In The Line Of Duty...

In the early morning hours of Sunday, July 11, 1926, tragedy struck the Westbury Fire Department.

At approximately 2:25 am, the sirens sounded in Westbury for fire at the Lords estate in the Wheatley Hills area of Old Westbury. Firefighters Thomas Malaney and Chief Tom Walsh ran to the quarters of Hose Company No 1, as they had done for years.

As the Company 1's LaFrance engine rumbled out of the firehouse, Tom Malaney jumped aboard the rear step. Joe Krupp was operating the apparatus, with Bill Hoffman riding in the passenger's side. Chief Walsh was riding alongside the driver on the running board.

The pumper was responding east on Maple Avenue, when the accelerator on the engine became stuck. The driver Joe Krupp, worked frantically in an attempt to release the accelerator. The traffic device at the intersection of School Street, known as the "dummy cop," was directly in the path of the fire truck. The roads were wet and slippery from rain. "Steady fellows!" shouted the driver, I can clear the front wheels, hold tight!

The pumper skidded into the "silent cop," the left rear wheel of the engine striking the base of the traffic signal. The engine leaped into the air, landing at a right angle some twenty-feet away. At the moment of the collision, Firefighter Malaney, had one arm through his turnout coat, and, was attempting to put his other arm into the coat. The force of the collision threw firefighter Malaney up and over the side of the pumper, where he struck his head.

Chief Walsh was also thrown from the pumper and when Joe Krupp and Bill Hoffman ran to his aid, he shouted "Tom Malaney was on the rear step!" Firefighter William Knoller found Tom and rushed him to the Nassau County Hospital in the Lincoln Hose Cart, where firefighter Malaney was pronounced dead on arrival.

On Wednesday July 14, 1926, a Mass was held for Firefighter Malaney at St. Bridgid's Church. The church was filled to capacity, with the entire department in attendance, as well as members from the surrounding towns. Following the services, Firefighter Malaney's body was laid to rest in the cemetery on the Church's grounds.

A plaque in honor of Firefighter Malaney's supreme sacrifice was dedicated on December 13, 1926, with funds donated by Mr. Lord. The plaque depicted below, as it appears in fire headquarters today.
FIREMAN KILLED, CHIEF INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT LAST SUNDAY

"Tom" Maloney and "Tom" Walsh Thrown off "Pumper" at Maple Avenue and School Street On Way to Fire in Old Westbury.

THE DEAD

Maloney, Thomas
36 years, single, plumber, Maple Avenue, Skull fractured; death instantaneous.

INJURED

Walsh, Tom, Fire Chief
Contusions of head, arms and chest.

Attended by Dr. C. Woods
McKenna, Herbert
Eight stitches taken in scalp.

Westbury Woman Dies After Collision

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TOM MALONEY

Injured in the head of night
By a motor-riding boy

As the blackened figures
Sat grimly on the street

The nurse, with cross in hand
Offered the dying man

His head was swathed
In white and blue

The old man, with a look of despair
On his face

"Tom" Maloney, 63 years old, of Maple Avenue, was thrown from the "pumper" of the Westbury Volunteer Fire Department, at the scene of an accident in Old Westbury Saturday night.

The "pumper" was occupied by "Tom" Maloney and "Tom" Walsh, both of the fire department, who were on their way to the fire at Old Westbury. "Tom" Maloney was thrown against the apparatus and his skull fractured, and he died in a few minutes. "Tom" Walsh, who sustained contusions, was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Simple Services Held for Westbury's Dead Fire-Hero

Inquest Into Death of Fireman Thomas Maloney

The funeral of Thomas Maloney, a member of the Volunteer Fire Department of Old Westbury, was held yesterday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maloney on Maple Avenue. The service was conducted by Rev. C. Woods, pastor of the Old Westbury Methodist Church.

The body was brought to the church in a hearse and laid to rest in the churchyard. The service was simple and brief, consisting of a few words of prayer and a brief address by Rev. C. Woods. The body was then taken to the family burial plot in the Westbury Cemetery.

The family and friends of Thomas Maloney were present at the service, as were many friends of the volunteer fire department. The service was a fitting tribute to the memory of a man who had given so much to the community and to the fire department.