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Obituaries

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L.C. Merrell, 43, veteran firefighter

May 2, 2000

BY STEVE WARMBIR STAFF REPORTER

Lt. L.C. Merrell was not only a top Chicago firefighter but also part of the community outside the firehouse, whether it was looking after a stray dog or taking someone interested in firefighting under his wing.

"He started teaching me what being a firefighter was like," said Edward Lee, 16, who had known Mr. Merrell for about a year after dropping in at the fire station one day.

Mr. Merrell, 43, was killed Saturday when his fire truck was hit by a landscaping truck at 107th Street and Throop.

Mr. Merrell, a father of five, had the confidence of the firefighters he led because they knew he would make the right calls on the scene, his colleagues recalled.

His concern extended to a sick stray dog he saw wandering outside the fire station one day, Lee said. Mr. Merrell took the dog in, fed it and made sure it was cared for.

Visitation will take place from noon to 8 p.m. Friday at Leak & Sons Funeral Home, 7838 S. Cottage Grove.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Metropolitan Community Church, 4100 S. King Drive with burial to follow at Lincoln Cemetery, 12300 S. Kedzie.

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