



# *Evans Center Fire Company*

[Fire - Rescue - Emergency Medical Services]

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## *EVANS CENTER FIRE/RESCUE*



## **Evans Center Firefighters March In Memory of Fallen Hero**

This Memorial Day marked an especially solemn occasion for the members of the Evans Center Volunteer Fire Company as they marched in honor of all veterans and in memory of one of their own in the annual parade on Monday-May 31, 2010 in Angola.

Evans Center Volunteer Firefighter Richard L. Kester was killed in combat in Vietnam forty years ago: June 3, 1970. Kester lived with his family right near the fire station in Evans Center. His US Army rank was Specialist-4 at the time of his death.

The fire company carried a banner displaying their company logo in line with medallions representing the four branches of the armed forces. Words above and below the symbols proclaimed: "Honoring All Veterans - Remembering Our Hero" with Kester's name and ultimate sacrifice detailed below.

The Rev. Donald A. Loos, pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and fire department chaplain, led opening and closing prayers while Chief (Ret.) Bruce Green Jr. shared passages from Abraham Lincoln and Robert F. Kennedy along with stories related to him by Richard's mother, brother and cousin Cindy who was inspired by Richard to serve in the military.

Firefighter Kester's mother Ruth and his brother Roger were on hand for the special ceremony. Mrs. Kester was accompanied by Fire Company President Geordie Sinclair in laying a bouquet of red and white roses at the fallen soldier's grave site in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Angola where he is buried amongst several other local war heroes. Relating what a fun-loving and dedicated firefighter her son was, his mother quipped: "When the fire siren went off, you got out of his way!"

Evans Center Firefighters who are also military veterans were honored by wearing white carnations on their fire department uniforms, while the other members wore red carnations in memory of their fallen brother. Veterans present included: Past Chief Robert J. Corsi Jr./US Army; Firefighter Bruce Green Sr./US Navy; Firefighter Kenneth Hontz/US Army; and Chief (Ret.) John P. Weil/US Army.

A plaque honoring Richard Kester's service to his country and to his community hangs in the mezzanine area of Evans Center's Erie Road Firehouse. The banner was graciously donated by VSP Graphics of West Seneca, NY.

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More photos available at: [www.flickr.com/tigerschmittendorf](http://www.flickr.com/tigerschmittendorf)



Evans Center Fire Explorers Michael Gian Jr. and Zachary Davis carry a banner honoring all veterans in the annual Memorial Day Parade in the Village of Angola. Fire Company President Geordie Sinclair (center) carries a bouquet of roses that was laid at the grave of their fallen brother firefighter Richard L. Kester, who was killed in combat in Vietnam forty years ago. Photo by: Heather Shean.



Evans Center Volunteer Fire Company President Geordie Sinclair lays a bouquet of roses at the grave of Firefighter Richard L. Kester while Kester's mother Ruth watches. The 20-year old soldier was killed in action in Vietnam forty years ago.

Top (treated) Photo by: Melissa Green

Bottom (untreated) Photo by: Heather Shean



Mrs. Ruth Kester stands with Evans Center Firefighters during a ceremony marking the fortieth anniversary of her son being killed in combat in Vietnam. The 20-year old Richard “Dickey” Kester was a volunteer firefighter dedicated to both his community and his country. The special Memorial Day service took place in Forest Lawn Cemetery in the Village of Angola. Photo by Heather Shean.