighter/EMT with Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department in Baltimore, and I am looking for a few good stories. I am planning a book featuring the true-life experiences of Maryland volunteer firefighters/EMTs. There is tremendous public interest in the work we do, and I believe there is a good audience for this material.

I am looking for all sorts of firehouse stories. What we refer to as “just another call”, others see as extraordinary. Tell me about how your parents nearly disowned you for wanting to run into burning buildings. Tell me how you felt on your first call. Tell me about the most amazing thing you’ve seen. Tell me about laughing, crying, and throwing up. Tell me about “the big one”. Tell me about your “close call.” Tell me about the call that changed your life forever. Tell me how things used to be. Tell me the times you wanted to quit and why you didn’t.

Regretfully, I do not have the means to directly compensate anyone for their contributions. I am pursuing this project with my own expenses, time, and equipment. Then again, I could not be asking a group of people more willing to give than my brother and sister volunteers. What I offer is an opportunity to share our stories with a large audience, and promote our departments which we all value. Our stories, usually only shared around the coffee table, are a tremendous source of inspiration to attract fresh membership and recognize the pride and tradition we share. I also plan that pending successful publication, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Maryland volunteer departments of the contributors that are selected for inclusion in the book. As a member of the Board of Directors at Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department, I truly appreciate the financial pressures facing us all. I want this will be a positive project that captures the volunteer spirit and benefits as many departments as possible.

I also invite auxiliary members to participate. Your jobs are often tedious and thankless, but no less important to our success. The recognition and promotion of your efforts is more vital now than ever before. Career fire department personnel who also volunteer are welcome to submit on behalf of their Maryland volunteer companies.

I humbly request that this invitation and submission form be posted at your firehouse. There are two ways to send your work: 1. Visit the website below and send the work electronically over the internet, or 2. mail your work with a completed submission agreement form (also available for download from my website).

Thank you in advance for your contributions. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information, downloadable copies of this form, email contact, or to submit electronically, visit my website at <http://cbrocato.home.comcast.net>.



Sincerely,

FF/EMT Chris Brocato

VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE/EMS STORY SUBMISSION AGREEMENT

- All works submitted must be original. Do not copy or plagiarize any, all, or part of any existing work by any other person.
- Contributors under the age of 18 years must have parental/guardian consent to participate.
- All contributors must be members in good standing of a non-profit Maryland volunteer fire/rescue/EMS department (recognized as a 501-C3 organization and recognized by the *Maryland State Fireman's Association* as an Official Member Department) at the time of submission. Membership status of contributor and 501-C3 status of department are subject to verification.
- Works will be accepted by electronic submission (through <http://cbrocato.home.comcast.net>) or by US mail.
 - ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS – Visit the website for details.
 - US MAIL - Works submitted by US mail must include a completed, signed, and dated submission agreement (this form). Work must be typed on single-sided 8.5" x 11" white paper. Adequate postage is the responsibility of the submitter. Submissions cannot be returned.
- All works and submissions (both those sent electronically or by mail) become property of the book author (Chris Brocato). The book author has the right to edit, or use any, all, or part of any works submitted.
- The decision to reject or select any, all, or part of any works submitted for publication is the sole discretion of the book author.
- The validity of selected works is subject to research and personal interview. Submitters of selected works may be contacted.
- Publication is not guaranteed. If successful publication occurs, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to bona fide non-profit volunteer fire/rescue/EMS departments affiliated with the submitters of works selected for inclusion in the book. The distribution of any and all funds is at the sole discretion of the book author.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- Be truthful and accurate to the best of your knowledge.
- Be descriptive. Use correct spelling and grammar.
- For electronic submissions, type, edit, and save your work at your leisure in a word processor like Microsoft WORD. When ready to submit online, “copy” your text and “paste” it into the “STORY” block on the online form on the website.

Complete the following selection using blue or black ink. Please print legibly.

Contact information (address, phone, email, birthday) is for recordkeeping and validation only and will not be published.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. ____ Nickname _____
Home Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Home Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Email _____
Maryland Fire/Rescue/EMS Department of Affiliation _____
Department Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Department Phone _____ County of Affiliation _____ Current Rank/Position _____

I understand and agree to all the provisions of the above agreement. I understand that publication is not guaranteed. I am submitting this material as my own original work and by my own free will. I understand that the work I am submitting becomes the property of the book author. All parts of my work and all information on this form are true to the best of my knowledge. If I am under 18 years of age, my parent/guardian must also sign consent to my participation in this project.

Signature

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian (if submitter less than 18 years old)

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

To send by mail, send to: Chris Brocato, 4721 Ruby Ave, Baltimore, MD 21227

To send electronically, visit my website: <http://cbrocato.home.comcast.net>