

The PubScout!

by Kurt Epps *-Sunday, January 21, 2007! Mark it Down!*

If you're in NJ on this date, wend your way to the Harvest Moon Brewpub in New Brunswick to help us celebrate the life of a true American Hero--Jimmy D'Heron.

Jimmy D was a veteran New Brunswick firefighter who paid the ultimate sacrifice to his fellow man by rushing into a burning building to save fifteen people. They made it out--just before a propane tank ignited taking the life of the hero that saved them.

The owners of the Harvest Moon (Mike Elmes, Frank Kropf and Neil Glass) decided that a commemoration of such valor and sacrifice from a local guy was in order, and **Jimmy D's Firehouse Red** was born. Even better, the owners are dedicating a hefty percentage of all profits on this classic red ale to one of Jimmy D's favorite charities--The Connecticut Burns Care Foundation Burn Camp. It's one of three camps of its kind in the nation, and, staffed completely by volunteer firefighters, it exists to aid severely burned children between the ages of 8-18.

People, including many area fire companies, come from far and wide to celebrate Jimmy's life and commemorate his sacrifice. There are usually so many people baying at the Moon on Jimmy's Day that you can't fall down even if you wanted to. You have to go outside just to change your mind.

It was so crowded, that renowned sports photographer JJ Quenalt had to leap up on the bar to take pictures of the twenty-piece Bagpiper Band--complete with booming bass drum--that wended its way from first floor to second for a series of songs that ranged from the somber Amazing Grace to the wildly patriotic Armed Services medley.



Jimmy D's daughter, Erin Varga, a pert, vivacious mother of two who teaches computers at nearby Rutgers Preparatory School is pictured above right with Harvest Moon brewer Matt McCord (seated on left) at last year's event.

"I know he's looking down smiling," she said, all the while holding a pint of the brew named for her hero father. An Amstel Light drinker, she thought Jimmy D's Firehouse Red was "delicious," and when asked if she would ever think about making it her beer of choice, she said with flashing brown eyes, "When I come here, I sure will!"