

2011 LODD

To Date:

**31**

## **Pride and Ownership**

LODD at this point last  
year:

**27**

Rick Lasky, Fire Chief of Lewisville Fire Department in Texas, authored the above titled book.

He wrote the book because of his love for the fire service. One of the early topics he talks about is *"Put the Firefighter back in the Firefighter and the Firehouse back in the Firehouse"*.

Lasky goes on to define what he means by taking pictures and hang them on the walls and developing logos and display them proudly. The point of all of this is to development a sense of pride.

The fire service has traditions and practices that have withstood the test of time. And yet today's firefighters don't know their own departments history, let alone what a "plug" really is or if the brass on their officers collar is a trumpet or a speaking bugle.

At the end of the chapter called "The Firefighter", Lasky offers some points for your own size-up of where you are individually:

- Wear your uniform, take care of it, and be proud of it.
- Take care of the firehouse. It is your home!
- What shape are your tools in?
- Are you *controlling* or *contributing* to the gossip, rumor, and character assassination mill?
- Remember that you owe the public. Treat people like family and believe in and promote strong family values.
- Every now and then, remind yourself why you got into this profession in the first place.

Firefighting is a very proud profession. Take the time to pass along lessons learned and the *good* tricks of the trade. Holding on to history or knowledge in an effort to set you above others is selfish and everything but what a firefighter should be. Mentor those in areas where you are strong and learn from others in areas where you are weak. Together, as a team, we will accomplish great things.

Together, **WE** make this the greatest job in the world.

**Stay Safe!**