

News Release
Chicago Fire Department
Contact Larry Langford 312 848 0361

On behalf of the Family of Firefighter Chris Wheatley Truck 2 CFD

To the people of Chicago and brothers and sisters in the fire service:

The Wheatley family thanks all of those who have called, stopped by and otherwise communicated feelings in our hour of need. We will not be doing any interviews or media appearances at this time, but wanted those of you in the media and the public in general to know some of our thoughts.

Chris lived his life to the fullest; he put everything he had into both work and play. He loved his family more than anyone can ever know. He loved people he had known all his life and was just as caring for those he had just met. He was a fantastic son, brother, brother in law, cousin, nephew, friend and firefighter. He loved not only his friends and family but those he served in the City of Chicago and well as his fire department brothers and sisters. Chris' Mother, Mary Wheatley says the loss of her son is a hole that can never be filled but she is comforted by his memory and his impact on the lives of others and will always remember that he helped and touched so many in his life and career.

His fiancée Jessica wants everyone to know that Chris was a man who always had a smile on his face and he made her laugh each and everyday. She says; "I was lucky to have him in my life. He was a true beacon of life, laughter and love. He loved all of us and made sure he told us everyday." She adds that; "He will never be forgotten. He died doing what he loved. He was the most generous and loyal man I have ever known, and he lived his life as an example to others." She called him her "Mr. Chicago" who was in love with the traditions and people of the Chicago Fire Department.

His sister Kim and brother in law Chris Skubic want everyone to know that Chris always dreamed of becoming a Chicago Firefighter. "He always told us to spend our lives living our dreams and loving those around us." Chris loved his teams as well as his friends and family. He was a devoted Cubs and Blackhawks fan and was an "intense" Chicago Bears supporter.

The family requests privacy at this time and we ask that news organizations refrain from contacting by phone or visit. Please allow us to remember our family member and grieve our loss.

Services are pending but should be Thursday and Friday. The Chicago Fire Department Media Affairs section will keep you all updated. Please reach out to Mr. Larry Langford at the Fire Department at 312 848 0361 for any further information.

Thank you

Family of Chris Wheatley

