

Victims Friend Remembers Him as Hero

[by NEWS 10's Chris Jones](#)

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David Steele was one of nine men who lost his life in Tuesday's helicopter crash. His best friend says he didn't die in vain.

"I'm so proud of him, because, you know, the helicopter crash and everything, fighting fires, that is the way that David would have wanted to go. That's the way he would have wanted to go. I mean, the kid died a hero. And he doesn't deserve anything less than that," says Tysin Senestraro, David's best friend.

Now, Senestraro is remembering his friend, the hero. He says David was the type of person who worried about others more than himself.

"If you were in pain, if you were sad he would try so hard. If you didn't have a smile on your face he would say some goofy joke, or say something and you would be smiling. You couldn't not smile around him," he says.

As long as Senestraro can remember David wanted to fight fires.

"It was so selfless, because he knew that fire fighters in this country were heroes. They saved people's lives, you know, they ran into burning buildings. They were going in when everyone else was coming out. And to him, that was so appealing."

David also loved football. He played for Ashland High School.

But more than that what he did, Senestraro says it's who David was. And he says David was a friend.

"His whole outlook on life was, hey, this is who I am. I'm David Steele. If you don't like, that's ok, because I'll still like you."

Senestraro says it's been a hard week for those close to David. But he's grateful for the time they had.

"I have nothing to be sad about because I had the most of him and i want to give that away to as many people as I can. But, you know, when I'm alone it's devastating because I can feel it."

David Steele was 19-years-old.

Memorial services are planned for David and several of the other fire fighters. For more information, visit our [memorial page](#).