

July 25, 2013

Tanya E. Hicks

Poestenkill, NY 12140

Prescott Fire Chief  
Prescott Fire Department  
2086 Willow Creek Road  
Prescott, AZ 86301

To the Chief, Firefighters and Families:

My name is Tanya Hicks, and I live in upstate New York, just outside of the capital of Albany.

I wanted to personally express my sympathy, thoughts and prayers to all of you in the recent loss of your fellow firefighters.

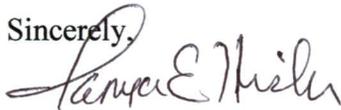
At a time such as this, I have never known the right words to say to offer comfort to those who have lost loved ones in such a tragic manner, and so I have always turned to my writing with the hope that my words can somehow offer even the smallest bit of comfort, hope or compassion.

Over the years I have written many poems, and have shared them with others at times such as this.

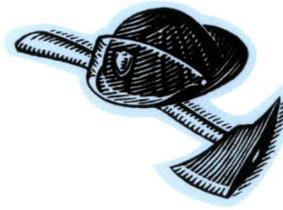
Attached you will find a series of three poems relating to firefighting; and two poems about angels and going home.

Please feel free to share these with others in your department, the loved ones of the fallen and your surrounding community.

My heart goes out to all of you. I hope that these will help in some small way.

Sincerely,  


Tanya E. Hicks



## *A Fireman's Prayer*

*Let me respond to a fire with dedication and speed  
So that no family will be homeless, with little mouths to feed*

*Let me pass through danger when it is climbing on my back  
Remind me of courage of which I must not lack*

*Help me comfort a child who is crying out in pain  
Fill me with warmth when I'm standing in the rain*

*Keep my chin up when there is no hope in sight  
Comfort my own loved ones throughout the day and night*

*Let me remember with pride, that I can only do so much  
And let the rest be handled under God's all-knowing touch*

*Though I cannot save all things, persons or a place  
May I, the fireman, remain forever in your grace*

*Tanya Elizabeth Hicks*



## *A Fireman's Lady*

*A fireman's lady is a special breed  
Set above and apart  
Possessing silent understanding  
A warm and loving heart*

*No complaint she'll voice when evenings together  
Are suddenly put on hold  
She will wait with fearful patience  
For her man to come in from the cold*

*For the lady beside a fireman knows well  
That flames respect no boundaries  
And alarms in the night can be hell*

*There isn't time for fond embraces  
Or words to warmly exchange  
By the time she shouts, "Be careful"  
He's already out of range*

*Sirens wail in the distance  
Fire control relays the call  
She takes a deep breath, prepares to wait  
And asks God to bless them all*

*Somewhere there are others like her  
They too know the story by heart  
Of unfinished precious moments...  
For abruptly he must depart*

*At times she feels like second best  
Though she remembers with pride  
He is risking his life for someone else  
And it touches her deep inside*

*Lying alone, silently  
In the stillness of the night  
Sounds of him returning  
Dispel the fear she held so tight*

*At last his arms enfold her  
In that long awaited embrace  
The lady by her fireman's side  
Her rightful and well-earned place*

*Tanya Elizabeth Hicks*



## *The Responder's Creed*

*Value life, in its treasured and fragile state  
When the alarm sounds, heed the call -  
Seconds count - don't hesitate*

*Training and skills must be perfected  
Spend countless hours to learn -  
In one brief moment you must have total recall  
Splint a fracture, begin CPR, dress a burn*

*Though you may save a child, or ease an elder's pain  
Someone greater than all of us decides their fate  
You are but one vital link in life's precious chain*

*Have a heart full of compassion, gently cover it with pride  
Always be part of a team, work together side by side*

*Pledge and honor to do your best  
Even though rewards are few, and you've had little rest*

*Pray for understanding from those you truly love  
Hold tight to your faith - a fatal will test your emotions,  
And you might question the man above*

*Silently collect yourself and accept your duties, though bittersweet -  
Thank God for watching over your own  
Have strength, for fate will sometimes cheat*

*Value life, it is a precious and fragile bond -  
You are special, you make a difference  
Whenever you are needed - respond*

*Tanya Elizabeth Hicks*



## ANGELS

*The Lord said to his angels one day, seek the loved ones below  
Bring my children to me, for the time has come - they must go*

*With swift wings, you shall lightly tread  
High above where eagles have flown  
Whisper to the family left grieving  
That I will never leave them alone*

*Though they will question what I have done  
Why I have brought them despair  
They need to have faith and believe in me  
For the kingdom of God lies there*

*I feel the pain and sorrow; I hear the prayers to me  
The cry that echoes through heaven  
Why did God take thee?*

*My children, you ask how could I hurt you  
Though as you walk this earth,  
There will be many questions you will ask  
Of life, death and birth*

*Therefore I have one answer,  
The only one your Father shall give  
Until you walk with me in eternity's garden  
You have not begun to live*

*Tanya Elizabeth Hicks*



## *HOME*

*Do not weep or grieve my loved ones  
For I am still here  
And though you do not see me  
I am still very near*

*For now my days are filled  
With freedom and with grace  
I have been chosen to be with Him  
And to look upon His face*

*Do not weep or grieve my loved ones  
For I feel no pain  
I have gone where there are only rainbows  
Never any rain*

*For if you grieve you will not be able to see  
That I am now a part of everything, for all eternity*

*In the grass that grows  
In the birds that sing  
I am now at peace with every living thing*

*Now bow your head and say a prayer  
In the glory of His name  
Know that peace has claimed me  
For I will never be the same*

*Do not weep or grieve my loved ones  
As through fields of flowers I roam  
I am in my rightful place  
He has brought me truly home*

*Tanya Elizabeth Hicks*

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