

The Mayor's Corner

March 17, 2017

A Family Loss

I recently attended the funeral for a young man who had physically moved upstate; yet, never really left North Wales Borough.

Billy Golz was born and raised in North Wales Borough. He was blessed to have a rather large extended family that he saw quite often – the members of the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Many members spoke of watching Billy grow up in the firehouse alongside his father Bill, a longtime active member and Chief. He certainly enjoyed spending quality time with his father and his “family”.

Eventually Billy himself became an active member of the Company and moved up the ranks to become a Captain. He also served as an EMT with The Second Alarmers in Willow Grove, the Lansdale Volunteer Medical Corps, and Ambler Ambulance. It would appear that his entire waking hours were spent serving others, and, of course, being with his “family” (which had grown quite a bit over the years).

Lest you think that all his good works were limited to the firehouse; we learned at his funeral that he was very instrumental in repairing a longtime rift between some family members.

Billy was afflicted with diabetes at an early age. He didn't let that get in the way of his service to others. Unfortunately, the diabetes eventually took his eyesight. Being the dedicated person that he was; he still managed to find ways to help out at the firehouse until moving upstate to Tioga County with his family.

When news of his death was received, nobody asked if folks would be making the trip to his funeral. They knew that his family would travel the 200 miles to North Wales, so that Billy could be with his “family” one last time, and that they could say a final good-bye to him.

I am sure that his family was comforted by the number of people that came to his funeral. The mourners were not limited to the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company and the other organizations with whom he served. Many neighboring fire companies were represented. They may not have known Billy; however, they know that when one fire company suffers a loss, it is a loss to the entire family of firefighters.

I never knew Billy; however, based on what I have learned about him, I wish I did.

Greg