

BALLAD of the WORCESTER FIREMEN

Dedicated to the Nine Brave Firemen Who Have Lost Their Lives Since December 3, 1999

traditional melody

© B. Black

Andante (96) Em G D

ON A COLD NIGHT IN DE - CEM - BER IN A
AS THE TRUCKS RACED TOWARDS THAT WARE - HOUSE AN IN -

f

3 Em D Em

SPOT NOT FAR FROM HERE THE FIRE A - LARM RANG
FER - NO CLONED FROM HELL WHAT THOUGHTS WERE IN THOSE

6 G D Em D Em

LOUD AND LONG FILL - ING EV' - RY HEART WITH FEAR THE OLD
BRAVE MEN'S MINDS NO ONE A - LIVE CAN TELL BUT THEY

9 G D Em Bm

WARE - HOUSE HAD CAUGHT FIRE AND ITS FLAMES LEAPED TOWARDS THE
NE - VER STOPPED TO QUES - TION OR TO HES - I - TATE IN

12 D Em G D

SKY AND BE - FORE THAT E - VIL NIGHT HAD PASSED SIX
DOUBT THEY HAD ONE AW - FUL JOB TO DO TO

15 Em D THRU Em FINAL Em

BRAVE YOUNG MEN WOULD DIE AS THE (DAY!)
GET THAT FIRE OUT! [TO VERSE 3]

The WORCESTER FIREMEN

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ON A COLD NIGHT IN DECEMBER
IN A TOWN NOT FAR FROM HERE
THE FIRE ALARM RANG LOUD AND LONG
FILLING EVERY HEART WITH FEAR:
THE OLD WAREHOUSE HAD CAUGHT FIRE
AND THE FLAMES LEAPED TO THE SKY
AND BEFORE THAT EVIL NIGHT HAD PASSED
SIX BRAVE YOUNG MEN WOULD DIE

AS THE TRUCKS RACED TOWARDS THE WAREHOUSE
AN INFERNO CLONED FROM HELL
WHAT THOUGHTS WERE IN THOSE BRAVE MEN'S MINDS
NO ONE ALIVE CAN TELL
BUT THEY NEVER STOPPED TO QUESTION
OR HESITATE IN DOUBT
THEY HAD ONE AWFUL JOB TO DO:
TO GET THAT FIRE OUT!

AND AS THE FLAMES GREW BRIGHTER
EACH FIREFIGHTER KNEW
UNLESS THEY GOT IN QUICKLY
AS THEY HAD BEEN TRAINED TO DO
THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE FOR ANYONE
NO CHANCE THEY WOULD SURVIVE
SO IN WENT TWO TO SEARCH THE FLAMES
FOR ANYONE STILL ALIVE

BUT VOICES SOON CRIED "MAYDAY"
IN THE CONFLAGRATION LOST
THEN AGONY OF DECISION
AND WEIGHING FEARFUL COST
SOON FOUR MORE IN TO FOLLOW -
SAY HOW MANY VOLUNTEERED!
THEN THE HORRIBLE REALIZATION -
THEY TOO HAD DISAPPEARED ...

AND THE WORLD STOOD BY IN ANGUISH
AS THE HOURS OF THAT NIGHT
PASSED BY WITH ALL HOPE FADING
WHILE THE FIRE STILL BURNED BRIGHT
AND THE WORLD PRAYED NOT FOR RESCUE -
NONE WOULD LEAVE THAT SMOL'DRING GRAVE
BUT FOR GOD'S ETERNAL MERCY
ON THE SOULS OF WORCESTER'S BRAVE

The WORCESTER FIREMEN

**THEY CALL THESE FIREMEN HEROES,
AND THE WORLD WEEPS AS IT HEARS
OF WIVES AND CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND,
OF SORROW BEYOND TEARS
BUT TEARS WILL PASS - OUR THANKS MUST NOT -
THAT THANKS WE ALL MUST OWE
TO THE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR VERY LIVES
LIKE OUR SAVIOR LONG AGO**

**LET THEIR NAMES RESOUND IN GLORY
AND BE WRITTEN IN THE STARS
BROTHERTON, JACKSON, LUCEY,
WHO WOULD GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR OURS
SPENCER, MCGUIRK, AND LYONS - NO BRAVER MEN THAN THEY:
MAY THEY LOOK ON US FROM HEAVEN
AS WE GRIEVE FOR THEM THIS DAY!**

**additional verse 12/2019:
IN SORROW WE ADD THREE MORE NAMES
TO THE SIX WHO FELL THAT DAY
MENARD, AND ROY, AND DAVIES
SINCE THEN HAVE PASSED AWAY**

**IN RESPONDING TO THEIR LAST ALARMS
THEY PASSED GOD'S GREATEST TEST
AND GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OTHERS
FIRST RESPONDERS AT THEIR BEST**

**- *Bill Black*
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