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## **Beverly Hills Battalion Chief Passes Away** *Ed LaFouge served 27 years with the Fire Department*

**Beverly Hills, CA** - Battalion Chief Edward LaFouge, a 27-year veteran of the Beverly Hills Fire Department, passed away on Friday, February 6, 2009. He had recently been diagnosed with cancer.

"Ed was a man of deep dedication and commitment who served the community for more than a quarter century," said City Manager Roderick Wood. "His hard work has made Beverly Hills a better place."

Chief LaFouge was hired as a probationary Beverly Hills firefighter in 1981 and quickly rose through the ranks, achieving the position of fire captain in 1986. He became a battalion chief in 1993 and since has served as fire marshal, administration battalion chief and operations battalion chief. He also served as a reserve police officer for the City of Montebello.

"Our fire family now has a huge gap that was once filled by our brother, Edward LaFouge. It is difficult to describe the close bond we share in the fire service. I can't help but think that he is still watching over all of us who are left behind to serve and protect," said Beverly Hills Fire Chief Timothy Scranton. "We are immensely sad for our own sake, and for his wife, Pat, son and grandchildren."

The Kiwanis Club twice recognized Chief LaFouge as Firefighter of the Year, in 1982 and 1985. In addition, the Rotary Club gave Chief LaFouge its award for Outstanding Achievement in Emergency Fire Services.

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