

John R. Groves (1879 – 3 Mar 1944)

Groves, John R. On Friday, March 3, 1944 at Providence Hospital, John R. Groves, husband of Grace Groves of 102 8th street N.E. Funeral from the temporary funeral home of P.A. Taltavull, 444 6th street S.W. on Monday, March 6 at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

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John R. Groves Dies; Retired Year Ago as Battalion Fire Chief



Chief Groves.

Battalion Chief John R. Groves, 65, who retired from the District Fire Department last year after 41 years service, died yesterday at Providence Hospital after a brief illness. He resided at 102 Eighth street N.E.

Born in Charles County, Md., Chief Groves had lived here since he was 11 years old. After receiving his education in public schools of this city he started his career as a fireman July 1, 1901.

Many times decorated for valor, Chief Groves received his first commendation in 1908 for stopping the flow of blood from the severed artery of a small boy. That same year he was promoted to third officer, attaining the rank of lieutenant four years later.

Hero of Knickerbocker Disaster

The Ribbon of Valor was awarded him for rescue work in the Knickerbocker Theater disaster January 28, 1922, a year after he was advanced to captain. Again in 1928 he was given the Gold Medal and several commendations in connection with the rescue and resuscitation of Martin E. Brown at Chapel Point, Md. Later the same year he was commended for recovering a body from a submerged automobile.

For the rescue of William M. Keeler from the second floor of a burning building on Park road in November, 1931, Chief Groves was awarded the Silver Medal. That was four months after he had been promoted to battalion chief.

In 1935 he was appointed acting deputy chief and also served as a member of the Fire Department Trial Board. Chief Groves was the first veteran member of the Police or Fire Department to withdraw a petition for retirement when he withdrew his request in 1942 on a plea by Commissioner John Russell Young, Commissioner Young, who told Chief Groves that his services were needed because of the war, said "I regard his act as one of patriotism."

Funeral Monday

Chief Groves retired from active service March 31, 1943.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Grace Groves; a brother, Benjamin Groves of Baltimore, and two sisters, Mrs. Alice Weeks of Washington and Mrs. Virginia Shipman of Arlington, Va.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Monday from the temporary funeral home of P.A. Taltavull, 444 Sixth street S.W., with the Rev. Edward Gabler, rector of Christ Episcopal Church officiating. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Pallbearers named by Mrs. Groves are all fellow-firemen of Chief Groves. They are Capt. Leiper Price and Pvts. J.P. McGrath, James T. Elliott, D.J. McCarthy, John Gheen and Arthur Hough.