



## Pappa Joe

Pappa Joe Ezzo would have been embarrassed that he is the subject of an editorial. An editorial about The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department would be great by Pappa Joe. An editorial in favor of Riverdale kids would have been a joy to him. Anything good said about Butler High School would have given him joy, but an editorial about Joe Ezzo — he would have rather had us write about somebody else.

He was that kind of person.

Joe Ezzo died this past Wednesday morning in the line of duty. In the final moments of his life, he was doing what he loved best. He was driving his beloved firetruck to a fire.

In a way, his wishes were answered in the way he died — in the line of duty — on the way to a fire. He had said many times he wanted "to go out of this world in a blaze of glory."

guidance to help them when they were in a tough spot.

He had the legends and stories of days gone by and of hose layed and fires quenched. At first he would laugh about Riverdale answering the Pequannoc Rubber Company fire in full dress uniform, (They were at a fireman's function), and then his eyes would get serious as he told of that fierce conflagration and how the flames whipped into the sky and how the expanding gasses made a windstorm that ripped through the February night.

Pappa Joe Ezzo cared about Riverdale and Riverdale cared about him.

Firefighters from far and near have paid their respects to Pappa Joe. His funeral cortege was to have taken the same route yesterday as the department's 75th Anniversary Parade the week before.