

DEDICATION



DAVID A. BAKER

The Town of Newton is dedicating this report to David A. Baker in honor of his commitment and longevity of service to our town.

Dave moved to Newton, NH when he was five years old with his parents, William and Eleanor Baker and his sister, Pamela Mastroianni. From an early age he wanted to become a fireman. His grandmother tried to convince him to become a doctor. He compromised with her, "I'll be a doctor after I finish being a fireman". That would be a snapshot into his future. He would become the Town Fire Chief as well as a licensed tree surgeon, or forester.

He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. He worked for the federal government for two years within this profession. From 1966 until 1972 Dave proudly served in the Army National Guard. He then started his own business called Tamarack Tree Service in 1969 then sold it in 2004 to semi-retire.

Dave is known to many in town because of his service to the fire department. He first joined the department in 1957 serving as Fire Chief from 1988 to 2002. He continues to serve our town as Deputy Fire Chief and for the past 31 years as our Tree Warden. His dedication to the Newton Fire Department, including fire and rescue, is admirable. As the Fire Chief for

fourteen years, he was involved in running the day to day operations for the department, plus provided weekly trainings on the most up to date rural fire fighting and rescue techniques. He taught fire safety at the local schools, spent many hours advocating for the town to obtain the equipment and supplies that were needed to serve our community and worked closely with neighboring towns to foster close relationships that are essential for mutual aid. He directed each fire to achieve the best possible outcome for families and their homes. What inspired him the most, however, was to fight fire and to be in the middle of the excitement.

For many years he spent weeks at a time in the summer months with the New Hampshire Forestry Service fighting forest fires predominantly out west. He loved hiking over rough terrain to the fires, working long hours, sleeping on the ground and eating rations with the other fire fighters. While his family missed him terribly, his three young girls would put on his Tamarack T-shirts and use them as night shirts to be “near” their dad. They would watch the news at night for any reports of the huge forest fires and look for any sign of their dad in the bright yellow jacket.

David has been married for over forty years to Wendy Jean Irvine Baker. Together they worked to create a successful, small business. They have three married daughters: Dianna, Alison and Kristen. Dianna and Alex Pagnottaro live in Kingston with their two children, Caitlyn - ten and Christopher - eight. Alison is a practicing physician in the seacoast area. She is married to Todd Bonita, an illustrator. Kristen and her husband, Jeff live with their one-year old daughter, Emma in Greenland. David’s children and grandchildren know him as a loving father and grandfather. They recall that he would drop what he was doing at a moment’s notice to work on a project with them. He helped to make science fair projects a success. He taught his family about nature and the animals living in his back yard. He teaches his daughters and sons-in-law about wiring and helps with many home improvement projects. When faced with a challenge, his daughters are known to chant to themselves, “I am Dave Baker’s daughter” in order to successfully complete a physical task.

When people think about Dave Baker they may recall the fire department, hunting or the golden retriever that is never far behind him. When his daughters take a moment to reflect, they see a kind, gentle man that taught them to respect themselves and others.

Newton’s appreciation goes out to David and his family for the many years of dedication and knowledge. THANK YOU DAVID!