

September 9, 2005

Mr. Clarence Mosher
The Glenville Town Board
18 Glenridge Road
Glenville,
New York 12302

A FIRE TALE.....

August 20, 2005, 11:35 PM..... In bed in my 2nd floor room, listening to the radio, already about half asleep. Then a strange popping noise, heard above the music. The electricity is out. First thought was "another storm problem". Better check though. Looking through a bedroom window there is no power outage in the neighborhood. Something isn't right. A couple of minutes later and there is a faint smell of smoke. A minute or so later and smoke is coming from a small attic storage space, 2nd floor, between my room and the only way down to the 1st floor. **FIRE! Call 9-1-1!**

The call goes out to the Scotia Fire Department. What to do until the FD arrives? Try to put it out! A fire extinguisher did some good but not enough. Two small spots are still burning but cannot be reached quickly. What to do? Still try! But, it's now out of control! The 2nd floor first room is burning from the baseboard to the ceiling! Everyone get out!

The Scotia Fire Department is now on the scene. As my parents, I and our neighbors watched, these professional firefighters immediately "got to it". Firemen jumped off the fire trucks before those trucks had stopped. Hoses were being unrolled, equipment deployed, orders have been given as soon as they arrived.

Their on site commander calmly asked us for information. "Is everyone out of the house? Yes. The fire is in the attic. Go up the stairs to the left! Any pets inside"? No.

Without the slightest hesitation, several firefighters run upstairs to the 2nd floor. Both upstairs rooms are now an inferno! The firefighters that ran up the stairs into those flames remain there and more follow! The fire was extinguished as fast as was possible. Even though the two upstairs rooms were totally destroyed, the smoke and water damage to the rest of house was limited and a considerable amount of our personal effects, collected over many years were saved. One firefighter, on his own, recognized then saved my original Black Beret, a treasured memento from many years ago.

Their react time from the 911 call at about 11:40 PM on 8/20/05, departing the Scotia Firehouse at Mohawk Avenue in Scotia, to our residence was very fast. This professional fire department, with all the necessary equipment was ready to deploy/fight the fire as soon as they arrived on site.

The fire at our house was of great intensity and speed. It progressed from along a baseboard in the attic to coming out of the ceiling and into an adjoining room in less than a minute. The Scotia FD charged into the midst of a very dangerous and hot fire in a very cramped space without the slightest delay. Before the first firefighter went in he asked "did everyone get out OK? Yes. He then asked "any pets inside"? That firefighter was now concerned for the family dog, cat or bird.....And we still don't know all the names of those from the Scotia FD that saved our house.

Since 9/11/01 and rightfully so, the American public has been aware of the great skill and courage of firefighters and the many casualties a Fire Department can have. Small towns like Scotia-Glenville and a small FD usually do not get the publicity that a large city and department does. The Scotia FD and its Firefighters on 8/20/05 from 11:30 PM to 03:30 August 21, 2005 showed the same great firefighting skills, great courage and concern/dedication to the fire victims as any of their big city brothers.

Mr. Mosher, this story was partially written in a "first person narrative"..... "Personal" is what occurred on 8/20/05 at 11:40 PM. My parents have lived in this house for over 50 years. It's their only home. The

Scotia FD saved it. Without them, our house and all our possessions would have been completely destroyed. They also did all possible during and after the fire to insure that our family was OK. Chief Kasko has visited us twice since and extended an "anything we can do" offer. A full service FD for sure!

Mr. Mosher, our family thanks you for selecting the Scotia Fire Department as the prime responder for Glenville Fire District #4.

To the Scotia Fire Department and all its Firefighters: **THANK YOU AND VERY WELL DONE.**

Sincerely,

The Foti Family,
Jerry, Marion and Robert
614 Orlinda Avenue
Scotia,
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