



General Order

Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. 7-2-26

Subject: Passing of former FADO Charles W. Bittorie Jr., Station 13

Date: July 2, 2026

Authority: Chief Michael W. Robinson, Director/*MOUR*

It is with profound sadness that I announce the passing of (former) FADO Charles William Bittorie Jr. last evening while under hospice care at his home in Waynesboro, PA. Charles (Chuck) aged 61, served with DFEMS for a year from November 7, 2024, through December 30, 2025. He resigned due to his diagnosis and treatment of occupational cancer (leukemia). He was assigned to Gamber, Station 13 and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to DFEMS having served as a Master Firefighter/HVO with the Howard County DFRS from August 1989 through July 2024. He began his fire service journey in the mid-1980's as a member of the Sykesville-Freedom District VFC-Station 12.

I had the honor to meet with Chuck this past Friday and presented him with our 250th Anniversary T-shirt. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the members of DFEMS, and we reflected upon his tenure and influence with us. Under the new federal cancer presumption laws, he will be considered a LODD and will be honored accordingly. He is survived by his wife Candace and children, Colby and Caley. As a department we will assist Howard DFRS with his final honors and I am authorizing the use of a "mourning band" over your issued badge through sundown on Friday 7/10/26, the date of his interment. We will issue the bands on Monday 7/6/26 to all uniformed personnel via the shift commanders.

Funeral arrangements are being handled through the Haight Funeral Home in Sykesville. <https://haightfuneralhome.secure.tributecenteronline.com/obituaries/Charles-William-Bittorie-Jr?obId=48919988> Class "A" uniform (if issued) will be the authorized level of uniform for both the viewing and funeral service. Please remember FADO Bittorie and his family in your thoughts and prayers. The behavioral health resources of DFEMS are available to all members and can be initiated through BC Garheart our CISM command officer.