

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL



There is a new object on the Guffey horizon these days, a thirty foot spun aluminum flagpole with a round aluminum brass-colored ball on top and a beautiful 5 foot by 7 foot stars and stripes flying in the breeze from the pole.

The flag and flagpole are part of the "Fallen Firefighter" memorial just completed at the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District fire station in Guffey, on Wednesday morning May 30th, with the raising of the pole and the first flying of the flag.

The flagpole was the idea of Davis Tilton, president of the fire department auxiliary, as a memorial to all fallen firefighters after his nephew, Robert Tilton, only twenty-three years old, passed away very suddenly last year. R. Tilton was attending fire academy to become a firefighter at the time. In lieu of flowers at R. Tilton's funeral services, donations to the firefighter memorial were requested.



The spun aluminum flagpole is thirty-three feet tall, but three feet of it sit in a concrete footing with a large round hole in the center, so only thirty feet are above ground, according to D. Tilton.

Tilton said that the spun aluminum is strong but light. The pole can withstand up to 90 MPH winds with a five foot by eight foot flag attached, but can be lifted and carried by three people.

The flag was donated by Doris Schoepf of Pike Trails Ranches subdivision west of Guffey, whose husband was a World War II veteran. The flag draped his casket at his funeral, said Tilton. Schoepf was not at the ceremony.

Everything went smoothly on the morning of the flagpole raising with ten men walking the pole up to vertical, seating it in the hole in the concrete, and holding it upright while it was squared up and sand was packed into the space around the pole. A two inch thick layer of tar was put on top of the sand and the aluminum cover slid down on top of that to cover it all.

The flag was then attached and run up to the top.

To finish it all off, a solar light was attached to the pole for night time illumination and according to fire Chief Don Felton the flag will fly 24/7.

The plaque at the base of the pole reads:

THE SOUTHERN PARK COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
HEREBY DEDICATES THIS FLAGPOLE AS THE
ROBERT TILTON
MEMORIAL TO
FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS
SO THAT THEIR DEDICATION IN PROVIDING VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO THIS COMMUNITY
SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN
MAY, 2011

