

# Longtime Arcadia fire captain dies

## Services set for Troncale, 52, who served 30 years

By **Brian Day** Staff Writer

ARCADIA — Andy Troncale, a 30-year veteran of the Arcadia Fire Department, died Monday after a two-year battle with cancer, officials said.

Troncale died, surrounded by friends and family, at City of Hope in Duarte, Fire Department officials said in a written statement.

He first joined the department in 1979 and retired as a captain in 2009 after being diagnosed with advanced colon cancer, which had spread to his brain, officials said.

“Following a valiant battle, Andy succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer on Jan. 23, 2012, at the age of 52,” Arcadia Firefighters Association Local 3440 President Tom Devlin said. “Andy



TRONCALE

served the citizens of Arcadia with honor and distinction for nearly 30 years.”

Cancer is among diseases considered “presumptive” in firefighting, so when firefighters are diagnosed, the illness is presumed to be related to the smoke and other hazardous materials firefighters are exposed to on a regular basis, fire spokeswoman Beth Stogner said.

“Andy loved the fire service,” Devlin said. “As a senior captain, he embodied the finest qualities of a true firefighter. Ever an example, Andy received several awards during his career, including the City of Arcadia Exceptional Service Award and Arcadia Fire Department Firefighter of the Year.”

Troncale began his firefighting career as an Explorer Scout with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, then transferred to the California Department of Forestry before starting his lengthy career in Arcadia, officials said.

After more than two years fighting the cancer, Troncale’s condition took a turn for the worse this month, Devlin said.

“During the last week of his life, Arcadia Firefighters Association Members, Fire Department staff and retired personnel kept a 24-hour vigil at Andy’s bedside, numbering as many as a dozen or more at

times, along with family members,” Devlin said.

Troncale is survived by his wife of 25 years, Debbie, and their three sons Clark, 22, Chad, 20, and Clint, 16.

A funeral has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 370 Campus Drive in Arcadia, officials said. Interment will follow at Rose Hills Memorial Park, 3888 Workman Mill Road in Whittier.

Individuals or fire agencies planning to attend or send apparatus to the service are asked to call Stogner at 626-574-5112 or email [bstogner@ci.arcadia.ca.us](mailto:bstogner@ci.arcadia.ca.us).

The family has requested that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, through the Los Angeles Firemen’s Credit Union. To donate, visit [www.firefamilyfoundation.org](http://www.firefamilyfoundation.org), click “How to Donate” and denote the Andy Troncale Benevolent Fund.

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