



Mysterious Tombstone

discovered to be that of

Felix

Heroic Firedog

of Engine Co. #25

About 1919 a stray dog was brought to Engine Co. #25 of the Chicago Fire Dept. He soon found a good home with the firemen. He would often follow one of the men whose name was Felix. That is how the firedog got his name.

Felix became an excellent mascot who was not afraid of fire. He learned the fire alert codes and was the first to leap on the truck when the company was called to action

A representative from the Barnum & Bailey circus came to visit Felix after this wonder dog saved the life of a baby. Knowing the baby was in the burning building Engine Co. #25 was called to, Felix refused to come out of the building and barked continuously until the baby was carried to safety.

This heroic dog was also known to help locate and rescue firemen who were trapped in a densely smoke filled building.

When Felix passed away the loss was so great that the neighborhood schools were closed to allow the children to attend his wake and

funeral. Felix was surrounded by floral pieces during the wake which was held at the fire house. The media were even there to document the event.

Eight automobiles carried the funeral party to 95th Street and Kean Avenue where the solid mahogany casket donated by J.B. Locke, a local furniture company, was interred.

Six children (three boys and three girls) were his pallbearers. Everyone knew and loved Felix. He was no pedigree, just a street dog, but he SURE was a **HERO!**

60 years later local historian Darline Filis determined to find the long forgotten story behind the mysterious tombstone.

Through Darline's efforts the story has been documented for posterity. With mostly private funds a monument has been erected to honor the brave and faithful Felix who rests in our township.

Atop this memorial a bronze likeness of Felix perches on

tensed legs, head turned alertly to the left, ready for action. The monument stands 52 inches tall, about one and a half times the firedog's actual estimated height. Fittingly and forever, Felix the firedog will be larger than life.

The statue crafted by artist Michael Froding, can be seen on the rise between the Palos Hills Police station and Green Hills Public Library on 103rd Street.

For further information, contact:
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Open Tuesdays 9 A.M.-1 P.M.