



UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



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Kevin Ward, Fire Chief, Layton F.D., 1st VP
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July 9, 2007

Mrs. Shelly Penovich
18416 West Jefferson
Cedar Valley, Utah 84013

Dear Shelly,

While words of comfort can only go so far in easing your time of great suffering, the Executive Board on behalf of the entire membership of the Utah State Fire Chief's Association wish to express to you how truly saddened we are for the loss you and your family have suffered. The shocking news of Mike's passing has also been difficult for your husband's second family, the entire Fire Service.

The noble profession of fire fighting recruits individuals that fully understand the value and feelings of self satisfaction of public service. Your husband set the standard of excellence in the example he set for others to follow. He embodied all that is good and decent and the fire fighters he worked with during his career will carry on with the fine work ethic and spirit of giving that defined what he stood for.

The outpouring of support that you have already experienced will pale in comparison as to the tribute you will see on the day your husband is laid to rest. I have been in contact with representatives from the State of Utah, the membership of the Utah State Fire Chief's Association and fire fighters from your own fire department. Suffice it to say that a tribute befitting a man of Chief Penovich's stature and the significant contributions he has made to the greater good will be represented on a grand scale. He was an innovator and a person of integrity and a friend to all that had the great honor to have known him.

It is important that you know that any great Fire Chief is supported by someone that shares in the value of the mission that a successful chief must adhere to. We would be remiss if we did not recognize and humbly thank you for the great sacrifices you and your children have made so that Mike could perform his life saving work. Oftentimes the family is neglected when accolades of great praise are given. As Chief Officers, we truly know who makes things happen and without the love and support that is received from home, our work would not be as meaningful nor would we enjoy much success. Chief Penovich's accomplishments are a result of a "team effort" that comes from a supportive and loving wife that embraced and encouraged him to do good things and make a real difference in his community and beyond.

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of this exceptional leader. However, we celebrate his outstanding achievements and we extend to you our love and most humble thanks for sharing your husband with us for so many years. You will always have a family of fire fighters that will be forever grateful.

May God bless you and your children and provide to you the strength you need to carry you through this most difficult time.

Respectfully,

Steven F. Foote
President
Utah State Fire Chief's Association

Cc: Membership
Saratoga Springs Fire Department et al.