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Firefighter-EMT honored

<https://youtu.be/HWqMDU22ZLk>

This video shows the many emergency services vehicles at the front of a funeral procession going southbound on U.S. Highway 19 on Wednesday afternoon (June 21). This video was taken facing east from in front of the Dixie County Library in Cross City. The sounds in the background are a demolition company working to recycle metal from a former Marathon gasoline station and convenience store.

Video by Jeff M. Hardison © June 22, 2017 at 12:47 p.m., ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

DIXIE COUNTY -- Jordon Russell Ward, 25, of Cross City died in a motorcycle accident June 16.

This young man was a beloved firefighter-EMT with Dixie County Emergency Services. Born Feb. 28, 1992 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he moved to the Dixie County area in 2006.

During his time here, Ward served as a member of the Dixie County Dive Rescue Team, and had been a member of the Cross City Volunteer Fire Department as well.

He not only served the residents and visitors of Dixie County in the past 11 years, but he was dedicated to helping people in Levy and Gilchrist counties as well as he served as a firefighter-EMT there too.

This medical professional worked in Alachua County, too, during the past decade as he was on the ground as part of the team for ShandsCair.

And this honorable young man also served the people of Florida by working at Cross City Correctional Institution, which is part of the Florida Department of corrections.

Jordan Ward served the people of this nation as well. Ward was active in the United States Marine Corps Reserve as a lance corporal and as an amphibious assault vehicle crewman at Bravo Company 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion in Jacksonville. Sgt. James Yanok is his platoon sergeant. "He was a great young Marine," Sgt. Yanok said.

Ward attended Lydia Baptist Church in Cross City.

On Wednesday, Pastor Jarrett Thomas of Lydia Baptist Church officiated during a funeral service that was held at First Baptist Church of Cross City.

After the funeral service, firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics and law enforcement officers drove vehicles to lead the procession of people who paid their final respects to Ward. There were emergency vehicles from Alachua, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist and Taylor counties, and from many of the municipal stations in those counties.

Interment was in Cross City Cemetery.

During this part of the services in honor of the fallen firefighter-EMT, he was given full military and fire service honors.

The young man is survived by his wife Ashley Ward, a son Bryson Ward, a daughter Alani Ward, his father Kendall Ward (Jodi), his mother Valarie Ward, a brother Dalton Ward, his maternal grandfather Russ Seymour, his paternal grandmother Gloria Hanson (Ronald), an uncle Russell Seymour, an aunt Jacqueline Keough, and other extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother Arliene Seymour.

Arrangements were under the care of Rick Gooding Funeral Home of Cross City.

Mandy Cannon Lemmermen, a member of the Dixie County Fire Service, noted on Facebook

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"Today we lay a brother to rest. A brother that would do anything for any of us without hesitation. A brother that loved his family more than anything in this world. A brother that loved putting on the uniform and serving this great country no matter what badge he was wearing that day. A brother that's smile was larger than life and an attitude that was infectious. A brother who on any call, fire or medical, had our backs through it all. A brother that will always be in our hearts and will ride with us to every call from here on out. A brother that will be with me every time I place my gear on the engine. RIP 4110... We will take it from here."

DCFS helps people; *Jordon Ward to be honored*

By Jeff M. Hardison © June 20, 2017 at 4:37 p.m.

DIXIE COUNTY -- The men and women of Dixie County Fire Services, which includes volunteers and career firefighters, helped people as the firefighters responded to various calls during the past week of reporting.

In the most recent set of records provided by Dixie County Emergency Services Deputy Chief Darian Brown on Monday (June 19) and today (June 20), the chief also provided information about a young firefighter who lost his life recently.

Chief Brown mentioned that Jordan Ward, 25, of Cross City was a member of the Dixie County Emergency Services, Cross City Fire Department, Gilchrist County EMS/Fire and Levy County Fire Rescue. Ward was a United States Marine Corps reservist and had worked for some time with the Florida Department of Corrections and with Shands ground transport service in Gainesville, Chief Brown said. Ward died Friday (June 16) in a motorcycle crash.

Services will be a Level II Fire service funeral. Casket watch will be performed at the viewing tonight (June 20) by various honor guard members throughout this part of the state.

They will be assisting tomorrow (June 21) with the honor guard duties for the service. Graveside services will include a Marine Honor/Color Guard detail along with traditional Fire Service honors as well, Chief Brown said.

Ward was Dixie County Emergency Services and with the Cross City Fire Department since 2010-11. He moved forward with EMT and Firefighting certifications and was enrolled in and working on his Paramedic training, Chief Brown said.