

Hello

My Name is Cliff Thurlow Retired Fire fighter
From Flint Mich. This is A Song / DVD
I Recorded many years ago. IT HAS BEEN
A Great Comfort To many Hurting Family of
Fallen Fire Fighter Brother + Sisters. I
Would ^{like} To Have A Family member of The
19 Brothers Killed in That All Fall Fire
To Have A Copy of The Fireman's Prayer DVD
IF That is Not Possible I will understand
I Sent 20 Thought maybe your Fire Dept
Would like one on Hand for memorial
Services.

God Bless

You Are All in our Thoughts + Prayers

Cliff Thurlow
F.F.D.

1-14-95

As we grow up and experience becomes hindsight, we are often amazed at how our lives truly become a tapestry, as someone coined the phrase. As I reflect on my own life, there is a sense of peace as purpose and meaning become more clear and apparent. My passion for singing at three years old has become obvious to me a strong gift God is using for the plan He has for my life.

At 21 years of age, I decided to quit my job at General Motors to become a firefighter. It was the best decision I ever made for myself. I fell in love with the profession. Over 27 years ago, I was asked to put music to "The Fireman's Poem" which was written by Smokey Linn, from Wichita, Kansas. Not too many years ago, I was excited to have shared the music with Smokey and had many conversations with him. For the past 45 years, I have had the privilege of singing "**The Fireman's Prayer**" at hundreds of memorial services and, unfortunately, at more firefighters' funerals than I care to remember. I have also been honored to sing at the Roscommon Michigan Firefighter's Memorial for the past 27 years.

I also had the privilege of joining a group of Farmington Hills, Michigan, firefighters who decided to walk from Detroit to New York City following the 911 catastrophe. Our goal was to walk this 750-mile journey in order to raise funds to contribute to the widow's and orphan's fund for the fallen heroes of 911. It also was a way in which to find some relief from the brokenness and grief in our own hearts, as we are truly a brotherhood. We were greeted by hundreds of people and children lining the streets of towns along the way. It was a very humbling experience. I was honored to have sung "**The Fireman's Prayer**" near ground zero on several occasions.

Life can be complex and confusing at times. Fourteen years ago, my wife of 35 years, was bitten by a brown recluse spider as we were vacationing in Georgia. She was confined to a wheelchair and passed away two years later. This was, of course, a very trying time for our four adult children, their spouses, and our eight grandchildren. But, with God's help we have overcome this tragedy. We still sing praises to Him as we travel and minister in music to many churches and events across the State of Michigan. God has blessed me with my new wife of six years. We minister together bringing healing and encouragement with music and the Word of God. You see, His faithfulness never ceases when we follow Him. We now have five children, and 13 grandchildren! Lots of life, busyness, and fun times.

Although I retired from the Flint City Fire Department nearly 21 years ago, my love and respect for the profession remains. Couple that with my love for music, and you'll understand why most recently I produced a music video of the "**The Fireman's Prayer**" and "**The Firefighter's Hymn.**" After ten months of filming and production, the DVD is now complete. It is my strong desire to see it reach as many firefighters, their families and friends in order to bring encouragement and healing to those who have lost a hero in their lives. It is my small contribution to and appreciation of the men and women who so courageously, day to day, put their lives on the line. For "*No greater love has someone than to lay down his life for his brother (John 15:13).*"

The tapestry is beginning to take form. Clearly it is not complete; but I see the hand of the maker at work. He is truly magnificent!!!