

AFD RETIREE NEWS

December 1, 2019

4-2019

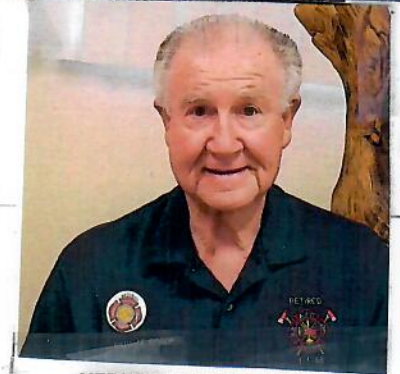
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THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



HERMAN BISHOP, EDITOR

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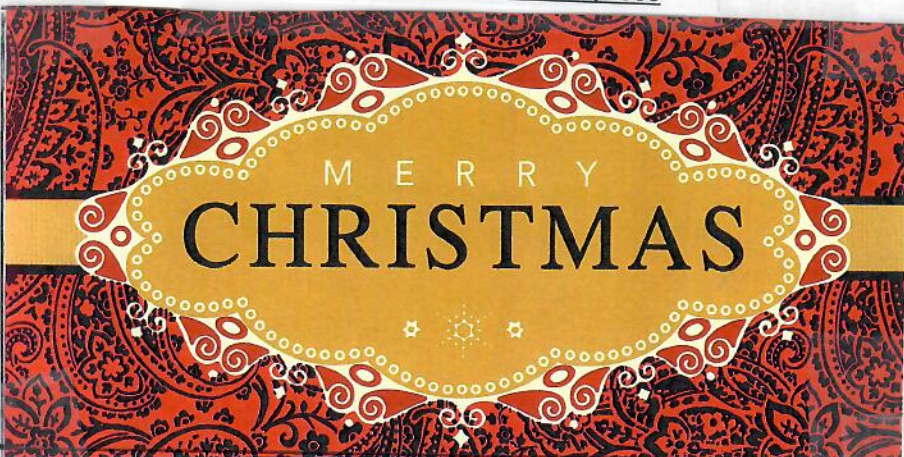
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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DATE: Thursday December 12, 2019
PLACE: MOOSE LODGE, 2121 EDITH N.E.
COST: \$10 PER PERSON
SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
DINNER: 7:00 P.M.
TICKET DEADLINE: DECEMBER 7 TH
DINNER CHOICES, CHICKEN BREADS,
OR, CHICKEN FRIED STEAKS
TICKETS ON SALE: NOV 13 TH MEETING
TICKETS CALL : JOHN BARNUM- 582-6887
SEND DONATIONS: AFD RETIREE'S ASSOC.
C/O MIKE FOX:
805 RANCHITOS RD NW
LOS RANCHOS de ALBUQUERQUE 87114



Logo donated by: Pablo Garcia Jr. The AFD Volunteer F.D. was formed in 1882. The paid AFD was established June 6, 1900



8-5-1997

Bernie Martinez:

On August 5th 1997 about 10:00pm I called 911 & was transfered to your department... I was frantic because my mother was lying on the floor purple as can be; my brother & I were hysterical, you calmed me down a great deal; walked me step by step on how to perform CPR. My mother than got air; the ambulance was there during all the comotion I don't remember if I told you thank you.. My mothers situation was- she had taken a laxative & baking soda & water together not thinking of the chemical reaction it would have, so it caused the inner lining of her stomach to tear open. She was admitted into UNM Hospital where she stayed a total of 1 month & 6 days.. The doctors told me that a few minutes more with oit CPR she wouldn't have made it & I owe the credit to you & the Great Lord. There arn't enough words or time to tell you how thankful I am.. Thank You for making it possible; for giving our family more years together.



Thank You:
 Mother- Dorothy
 Brother- George
 myself - Natalia
 grandchild - monique
 Martinez Family.

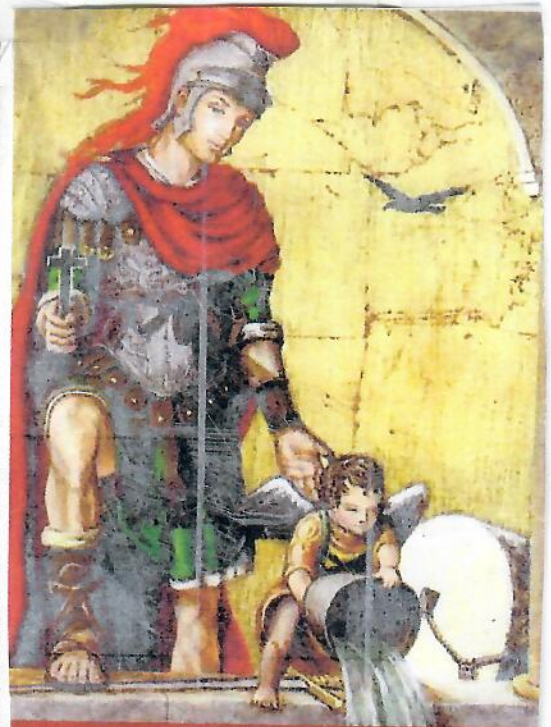


LETTER OF THANKS

Retired AFD Lieutenant Bernie Martinez Served the department for 21 years. During His career he served in the fire alarm room As a 911 dispatcher. This letter of thanks Was sent to Bernie from the Natalia Martinez Family for the assistance he gave them during A medical emergency involving her mother Dorothy Martinez. Thanks to the quick thinking Of Bernie he gave them valuable life saving Information over the telephone which no doubt saved the life of Mrs. Martinez. The family was ever so grateful for Bernie's help during a family crisis, we thought this story was worth sharing

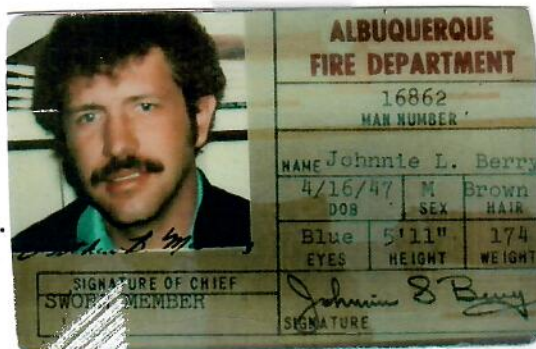


Bernie Martinez

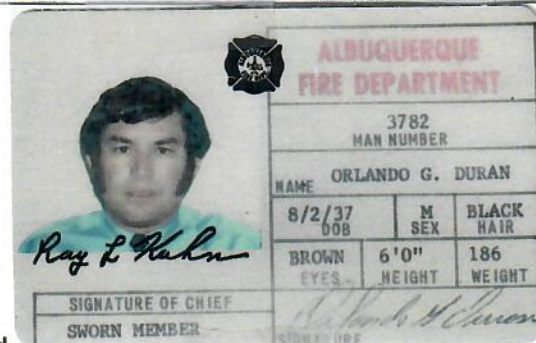


St. Florian
 Martyr
 c. 250 - c. 304
 Memorial - 4 May

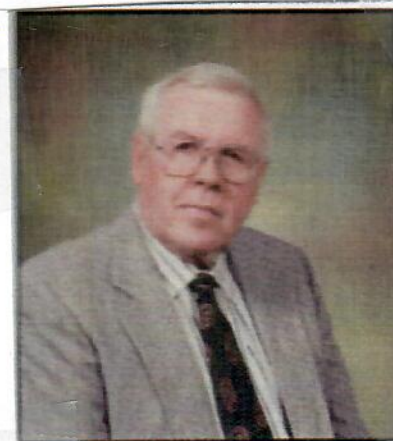
Death Johnnie L. Berry – We regret to report the death of our retired fellow firefighter Lieutenant Johnnie L. Berry, age 72, who passed away on August 18, 2019. He joined AFD on March 25, 1974 and after serving over 20 years of faithful and loyal service to the City and the Fire Department He retired on March 31, 1994. He was a member of the 25 th fire cadet Class when the old drill tower was adjacent to the Zoo at 1510 Kit Carson S.W. After his basic training he worked at fire stations throughout the City serving on pumpers, ladders, and rescues. He completed paramedic certification early in his career and when he Was promoted to driver in February, 1981 he was assigned to the rescue. Johnnie was promoted to Lieutenant during April, 1986. The last few years of his career he worked at Station # 16 and Station # 8. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the entire Berry Family.



ORLANDO O.G. DURAN DIES – It is with sincere regrets that we announce The death of our brother firefighter Orlando “O.G.” Duran, age 82, who Passed away on August 23, 2019. He was hired on June 1, 1960 by the Late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. The fire department was growing because The new fire station # 12 had just opened. More firefighters were being Hired to staff the new fire station # 1 that had recently opened. When Orlando was hired the department had difficulty hiring firemen and had just gone on a recruiting drive in the States of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Colorado and California. The pay was only \$320 per month and the work week was 60 hours. Orlando liked his job and was a responsible happy go lucky fellow who had many friends. He was well respected by his fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. He was a licensed plumber and had his own plumbing company. He was also a musician and had his own band and played at various functions throughout Albuquerque. His last assignment was driver on Engine # 6. After serving 24 years with the department and with the City of Albuquerque Orlando retired on June 30, 1984. Our sincere condolences are extended to the entire Duran family.



Joe P. Kindrick Dies – Our good friend and fellow retired firefighter District Chief Joe Paul Kindrick age 87, passed away on Sunday September 1, 2019. He joined AFD on April 22, 1959. After serving over 26 years of faithful and dedicated service with the Fire Department and to the Albuquerque community he retired on December 31, 1986. He was hired along with three other firefighters by Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. The fire Academy (Fire Training Division) was formed in 1957 and he was one of the first groups of firemen to complete the 8 weeks fire training program headed by Assistant Chief Ray Kuhn. The beginning pay for new firemen was \$228 per month. The work week was 72 hours. When a fireman worked overtime or an extra shift The pay was at regular time. There was no overtime pay. The first five years of his Career was spent working at the old fire station #3 at Bryn Mawr and Central N.E. A pumper, ladder truck and the District Chief ran out of that station. His fellow Firemen were: Assist Chiefs S.B. Skidmore & Carl Macaluso. The officers were Captains “Slim Davidson,” Arthur Martinez, Lts. Maurice Cordova, and Manuel Jiminez. Firefighters were: Ernest Rael, Pilo Bessera, Nestor Tapia, Amado Pargus, Bob Rowland, Herman Bishop, Billy Chenault and Owen Metcalf. We called him “J.P.” He moved up the promotion ladder quickly. He was promoted to Driver in 1965, to Lieutenant in 1968, to Captain in 1974 and to District Chief in 1985. He was a congenial, personable man who was liked by everyone. When he was promoted to Captain he was assigned as an instructor at the Fire Academy for five years. After promotion to District Chief he was re-assigned back to the firefighting division where he was in charge of the East side fire district. After retirement he was an active member of the AFD Retired Firefighters’s Association for 19 years. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the Kindrick Family.



JOE P. KINDRICK

FIREHOUSE STORIES

Note: Since our association was formed the stories about how it was back when, always comes up at our Monthly meetings and gaterings.

"Quadruplets"

By, Luis Padilla (Big Bird)

In the late 1970's I was stationed at old Fire Station # 3 (Monte Vista & Central NE). The crew on the pumper at that time consisted of Captain Gene Padilla, Driver Carmen Padilla Jr., Pipeman Joe Padilla, and myself (Luis Padilla).

It so happened that a Firefighter from Portland, Oregon was visiting the station right at shift change. When the shift bells hit and the vocal came on Captain Padilla gave the roll call for Engine # 3 crew. It was Padilla, Padilla, Padilla, and Padilla. The Oregon Firefighter stared in amazement and finally asked if we were related. I answered him, "yes we are, we're quadruplets."

"The Fire Was Brought To Us"

By, Herman R. Bishop

When I was the driver for District Chief Carl Macaluso at old Fire Station # 13 during 1965, we had a large number of fires in garbage trucks. The main cause of the fires was people putting hot ashes in cardboard containers and leaving them on the curb for the refuse department to pick up. To combat this problem the Fire Department staff conducted a training program for refuse workers and firefighters jointly. Numerous press releases were made to the general public about prevention of these type fires. Once it was discovered that a garbage truck was on fire the refuse workers were instructed to drive to the nearest vacant lot or open space, dump their load of garbage and call the Fire Department.

A few weeks after the training about how to handle garbage truck fires we received a call to Fire Station # 8 (Menaul & Graceland). It was reported that there was a fire on the ramp of the fire station. When we arrived we found that another garbage truck had caught fire and that the driver had driven to the nearest fire station and dumped his load of garbage onto the ramp at station # 8. This blocked Engine #8 from leaving the station but the firefighters started the Fire Engine, pulled the booster line and extinguished the fire.

The Chief's Driver

By Louis C. Trujillo, AFD Asst. Chief, retired (Former Fire Chief St. Petersburg, Florida.)

On our way home from the May monthly meeting last night "Slim" Davidson, District Chief retired, and I were reminiscing about the "GOOD" old days at AFD and it brought back a memory I would like to share with you if I haven't yet.

Back in 1959, when I was an acting driver, and the Chief Drivers never drove to the fires, (Only the Chiefs drove to the fires), I was driving for then Captain Louie Jurado, who was acting Assistant Chief. While we were returning from his house, where he was having lunch, we were dispatched to a fire in the Old Town Area. I immediately drove to the curb, and Captain Jurado and I switched places and proceeded to the fire. I was checking the map for the best route when I told the Captain to turn right at the next street. Well, Lo and Behold, he turned right in the next driveway! When we stopped in front of the two car garage, he turned to me and said, "Mister, where in the Hell are you taking me?" I responded, "Captain, I said the next street, not the next driveway!" (Louie Jurado was later promoted to District Chief. He frequently called his coworkers "Mister.")



MASCOT . AFD Station # 1, A MONKEY NAMED "SPIDER"

(By Herman R. Bishop)

Early in our careers (1950's & 1960's) we worked with old timers who joined the department during the 1920's and 1930's. Many of them told us of a pet monkey that the firemen had at the old fire station #1 at 2 nd and Tijeras NW. We were not sure if the stories were true or just fire house yarns.

Retired Deputy Chief Bruno Bernasconi recently brought us some old Albuquerque newspaper articles dating from the 1930's (exact dates unknown) that confirms indeed the firemen had a pet monkey during the 1930's. His name was "Spider." Where he came from or what happened to him is not known. The following newspaper article is about "Spider."

(Reprint, exact date unknown)

"Spider Wins Bout with Fire Chief Art Westerfeld; Punches His Nose

"Spider," the fire department monkey held high cards Sunday Afternoon in an argument With Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. The Chief stopped "Spider" from picking buds of the Flowers, and "Spider" got mad. A few minutes later the Chief tried to pet him, But "Spider" was still mad. He threw a right to the Chief's head that drew a welt from His forehead almost to the tip of his nose. The injury was still noticeable Monday, the next day.

When I worked at the old station # 3 at Bryn Mawr and Central N. E. a fellow fireman, Trinidad Lopez, told me that the firemen at the old Station #1 had trained their pet monkey To jump down the hole for the fire pole from the second story and the firemen would Catch him in a heavy wool blanket. At the time I was not sure if the story was believable. Now that we found the news article verifying that there was a pet monkey maybe it Was true that he was trained to jump into a blanket.



LOYD MARES, AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE RUFFIANS - (By Herman R. Bishop)

After my appointment to District Chief Loyd Mares was my driver. Late one night we responded with Engine # 2 to a house fire totally involved somewhere on South Edith Street. Engine # 2 had laid 3 blocks of 2 1/2 inch hose. As we approached the intersection Loyd parked the Chief's car in the intersection to prevent anyone from running over the hose. Later after the fire was extinguished I walked back to the Chief's car. As I approached the intersection a car load of four ruffians was parked shouting obscenities at Loyd and threatening to run over the fire hose. They demanded that he move the Chief's car so they could pass. I walked over to the young trouble makers and ran them off with threats to call the police. They left without any further arguments. When I asked Loyd why he didn't run them off he said, "no way, those guys had a shotgun and they pointed it at me!" My thoughts were, "lonely are the brave." (Or—The Stupid ???)



"Adelino"

By Luis Padilla (Big Bird)

If anyone ever worked with Adelino Giron you know that stories of his exploits abound. In the early 1980's I was stationed at Fire Station # 7 (47th & Central NW). The crew consisted of Lieutenant Orlando "Hookie" Armijo, Adelino Giron, Tom Skidmore, Simon Hernandez, and myself, (Luis Padilla).

As you know Giron was not the best driver as far as knowing his streets. We had a fire call to a new addition of Artrisco and Coors NW. Adelino didn't know where it was so we directed him as best as we could from the tailboard of the pumper.

After taking care of the emergency and going back in service (10-8) I bet Tom ten to one that Giron wouldn't find his way back to the station. Forty five minutes later we finally found Central Avenue. I made a quick ten bucks off my bet with Tom.

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FIREHOUSE STORIES

Note: Since our association was formed the stories about how it was back when, always comes up at our Monthly meetings and get - togethers. Here are two such stories

THE TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER

By Eugene Baldonado

My most memorable fire was the Coney Island Cafe fire at 500 Central Avenue S.W. It was not that it was such a large fire but the predicament that I got myself into. Chief Art Martinez was the District Chief at that fire. The alarm came in and we had Engine 1A, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, and Chief One responding. When we got there we found 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"X12" 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 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 nozzle. I had my head between the 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, and having doughnuts and coffee but they making so much noise that they could not hear me calling 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 quiet, someone is banging." When everyone was quiet I yelled that I was stuck and couldn't get my bunker coat hook unstuck, or off. 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.

THE SWAYING TREE

By Nicolas Gonzales, Arson Lt. Retired

During 1957 while working at Station #2 at High and Silver S.E. I was working the opposite shift on Engine #2. Adelino Jiron a pipeman had gone to a fire which turned out to be a storage shed in the 1500 block of Edith S.E. During the process of putting the fire out Jiron took the fire hose to a nearby tree and climbed up into the tree to get a better vantage point for directing water on the fire. As he was fighting the fire from the tree the tree would sway back and forth as he would turn the pressure on and off.

Within a short time, then Fire Chief Art Westerfeld, who had just arrived at the fire noticed the commotion in the swaying tree. The Fire Chief was enraged to see one of his firemen engaged in such an unusual firefighting maneuver. This was a ridiculous situation and considering the possibility that he could fall out of the tree and cause further embarrassment to the Fire Department really raised the ire of the Chief. As was typical of Adelino Jiron he had the ultimate come back in answering the Chief. "Look Chief, I'm putting the fire out aren't I?"

Gerald Grimm Dies – Regretfully we were notified that retired Fire Chief Gerald Grimm, age 75, passed away on Saturday September 14, 2019. He was hired on February 27, 1978 and was a member of the 17th fire cadet class. The fire academy was located at 1510 Kit Carson SW adjacent to the zoo. When he joined cadets laid miles and miles of fire hose, ran up and down the fire training tower dozens of times a day and were required to jump into the life net in order to qualify as a fire fighter. He went up through the ranks quickly and was promoted to fire inspector in 1972. Two years later he was promoted to Lieutenant and he spent a total of 10 years in the Fire Prevention Bureau. He was promoted to Captain in 1982 and was assigned to the fire suppression division. Three years later Fire Chief Leonard Ortega promoted him to Assistant Chief and he was assigned to head the Paramedic Division. When Ken Shultz was elected to Mayor he appointed Gerald to Fire Chief. After serving as Fire Chief for four years he retired from AFD on December 29, 1989 with over 21 years service. After Gerald's career with the Albuquerque Fire Department, he was appointed to Fire Chief of Texas City, Texas where he had a successful second career. Our sincere condolences are extended to the entire Grimm family.



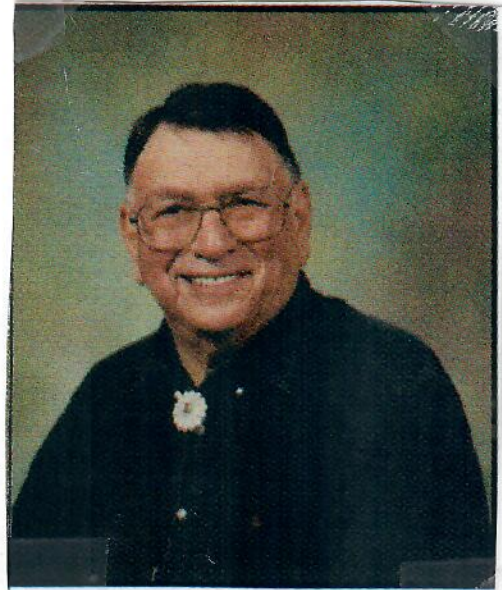
Gerald Grimm

September Monthly Meeting – On September 11, 2019 the 229th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike Murphy who was filling in for President Kerry Horton who was on vacation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Murphy and the opening prayer was led by Deacon Santos Abeyta. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. **Roll Call** – Vice President, Mike Murphy, Treasurer Mike Fox, President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo, Historian, Herman Bishop. Absent, Kerry Horton & Fred Casias. Our guest speaker was Ryan Irizarry, Licensed Agent for Med Care (Senior Insurance Solutions). He is available to provide educational information for active duty firefighters and retired firefighters regarding their health insurance plans. If you need assistance in selecting the appropriate health insurance for you and your family he is available to assist you and provide information. For an appointment call: Ryan Irizarry, (505) 363-9080. A motion was made by Sam Trujillo to make Kodi Casias an "Honorary Member" and was seconded by Louie Trujillo. The motion passed. Kodi has been helpful to his Grandfather, Fred Casias in assisting at the retiree's annual picnic, monthly meetings, Christmas Party and general set up of tables & chairs and cleaning up.

Fire Department personnel are looking for volunteers to assist in the annual Halloween Haunted House Party To be held at the Fire Academy, 11,510 Sunset Gardens SW on October 26, 2019 @ 1600 hrs. To volunteer call Sam Trujillo, 899-1500, or Mike Murphy 264-1153. The August Secretary's report was given by Herman Bishop. A motion to accept was made by Eppie Ortega and was seconded by Louie Trujillo. The motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was given by Mike Fox. A motion to accept was made by Louie Trujillo and was seconded by Santos Abeita. The motion carried. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. He was invited to the Fire Academy to review library books to be discarded which may be of historical value. He found several books and items which the retiree's association will catalog and display in the fire museum. Herman has group picnic photos for sale (\$10.00 Each), from the August picnic. Contact Herman if you would like a copy @294-7165. Herman made a motion to create a "Museum Fund," to build displays in the fire museum. A second was made by Sam Trujillo. The motion carried. We will have the "Museum Fund" box at future meetings.

Bill Raupfer gave a report about the 911 Commemoration ceremonies held @ 11:00 AM on September 11, 2019 at Civic Plaza downtown. Governor Michele Grisham Lujan was the key note speaker and the AFD Retiree's Honor Guard participated and rendered the "Ring of The Four Five's." Mike Fox gave a report on our annual picnic. Attendance was real good and we easily met expenses and made a few hundred dollars profit due to donations and sale of tickets for door prizes. The best door prize was the chess table made by Mike Fox. Thanks to Frank Maestas he donated many, many great door prizes. Bill Raupfer invited everyone to attend the blue mass on September 24, 2019 at the Paradise Hills St. Jude's Thaddeus Catholic Church @ 11:00 AM. Located at 5712 Paradise Blvd. NW. The raffle was won by E.V. Marquez, Bill Raupfer, and Richard Ortiz. The closing prayer was led by Morris Guterrez. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:25 PM.

Leonard C. Ortega Dies – We were notified that Leonard C. Ortega, AFD Retired Fire Chief, age 90, passed away on Friday September 20, 2019 after a long term illness. He joined AFD on September 26, 1960 and after serving over 25 years of faithful and dedicated service With the department he retired during December, 1985. He was Hired by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. Ray Kuhn was the training Chief at the old fire academy adjacent to the zoo at 1510 Kit Carson SW. There were 13 cadets in his class and firefighter training was Eight weeks. He was a U.S. Army veteran and after the Army he joined The Trinidad, Colorado Fire Department in 1951. He served nine years In that department prior to joining AFD. During his career with the Department he worked at most stations throughout the City. In 1962 He was instrumental in forming the firefighter's union, local 1455 and Also that year he was successful in negotiating the first firefighter's Union contract with the City. He served several years as the Union President. He was promoted to driver in 1964 and to Lieutenant in 1966. He was promoted to Captain in 1973 and to Assistant Chief in 1974. After David Rusk was elected to Mayor he appointed Leonard to fire chief on March 10, 1980. Overall he spent 34 years in two fire departments, Trinidad, Colorado and Albuquerque. On behalf of the members of the AFD Retired Firefighter's Association our most sincere sympathies and condolences are extended to the entire Ortega family.



LEONARD C. ORTEGA

October Monthly Meeting – On October 9, 2019 the 230 th 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 at 7:03 PM and led the members in the "Pledge of Allegiance." Morris Gutierrez led the opening prayer and a moment of silence was observed in honor of our deceased members. **Roll Call** – President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer, Mike Fox, and Historian, Herman Bishop. Kerry Horton recognized members who attended our meeting for the first time, Mike Cocchiola, Chuck Wenzel, Phil Candelaria and his wife, Chris Sanchez, and Jerry Lujan.

Fred Casias' grandson, Kodi Casias was awarded an "Honorary Membership," by members of the AFD Retiree's Association. The presentation was made by Herman Bishop. Joining Kodi was his family, Grandpa Fred, dad, Erick, mother, Jennifer, brother Eric Casias Jr. and wife Angela and baby Riley, brother Zachry, and Julia Marquez. President Kerry Horton reported that 40 fire cadets graduated from the fire academy on October 4, 2019. Eddie Abeita, Mike Fox, and Kerry Horton gave a lecture to the fire cadets, "History of AFD," on October 9, 2019. On Saturday October 26, 2019, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM, fire department members will host an annual Halloween party, "Nightmare on Haunted Hill," At the fire academy, 11500 Sunset Gardens SW. Retired members are invited to assist with this function. Wednesday night's raffle was won by Kodi Casias.

Fred Casias read the minutes from the September meeting. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abeita, and was seconded by John Serino. The motion was approved. Mike Fox gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept was made by Bill Raupfer and was seconded by Eugene Baldonado. The motion was approved. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. He reminded everyone that we have created a Museum fund to build display cases at the fire museum. We need your support, please donate to this fund. Herman, Sam and Kerry read letters of thanks from the families of J.P. KIndrick. O.G. Duran, and Ray Flores for the memorials and honors our members extended to their recently deceased family members. Bill Raupfer reported that Joe Martinez will be coordinating the events of the retiree's Honor Guard since Bill's recent illness. Eddie Abeita announced that planning for our annual Christmas party is under way. Dates of planning meetings will be announced soon. If you would like to assist call Eddie @ 250-7895. Morris Gutierrez led the closing prayer. **Adjournment: 8:45 PM.**

"that's what it says to do in the AARP book on page 64 second paragraph"

Victor (AKA Casper) Sanchez Story

By Eddie Abeita

Victor (AKA Casper) retired December 31, 1997. Victor went to work for First In for 13 years in providing maintenance, repairs and testing on Scott Air Packs (self-contained breathing apparatus) and provided written quotes to various fire entities. Victor said I later went to work at Lovelace Rehab hospital where I worked until I had a hip replacement and was told they couldn't use me anymore. Victor said when I recovered I started to restore my 1969 Camaro Z/28 I took my wife to go see it and she got really quiet until we left the body shop and she turned and told me she would have paid someone to take it to the junk yard, moving ahead 6 years the first car show we went to this guy came up to us and offered us \$75,000.00 for it then she was ok.

These days with my new knees and hip and a really bad back I tinker around the yard and spend time cleaning my vehicles all 4 of them. We have been on cruises and have visited all 50 states. I still miss my fellow firefighters and all of the work and fun we had (are you listening Willie) when I met my wife I told her that some of the guys don't know my name they just call me Casper and she's had a good laugh with that and I wouldn't change that for anything in the world.



One perk I'll tell you about our last car and trip. We purchased a 2006 Corvette 3-LT, 364 CID 400 HP to go on the National Corvette Caravan. We left Albuquerque with around 45 other Corvettes and their drivers heading for the first stop in Artesia NM. In Artesia we staged in a parking lot, as we found a parking space, we were parked next to a brand-new Corvette, believe me I didn't want to scratch that car so when I got out carefully somehow, I got tangled up and down I went. When the dust settled, I inherited skinned knees broke my glasses and got a black eye. Everyone was running to help the old guy out and of course I said I was ok.

The next stop was Abilene Tx where we spent the night and headed to the Dallas Fort Worth area, My wife asked if we were driving KIND of fast, I said 75 mph. The caravan of around 450 Corvettes by now, speed was more like 130 mph. Upon our return I told the truth "I am still sleeping with the Dog"! The rest of the trip was so remarkable when we got to Bowling Green, we were lucky enough to stay with Rozena's cousins (they also have a Corvette). With a smirk on his face Victor said; we spent the next 5 days talking cars and thinking that we might be buying another one in the new future, ***because that's what it says to do in the AARP book on page 64 second paragraph (LOL)***

Our car was remarkable because it's really comfortable and get this it got 31 miles per gallon. When we headed back home, we drove to Oklahoma City as our last stop and then back to Rio Rancho. I thank Rozena for being with me and my companion, she is a good sport and we have great times together. I give her a big plus because she does not complain even if she's not into cars

"I would tell all our retiree families call 911 immediately"

Kerry Murphy Story

by Eddie Abeita

Kerry retired after 30 years of service with Albuquerque Fire Department. It was a great career Kerry said however, after years of calls your body starts feeling all the night responses that you made. Kerry said right out of the blue; "when I was a cadet one of my favorite thing(s) was to run up to the drill tower's 7th floor and yell out "cadet Murphy". We did this 5-10 times per day after graduation we found out it was for conditioning. An underlining thing was running the tower brought some competition, cadets raced to see who would be the first to get to the seventh floor.

Kerry said, after retirement I still wanted to work and use my skills. Because with all the training and continuing education required to maintain your EMT-P certification, it's not easy to just retire and let it all go. So, I took a job with the Pueblo of Laguna Fire and Rescue as an EMT-P. Calls for the sick and injured is stressful because in rural areas, transport time is longer. Laguna hired AFD retirees and some would call Laguna Fire, *Albuquerque Fire West*. I am also employed at Presbyterian in the Emergency Room providing Urgent Care which is enjoyable in an environment where the victim/patient comes to you.



Kerry and Lisa Murphy

*[I think anyone who is or was a first responder regardless of call at one time or another may have memories or as we say] flashback of a call or situation. Every now and then I think of my dad who died of a heart attack. Over my career the one thing that got me was, upon arrival you may hear or just feel it; the person who called 911 was under fire. The victim insisted they did not need any help, heck that is called denial and we retirees know it! A few times, I told the family they were lucky someone called 911. Even today I've heard that some AFD retirees had put their families through this denial stage. ***I would tell all our retiree families call 911 immediately*** and if someone gets upset, gives you the face, silent treatment or makes little remarks under their breath, don't worry, you might have saved a life. Emotions can run high so don't worry about the flack for calling 911, it will be over in a few hours or few years.*

The Murphy family have a firefighter tradition started by our father Robert (deceased), brother Michael, my son Daniel EMT-P driver and daughter in-law Judith and myself. My wife Lisa is a teacher with YDI, she has been so supportive, understanding and proud of us all. With 3 grandkids ages 8,4,1 and another on the way, I enjoy being with them when I can. Being a gardener or farmer whatever you call it, I love working and teaching the grandkids about growing vegetables which is a highlight of my time. I attended some retiree meeting which was enjoyable. I also helped out with the annual retiree's picnic in which I was asked to take care of the cold drinks it was a good feeling to get involved with people I worked side by side with, also could not turn down the request by my old fire instructor Eddie Abeita.

“a decision to suspend the raffle starting in October 2019”

Retirees Raffle

by Eddie Abeita

At our December 2012 AFD Retirees Meeting a Motion made and passed by membership provides; “monetary thank you contribution” to Retiree Honor Guard and identified participant(s) after each retiree funeral, contingent on available retiree funds.

Anyone that has experienced our Retirees Honor Guard at any service feels pride observing their presence and function. This being said a natural desire to help support the Honor Guard was evident.

Ralph Sedillo and I immediately knew, we needed to come up with something structured that would be continuous long term to supplement the retiree’s fund.

After our discussion we had an idea to help supplement the fund with the intention of all money raised to be solely directed to the Honor Guard. The idea was nothing new to think of, the question was, which would work best, sustained for a long haul not just a one-time shot. So, we decided to hold **raffles**.

To make this a structured plan a letter was presented to the Executive Board, to provide details and request permission to execute the raffle. The following is an excerpt from the letter dated January 27, 2013.

“A raffle will be held each month or every other month at the retiree’s monthly meeting(s). Although the membership board conducts periodic raffles a monthly raffle would insure a continuous source of funding. The amounts maybe minimal however funds would be continuous”.

The prizes for the first few raffles were provided by Ralph and me; a request was made to the membership to donate items in which worked out well.

In the beginning of the 6 year run donations by the retirees were plentiful. Donations included, crystal, western hats, tee shirts, gift certificates, picnic basket, cook wear, handmade clocks, bikers leather gear to name just a few. Lucy Sedillo provided many gifts for the raffle. We had a combination mop and bucket donated that was won and returned twice and raffled a 3rd time, it made more money. Ray “Sadie” Sedillo donated a lot of glass wear he said we never used them maybe someone will. An on-going story to help get donations was how Vince Holcomb donated his Christmas gifts for the raffle.

Just like everything some things come to an end or maybe just put on pause after its run. Although the raffle was renowned the mechanics and maintenance were catching up to us civilized people. To make a raffle successful you need good prizes supported with donations to cut down on cost. The previous year’s prize donations had decreased, causing prizes to be purchased from the raffle profits, Ralph Sedillo, Mike Fox and Eddie Abeita had out of pocket financing and did not request any reimbursement. Mike built clocks and Ralph providing personal fire memorabilia. ***The three of us made a decision to suspend the raffle starting in October 2019 with the possibility of reinstating the raffle sometime in 2020.***

[a tidbit; Fred Teupell has donated *doughnuts*, to our meetings during our raffles so about 240-288 dozen the last 6 years, but had been doing this for the prior 2 years so maybe 384 dozen?].

1983 City Hall catches fire on the fifth floor

Eddie's Benchmarks

by Eddie Abeita

Did you ever keep a log or clipped articles from newspapers way back or just have a good memory of events or incidents during your career? Well these things I refer to as *benchmarks* and I considered them monumental?

So, here are some things that I remember that are benchmarked in me. Most of the benchmarks listed I had to guess on the year because of the senior moments where we think to much. So, I ask you to give it a try and see how many things you remember during your career. Have some fun and put the old noodle to work make your own benchmark list. Send me your list and send to me; email edabeita@gmail.com or call me (505) 250-7895 or (505) 869-3082. Thanks Eddie

- 1973 AFD goes on strike, strike last for five (5) days.
- 1973 Three American LaFrance Pumpers put in service with jump seats, semi-closed cab the *first attempt* to retire riding on the tailboard.
- **Annual** fire hose service test. *Every* section of cotton jacketed fire hose placed under water pressure, inspected, logged and dried.
- **Bi-Annual** fire hydrant inspection, *every* fire hydrant flushed, serviced, and painted.
- 1975 Marx Deer's idea to build wooden lockers that would be used as dividers placed between beds in upstairs bunk room at station. The 6'x8' box was divided into three separate locker compartments one for each platoon.
- 1977 Clark pumper put into service at station one, the first with an automatic transmission.
- 1977 Five-inch synthetic fire hose supply line put on all pumpers.
- January 1, 1978 Albuquerque Title company located across the street from station thirteen (13) located on Indian School Rd NE, burns down. Bishop's Raiders respond.
- 1978 Louie Trujillo implements the Physical Agility Test as part of the hiring process.
- 1980 **Heavy Steel** apparatus doors @ station 1 that would retract directly straight up into the wall, replaced.
- 1983 City Hall catches fire on the fifth floor, ladder one front page (we) put it out.
- 1984 AFD receives its first WANG computers which were used as word processing no internet service available.
- 1984 Herman Bishop orchestrates organizing **all written** material used or referenced by AFD. The large amount of material was cataloged and placed in 10 volumes. No photostats allowed all material was retyped in one format, stringent guidelines for maintenance was adhere to.
- 1986 Hypalon (grey rubber) bunkers tested and found unsafe and not meeting any safety standard. All are required to be replaced as Nomex being the new standard.
- 1990 Fire Academy relocates from 1510 Kit Carson S.W. to 11,500 Sunset Gardens SW.

Sticks & Stones may break my bones, but nick names can never hurt us!

By Morris Gutierrez

First, I want to thank each and every Fire Fighter, retired and active and yes to our deceased firefighters as well. Thanks to each and every one for contributing your nick names to our project. Some will ask why a book on nick names? When I look back on my job, we had many calls, good and bad though the good always outweighed the bad. The good Lord brought us back to the firehouse, why? So that as one, we could decompress from these bad calls and re-group; re-group by kidding with each other, teasing one another and of course giving nick names to one another. These names would last a career and for most a life time. In order to accomplish this massive project, I am asking of each and every fire fighter to contribute to this most amazing and fun loving book of nick names. Please send them to me either by phone 881-7833 wk or 281-4877 hm or email mrg.believer@icloud.com. Send as many as you like to Morris Gutierrez. All profits are 100% donated for our retirees association. I currently have over 900 names my goal being 1,500 names. After 1500 names, our nick name book will also have crossword and word jumble puzzles, and also a chapter on firehouse recipes. Here is a sample of 100 names.

Kerry Horton – Hortinez
 Mike Murphy – Tang
 Fred Casias – Uncle Fester
 Herman Bishop – Wedo
 Sam Trujillo – Henry Kissinger
 Eddie Abeyta – Indio
 Santos Abeyta – Deaconater
 Noel Baca – Penquin
 Eugene Baldonado – Baldy
 Ray Flores – Trumpet Man
 Pablo Garcia Jr. - Piggy Jr
 Morris Gutierrez –Gay Blade
 Vincè Holcomb – Mr. Holcomb
 Joe Martinez – Blue Eyed Mexican
 Bill Raupher – El Roofer
 Tommy Romero – China Man
 Jose Salas – Anwar Sadat
 John Serino – Lizard Catcher
 Louis Trujillo – By the Book
 David Chavez –Big Foot
 Rick Cordova – Camel Jockey
 Eddie Brito – Prim
 Chuck Valdez – Chuck the Bod
 Joe Pete Montoya – Joe Montoilet
 Bob Martinez – Father Bob

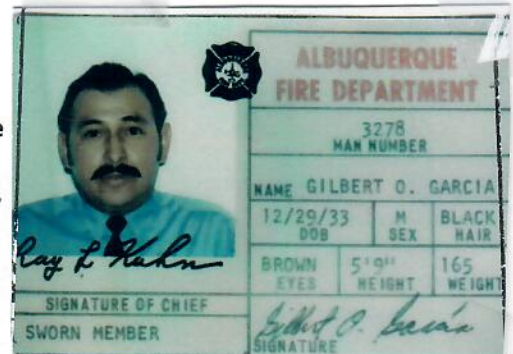
Jimmy Candelaria – Prince Valiant
 Paul Gonzales – The Govenor
 Dennis Medina – China Man
 Val Vallejos – Buffalo
 Robert Murphy – Hands
 Eddie Torres – Brujo
 Edward Torres – Lil Brujo
 Joe P Kindrick – Lightning
 Vernon Lodgston – Huckle Berry Hound
 Tony Armijo – Orca
 Ross Aranda – Rosca Pando
 Simon Baca – Sammy Davis Jr.
 John Barnum – Barnum & Bailey Circus
 James Benavidez – Larry Barker
 Bruno Bernasconi – Trex
 Carlos Arguelles – No Neck
 Carlos Duran – Sharky
 Donny Sanchez – Dagger
 Eric Aragon – Yosemite Sam
 Raymond Carrillo – Stinky
 Edward Brito – Smokey the Bear
 Gabriel Blea – Ginger Bread Man
 Robert Ortega – Little Chief REO
 John Marquez – Sasquatch
 Pat Cano – Pelon

Joe Chavez – Jumping Joe
 Sam Chavez – Bologna Sam
 Armando Cordova – Chop Chop
 Efren Chavez – Tortilla
 Chris Chavez – Robbie Benson
 Alex Chavez – Sarge
 Patrick Chavez – Bucky Bird
 Wilfred Dominquez – Plancha
 Victor Escarcida – Water Heater
 Phillip Dixon – Chia Chia Pet
 Brandon Maus – Pete moss
 John Davidson – Slim
 Arthur Cowen – Band Leader
 Scott Creange – Booger
 James Dahl – Baby Doll
 Carlos Dominguez – Mr. Baseball
 Herbert Edmon – Brother Herb
 Jeffery Elks – Fluffy
 Ray Elks – Ray Ray
 Sean Elks – Vin Diesel
 Arturo De La O – De La Zero
 Richard Duran – Ninja Turtle
 Eugene Garcia – Fonze
 Ramon Gallegos – Heavy Metal
 Joe Costales – Bags
 Andreas Eversgerd – Wears a skrit

Joseph Escobedo – Cheeks
 Larry Espalin – Without a Spleen
 John Garcia – Big John
 Juan Gallegos – Captain Crunch
 Clifford Esquibel – Squibble
 Orlando Garcia – Opie
 Adelino Giron – Onasis
 Jerry Cregg – Jerry Baker
 Ahren Greigo – Cookie Monster
 Harold Gonzales – Suavesito
 Carmen Gonzales – The Buffalo
 Peter Garcia – Cubano
 Christopher Aragon – Good Times
 Dominic J Acevedo – Ace
 Erin K Brandow – Nana – Care Taker
 Jesse Davis – Can't Focus
 Jason Hacket – Chairman
 Ryan W Irizarry – Izzy
 Zar E Horton – Soul Patrol
 Gilbert Marquez – Mudd Butt
 Patrick Mendoza – Matrix
 Alberto R Ortega – Prince Albert
 Diego Arencon - Shrek

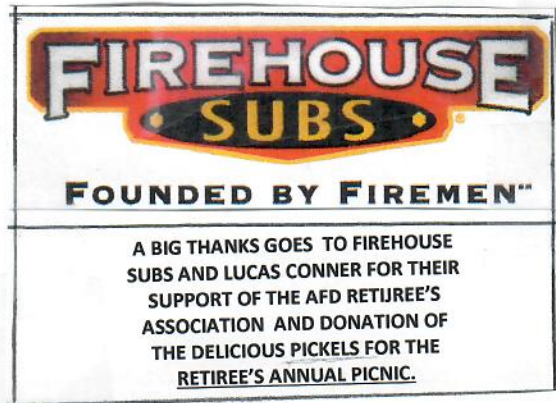


Gilbert O. Garcia Death - It is with great sadness that we report the death Of our good friend and brother retired firefighter Gilbert O. Garcia who Passed away on October 16, 2019 after a long term illness. Gilbert was 85 Years old. He joined AFD During November 1964 and was hired by the late Fire Chief Simon Seligman. He joined along with 10 other fire cadets. The Fire training was 8 weeks long and required the firefighters to jump into the Life net and to endure an unpleasant session in the dreaded smoke room With out breathing masks. After serving over twenty two years of faithful, honorable, and dedicated service with the department he retired on December 27,1986. He was promoted to driver in October, 1973, a job He dearly loved. He lived most every young boy's dream, to drive the big Fire truck to the fir,e red lights flashing, and sirens screaming. "G.O." as we Affectionately called him was an easy going, pleasant and likeable fellow.



He was quick to smile, knew his job and was always ready to assist fellow Firefighters around the firehouse and at fires. He was a good role model for the new firefighters and enjoyed training them to drive the trucks and to show them the finer points of fire pump operations He was a long time member of the AFD Retiree' Association since it was formed in the year 2000. On behalf of the members of the AFD Retiree's association we extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Garcia family.

November 13, 2019 Minutes – On November 13, 2019 the 231 st 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 at 7:08 PM and led members in the "Pledge of Allegiance," The opening prayer was led by brother Morris Guterrez and a moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call – President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop, and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. Our guest speaker was Dan Mayfield, member of the PERA board. He gave a summary update on the findings of the PERA solvency task force which will be forwarded to the N.M. State Legislature for consideration in January, 2020. Generally the recommendations include a plan to reduce PERA's unfunded liability within 25 years, propose freezing COLA's for three years but give an annual lump sum payment of 2% at the end of the next 3 years. Recommend low income retirees (below \$25,000 per year) be exempted from suspension of the 2% COLA. The proposal will eliminate the 7 year wait to receive annual COLA's and reinstate the two year calendar wait.



The President's report was given by Kerry Horton. He thanked retirees who assisted active duty firefighters in the successful "Haunted Halloween Tower," event hosted at the fire academy Halloween night. Kerry invited retirees to join him On December 4, 2019 to attend the Investment and Pension committee meeting in Santa Fe. We will meet at the Union Hall that morning and car pool to Santa Fe. The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abieta, and was seconded by Bill Raupfer. The Motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Mike Fox. A motion to accept was made by Phil Candelaria and was seconded by Donnie Sanchez. The motion Passed. The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He read a letter from Victoria Ortega thanking members of the retiree's association for the beautiful memorial service recently conducted in memory of her father, Fire Chief Leonard Ortega. Sam Trujillo presented a thank you letter from the family of "G.O." Garcia thanking the retirees for the beautiful memorial tribute given at funeral services for "G.O." Condolences are extended to Raymond Sedillo on the recent loss of his wife Francis. The closing prayer was led by Morris Gutierrez. The meeting Adjourned @ 8: 43 PM.



AFD FIRE RESERVE ASSOCIATION

By: Herman R. Bishop, Assistant Chief Retired
(September 11, 2019)

In 1969 during the cold war, the National Civil Defense Organization made matching funds available to cities throughout the United States to develop and form auxiliary volunteer fire brigades to assist organized fire departments during war, nuclear attack, natural and man made disasters. In Albuquerque fire Captain Herman R. Bishop was appointed to plan, develop, and implement a cadre of citizen volunteers to augment the Albuquerque Fire Department during Major fires, nuclear attack and disasters. He was assigned to the local Office of Emergency Preparedness with the title, Fire and RADEF Officer. The director of the organization, Mr. George Dunham was part of the City Manager's Staff and Bishop was the Fire Department liaison assigned to that department. Locally Bishop developed a firefighter training program (40 hours) recruited and trained 40 volunteer firefighters at the fire academy. They assumed the title, **"ALBUQUERQUE FIRE RESERVE ASSOCIATION."** Because Bishop headed the program , and trained the volunteer firefighters, the active duty firefighters affectionately named them "Bishop's Raiders,"



Once the volunteers completed training they were certified as firefighters and were assigned to work shifts, nights and weekends by riding with the on duty District Chiefs throughout the City. The volunteers were on call and were called in to major fires, second alarms and greater. Some famous fires they assisted in were: Many river bosque fires, The Winrock Apartment Fires, Brunicinni Appliance Store Fire, Montgomery Apartment Fires, Rio Grande Title Fire and many other second alarm fires. The auxiliary fire brigade served with AFD for about 10 years (1969 to 1979). The last few years the volunteers served, they Provided fire protection at "Speedway Park." a local stock car race track, located On Eubank Boulevard SE, adjacent to Kirtland Air Force Base.

This logo/decals was developed and used by the "Albuquerque Fire Reserve," Volunteer firefighters during their tenure with the Albuquerque Fire Department. After the volunteers disbanded, Retired AFD District Chief Paul Graves Kept this decal as a souvenir for 25 years. In 2019 he brought it back to be displayed in the AFD Fire Museum .



**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
5318 LA COLONIA N.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87120**



PRESIDENT, KERRY HORTON

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KERRY HORTON**

Hello everyone, the holidays are upon us, and I sincerely hope you and your families are doing well. It has been a very busy Fall, and I would like to give thanks to some of our members for their help on a few projects that we have undertaken.

Back in October, AFR conducted a Haunted Tower at the Training Academy, and AFR Fire Chief Dow asked for our help in pulling off the event. Prior to the event, we wanted to finish a mannequin project at the museum to display the different style of bunker gear used by the department over the years. I want to thank Pablo Garcia for donating two sets of bunkers, and helping build the display. We have received many compliments regarding the display. We are also looking for a set of black bunkers that were used back in the day by AFD, so if you have a complete set, pants and coat, we would love to display them at the museum.

At the Haunted Tower event, Sam Trujillo, Mike Fox, Fred Casias, Pablo and Bridget Garcia, Jesse Lopez, and Mike's brother-in-law Brian, and nephew Conner all lent a hand in acting as docents in the museum. The events was such a success that the department had to turn people away by 7:30 in the evening, even though the event lasted until 10:30. It was a wild and fun night, and I want to thank all that helped out, I apologize to those that I forgot to mention.

Another big project we worked on this Fall was a Random Acts landscaping project at Brother Phil Candelaria's house. I want to give a big thank you to Morris Gutierrez for leading this project, and to Chris Sanchez for being the unofficial foreman and giving all the volunteers direction. The number of retirees that turned out to help are to numerous to mention, but Phil and I thank every one of you. We had so many volunteers show up to help out a brother in need, that it really shows how strong and unified the retired fire community is.

One last note, as the holidays approach, please reach out to the families of our recently departed brothers, and let them know that they are always in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.