

Chair Jama and Committee,

I am Kevin Larson, President of Local 1062, Gresham Professional Firefighters, and I am speaking on behalf of the Bill.

I knew Brian throughout his entire career. He was the kind of man whose stature we should all aspire to.

Brian was a proud firefighter for the Gresham community for over 15 years. During that time, he dedicated himself as a public servant, going above and beyond for the fire department. He was also a member of the Gresham Fire Department's water team and responded to countless calls, protecting and attempting to save citizens on their worst days in the frigid waters.

He was always a selfless friend and coworker who constantly reminded you to keep your family at the top of your priority list. I remember him pulling up to the station in his car because his son had hurt his knee. He told his son, "The firefighters can fix it, that's what we do." I sent him off with an ice pack and told him to elevate it. From that day forward, Brian called me "Mr. Miyagi" from *Karate Kid*.

At the firehouse, Brian was known for his great customer service and his ability to make anyone smile. If you needed a joke, he always had one ready. Brian also knew the best contractors and never hesitated to lend a hand in getting work done around the house.

Unfortunately, Brian became ill and was later diagnosed with occupational cancer. It was a tough time for our department, as here was a young man who had done so much for all of us. Even when he was at his sickest, he still tried to make us laugh and somehow managed to bring a smile to our faces. I remember thinking the whole time, "If anyone can get through this, Brian can."

I was lucky to represent Brian as a union leader, to know him as a great firefighter, and to watch him be the best family man. He exemplified what it means to be a public servant in our profession, and his loss is deeply felt by both the citizens and the firefighters.

Thank you for recognizing what a great man he was.

Thank you,
Kevin Larson