

FIRE HEADQUARTERS
CAMBRIDGE, HEADQUARTERS

DECEMBER 9, 1988

GENERAL ORDER #39, Series of 1988

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

SUBJECT Commendation

The following is on the recommendation of Deputy Chief Fitzgerald:

On December 5, 1988 at Box 34, Third alarm, Lieutenant John Ruffing of Engine Co. #5, was in command of a reinforced hose crew. While making an aggressive advance into a heavily involved top floor, there was a collapse of the ceiling above the crew. All members of the crew were trapped by large amounts of ceiling material and at this time conditions of heat and smoke increased greatly.

Lieutenant Ruffing, despite burns received, supervised the evacuation of his men but was unable to account for an assigned member. Lieutenant Ruffing advanced into the involved area and located this Firefighter and supervised his rescue over ground ladders.

Lieutenant Ruffings' action resulted in the safe removal of a trapped member and was in keeping with the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department and the fire service.

I request that Lieutenant Ruffings actions be commended in Department General Order.

Kindly see that all members are present for a reading of this order at Roll Call.

Per order,

Thomas V. Scitt
Chief of Department

Read & Initial

Group #1 _____
Group #2 _____
Group #3 _____
Group #4 _____

Joe:
I would appreciate
council recognition of this
commendation. Thank you,

Tom



City of Cambridge

COUNCILLOR WALTER J. SULLIVAN

2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 19, 1988

- WHEREAS: This City Council has learned of a singular act of bravery of a member of the Cambridge Fire Department, resulting in the rescue of a member of the Department by Lieutenant John Ruffing; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant Ruffing, assigned to Engine Company 5, while in command of a reinforced hose crew which was involved in a multiple alarm fire on December 5th, 1988 and, while fighting the fire, the ceiling collapsed above the firefighters, leveling debris upon and trapping Firefighters Edward Morrissey and Jack Rose; and
- WHEREAS: For a short period of time, all members of the crew were trapped by large amounts of ceiling material; and
- WHEREAS: Despite burns already received by Lieutenant Ruffing, he remained in the engulfed area, personally supervising the evacuation of his men; during which time he realized one member of the crew was unaccounted for; he then moved forward into the building and personally extricated from the debris Firefighter William Wood; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant Ruffing's life-saving actions were in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department and fire service; a tradition which is continually reinforced by the members of the Department on a regular basis; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its sincere gratitude to Lieutenant John Ruffing for his leadership and dedication to duty and to his fellow firefighters; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Lieutenant Ruffing on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council December 19, 1988.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

Order # 2 S-777

C.W.J. Sullivan re: resolutions commending
Fire Lt. John Ruffing on rescuing a fellow
firefighter during a multiple alarm fire
on December 5th.

In City Council,

December 19, 1988

Order adopted