

## PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS PROGRAM

### Did You Know...

**E**nacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides benefits including death, education assistance, and disability to those eligible for the program. The PSOB Office at the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for implementing the PSOB Program. Under the PSOB Act, benefits are available to the survivors of public safety officers found to have died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury, as well as certain eligible heart attacks and strokes, sustained in the line of duty. As defined by Congress, a public safety officer is an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew. The PSOB

benefit for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring in FY 2007 is \$295,194. In addition to reviewing and processing cases, the PSOB Office works with national public safety groups, educating agencies regarding the PSOB initiative and offering support to families and colleagues of America's fallen firefighters.



**BJA** Bureau of  
Justice Assistance

**Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program**

**Toll-free**  
1-888-744-6513

*If I am to wear this mourning cloak, let it be made  
of the fabric of love, woven by the fine thread of memory.*

**Molly Fumia** (from Safe Passage)

*Give sorrow words: the grief that does not speak  
Whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break.*

**William Shakespeare** (from Macbeth)

### We want to hear from you...



"Laughter is the best medicine." Do you believe it? When you tell us about your firefighters, you often share a funny story or say what a character he or she was. Clearly, one of the things you treasure and miss most is the laughter your loved one brought to your life. Tell us the funniest story you can remember, the one that still makes you laugh (and maybe cry a little, depending on the day) when you think of it today.

Please send your story as a Word document, or in the body of an e-mail, to [jwoodall@firehero.org](mailto:jwoodall@firehero.org). Or, if you don't do computers, send it to:

**The Journey • National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**

P.O. Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

(301) 447-1365

[firehero@firehero.org](mailto:firehero@firehero.org)

This publication was supported by Grant #2006-DD-BX-K017, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs; and by a September 11 recovery grant from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the American Red Cross.

---

**By Linda Kramer**

*Mother of Karl "Klif" Kramer (2005-FL)*

*I know how difficult it was to write this tribute when Klif died—something that no one wants to have to do. But I also know how many times I have gone back and read that and smiled and felt so very proud of my son. I would encourage everyone to do the same. As I read other tributes that were written, it made it easier to write mine. It also made me realize what a wonderful, special group of men and women they all were - one that Klif would be proud to stand with.*

**T**o have an impact on one life is remarkable - To touch many is a miracle! Klif did just that!

Karl "Klif" Kramer died of a heat stroke on May 28, 2005, after collapsing during a training run. At 6' 4", a gentle giant of a man, Klif was the friend that you could always count on. He was proud of becoming a member of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department and being able to follow in his father's footsteps. He used to spend hours with his Dad, planning the next steps in his career and discussing the different options in firefighting. He was on the road to achieving a lifelong dream.

Klif lived life to the fullest. He loved playing sports, but

playing softball was his favorite, especially when playing with his dad and cousins. He was a member of several church, fire department and city teams. When not playing ball, he was playing cards or visiting friends. He just loved being with others. Klif had a sense of humor and a unique ability to know just when to use it. At Halloween, he will always be remembered as "Shrek" and how closely he resembled the character's personality - not to mention the costume he made each year.

Klif was the son that any mother and father would be proud to have. He was idolized by his little brothers and loved by his friends. We were truly blessed to have a son like Klif and so very proud of all he accomplished in such a short time. Our world is a better place because of him, and we miss him dearly.



**Karl "Klif" Kramer**  
**Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Florida**

<b>Classification:</b>	Career
<b>Rank:</b>	Firefighter Recruit
<b>Date of Death:</b>	May 28, 2005
<b>Age:</b>	22

---

**Communication**

**S**everal of you have let us know recently that you have not been getting a Remembrance Card on the anniversary of your firefighter's death. We are undergoing a major change in the Foundation's main database, so it is possible that some glitches have occurred. We apologize if we missed you! Please let us know so we can fix it.

Also, if other members of your family would like to be added to the Foundation's mailing list, please let us know. We often have contact information only for the firefighter's immediate family, but we are happy to add extended family members and friends. Please send us their information!

*Remembering...*