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## Garnsey's big heart, dry humor is missed at KVFD

By TODD GOTTULA , Hub Staff Writer

**KEARNEY — One chair sat empty today when the 2:30 p.m. coffee club met at Kearney Volunteer Fire Department Station One.**

It was a chair filled almost daily the past 33 years by Garnsey Weed, a former firefighter and police officer who died Wednesday at Good Samaritan Hospital following a brief illness. Weed was 79.

“It is hard to believe Moo Cow isn't with us anymore,” said longtime friend Wayne Olson, referring to Weed's nickname. “Garnsey was such a likable and sincere man. He could be a real pain, and we all teased him and gave him a lot of crap, but he was a man of good character.”

Services for Weed will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at First Lutheran Church in Kearney.

A World War II veteran, Weed served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. He then attended photography school in San Antonio and worked at the Mattson and Anderson photography studios in Kearney.

“He was a very talented photographer and took some wonderful shots of fires,” said friend Al Schadt.

Some of Weed's photos adorn the walls of the Kearney fire station, but friends say he will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and feisty personality.

“He was ornery, and that's putting it elegantly,” joked Don Jobman, who Weed recruited to join the fire department more than 40 years ago. “If you shared your opinion on something, Garnsey would pick the opposite side just to argue with you. He loved pushing your buttons and seeing how long you could last.”

Schadt said Weed's dry sense of humor was addictive.

“He was so witty, and he was easygoing when dishing it out,” Schadt said. “Of course, he'd get owley when people dished it back. Garnsey is the kind of man you never forget. He was just a wonderful human being.”

Another friend, Maurice May, said Weed only appeared gruff.

“He thought he was a tough old goat, but he had the biggest heart of any man I know,” May said.

Weed worked as a lineman for Bell Telephone Co., Western T.V. and O.P. Skaggs. He was a Kearney police officer for about nine years and became one of the first nationally certified emergency medical technicians in the nation.

In 1970, Weed joined the Kearney Hub as a photo engraver then worked at Eaton Corp. in Kearney until he retired in 1988. He loved cigars and could always be found with two or three in his pocket.

“I visited the funeral home today, and he even had a cigar in his hand and a box in his pocket,” Jobman said of the viewing. “That was a very nice touch.”

Weed joined KVFD in 1958 and was an active member for 33 years. May said he'll always remember the time Weed's own house almost burned down.



"We had a fire call many years ago when a pop bottle rocket set Garnsey's house on fire," recalled May. "Man, he was upset for a long time about that one, but it became a great joke we laughed about for many years."

Weed was so respected that a Fire Brigade Company was named in his honor when he retired.

"He mentored so many firefighters," Olson said. "He was a role model to more people than I think he realized."

An obituary for Weed can be found on page 6A of today's Hub.

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