Harold Brown, rescue squad, fire service leader, dies

Harold Brown, 77, of Caudill Road, North Wilkesboro, died Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at his home.

Mr. Brown was born July 17, 1933 in Wilkes County to Charlie Burgess and Edna Rebecca Fender Brown. He was a member of the Wilkes Rescue Squad for 30 years and was captain for 20 years. He served for 32 years on the North Wilkesboro Fire Department and served as fire training officer for 10 years. Mr. Brown also served as part-time fire marshal and civil defense director.

Mr. Brown was a charter member of Region D Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. He also served as assistant chief, second assistant chief, and captain for the North Wilkesboro Fire Department. Mr. Brown was one of the founding members of Wilkes County Fireman's Association and served as president for several years. He was the first appointed fire marshal for Wilkes County.

Mr. Brown was instrumental in the building of Wilkes Rescue Squad building and helping implement EMT training programs. He was an Army veteran, where he trained in radio repair and communications. Mr. Brown also trained in North Carolina as a fire training officer, and arson investigator. He also attended, through N.C. State University, the N.C. Staff and Command School, and the North Carolina Fireman's Association.

Mr. Brown was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, Douglas Harold Brown; his daughter, Debra Lynn Brown; one brother, Howard Brown; and a sister, Lorene Simpson.

Surviving are his wife, Peggy Ann O'Neal Brown; one daughter, Rebecca B. Adams and husband, Dayne, of Boomer; two brothers, C.B. Brown Jr., of North Wilkesboro and Bruce Brown of North Wilkesboro; three sisters, Pauline Spears of North Wilkesboro, Velma Eller of Abbottstown, Pa., and Sue Harrold of Hays; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Graveside services, with military honors by Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard Post 1142, will be Saturday, 2 p.m., at Mountlawn Memorial Park with the Rev. Paul M. Hugger, David Lawson, and Roy Taylor officiating.

Pallbearers will be the members of the Wilkes Rescue Squad. Honorary pallbearers will be Rebecca Adams, Lori Rachel Prince, David Lawson, Robert Bost, Mark Brown, Jeff O'Neal, John Adams, and Dayne Adams.

The family will be at Miller Funeral Service from 6 until 8 Friday night.

Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to Wilkes Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1305, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659; Hospice of Wilkes, 1908 West Park Drive, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659; or the North Wilkesboro Fire Department, 709 Ninth Street, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659.