

AFD RETIREE NEWS

December 1, 2016

4-2016

President, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W. Albuquerque,	87120	934-2969
Vice President, Bill Raupfer	19 Valley Trail, Edgewood, N.M.	87015	281-8478
Secretary Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, NM,	87004	269-0370
Treasurer Sam Trujillo	5318 La Colonia N.W. Albuquerque	87120	899-1500
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. NE, Albuquerque NM,	87111	294-7165

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		Santos Abeyta	877-2026



PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



AFD FIRE STATION ONE 1960

Fire Department Headquarters Station at Eighth and Silver. Headquartered here are two Engine Companies, one Ladder Company, one Rescue Company and a District Chief. The Department's General Offices, the Fire Alarm Office, and Fire Prevention Bureau are located here. This station serves the principal business district.



**EDITOR
HERMAN R. BISHOP**

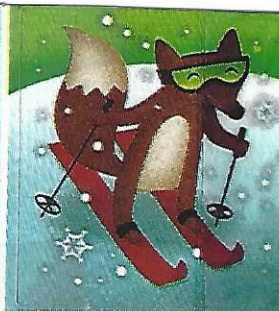
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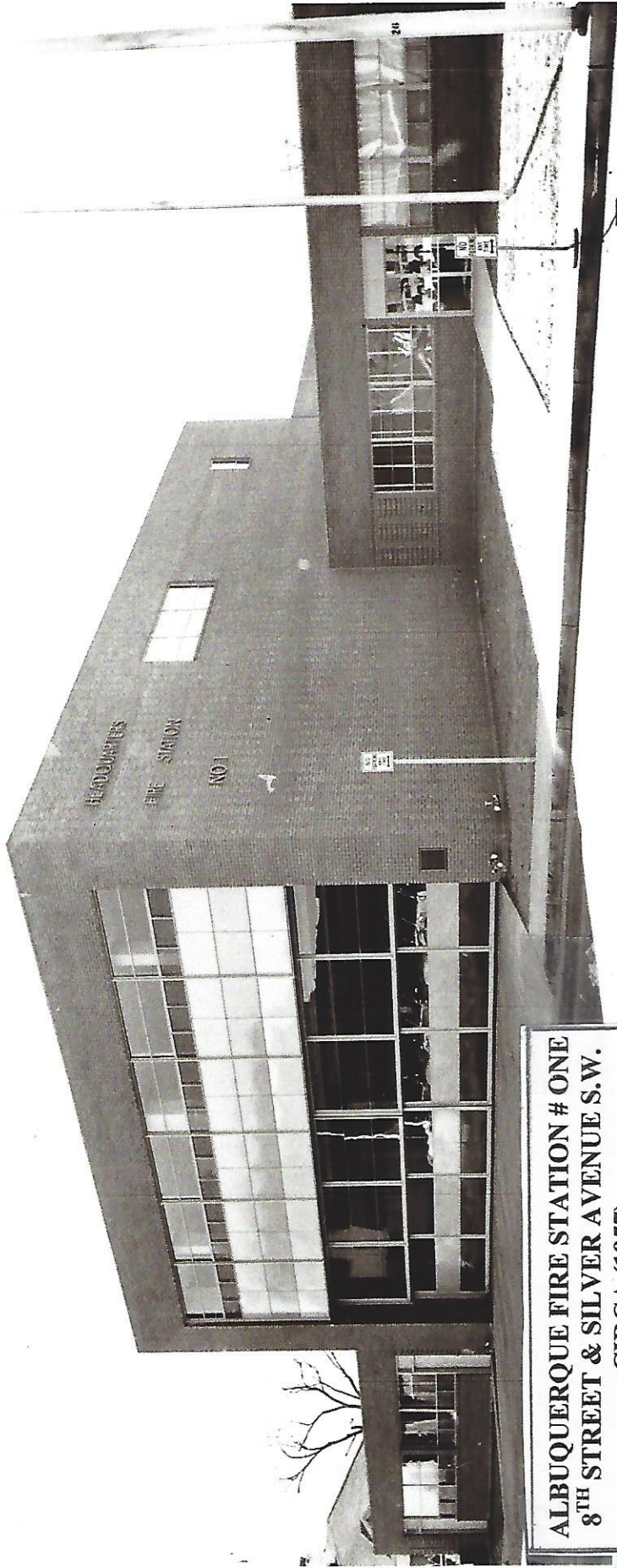
RETIREED F.F. CHRISTMAS DINNER

The AFDRA 2016 Christmas Dinner Will be held, Thursday Dec. 15th 2016
Cost: \$10.00 Per Person
Place: Moose Lodge 2121 Edith NE.
Social Hour: 6:00 PM To 7:00 PM
Dinner Served: 7:00 PM
Ticket Deadline: December 5, 2016
Tickets: Call Eddie Abeita @ 869-3082
Dinner Choices: Chicken Breast or Chicken Fried Steak
Tickets on Sale @Nov. 9th Meeting

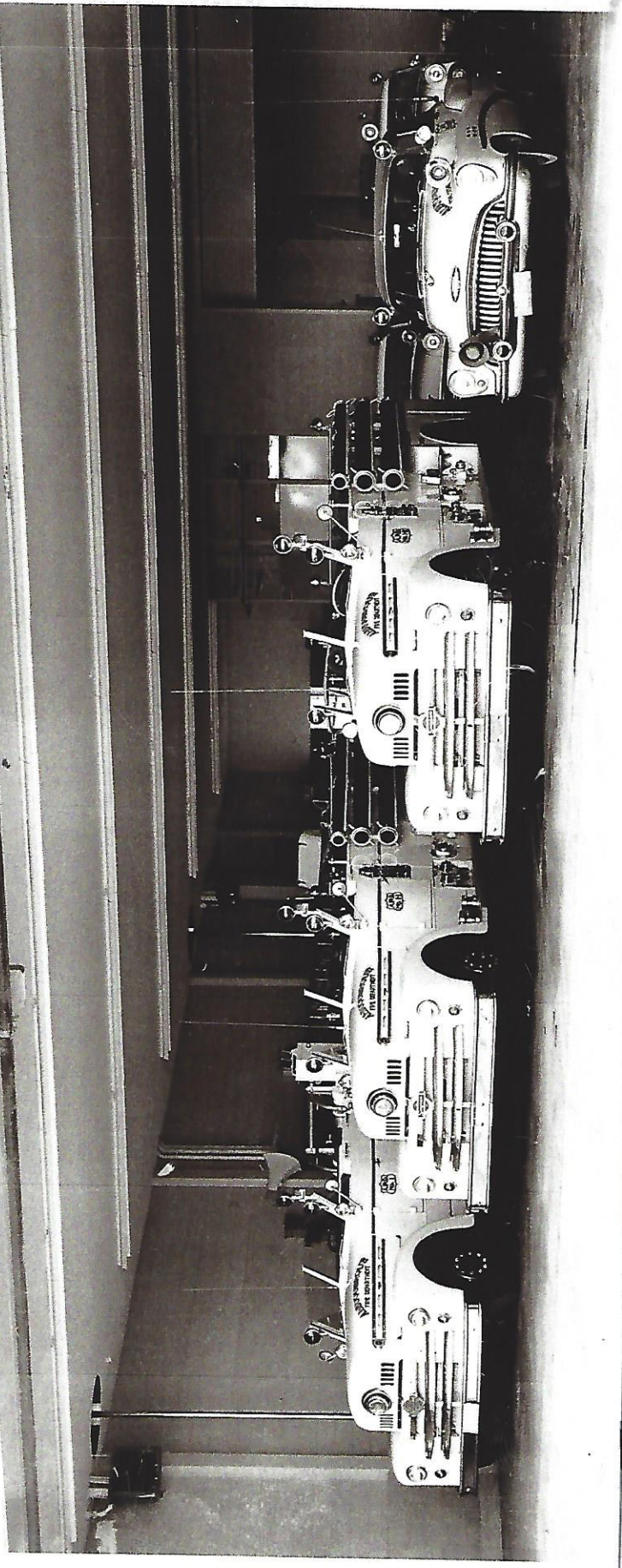
Christmas
BLESSINGS



MERRY CHRISTMAS !



ALBUQUERQUE FIRE STATION # ONE
8TH STREET & SILVER AVENUE S.W.
CIRCA (1957)



FRANK MAESTAS
24210 U.S. HIGHWAY 285 S.
BUENA VISTA, COLORADO 81211
1(719) 395-8880

August 27, 2016

Chaplain Mark Chavez
190 Old Highway 66
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123

Deacon Santos Abeyta
2405 Iron Gate Trail SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87121

Dear Mark and Frank,

Four years ago I re-established contact with my AFD Retired Firefighter friends. I attend several monthly meetings each year and along with my wife Dorothy we attend the annual picnics and Christmas parties. Because of my involvement with the retirees they appointed me an "Honorary Member" of the Association.

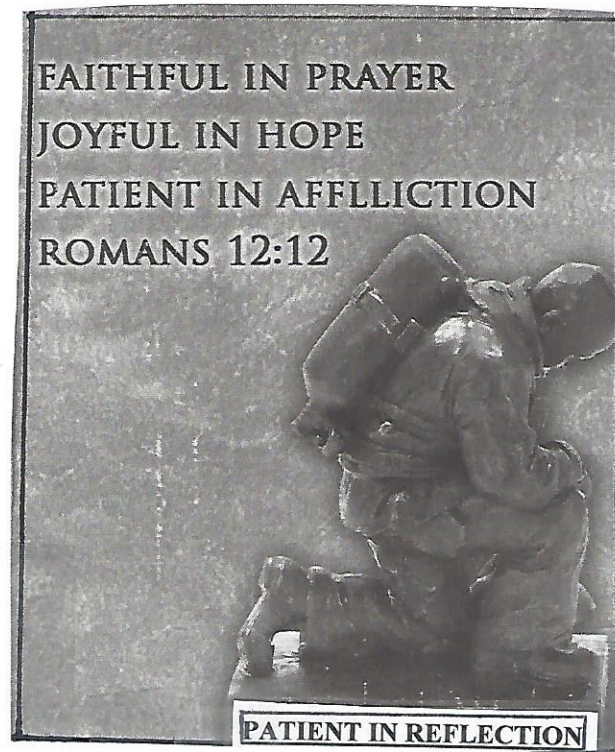
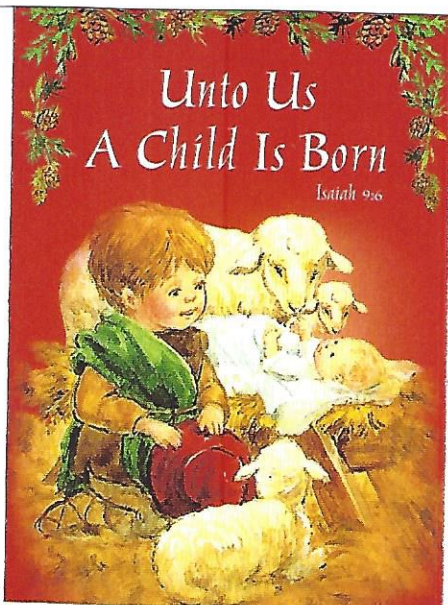
During my association with these great firefighters I have had an opportunity to observe the leaders of the association and I'm impressed with the individual contributions that each member provides which make the "AFD Retiree's Association great.

Along with the other members I have observed and took notice of the fine work you are doing as an active member of the Chaplain's program. We have observed your heartfelt prayers, your out reach to those members who have suffered personal loss and lost loved ones, who need spiritual guidance and support in their time of distress and need.

Your work has touched me and my retiree friends personally and you are deserving of recognition of a small token of our appreciation and our reminder of the power of prayer in our lives by your work. Therefore, I am presenting this "Firefighter, Called To Pray," figure, which is well deserved.

Fraternally Yours,

Frank Maestas,
"Honorary Member"
AFD Retiree's Association



REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

(By Herman R. Bishop)

September 26, 2016

It was on September 26, 1960, 56 years ago that I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department. The department had 265 people, 12 fire stations, 12 fire engines, 2 rescue squads, (No Paramedics) and 2 ladder companies. The salary of the fire chief Art Westerfeld was \$8,000 per year. A beginning firefighter's salary was \$325 per month plus a \$5 per month meal allowance and a \$7 per month uniform allowance.

The work schedule was 60 hours per week. We worked two weeks day shift, (8:00 AM to 6:00 PM), 10 hours a day and two weeks night shift (6:00 PM to 8:00 AM), 14 hours. At the end of the 2 weeks work cycle on day shift we had 24 hours off and came back to work at 6:00 PM the next day. After two days off we started the cycle again on day shift.

We rotated officers once a week. We worked with one officer one week then switched and worked with the other officer for a week. We had floating crews who filled in for the regular crews on their days off. The floating crews usually worked alternately at 3 fire stations. When it was necessary to work an extra shift we were only paid straight time (regular pay). We were not compensated at 1.5 times pay for working an extra shift. That benefit came after the Union was formed in 1962.

Basic training for new firefighters was 8 weeks at the old training tower adjacent to the Zoo, at 1510 Kit Carson SW. It was called the fire training center, not the Fire Academy. New firemen were called fire trainees, not fire cadets. Assistant Chief Ray Kuhn was the training chief and Esequiel Padilla was the assistant training instructor. Training highlights consisted of self contained breathing apparatus and the smoke room, laying miles and miles of 2 ½ inch hose. There was no 4 inch hose used then. We jumped into the life net from the 3rd floor of the drill tower, climbed the 100 foot aerial ladder, extended in mid-air, trained with ground ladders, completed first aid training, performed salvage and overhaul, and learned the use of ropes and knots.

There were 13 trainees in our rookie class and all of us completed the training program. Our graduation was held at the old Civic Auditorium on Elm Street NE. During the first year one of the firefighters from our class was caught pulling numerous false fire alarm boxes from Rio Grand and Central to University and Central within a few hours. His excuse was that he was angry with his wife after family quarrels and he was venting his frustrations. Needless to say, on Monday morning the fire chief Westerfeld fired him.

Five of our class members made a career with the fire department, Ken Alvis, Gene Baca, Marcus Byrne, Leonard Ortega and Herman Bishop. Two of our class members later became fire chiefs. Leonard Ortega, Albuquerque and Herman Bishop, Hickory, North Carolina.

It is fun to reflect back and remember how things were in the good old days. It was difficult to find people willing to work as firefighters then. During the late 1950's and early 1960's City Officials traveled to Cities throughout the Southwest on recruiting drives for both firefighters and police officers. People were recruited from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The old joke of the day was, "If one could walk and chew gum without falling down, they could be hired as a firefighter."

Physical requirements for firefighters was that a person must weigh 140 pounds, and be 5 feet, 8 inches tall in their stocking feet. Hiring women firefighters was not an accepted practice. In the early 1960's black firefighters were hired and in the late 1970's women firefighters were hired along with Native Americans.

Like most firefighters of our day we were strong, tough, physically fit, well trained and experienced, and we felt we were invincible at the scene of an emergency. During our careers we were having the times of our lives. Nothing could stop us, we were running fire and rescue calls throughout the days and nights, enduring all kinds of weather, hot or cold, snow, sleet, rain, and high winds. We were running in and out of buildings, facing dangerous situations, and laying our lives on the line.

Our good friend and fellow retiree Bill Raupfer wrote an article for the September 2016 quarterly newsletter and he said, "You have to be crazy to run into a burning building under treacherous and dangerous circumstances when every one else has fled for their lives." However, the life of a firefighter was certainly exciting and most of all rewarding.

Looking back now it seems frightening to think of how we rode the tailgate of the fire truck, just holding on to the metal bar above the hose bed, we didn't have safety belts or any safety protection what so ever.

Even more dangerous was riding ladder # 1 through the city streets with several firemen hanging on to the side of the trailer standing on the running board.

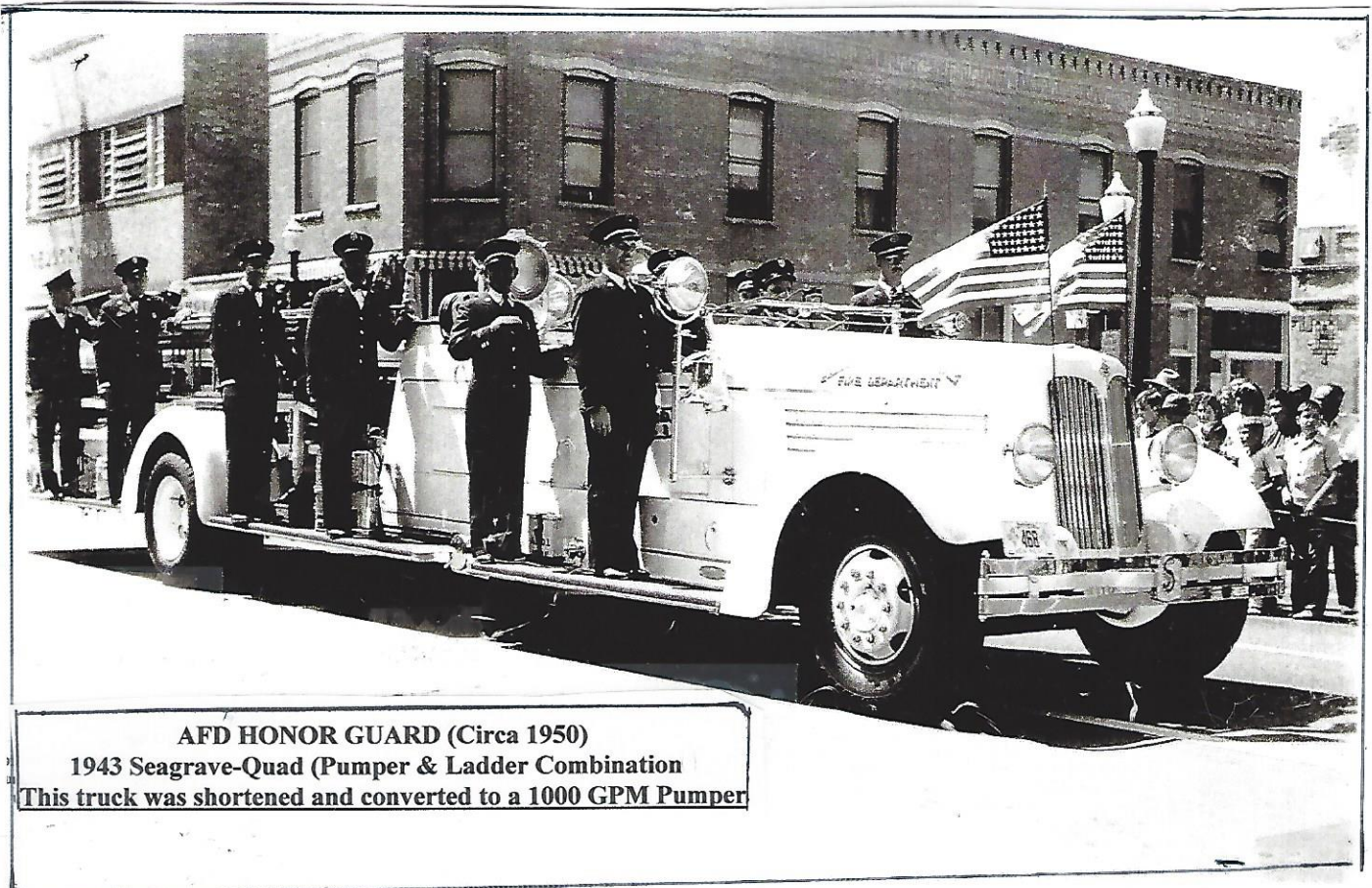
During our careers we performed rescues of the unfortunate souls of our City who were in distress, saving burning buildings, and minimizing property loss and destruction. We even rescued cats from trees, and helped little puppy dogs who had their heads stuck in the rims of old car wheels. We gave fire station tours to school children and were known to assist elderly people cross the street. Many times we even took up collections for stranded travelers who had car break downs as they passed through our fair City. Many people who were down on their luck came by our fire station seeking assistance. We always shared a hot cup of coffee and shared our meals with them at lunch time.

Some of our best memories are the wonderful meals our fire house cooks prepared for us. Most memorable were the beans, red chile, tortillas, and sopapillas prepared at Station # 1. The fire chief and his staff ate meals with the firefighters on duty. Many times we had guests join us who lived in the neighborhood, the fire chief and assistant chiefs from Kirtland Air Force Base, Mayor, City Councilors, City department heads, police officers, and members of the State Fire Marshal's office and visiting fire chiefs from other New Mexico Cities.

Firefighters have a special bond and camaraderie. This has carried on into our retirement years, meetings, annual picnics, and Christmas parties. There is a special purpose to the bonding and brotherhood/sisterhood of our firefighters and the honors and tribute we pay at the funerals of our fallen firefighters. To hear and to participate in the bell ceremony is a meaningful experience. "Striking The Four/Fives," is a heart warming, moving, and touching to all of us and our families.

Today, like most of you, although retired, we still think of ourselves as firefighters and we are proud of our many years of service to our department and to the community.

As the famous General Douglas McArthur stated in his retirement farewell address to the, United States Congress on April 1, 1951, he said, "Old Soldiers Never Die, They Just Fade Away." If we may, paraphrase that statement. "Old Firefighters Never Die. They Just Fade Away!"



AFD HONOR GUARD (Circa 1950)

1943 Seagrave-Quad (Pumper & Ladder Combination)

This truck was shortened and converted to a 1000 GPM Pumper

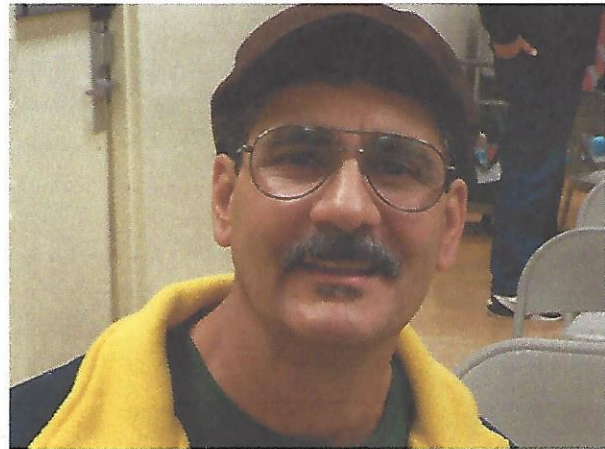
In Our Profession You Have to Have a Certain Amount of Compassion for Other Human Beings

The Willie Telles Story

Story by Eddie Abeita

Willie's career started with the Albuquerque Fire Department July 1983 and he retired December 2002. The Fire Academy staff consisted of Assistant Chief Ted Allred, Captain George Nichols, Lieutenant Art Loera, and Driver Melvin Vigil.

Willie remembered his cadet class as being a big class and said certain cadets always come to mind for whatever reason like; Eugene McPeak and Cosmos Madrid. Cosmos was given the Top Cadet Award and he deserved it said Willie. Other cadets who pop up now and then are Leroy Yawea and Lawrence Sarracino they drove to and from Laguna Pueblo daily. I worked at the Jackpile mine at Laguna and drove back and forth from Albuquerque so I would always ask them "anything new about your journey today to and from the big city"? They would always have a humorous answer (you can ask me what they said).



I've Been Called Wilber

Willie said our class created a bench mark that would reflect future cadet classes. One day Lieutenant Art Loera addressed our class and said you cadets need something like a drawing to identify your hard work and accomplishments also you can present to the fire academy staff. Tim Tsoodle was known for his artistic talent so he was the key to our success different ideas were given to Tim and Tim created his vision into a rendering. The rendering had the drill tower (which we climbed at least 100 times a week) with a fire hydrant and helmet and our U.S. and NM state flag. Many cadet classes have graduated and their gifts to the academy have got bigger and fancier. Retirees need to visit the fire academy to see all the things created from previous cadet classes and the vintage fire trucks.

I asked Willie where his first assignment was he said it was at Engine Seven. The crew consisted of Lieutenant Mariano Luna, Driver Ron Turrietta, and firefighters Edward Wilson and Chuck Valdez. My first fire calls were small but I remember the first working fire we responded to it was a trailer house on 98 streets SW, Engine 14 district Willie said, this fire occurred at 4:00 AM. What was memorable was returning back to quarters heading east on Central Ave. Ed Wilson and I were riding on the tailboard of the Mack pumper and in the distant the sun was coming up over the Sandia Mountains, I said to Ed, "This Job is Alright", I will stay and retiree from AFD and my first day of retirement I will climb up onto my roof watch the sun come up and have a drink (and I did)! Another fire we had was an abandon building the rumors were it was a lively bar many moons ago, that's when Falstaff and Hamms were popular beers.

Every fire station that I worked at had good cooks Willie said, oh my, when our crew was in training at the fire academy all crews in training were invited to get on the chow list at station one. Eddie Garcia was an excellent cook however he did not eat just cooked for the firefighters. Willie said I asked Eddie don't you mind cooking for all these firefighters? He said no don't mind it's easy I just add another can of water to the soup.

The Willie Telles Story

by Eddie Abeita

I was drafted into the Paramedic program which I enjoyed; I floated all over the city which was good because you would get all the latest rumors. I had some bad rescue calls and I just don't talk about them, I just want to let them go Willie said. However there were also calls that had their own category where you can't talk about them in public or in mixed company (it would make you blush), but if you want you can ask me. I asked Willie have you used your EMT or firefighting skills since you retired. He said, while in Pagosa Springs CO I saw a man pumping gas into his vehicle when all of a sudden his clothes were on fire and he was jumping around and started to run. I grabbed a dirty mat from the ground, knocked him down and rolled him into it to smother the fire; luckily he had only minor burns. He looked like a running torch, hey someone called me a torch one time!

Willie said, I remember responding to a fire call when an Engine Company Officer said; alarm... dispatch Animal Control right away because there's Double-Mint Pinchers trying to bite us! Another fire I was involved in was, when assigned to Rescue 16 and just moved into a new house that had a big lawn but I had no lawn mower. Victor Sanchez said I have a lawn mower you can have but it does not run maybe we can fix it, I said heck yeah firefighters can fix anything. Victor brought the lawn mower into the apparatus room and we took it apart we got down to the piston and it was full of carbon, turning it on its side you could see and smell gas leaking. I told Victor maybe if you turn the blade the piston will move and unlock the engine. Well it did, along with the magneto putting out a spark and now the mower caught fire. We are firefighters but at least we jumped back I smelled my arm hair burning as we looked at each other like I guess we should do something about the fire. When out of nowhere the Captain Leo Vivian had the garden hose putting out the fire.....Leo is a nice person but that instance boy he let us have it, both barrels, we took it outside and started it up. I used that mower for many years after the flash start.

I transferred into the Alarm Room (dispatch) where we all were certified under the Priority Dispatch System (pre arrival instructions). At one time or another every dispatcher would get a call where they provided; CPR instructions, directions to control bleeding or treat for shock and every other injury or illness you can imagine. Giving pre-arrival instructions by phone was long and stressful until our units arrived. One thing I know is, in our profession you have to have a certain amount of compassion for other human beings. .

After retirement my wife Louisa and I moved to Las Vegas NV for approximately 2 ½ years, we moved back because we still have our roots here in Albuquerque and of course the chile. While we were in Las Vegas I went to truck driving school and got my Commercial Driving License (CDL). Today I work as a bus driver with Hope Christian School which I enjoy. The students are respectful and the staff is real pleasant.

The most favorite thing my wife Louisa and I like to do is spend time with our grandchildren; Dominic 19 years old, Zeke 11 years old who live here in Albuquerque and in California; Aaron 27 years old, Matt 25 years old and Sierra 20 years old.....they are getting old but still *so Lovable*.

Eugene Baldonado
(May 9,2001)

My name is Eugene Baldonado and I would like to submit this story about my Fire Department career. I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on March 9, 1964. On my hire date, the man number assigned to me was 5414.

At the start of our training we had about 38 cadets in our class. We lost two cadets the first week for speaking Spanish. I can't remember for sure but I think we lost one for low test scores. We had eight weeks of training and about 35 people graduated. Our training officers were Esiquel Padilla, Joe Gonzales, firefighting training, Alfonso Lujan First Aid training, and Ray Kuhn was head of the Academy.

I can't remember all the names of the Cadets that were in my class but these are some of the cadets that made the Fire Department their careers. Ignacio Perez, Henry Geoffroin, Jose Hernandez, Ray Padilla, Orlando Marquez, Sebastian Mirabal, Able Coronado, Robert Cisneros, Gerald Flemins, Erasmo Garza, Joseph Scorscone, Toby Pino, Kenneth Kelley, Carmel Padilla Jr. and Jose Suarez.

All of my active career was spent in the Firefighting Division. I served under the following Fire Chiefs: Simon Seligman, Ray Kuhn, Arthur B. Martinez, Leonard Ortega, and Gerald Grimm.

I was at a lot of 2nd and 3rd alarm fires being that I was a Chief's Driver for 10 years, driving for Chief Arthur Martinez, Chief Moe Dauber, Chief Owen Metcalf, and Chief Donald DeBlassie.

When I stop to think about it, a lot of fires come to mind like the fires that were set at the time of the riots. Police cars on fire, looting, American Furniture building burning and people throwing rocks. Chief One and Chief Two cars were pelted with rocks, windows broken, and dents all over the cars. I was Chief one Driver and Lloyd Mares was Chief two Driver. That time comes to mind right away, but my most memorable fire was at the Coney Island Cafe fire at 500 Central S.W. It is not that it was such a large fire but the fact of the predicament that I got myself into at the fire. Chief Martinez was the District chief at that fire. The alarm came in and we had Engine-A, Engine-B, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, and Chief one responding. When we got there we found out that the fire was under the building. Chief Martinez crawled under the building a few feet and could see the fire. He called back to the other officers to send him someone small. Lieutenant Sid Garcia sent me in.

The floor joists were 2" X 12" with 16" centers and they were about 6" above the ground. They gave me a 1 1/2" line and I crawled in. I had to crawl in with my arms extended above my head because I didn't fit with my arms at my side. I crawled to a low place where I could see the fire and was able to operate the 1 1/2" nozzle. I proceeded to put out the fire. Chief Martinez was at the entrance to the trap door so he yells at me, "when it's all out come on back here." As I was by myself under there I had not noticed that there was a low spot which turned out to be because of a sewer line joint or elbow. All of the water that I had put on the fire had begun to flow into the low spot where I was. As I was on my stomach and my arms above my head, there was no room to bring my arms down while holding the 1 1/2" nozzle. I had my head between the 2" X 12" floor joists just above the water. I tried to crawl forward or backward but my bunker jacket hook had caught on the sewer elbow joint and I couldn't do anything. I tried to get one arm down to get my bunker hook loose but I had no room on my sides.

All the crews were in the Cafe above me and I could hear them talking, laughing, having doughnuts and coffee but they were making so much noise that they could not hear me hollering for help or my loud whistling. I managed to get the 1 1/2" nozzle and banged it on the floor joists. Lieutenant Myrick from Rescue 1 heard the pounding and told everyone, "be quite, someone is banging." When everyone was quite I yelled that I was stuck and couldn't get my bunker coat unstuck, or off. Lieutenant Myrick told Greg Armenta and Jimmy Baca to get the power saw. I showed them where I was by banging and they cut a hole in the floor above me. Alfonso Padilla reached in and unhooked my bunker jacket. I was sure glad to get out of that predicament.

There are two other things that I always will remember that were so funny to me. One, Lieutenant Al Lujan had been giving us three days of training on the Fire Department Rules and Regulations. At the end of three days of covering everything he said, "that concludes the course, are there any questions?" No one answered, so he asked the officers there if they had anything to add. Lieutenant Florentino Torres raised his hand and Lieutenant Lujan acknowledged him. Lieutenant Torres said, "remember boys, rules were made to be broken." At this time Lieutenant Lujan placed both hands over his head and said, "three days of classes on Rules and Regulations and Florentino! you! within a couple of seconds in one sentence have ruined it all!" He just collected his books and left the room with everyone still laughing.

The second story is the time that I was bartending at the old Firefighters Club. Jerry Hinton walked in and said, "hello Prim," and was about to order a drink. Someone sitting at the bar before Jerry came in had just ordered a gin and tonic. I saw an opportunity to make fun of that drink so I asked Jerry, "how about a gin and tonic?" Jerry didn't even stop to think about it. "Hell no Prim, I came into cure a thirst, not athelets feet." That was typical Jerry Hinton.

REMEMBERING TOMMY LOPEZ

By Former AFD Paramedic Lt. Frank T. Maestas

In early 1966, I was working as a construction Iron Boss, all over New Mexico and Colorado. The pay was great but I was having to be away from home and maintain two different locations to live. In my spare time, when I was home, I would work out with Joey Limas A Albuquerque professional boxer. I would also train young guys to fight in the Golden Gloves. I had some experience as a boxer, so that came in handy. I had two regional Champions. They could not go to Chicago for the next round as none of us could afford it.

So, back home, I applied to AFD and APD for jobs. Chief Martinez interviewed me at home and gave me the job. The next day, a Rep. from APD came to this house. I was not home so my wife Dorothy told him I had accepted a job with AFD. The Rep. told her that if I changed my mind, They would love to have me in the APD as my app. Was very good. I give this background of myself because it was a factor in how I met Tommy and how I looked for someone who was in great shape. In other words, a tough S.O.B. at my upcoming academy.

On March 7, I reported to the training facility to begin my new career. I was 200 pounds and was 5'10. And in great shape. My training Officers were Chief Skippy Padilla and Lt. Al Lujan. I was super happy and enjoyed the class room work, but especially the cal. And drills. I was breezing through them. Now in construction, you always picked the toughest S.O.B. to buddy up with because a lot of time there would arise conflict and construction workers loved to fight. Well, I started to notice who of my class mates were breezing through the drills. One guy stood out. He was shorter than me but stocky and strong and weighed about 200 pounds. I soon became friends with him. His name was Tommy Lopez. Tommy and I would pair up on everything that we could. One time Skippy told us to get the 50' Bangor ladder and Tommy tried to get it by himself. Skippy stopped him and we all laughed.

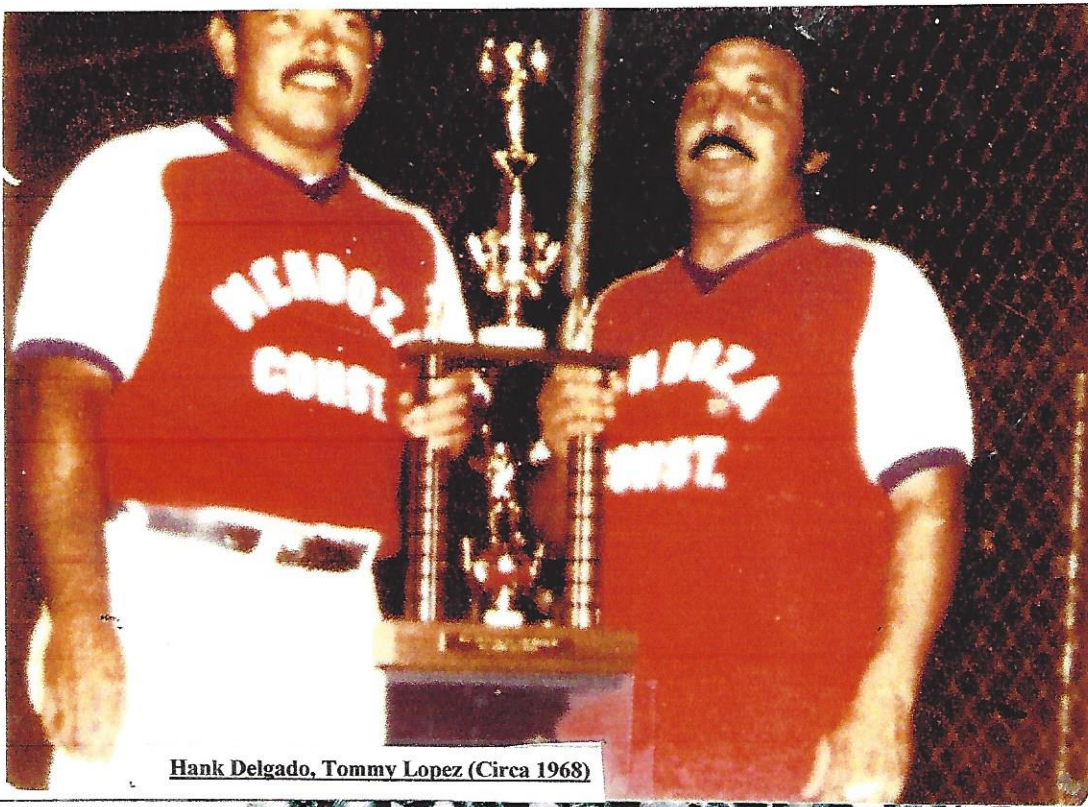
Some time, during our training, Tommy asked me if I wanted to play Fast Pitch Softball. He said he had a friend already in the F.D. who was recruiting ball players. His name was Hank Delgado. Tommy said a guy by the name of Zack Romero was the manager of the team and was building a team. Tommy knew I had pitched semi-pro in Montana but had ruined my shoulder. I told Tommy of course as I was excited about playing again.

Well, we graduated from academy and were assigned to Station 1 "B" platoon. There I met Hank Delgado. Big guy and very athletic. He soon became my best friend too. It was here that I met Rudy Sanchez, another ball player that played for Zack's A.F.D. Team. He soon became my best friend too. What a blessing to have 3 firefighter as my friends and teammates all at the same station. The time came when we got word to report for practice. There I met Zack Romero. He really worked all of us hard. He said the most important game of the season was with the APD. Practice after practice, Zack worked our butts off. Tommy and I made the team and Zack gave us our uniforms. How excited we were and Tommy came over to my house and we tried them on and took pictures in our RED and White with the letters AFD on them! We were ready and I don't remember much about the other games, but the big day arrived. We, ballplayers, families, and friends, including a Chief from A.F.D. and a Rep. From A.P.D. gathered at old Tingly field to for the game. Zack was pitching and he was throwing hard, Tommy was catching and Hank was playing 1st base. Paul Garcia was the short stop Gabe Jaramillo was 2nd base, Dickie Sanchez was 3rd base., I was in right field, Rudy was center field and Eddie Brito was left field. The bat boy was Tommy's son, Kevin Lopez.

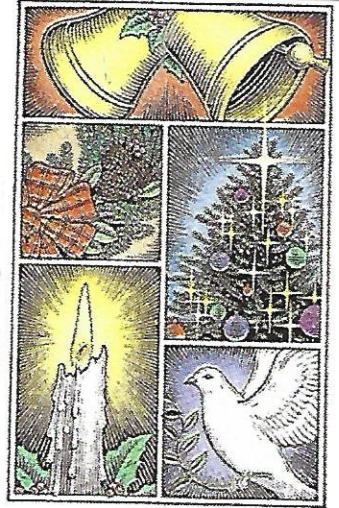
The game went into the late innings and we were leading 1 to 0. Zack was throwing a no hitter when all of a sudden a P.D. player hit a long fly ball to me in right field. Guess what, I misjudged the ball and it landed about 5' behind me. I turned around and got the ball. The thought ran through my mind "I can't cost ZaCK HIS NO HITTER" I KNEW I COULD GET THE BALL TO TOMMY AT HOME, so I threw hard and true and said to myself, Please Hank don't cut the ball off. He didn't and Tommy caught the ball at home and TAGGED THE P.D. PLAYER OUT. Zack got his no hitter. And we won 1 to 0. The next year 1967, we played A.P.D. again and beat them 2 to 1

After the 1966 season, Zack gave all players and families a banquet at his house. I won the SPORTSMANS SHIP TROPHY AND Hank won the HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE TROPHY. We all agreed Zack and Tommy were the most valuable players of the game. Zack for pitching a NO HITTER and Tommy for BLOCKING THE PLATE AND TAGGING THE P.D. PLAYER OUT!

After the 1967 season, Zack moved on to a higher city league. Hank had been working hard to learn how to fast pitch and Tommy catching him. Tommy and Hank had both gone to Albuquerque high and Tommy was his BASEBALL catcher. Tommy and Hank had played together SINCE LITTLE LEAGUE. Tommy was always his catcher. After the 1967 season they both moved up to a higher league. Rudy Sanchez, Eddie Brito and I started our own team and won about 10 trophies including 2 out of 3 games with the El-Paso Fire Department. Tommy and Hank went on to win a champion ship Trophy!



Hank Delgado, Tommy Lopez (Circa 1968)



Front Row - Frank Maestas, Joe Romero, Paul Garcia Sr., Tommy Lopez, Zac Romero
Back Row - Gabe Jaramillo, Phil Silva, Ed Brito, Unknown, Unknown, Dickie Sanchez, Hank Delgado, Rudy Sanchez. Bat Boy - Tommy Lopez' Son, Kevin Lopez (Circa 1968)

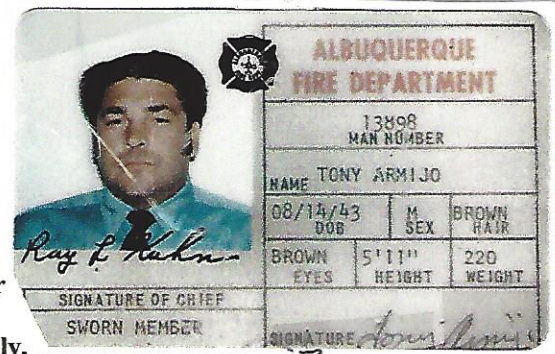
This is, however, not the end of Tommy's story. When Tommy was a little boy, he was a pin setter at a south end bowling alley. Needless to say, Tommy learned to bowl really, really well. When Tommy started his bowling career, he soon became very very good. He bowled SO MANY 300 games so much that his family could not remember EXACTLY how many he bowled. He won 5 gold rings, wrist watches, cash awards, bowling balls, and trips all over including New York, and the West coast.

Tommy, Hank and Rudy my best friends. Now Hank and Tommy are both passed on. What great athletics my friends. Hank Delgado died February 11 of 2012 and Tommy Lopez died almost a year later to the month, on January 4 of 2013. REST IN PEACE TOMMY AND HANK.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO HERMAN BISHOP, RUDY SANCHEZ, ZACK ROMERO, AND DENISE LOPEZ [OUR GOD DAUGHTYTER.] All furnished research for this story of TOMMY LOPEZ.

Death, Tony Armijo

Our brother and fellow retired firefighter Tony Armijo Age 73, passed away on Friday August 26, 2016. He had suffered from a long term illness during the past few years. He joined AFD on March 13, 1972 and was a member of the 21st fire cadet class. After serving over 20 years of faithful and dedicated service he retired on February 20, 1992. Tony was a strong robust man, jovial, and had a pleasant personality. Because of his size and strength he was the type firefighter that his fellow firefighters wanted on their team when they needed a back up to advance their 2 ½ inch fire hose when attacking a hot smoky difficult fire. He was a reliable dependable fellow who loved his job as a firefighter. After his retirement he lived several years in Eagle Nest, New Mexico. He passed away in Prosser, Washington where he lived close to his family.



Funeral services will be held on Saturday September 17, 2016 at the Holy Family Catholic Church, 550 Artrisco Drive SW. The Rosary is at 8:30 AM and the funeral mass will be held at 9:00 AM. Following the funeral mass, the AFD Retiree Honor Guard will “Strike The Four Fives,” in front of the church outside. The burial will be conducted at a private ceremony at a later date. Members of the AFD Retiree’s Association extend their sincere condolences to the Armijo family.

September Monthly Meeting - On September 9, 2016 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree’s Association was held at the firefighter’s union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith NE. Vice President Bill Raupfer called the 193rd meeting to order @ 7:08 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Raupfer and the opening prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. Special tribute was given to Tony Armijo who passed away on August 26, 2016.

Roll Call: Vice President Bill Raupfer, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, and Historian, Herman Bishop. **Absent:** President, Kerry Horton, Secretary Fred Casias. **Guests:** AFD firefighter Jacob Tapia, MDA representative, Carmen Aguire, AFD firefighter, John Melia, Linda Stover, and Dan Mayfield, PERA Board Member.

Guest Speakers: Dan Mayfield, PERA Board Member thanked the retirees for their support. Active duty firefighter John Melia, PERA Board member introduced himself and will work hard for firefighter benefits. AFD firefighter Jacob Tapia and MDA representative addressed the group and will be coordinating the MDA annual fund drive this year and are counting on our support. They need volunteers. Linda Stover, candidate for Bernalillo County Clerk addressed the group and asked for the support of AFD retired firefighters in November.

Due to the absence of Treasurer Fred Casias, Herman Bishop read the minutes of the August, 2016 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abieta and was seconded by L.C. Trujillo. The motion carried. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurers report and along with picnic chairman Ed Abieta gave a report on the success of our annual picnic. Attendance was 190, and we paid all expenses and cleared over \$400. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Ralph Sedillo and was seconded by Juan Sandoval. The motion carried.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian’s report and said the September newsletter was well received. He read a joke about a biker’s encounter with a policeman. He read a list of common nick names we gave our firefighter friends over the years.

Bill Raupfer gave a report that the 911 commemoration ceremonies at Civic Plaza was successful. We received lots of positive comments on our “Striking The Four/Fives,” bell ceremony. The press gave the honor guard front page coverage as well. Bill is working with fire administration staff to make repairs and to maintain the funeral truck. Mr. Cruz of French Mortuary worked closely with AFD retirees on the 911 annual bike run memorial. The Wednesday night raffle was won by: L.C. Trujillo, Cecil Padilla and Bill Raupfer. Thanks to Ralph Sedillo and Ed Abieta for conducting the monthly raffle for our association. Best wishes go to our retirees who are on the sick roster, Gene Padilla, recent heart surgery and Jerry Barboa, resident of a local nursing home.

The closing prayer was led by Louis C. Trujillo. Meeting Adjourned 8: 35 PM

October 2016 Monthly Meeting - On October 12, 2016 the 194th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union hall Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:08 P.M. and he led the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was conducted by Chaplain Mark Chavez. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. **Roll Call:** President Kerry Horton, Vice President Bill Raupfer, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, and Historian Herman Bishop. There were no guests and no guest speakers at the October meeting.

President Kerry Horton gave a report on his cross country trip where he traveled over 8,000 miles. He traveled the mid-west states, on to New York State, the Virginia's and Carolina's, back through Texas and home to Albuquerque. Kerry conducted a raffle fund raiser for the firefighter's union. Tickets are \$10.00 for a beautiful hand-crafted Barbeque Grill. Contact Kerry for tickets.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report from the September monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abeita and was seconded by Noel Baca. The motion carried. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Juan Sandoval. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. Herman made a presentation on behalf of Frank Maestas who donated a beautiful bronze statue, "A Firefighter In Prayer," to Deacon Santos Abeita and Chaplain Mark Chavez recognizing their service serving as chaplains for the AFD Retiree's Association during the past few years.

Bill Raupfer reported that the Funeral Truck is in the shop for routine repairs. He is optimistic that it will be ready when the need arises for it's service in the future. Ed Abeita has been appointed to chair the Christmas Party committee. A meeting will be held at the firefighter's union hall, 4100 Edith NE on Wednesday October 19, 2016 to plan the Christmas dinner. Contact Eddie @ 869-3082 if you would like to assist. Wednesday night's raffle was won by Steve Marquez, Willie Telles, and Toby Pino. Thanks to Eddie Abeita and Ralph Sedillo who conduct the monthly raffle. Door prizes for the raffle are donated by our members. If you would like to make a donation contact Eddie or Ralph. Tickets are \$1.00 each.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Pat McKinney. The meeting adjourned @ 8:28 P.M.

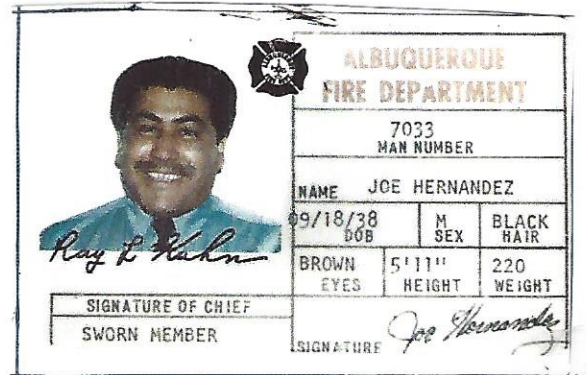


"THE FIREMAN, AMERICAN HERO" (Circa, 1886)



"THE TRUMPETER, AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER" (Circa, 1885)

Death Joe G. Hernandez - We regret to report the death of our retired firefighter friend Joe G. Hernandez age 78 who passed away on Friday, November 11, 2016. He joined AFD on March 7, 1966 and after serving 34 years of faithful and dedicated service to his community and the department he retired on June 30, 2000. Joe was a member of the 12th fire cadet class. His fellow cadets were: Efren Garcia, Donacio Jaramillo, Art Loera, Tommy Lopez, Chris Lovato, Frank Maestas, Eppie Ortega, Donald Padilla, Wayne Thigpen Anthony Vigil, and John West. The training division was at 1510 Kit Carson SW adjacent to the zoo. Simon Seligman was the fire chief. Trainees were required to jump from the 3rd floor of the drill tower into the life net carried on ladder trucks in order to qualify as firefighters. Many fire trainees failed the training program due to their fear of heights. The department was expanding in 1966 due to retirements, additional rescue crews and hiring firefighters to maintain staffing levels.



Joe was promoted to driver on May 23, 1977, a job he dearly loved. He was a strong robust man and was a sincere and dedicated firefighter. He was of a pleasant nature, laughed easily and was liked and well respected by his fellow firefighters and officers alike. He had a distinguished career as a firefighter and was one of our longest serving members having served 34 years with the department. He was a member of the retired firefighter's association for the past 16 years. Currently funeral services are pending at this time. His family in accordance with Joe's wishes has requested a firefighter's funeral. More information regarding funeral services is forth coming.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

In 1876 the first Robert's Rules of Order was published by General Henry Martyn Roberts. The rules are based on parliamentary law and sets forth rules for organizing and conducting public meetings. The rules outlines duties of officers and sets guide lines for ordinary motions to be discussed, debated and officially acted upon.

These rules set forth logical, fair, and reasonable courses of actions for an organized and dignified public body to follow. The rules come from old English Parliament law and is used in the English Parliament, and is used as well in the United States Senate and House alike.

In the Constitution and Bylaws of the AFD Retiree's Association, Page 8, Article VII, "Parliamentary Authority," it is stated: Robert's Rules of Order shall be the governing parliamentary guide of this association in all cases not provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the association.

General Henry Martyn Roberts - During the civil war he was a Union Army officer with the Corps of Army Engineers and was a West Point graduate. He was the author of the first edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

He conceived the idea of setting forth a book of rules governing public meetings when one day much to his embarrassment with out warning he was called upon to conduct a public meeting held at a church in his community. At this meeting he realized he had no official knowledge as to how to properly conduct the meeting.

From there after much research and giving considerable thought to the subject he developed and published the first Robert's Rules Of Order.

November Meeting - On Wednesday November 9, 2016 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:10 PM, and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Because our meeting was expected to be of long duration due to a guest speaker from the Social Security Administration, President Kerry Horton asked for a motion to suspend the formal aspects of our meeting, opening prayer, last alarm, secretary's report, treasurer's report and historian's report. A motion to suspend those items was made by Eddie Abeita and was seconded by Tommy Romero. The motion carried.

Our guest speaker was Charlene Le Grande a representative of the Albuquerque Social Security Administration. Because Albuquerque firefighters were covered under their own retirement plan, New Mexico Public Employees Retirement Association, they never paid into Social Security while employed by the fire department. However, many firefighters were employed elsewhere before their Fire department employment, and also many were employed elsewhere after their fire department retirement. While employed by other organizations or self employed, firefighters did pay into the Social Security retirement as was mandated by Federal law. Once a person has paid 40 quarters into Social Security (Ten years) they are eligible to apply for and receive a Social Security pension. They are also eligible to apply for and receive Medicare benefits after age 65.

The type and amount of benefit's a retired firefighter may be entitled to is varied and rather complicated because we all have different work histories. There is one provision of the Social Security Administration that applies to firefighters called the "Windfall Elimination Provision," passed into law in 1985. In short this law reduces the amount of pension benefits firefighters are entitled to because of the firefighter's private pension fund (PERA). Here again, the formula is rather complicated. Generally firefighters who were eligible to retire from the fire service in 1980 are grand fathered in and are not assessed a penalty and are entitled to receive a full pension. Firefighters who retire in later years are penalized. In some cases, let us say, if a firefighter is entitled to a Social Security benefit of \$1,000 per month, depending on circumstances, they could be penalized by as much as 40% to 50%. Their pension could be reduced from \$1,000 to \$500 under the "Windfall Elimination Provision." It was difficult for the Social Security representative to give us a rule of thumb as to how the ruling would affect each of us because of our varied work histories, and the year in which we retired.

If you are eligible for Social Security benefits it is highly recommended that you make an appointment to go speak to a local representative and discuss your individual case and determine what benefits you are entitled to. You can call toll free: 1(800) 325-0778 or 1(800) 772-1213. You can visit www.socialsecurity.gov any time to apply for benefits. Social Security representatives can answer case-specific questions from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If you have general questions regarding social security benefits call Sam Trujillo @ 800-1500. He has worked with Social Security representatives and has assisted many of our retired firefighters in having their questions answered. He has been helpful and successful in obtaining benefits to which many of our retirees are entitled to receive.

In other retiree association business President Kerry Horton reported that general repairs to the funeral truck are now complete. Currently the truck is stored at the 4th Street Garage until a permanent home is decided upon. Eddie Abeita announced that tickets for the Christmas dinner are on sale for \$10.00 per person, adult or child. Ticket sales will close on December 7th. All persons attending must present their ticket at the door. No ticket sales will be available the evening of the dinner.

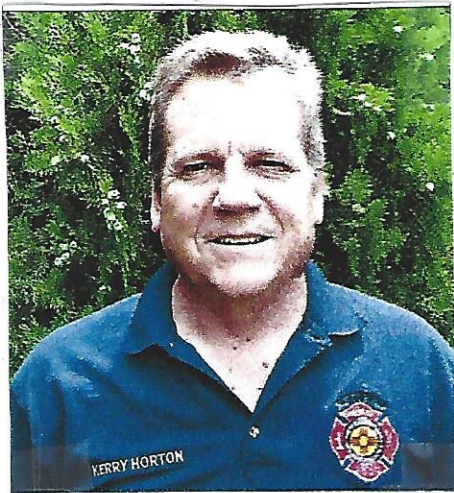
Historian Herman Bishop presented Sam Trujillo with a book, "Robert's Rules of Order," with an explanation of who the author of the book was, General Henry M. Roberts, and why most organizations are governed by the rules. The raffle was won by: Mark Chavez, L.C. Trujillo, and Ralph Sedillo.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez and the November meeting adjourned @ 8:40 PM.

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KERRY HORTON

President's Message

By Kerry Horton

Hello Everyone, as I write this, it is the eve of Joe Hernandez's funeral, and my thoughts are with the Hernandez Family, and the entire Fire Family as we have lost another one of our own. I never worked with Joe for any length of time, maybe a time or two with shift trades and what have you, but what a wonderful career Joe had. Joe gave the Albuquerque Fire Department 34 years, and he was always respected as a great firefighter, mentor, and a good friend to many. He will be missed, but he will always be in our hearts, and our memories.

At our November meeting, we had a representative from the Social Security Administration join us. She spent about an hour explaining how our social security benefits are affected by our PERA pension, and what we can expect when we apply for our SS benefits. The news caught some members by surprise, so I thought that I would review the meeting here.

As you know, while we all put our time in with the Albuquerque Fire Department, we paid into PERA, and not Social Security. While our PERA benefits are far better than the benefits that Social Security offers, many of us worked second jobs during our careers, as well as working before and after our firefighting career, and paid Social Security taxes. Since we paid Social Security taxes, we expect that we will receive Social Security benefits in addition to our PERA benefits. Now let me introduce the Windfall Elimination Act of 1985, (Thank you Ronald Reagan).

The Windfall Elimination Act states that since our primary pension is from a source other than Social Security, and we did not pay into Social Security during our careers, we are not entitled to Social Security benefits. The exception to this is if you retired prior to 1986, or have paid Social Security taxes for 30 years in addition to your PERA contributions. If you are like me, and your side jobs (the ones in which you paid Social Security taxes) equal 40 or more quarters, but not 30 years, then you are entitled to your Social Security benefits but at a huge penalty. This penalty can range anywhere from 60 to 80% of your expected benefits.

Now, this is an over simplified report of the information that she gave us, but the bottom line is that you are going to be penalized on your Social Security benefits. The only way to know how much you will be penalized, is to go to your local Social Security office by the age of 62, and find out exactly what your benefits will be.

Sorry that this is not a very cheery President's Message, but it is information you need. So until next time, be safe, and be healthy, and have a very Merry Christmas. See you at the Christmas Dinner.