

Tom Jozwiak Memorial Golf Outing Sponsored by SB Firefighter Local 362

Dear Friend,

Hope this letter finds you well during these challenging times in our lives, please let me explain why. We the members of the South Bend Firefighters Local #362 Union, in conjunction with our own South Bend Fire Department are again proud to be sponsoring the annual Tom Jozwiak Memorial Fundraiser.

Tom (Joz) was a devoted 34-year Fire Captain who lost his life on August 30, 1996 to a cruel form of Muscular Dystrophy (Lou Gehrig's Disease). In a continuing effort to keep Toms' memory and spirit alive, an annual golf outing and softball tournament was organized in his name. Proceeds from these powerful charity events are donated to brother /sister Firefighters locally and throughout the state who have had medical hardships fall upon them and their families. And thanks to caring people and organizations like you we have raised over \$170,000 dollars since our inception 21 years ago.

It is again with heavy hearts that we come to your organization for help. We say that, because this year's recipient is another local hero, Captain Dave (Dutch) Koehler a 30 year veteran firefighter of the South Bend Fire Department. Capt Koehler was diagnosed with a right frontal lobe glioblastoma cancerous brain tumor. As a result of this unfortunate discovery and immediate brain surgery, he has been off work since Dec 2016. Dave (Dutch) has also been undergoing repeated radiation and chemotherapy since his surgery. His recovery and progress has been very difficult and slow. As you can imagine all this has caused an unexpected financial burden on him, his wife Vicki and their 3 children, Grace, Brennon and Marissa.

We certainly understand the plight of today's recovering economy and the resolve of the American People to respond to this type of emergency. In a lot of ways it mirrors the duty of a Firefighter and his response to help people compassionately regardless of the situation. Firefighters are there to help with medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents, to prevent loss of life and property in residential and commercial fires. It is the nature of the men and women that choose this profession to help, BUT SOMETIMES THEY THEMSELVES ARE THE ONES IN NEED OF HELP AND THAT IS OUR MISSION.

We are looking for sponsors/partners who want to help us continue to support this event and help firefighters and their families. We are in need of merchandise for door prizes and gifts, as well as financial contributions and golf hole sponsors (\$100) to help Firefighter Koehler and his family offset the costs of this tragedy. This is a great opportunity to both receive excellent marketing results and to help the Koehler family during this very trying and difficult time.

Please help us help one of our own.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

Tom Jozwiak Memorial Committee and the South Bend Firefighters Local# 362