

## Thomas F. O'Connor

(1872 – 20 Nov 1932)

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**O'Connor, Thomas F.** Suddenly, Sunday, November 20, 1932 at his residence, the Montgomery Apts. 1151 North Capitol st. n.w. Battalion Chief Thomas F. O'Connor beloved husband of Louise Widdicombe O'Connor and brother of Battalion Chief Edward and Charles O'Connor. Funeral from the Montgomery Apts., North Capitol and M sts., 9:30 a.m., Wednesday November 23; thence to St. Aloysius Church, where high mass will be sung at 10 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

**O'Connor Thomas F.** Members of Spalding Council, Knights of Columbus, will assemble at 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 22, 1932, at the late residence of Brother Thomas F. O'Connor Montgomery Apts., North Capitol and M sts., for the recitation of the Rosary. They are also requested to attend the funeral services at St. Aloysius Church, Wednesday, November 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Fred Brady, G.K.

John M. Tabler, F.S.

**O'Connor Thomas F.** Washington, D.C. Lodge, No. 15, B.P.O. Elks. The lodge will convene in session of sorrow at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 22, 1932, for the purpose of paying tribute to the memory of our late brother, Thomas F. O'Connor who passed to the Grand Lodge of the Hereafter November 20. Elk services at late residence 1151 North Capitol st. at 8 o'clock p.m. By order of

Lonard M. Gawler, Exalted Ruler

Attest: W.S. Shelby, Secretary

**O'Connor, Thomas F.** The members of Association Oldest Inhabitants are requested to attend the funeral of our late associate, Thomas F. O'Connor, from St. Aloysius Church, Wednesday, November 23, 1932, at 10 a.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President

J. Eliot Wright, Secretary

*The Evening Star, November 21, 1932, p. A9*

### **Fire Department Leader Succumbs**

#### **Battalion Chief Thomas F. O'Connor in Service 36 Years, Dies Suddenly**

Battalion Chief Thomas F. O'Connor, 60, a member of the District of Columbia Fire Department for 36 years, died yesterday at his home, 1151 North Capitol street, following a sudden illness. He was a brother of Edward O'Connor who holds the same rank in the department.

"Big Tom," as he was know to many friends in civilian life as well as department members, had been in apparent good health until stricken, and died within a short time following a heart attack.

#### *Native of Virginia*

He was a native of Fairfax County, Va. And was appointed to the department as a private in 1896. Eight years later he was made a captain, and in September 6, 1918, became a battalion chief, which position he held until his death.

Besides numerous commendations from the engineer department and District officials for his meritorious work, Chief O'Connor held a ribbon decoration, awarded for his work in Kann's warehouse fire at Eighth and D streets in January 1925.

He was a Red Cross and first-aid work specialist and organized in 1922 the Fire Training School of the department. He was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District, the Knights of Columbus and the Elks.

It was under the supervision of Chief O'Connor that the department's training tower was erected, and he was in charge of scaling, net-jumping and other tests conducted there for local firemen.

Chief O'Connor also was widely known for his sponsorship and leadership of a series of fire engine and truck speed contests, held to decide ownership of The Evening Star trophies. The awards included a large silver cup and bronze plaque, present annually to the engine or truck company making the fastest time leaving quarters on alarm.

*Guest of D.A.R.*

Daughters of the American Revolution wherever they may be, will learn of Chief O'Connor's death with deep regret. For 20 years or more he had attended each of the Continental Congresses, and although his presence there was required by line of duty, it was always as a guest of the Congress that he was received. Chief O'Connor was always presented to the Daughters from the platform by the president general, nor was he forgotten when the time came to pass around the bouquets and the resolutions of appreciation. At the annual banquets of the society, frequently Chief O'Connor was the only man who was present as a guest and he always received an ovation from the delegates.

Besides his widow Mrs. Louise Widdicombe O'Connor, he is survived by two brothers Edward and Charles.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Aloysius Church, followed by burial in Congressional Cemetery.