ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FALLEN FIREFIGHTER

NAME: Douglas E. Whitehead          Age: 48
RANK: Firefighter                  BADGE #: N/A
STATION: Maryland City Volunteer Fire Department
         Station #27
DATE OF DEATH: March 8, 1969
CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH: Engine 27 responded to Prince George’s County for a dwelling fire. Firefighter Whitehead tripped over the supply line while hooking up to a fire hydrant. He was transported to the hospital, where he was treated for an ankle injury and chest pains. He was released and later died at his residence. Cause of death was listed as a ruptured aorta. Firefighter Whitehead helped organize the Maryland City Fire Department.
BURIAL LOCATION: Baltimore National Cemetery – 5501 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228 (Baltimore County adc map 42-c-20) Section #12 near USMC Memorial, 3rd from street near large tree.
NOTES: Article – Evening Capital
        Laurel News Leader 3/13/69
        WWII Veteran - Navy
PLAQUES, MEMORIALS, Dedications, Etc.:  
• Anne Arundel County Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Millersville.
Name: WHITEHEAD, DOUGLASEE
Section: E
Grave Site: 12

NEAR MAUSOLEUM MEMORIAL
3RD FROM STREET AREA LEAPS TREE
DOUGLAS E. WHITEHAD

Md. City Fireman Dies Suddenly

Tuesday, March 11, 1958

Earl David, 33, a retired fireman in the Montgomery County Fire Department, was killed while fighting a blaze at his home in Laurel, Md., on Sunday. He was a volunteer for the department and had worked as a firefighter for 19 years.

Laurel (Maryland) City volunteer fire Chief John McGlothlin said that David died in the fire. He had been working on a roof when a piece of wood fell, and he was hit on the head by a piece of wood. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The fire started in the kitchen of the house, and the flames spread to the attic. David's body was found in the attic with burns to his head and arms.

David had been a member of the department since 1939 and served as a captain for the past 10 years. He was a member of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Company and had been a volunteer for 20 years.

David leaves a widow, Mrs. David, and four children: Earline, 16; Elsie, 14; and two boys, 12 and 10. He also had two sisters, Mrs. Mabel Johnson of Laurel and Mrs. Mary Lee Godfrey of Washington, D.C.
Firefighter dies after flames gut Laurel house

A Maryland City volunteer firefighter died Saturday at 10 hours after he was injured while fighting a fire in Laurel.

Douglas E. Whitehead, 46, of 3315 Sudlersville South in Maryland City, was pronounced dead Saturday night at Leland Memorial Hospital in Riverdale.

Dr. John Kenoe, county medical examiner, attributed death to incensions of the aorta, the main artery leading into the heart, and hemopericardium, a condition where blood collects within the sac enclosing the heart.

Fireman from Laurel and Maryland City were called to 116 Second St. in Laurel at 1:11 a.m. Saturday at a frame house occupied by Army Spec. 5 Charles Moss, his wife Margaret and their three children.

Fire officials said the house, owned by Walter Cole of Paulten Dr. in Laurel, was totally destroyed when a gas water heater was ignited by flames.

Neither Moss nor his children were injured. Mrs. Moss suffered minor burns.

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Douglas E. Whitehead

Firefighter dies after flames gut Laurel house

(Continued from Page 1)

He was taken to Prince George's General Hospital by the Laurel Rescue Squad where he was examined and treated for a pulled ligament in his ankle.

Walker said Whitehead was given "a mild sedative to calm his nerves" at the hospital and released.

The chief said the Whitehead home about 11 p.m. Saturday by Mrs. Whitehead. He said when he arrived Whitehead had collapsed.

He was taken to Leland where he was pronounced dead.

A Laurel native and a graduate of Laurel High School, Whitehead was formerly a member of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department. He was employed as a mechanical technician.

He joined the Maryland City Fire Department and helped organize the company. He and his family moved to the development in 1961.

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Maryland City Community Methodist Church with Rev. David Seymour officiating. Burial was in Baltimore National Cemetery.

Besides his wife, Lucinda, and three children, Joyce, Stewart and Cheryl, he is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Whitehead of Laurel, and a brother, Glenn, also of Laurel.

Funeral arrangements were handled by the Donaldson Funeral Home.
Fire death probed

Anne Arundel County fire officials are conducting an investigation into the death last Saturday night of a firefighter who died after receiving treatment earlier in the day at a Prince Georges county hospital.

Douglas E. Whitehead, 43, a volunteer fireman who helped organize the Maryland City Company, died in his home after being injured while fighting a fire in Laurel. He resided at 3315 Sudlersville South, Maryland City.

Chief of the Maryland City Volunteer Fire Company Donald Walker said that Whitehead was tending a hydrant when he tripped over a hose and fell.

He complained of chest injuries and was taken to Prince George's General Hospital, Riverdale, where he was reported to have been treated for a sprained ankle and given two shots of narcotic sedatives for the pain, Chief Walker said. Hospital officials reportedly listened to Whitehead's heart before he was released.

Later in the afternoon, Chief Walker visited with Whitehead at his home and said that except for being groggy from the sedatives he appeared all right.
WEAK WATER PRESSURE — A Maryland City firefighter was frustrated by the poor water pressure as he fought to extinguish flames at the rear of the house at 114 Second St. While smoke billowing from the window conceals the heavily damaged rear portion, firefighters found an unproductive fire plug at Second St. and Little Montgomery St., and had to stretch hose more than a block to Washington Blvd. and Montgomery to get an adequate water supply.

(Staff photo)
Smoke continues to pour out of the second story of the house while the charred porch illustrates the extensive damage caused by the blaze. All the contents of the house were also destroyed. The family which lived in the house at the time of the fire, is now temporarily quartered at Ft. Meade.—Photo by C.G. Barnett.
Firemen in Tribute
To Fallen Comrade

Fireman Douglas E. Whitehead, 27, had served the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department for 17 years. He died after fighting a fire in Laurel last week, and the Maryland City Company's engine arrived with a flag-draped casket holding his body on a long, slow ride to the National Cemetery in Baltimore yesterday.

Volunteer firemen from Laurel, Savage, Jessup, Odenton, Pt. Breeze, Burtonsville and other companies turned out to stand at attention, listening to the final call of a fallen friend.

The last alarm Whitehead answered came Saturday afternoon when a two-story frame house at 134 Second St. in Laurel caught fire. Joining with Laurel and Savage companies, the Maryland City firemen fought the blaze, which girded the home of Sg Maj Charles Moss, his wife and three children.

Racing to the scene, the firemen found the house already burning, the flames leaping through the windows. It proved to be completely waterless after the men could get access to it.

FIGHTING the loss of precious minutes, while flames raged the building, the firemen hurried to head the blaze across Main St. and Rt. 1 Bypass, where they found the water they needed.

Whitehead, according to his brother, Bill, was one of the first firemen on the scene and worked at saving out hope. Glenn Whitehead, of Laurel, reported that his brother was on the scene in less than five minutes. He had to try to jump over a fire, but his brother, according to Whitehead, was gallant in his work.

Rescue Douglas Whitehead into an ambulance and taken to Prince George's Hospital, treated and released. He died later that day, apparently from rupture of a large blood vessel in his chest.

"He really loved the fire department," said Whitehead's wife, Lashand of his home, "He's been a wonderful thing," she said yesterday.

Mr. WHITEHEAD has two daughters, Cheryl Ann, 11, and Darlene, 7. Whitehead was the first "fire chief" in the city, as well as a son, Stewart, 14, of the Maryland City Company, formed two years ago. He wanted to be a volunteer firefighter like his father, Mrs. Whitehead said.

Glenn Whitehead described his brother as having "his whole heart and soul in the fire service," and said, "I know he's with the boys right now."