

MICHELLE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION AND FOR LEADING US IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

FIREFIGHTER GONZALEZ, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOCATION.

MR. COMMISSONER, MR. MAYOR, MR. UNION PRESIDENT, CHIEF...

AND TO THE MEMBERS OF FIREFIGHTER JUAN TORGA'S FAMILY...

GOOD MORNING.

IT'S A TRUE PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU AS WE RE-DEDICATE SWEETWATER FIRE-RESCUE STATION 29 IN THE NAME OF FIREFIGHTER JUAN TORGA JR.

[PAUSE]

TO HOLD DEVOTION TO DUTY ABOVE PERSONAL WISH...

TO COUNT SINCERITY OF SERVICE ABOVE PERSONAL COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE...

AND TO STRIVE UNCEASINGLY, TO FIND BETTER WAYS OF PROTECTING LIVES, HOMES, AND PROPERTY, FROM THE RAVAGES OF FIRE AND OTHER DISASTERS...

THIS IS THE LIFE OF A MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FIREFIGHTER...

AND THIS WAS THE LIFE LED BY FIREFIGHTER JUAN TORGA JR.

A FAMILY MAN – BOTH A FATHER AND GRANDFATHER – HE WAS A TRUE FIREFIGHTER THROUGH AND THROUGH.

HIS DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS SEEN IN HIS NEARLY 25 YEAR CAREER WITH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT.

HIS FRIENDS JOKED THAT HE WAS A "UNIFORM GUY" – IF IT CAME WITH A UNIFORM, HE WOULD DO IT.

SO FIREFIGHTER TORGA WAS ALSO IN THE US AIR FORCE RESERVES, AND HE WAS A RESERVE MIAMI-DADE POLICE OFFICER.

HE NEVER PASSED UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE OF HIS TIME AND TALENTS TO HELP OTHERS.

HIS SINCERITY OF SERVICE CAME THROUGH AS A CONTINUOUS EXAMPLE TO HIS YOUNGER COLLEAGUES, ALWAYS READY TO LEND A BIT OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED THROUGH HIS MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

AND DURING THE MANY TIMES WHEN THE CALL TO ACTION CAME, FIREFIGHTER TORGA UNCEASINGLY ANSWERED THAT CALL, PLACING HIMSELF ON THE LINE TO PROTECT THE LIVES, HOMES, AND PROPERTY OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND BEYOND.

FOR MANY YEARS, FIRE STATION 29 WAS ONE OF THE BUSIEST IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

AND BECAUSE OF HIS SENIORITY, FIREFIGHTER TORGA COULD HAVE GONE TO ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT, BUT HE CHOSE TO STAY HERE UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT.

HE PROBABLY RAN MORE CALLS THAN ANYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT!

HE CAME TO KNOW THIS NEIGHBORHOOD SO WELL, THAT HE BECAME A “HUMAN GPS,” DOWN TO KNOWING THE COLOR OF EVERY HOUSE, AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THEM.

WHEN OTHER CREWS COULD NOT FIND A PARTICULAR ADDRESS, THEY ALWAYS KNEW TO CALL FIREFIGHTER TORGA.

SUCH WAS HIS PASSION, DEDICATION AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HE SERVED.

FIREFIGHTER JUAN TORGA LOVED WHAT HE DID – HE LOVED PEOPLE – AND HE LOVED HELPING THEM.

THIS FIRE STATION WAS HIS HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

AND TODAY, IT BEARS HIS NAME IN HONOR OF A LIFE WELL LIVED FOR OTHERS.

TO HIS FAMILY, WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY YEARS THAT FIREFIGHTER TORGA GAVE TO US. YOU CAN BE VERY PROUD OF HIM, AND ALL THAT HE DID.

FOR ALL THE LIVES HE TOUCHED, AND FOR THE IMPACT HE MADE, WE HONOR HIS LEGACY AND MEMORY BY DEDICATING FIRE STATION 29 AFTER FIREFIGHTER JUAN A. TORGA JR.

THANK YOU AND GOOD BLESS!

