

ALGONQUIN-LAKE IN THE HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



1020 West Algonquin Road
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156
847.658.8233 | fax 847.854.2609

WWW.ALFPD.ORG

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Jeff Bruno
State Commander, AFFI Honor Guard
927 S. 2nd Street
Springfield IL 62704

Commander Bruno:

More than two weeks have passed since we lost JP Kilanski and of course the pain and sorrow are still present with us and his family. They will be for some time to come. What is equally as present, and perhaps even more so, is the memory of you and the AFFI Honor Guard's sincere expressions of sympathy, condolences, and your offer to help us in our time of need and sorrow. Your actions spoke even louder. We all appreciated seeing you and so many of your members turn out to provide the honors at JP's services. The gift of your time went well beyond sympathy. Your words, your deeds, and the manner with which they were bestowed empathized with us in a way that helped us, and more importantly JP's family, understand and appreciate that we are not alone.

It is important that the fire service gives to those we lose while in active service, whether on duty or off, the honors and emoluments due an "oath taker", one who has sworn to dedicate his life to something larger than himself. We do this not to draw attention to ourselves but to honor not just he who we lost, but his family as well, who so generously gave him to us. Doing this properly truly takes a village. Not just to execute the logistics, but to give the funeral honors a true meaning. JP's services burst at the seams with honor, largely due to the dedication, generosity, and awe inspiring execution of the officers and members of the AFFI Honor Guard.

There is something powerful in genuine giving, and there is something powerful in truly receiving. Genuine receiving requires a willingness to be humble. To truly receive means we place a greater focus on the other than on self. JP was above all else a public servant. We honor him best when we emulate his dedication to his calling and to his service. Please accept our most humble thanks for your aid during this difficult time by helping us see more clearly than ever, that it is through the service we give to others that we become our best selves.

Sincerely,

Peter Van Dorpe
Fire Chief
pvandorpe@alfpd.org

*We provide quality emergency response, prevention and education services,
to ensure community well-being and delivery of compassionate help in time of need.*