Donors

Blake Hopkins and family
Introduction

I am interested in this subject because I like birds. Birds are one of my favorite types of animals. I am also doing this to gain knowledge so I can possibly have a future working with birds. Birds are a great part of our environment and I want to help preserve them. I have been around birds all of my life and hope to stay around them for the rest of my life. I love birds and that is why I am doing this project. Hopefully, I will someday get a career working with birds so that I can be around them all day long. And who knows maybe this will help me later in life so that I can be more knowledgeable of birds.

Crash Victim Remembered As a Dedicated Firefighter

Dylan Hopkins, a Salt Lake City firefighter who was killed in a plane crash in the Uinta Mountains on Friday, is being remembered as an unassuming man who took his life’s work of rescuing people and saving lives seriously.

Flag at all Salt Lake City fire stations are being flown at half-staff in honor of Hopkins, 25, who served at Fire Station No. 5.

He was traveling to Colorado Springs, Colo., with fellow firefighters Craig Weaver and Byron Meyer for a weekend trip. Weaver was piloting the single-engine Cessna 172 and attempting to make an emergency landing. Meyer and Weaver were listed in critical condition Saturday evening, said Scott Freitag, spokesman for the Salt Lake City Fire Department. The crash is under investigation.

Hopkins attended Judge Memorial Catholic High School and graduated from Olympus High.

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Hopkins was one of the first responders at the Trolley Square shootings in 2007 and the Wasatch Junior High School fire in 2005, Yeager said.

“Dylan Hopkins was a committed, dedicated public servant,” said Mayor Ralph Becker, who called for the tribute Saturday. “On behalf of Salt Lake City, I extend deep sympathy to the Hopkins family and gratitude for Dylan’s life of service.”

Flags will be flown at half-staff in Salt Lake City until after Hopkins’ internment.

I also send condolences to Dylan’s firefighting family at station No. 5,” Becker said, “and express my wishes for the healthy recovery of firefighters Meyer and Weaver.”

Hopkins enjoyed skiing, boating, climbing, whitewater rafting and kayaking. He practically lived on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon each summer of his life, starting when he was 3 months old, his uncle said.

“Dylan and my daughter, they consider themselves siblings,” Yeager said. “They grew up going down the Grand Canyon with Dylan’s father and myself. We were grand canyon boatmen for 30 years.”

The children worked as staffers on their fathers’ trips, which lasted 8 to 10 days and had 28 passengers and 4 crew members. They helped run the kitchen, assisted on hikes and helped with other chores, beginning when Hopkins was 5. As an adult, he continued to spend time at the Grand Canyon during his vacations.

Despite an interesting life and work that required loads of courage, Yeager said his nephew wasn’t boastful.

“he wasn’t afraid of anything,” Yeager said.

Prairie Falcon photo taken by Dylan Hopkins, Dec. 2007

The scene is of Dylan and his father, Blake, building Dylan’s first mew in 1997. It was custom all the way with safe flat walls inside. Dylan definitely wanted to take care of his bird. Dylan became an apprentice falconer on his 14th birthday. His father became Dylan’s apprentice after Dylan received his general falconry license.

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Crash Victim Remembered As a Dedicated Firefighter

By Laura Hancock and Jared Page
—The Deseret News

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Hopkins was part of the city’s heavy rescue team at station No. 5, 1023 E. 900 South. The elite group of firefighters – including Meyer and Weaver – specializes in low frequency but high risk operations, such as rope rescues, and heavy machinery entanglement and extrication.

Hopkins worked for Salt Lake City for five years. Before that he worked as a firefighter in West Valley City, hired at age 18, said his uncle, Tom Yeager.

“He was writing essays when he was 6 years old for school classes that he wanted to be a firefighter,” Yeager said. “He would do ride alongs when he was young with any place he could.”

As a teen, Hopkins’ friend went through a plate-glass window at school. After 911 was called, Hopkins used first aid. “They say he saved his friend’s life,” Yeager said.

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