

AFD RETIREE NEWS

December 1, 2020

4-2020

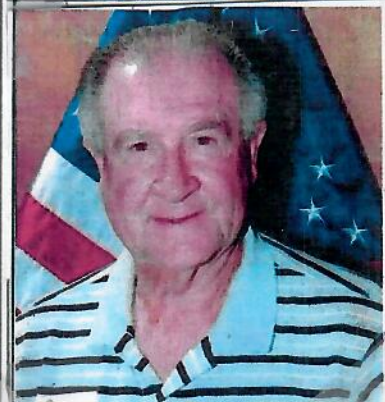
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THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION**



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"MERRY CHRISTMAS, 2020"

John Gonzales Death- We were notified of the death of retired firefighter, Lieutenant John Gonzales, age 65, who passed away on September 4, 2020. He joined AFD on July 11, 1983 and was a member of the 36th fire cadet class. After serving over 22 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Department he retired on August 1, 2005. He was hired by Fire Chief Leonard Ortega along with 29 fire cadets to staff the new fire station 18 at Taylor Ranch. This group of cadets trained at the old fire academy at 1510 Kit Carson SW adjacent to the zoo. John was successful in his fire career. He was promoted to driver on April 19, 1986 and was promoted to Lieutenant during December, 1988. He was a good role model for the new firefighters coming in. He knew his job and was well liked by his coworkers and supervisors alike. He was a member of the AFD Retiree's association for 15 years. His fellow retirees have fond memories of John during their working years. There is a brotherhood and strong bond among firefighters during their working years which carries over into the retirement years. Members of the AFD Retiree's Association extend their most sincere condolences to the Gonzales family. John remains in our hearts and our memories.



John Gonzales

Minutes, September Meeting – The September 9, 2020 monthly meeting was cancelled by Governor's orders. The meeting was conducted electronically on September 9, 2020. Participants, President Kerry Horton, Vice President Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. A moment of silence was held for two brothers we lost recently, Paul Graves and John Gonzales. They will be missed. Let's keep their families in our thoughts and prayers. Fred Casias submitted the minutes of the August meeting, and Mike Fox submitted the Treasurer's report for August. Mike reported that during the pandemic our expenses are down. However, this is good news for our treasury. The Secretary's report and Treasurer's report was approved by the board members.

President's Report – Our honor guard was invited to ring the Four-Fives at the 911 Ceremony at Civic Plaza on Friday September 11, 2020. There was a small intimate ceremony after Chief Dow and some active duty firefighters climbed the stairs of a downtown high rise in honor of the firefighters who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in N.Y. A decision on this year's Christmas dinner has not been determined yet. More on this later. I encourage members to purchase two books written by two of our members. Herman Bishop compiled the book, "Legends and Lore," of the fire service, cost \$12.00 and Morris Guterrez completed the book, "F.F. Nicknames," cost, \$20.00. To receive your copies of both books contact Herman @ 294-7165.

Historian's Report – After the September newsletter was ready for printing Herman was unable to follow through to completion due to cataract surgery. A big thanks to Kerry Horton and the fire department staff for carrying the ball and getting the September newsletter printed and delivering it to Adelante Mailing Service in a timely manner. Our retirees received the newsletter the 3rd of September and we have received many favorable comments. Many of our members ordered the two books, "Firefighter Nicknames," and "Legends and Lore of the Fire Service."

We were sorry to learn of the death of our brother firefighter retired District Chief, Paul Graves. We have extended condolences to his wife, Trish, and family. A memorial honoring his life is planned at the family home in Victor, Montana on October 3, 2020. The retiree's proclamation honoring his years service will be read. The family has a fire bell and they will strike the "Four-Fives," in his honor. In his obituary we honored his military service but unfortunately, we stated he was a U.S. Army veteran. Our Sincere apologies to the Graves family. Paul was a U.S. Air Force veteran. who served in Vietnam.

The 241 st retiree's monthly meeting was closed with a silent prayer. Adjournment by President Kerry Horton.



FIRE ENGINEERING TRAINING COMMUNITY
WHY DO FIREFIGHTERS FIGHT FIRE
(Submitted by Michael Bricault, AFD Retired)
February 3, 2013

Michael Bricault is a retired AFD firefighter. He joined the department on September 13, 1993. After serving 20 years of faithful and dedicated service he retired on June 1, 2014. He served most of his career at the old Station # 5 as well as the new station# 5. During his career he served as the official F.D. bagpiper. He now lives in Scotio, New York. From time to time he submits articles for our retiree quarterly newsletter. He sends regards to all his friends and AFD fellow retired firefighters.



Michael Bricault



Old Station # 5 Chico and Dallas NE

-The following is the script of a two minute radio broadcast that happened twenty five years ago by the great Paul Harvey, on his hugely successful radio program, "News and Comments by Paul Harvey". My Harvey was a great broadcaster who had a tremendously kind spirit. He was know for taking the obscure and introducing it to the rest of us in a beautifully eloquent way. The challenge was made more difficult because, for you youngsters, Mr. Harvey was a radio broadcaster; no pictures.

-For those of us old enough to remember listening to Mr. Harvey, it was a wonderful treat to hear that silky deep voice that pronounced everything so correctly and with so much feeling and emotion, painting pictures that were better than images captured with a camera.

-If you have never had the privilege of listening to Mr. Harvey, google him and play some of the samplings. He was the kind of radio personality that came across as an old and trusted friend that made you feel as though he were talkin right to you. This is the guy that you wanted to speak to people on your behalf. And one day almost thirty years ago, for just two minutes... he spoke for firefighters everywhere.

-And now, using Mr. Paul Harvey's own words, "for the rest of the story".

Fire and Ice by Paul Harvey

Nobody knows why firefighters are firefighters. Not even they can tell you why. It's time somebody tried. Firefighting is the most risky of all dead end jobs and yet also the one where most workers are most likely to punch in early. It's hard enough to believe that; it's impossible to explain it. Fire and ice are uncomfortable separately or together. Wives hate the hours. Kids love the noise. Fire and ice.



Any day at the firehouse the bell from hell puts the dispatcher on the horn with a tenement tinderbox address. Into the bunker pants, turnout coat, grab the mask and go. Minutes later you're onsite. As others run out, you go in. You'll need all you can carry the six-pound axe, a six-foot rake, the Halligan bar. The ceiling concealing the smoldering has to come down and it's one of those stubborn tin ones. In the scary dark with the heat eating your ears, you're gouging on and tearing loose and pulling apart, gulping air and tasting black. Your windpipe is closing and you've lost track of which way is out. Is it worth it?

They've budget cut your ladder company from six to five, so now everything you do is 16.67 percent more difficult and more dangerous. Your air is low. Inside your mask you're throwing up. There's a searing ember down your neck. Torn gloves expose a smashed hand. Yet you emerge from the holocaust hugging, with your elbows, somebody's singed kitten. Fire and ice.

You've had minutes of exhilaration on the bouncing rear mount of a steaming hundred-foot Seagrave, hours of using all you've learned and learning more. Now you're back at the station house. You've unstuffed your nostrils with soapy fingers; you can almost breathe again. Next come the tedious hours as you and Brillo gang up on the grimy tools. The cleanup crew at the firehouse is you when windows need washing and toilets need cleaning and floors mopping and beds need making, you do it. Fire and ice, they both go with the job.

Then there's that night another engine company gets there first and you see this wet-eared rookie hot-dogging ahead; his academy boots still shiny. You lose him inside the crackling dark and you forget about him until your helmet warning bell says get out. The battalion chief is calling you off. You get out; the other guy didn't. He had heard a scream from the bottom of burning basement stairs and he headed down there, when on the bubbling tarpaper roof the three-ton compressor broke through, that day we lost two.

Oh, yes, firefighters cry, but only briefly because now comes the inevitable and evermore paperwork just in case OSHA complains or somebody sues. Is it worth it?

Your B crew pumper swapped his day shift so some family guy could be home for his kid's birthday and then, outbound toward a false alarm, your buddy gets blindsided by a hotrod driven by a drunk. Fire and ice.

The intercom barks again. This time it's a warehouse, a big, fast, multiple blaze, probably torched. Onsite engine men draped with icicles dragging an inch and three-quarter hose are waiting for your big line: ladder men can't make the building without you. Search, rescue, ventilate. Eventually it's over and out. You're smoke smudged and sleepless and wrung out, but you won. Behind graffiti-fouled walls you saved what you could. But the raging blaze that wanted to consume adjacent buildings did not because you were there.

Back at the firehouse before cleanup, you and the guys sit a spell, tired but stimulated, drinking coffee and laughing, and feeling good about one another. Nobody outside your world can ever quite know that feeling. In any other uniform you get streets named after you for killing people; in this one you risk your life to save people. Until one day you run out of chances and at one final fire, either you buy it or you don't. If you don't, it's only eventually to be brushed off with a puny pension. Yet there's no third way you'd ever leave this job and, you're doubting even God knows why.

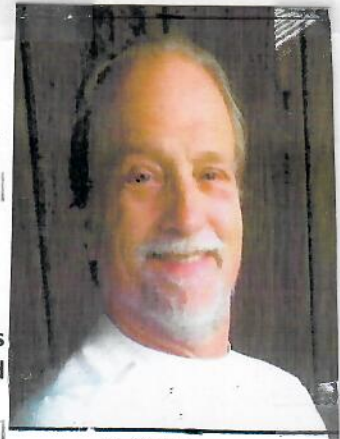
You're out of the shower now; most of the grime and some of the cynicism are down the drain, when you hear a strangely familiar voice saying, "For salvaging things and people from flames, I have to rely on your hands." You look around, nobody there. But when you get over your incredulity, you feel better. Suddenly today's crew cook in the kitchen hollers chow. It's time to eat. It smells like roast beef today, and that'll be good. But you'll eat fast, for any next alarm you'll want to be ready.

Fire Station 5 – 123 Dallas NE – The current station 5 was built in 2005 to replace a single-engine house that was built in 1949 and served the community for 56 years. It serves the culturally diverse and densely populated International District and a service area of 3.4 square miles. Station 5 is one of AFR's busiest fire stations. Also it is one of the busiest fire stations in the nation and ranks as the 31st busiest. The station is a multiple house and staffs 10 firefighters per shift. Housed here is: Engine 5, Ladder 5, Rescue 5, BLS 2, and Battalion Chief 2.



AFD FIRE STATION 5 -123 DALLAS N.E.

Jeff Elks Dies – We regret to announce the death of our fellow retiree Captain Jeff Elks, age 67, who passed away on Monday September 21, 2020 after a long term illness. He joined AFD on March 22, 1976 and after spending over 20 years of faithful, loyal, and dedicated service to his community and to the department he retired on May 31, 1996. He was in the 28 th Fire Cadet Class and was promoted to firefighter 1/C after Completing his annual probation. He was a dedicated firefighter who loved his job and was well respected by his fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. He was promoted to rescue driver during July, 1979. He moved up the ranks quickly and was promoted to Lieutenant in September 1981 and promoted to Captain on January 4, 1986. He took pride in his work and was a strong leader who was looked up to by the young firefighters in his charge. His two sons, Sean and Raymond Elks followed their father's footsteps and are now serving in the department as well. Jeff has been a faithful member of the AFD Retiree's Association for the past 20 years. He also founded the retired firefighter's Motorcycle funeral escort to honor our deceased members. We will truly miss Jeff. On behalf of our members we extend our most sincere condolences and prayers to the Entire Jeff Elk's family.



Jeff Elks

Minutes, October Meeting – The October monthly meeting was conducted electronically on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 due to restrictions imposed on large gatherings of ten or more by the Governor. Participants were, President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian, Herman Bishop, and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. A moment of silence was observed for our three retired members that we lost recently, Dist. Ch. Paul Graves, Lt. John Gonzales and Captain Jeff Elks. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the Graves, Gonzales and Elk's families. Fred Casias submitted the minutes from the September meeting and Mike Fox submitted the September Treasurer's report. The Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report was approved by the board members.

President's Report – The AFDRA E- Board and a few of the Advisory Board Members have decided, after some serious thought and discussion, that we are cancelling the November and December meetings. Our hope is that the new year will bring better times and that we can resume our meetings in-person. We are not sure if that will be January or not, but we are hopeful, and looking forward to the day that we can meet, embrace, and get things back to the old ways. We are sorry that the Memorial Flagpole raising had to be cancelled, but there were some logistical problems that needed to be addressed. The Memorial Flagpole raising was re-scheduled For October 20, 2020, 1:00 P.M. @ the Fire Academy drill field.

Historian's Report – During June, 2000 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the AFD Retiree's Association. Also this year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of publishing the AFD Retiree's newsletter. This publication has been well received by our members, their families and friends as well. A big thanks to our many members who have submitted interesting articles and photos as well. Sales of our two books, are going well, "Nicknames, Puzzles, Games & Recipes of FF," \$20.00 by Morris Guterrez, and "Legends & Lore of the Fire Service," \$12.00, by Herman Bishop. Contact Herman @ (505)294-7165 to receive your copy of these two books.

Jeff Elks, By: Eddie Abeita – Several years ago we played ball with El Paso. Jeff Elks wanted to play and I gave him a jersey and put him in the line up. He played two innings and was able to bat once. He thanked me sincerely. I am glad I put him in the game.

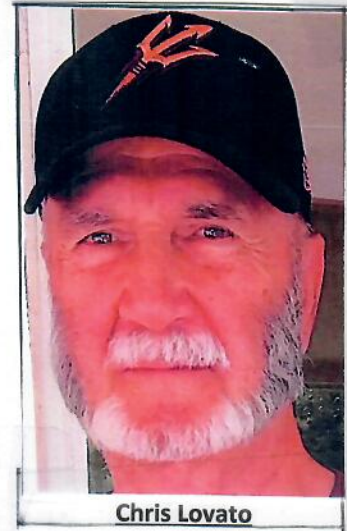
Our friend Frank Maestas sent us three firefighter clocks to be raffled off for our annual picnic in August. Unfortunately, the picnic was cancelled. During October we conducted a drawing for the clocks. The winners were: Rudy Sanchez, Eddie Abeita and Bill Raupfer. Many thanks to Frank for the nice door prizes.

We will conclude the October, 14, 2020 monthly meeting with a silent prayer in memory of our deceased members. Best wishes to all our members and their families from President Kerry Horton and members of the Executive Board. The October monthly meeting is hereby adjourned.



Chris Lovato Story
(July 10, 2020)

It was on March 7, 1966 that Chris Lovato joined the Albuquerque Fire Department and spent his career as a firefighter. Chris grew up in Albuquerque and graduated from the old Albuquerque High School at Broadway and Central Avenue N.E. in 1957. There was no fire academy as we know it today, however the training facility was located at 1510 Kit Carson SW adjacent to the zoo and the old seven story drill tower was on the grounds. Chris was in the 12th fire cadet class. There were 15 trainees in Chris's class and eleven of the group made a career with the department. The training was eight weeks long. Of course new fire trainees were required to lay miles and miles of 2 ½ inch fire hose, run up and down the seven story drill tower dozens, and dozens times per day. They drilled with ladders until they could do it with their eyes shut and of course they were required to show competency with ladder evolutions on the 100 foot aerial ladder. In those days a firefighter was required to jump into the life net from the third story of the drill tower to qualify as a firefighter. The life net is a practice long since eliminated by the fire service. They were required to endure the dreaded smoke room with no breathing mask until it seems one would choke to death before the drill master allowed trainees to don breathing apparatus. Then as today, the training still requires fire cadets to qualify in the smoke room as a confidence building exercise to acclimate a new firefighter as what to expect in a real fire situation. In 1966 there was no paramedic program in the fire department but the department had three rescue squads throughout the city. During the eight weeks fire training program cadets were required to pass The American Red Cross advanced first aid course in order to qualify as a firefighter.



Chris loved his job as a firefighter and is proud of his service to the Albuquerque community and to the department. He was successful in climbing the promotional ladder of success rather quickly during his career. After taking a one year leave of absence in 1970 to tour Europe he was promoted to driver in 1973. One year later he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1974. In 1983 he received his promotion to Captain and four years later he was promoted to District Chief where he served until his retirement. After serving a total of twenty five years service Chris retired on December 30, 1991.

Chris has two sons (no grandchildren). He is an avid skier and owns a condo in Purgatory, Colorado. He spends several months a year there. For many years Chris has been a long distance marathon runner. He has run ½ marathons in California, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and even ran in Canada. He has lived most of his life in Albuquerque. In the spring of 2020 due to health concerns and a need to be close to their children, he and his wife Carol moved to a retirement resort community in Sun Lakes, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix.

"I still have fond memories of my career as a firefighter and I often think of Albuquerque," Chris said. He enjoys receiving the quarterly retired firefighter newsletter it keeps him up to date on fire department activities and he loves to read the stories of his old retired firefighter buddies. Submitted by : Herman R. Bishop (7- 10-2020)

MY CAREER WITH THE ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHRIS LOVATO, DISTRICT CHIEF RETIRED
(JULY 10, 2020)

I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in March 1966. Chief Kuhn was the current Fire Chief and Captain Padilla was the training officer. The things that stood out most in my mind were the old and outdated equipment. There never seemed to be sufficient tax money to purchase new equipment for the fire department. I will always remember riding the pumper in the open air during the dead of winter with no protection from the bitter cold, arriving with a frosted red face and bloodshot eyes.

While I was in my second week of fire training, my first son was born. It was difficult to concentrate on my studies, due to personal hardships and marital difficulties. Unfortunately that marriage only lasted three years.

I was sent to Station 9 for my first tour of duty and Lt. Bishop was my officer. I got off to a good start with Lt. Bishop as my First Officer and he was an inspirational leader. Under his influence, I retired as a District Fire Chief after 25 years of service.

Early in my career, the Fire Department allowed me to pursue a lifelong dream. As a little boy, I used to dream of traveling the world. Prior to joining the fire department, I traveled throughout Europe for four months and I really wanted to pursue the rewards and excitement of travel that I had already experienced. Fortunately, the current Albuquerque City Manager granted me a one year leave of absence without pay. I was elated and headed to Europe, traveling to every European country including Scandinavia. Eight months into my year of travel I left Europe and headed for Africa, the Orient with the last stop in Japan.

While in Denmark and later in Spain, I struggled with a decision to leave the fire department and live in Europe. It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make and ultimately I realized I could never match the career benefits with the fire department, so I changed my mind and continued my service with the fire department. The career benefits of lifetime security and status could not be matched and I enjoy to this day. My 80% retirement is unheard of in today's world.

On return from my first year of travel, I continued my trips with the permission of Chief Ortega and Chief Martinez, ranging from six to nine months. Throughout my travels, I visited other fire departments around the world and accumulated a variety of local pictures and fire department training materials which I donated to the Albuquerque Fire Department library.

My favorite fire department story goes back to Copenhagen, Denmark. I was invited to stay for lunch at the local fire station. I eagerly agreed and enjoyed visiting with the entire crew for about two hours before lunch. The meal of the day was red onions fried in oil. I absolutely hate onions but felt obligated to join the crew. I was served a huge helping of red onion stew. The only thing that saved me was a refrigerator full of beer which was allowed at the fire station. I didn't want to be rude so I ate the entire serving of red onions and drank a number of beers. I belched and farted for about three consecutive days thereafter.

Including my travels during employment with the fire department, I have traveled worldwide with the exception of the Middle East and have no desire to go there. Hoping the coronavirus disease passes, I plan to continue my travels.

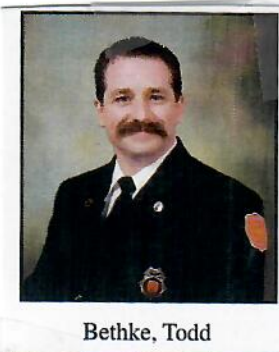
I enjoyed and value my service with the Albuquerque Fire Department. It was an exciting and memorable experience. In today's word, there is a definite status being a first responder.

CHRIS LOVATO 12TH FIRE CADET CLASS MARCH 7, 1966		
Made AFD Their Career		
Chris Lovato	Sheryl Stanley	
Richey Kettles	Efren Garcia	
Joe Hernandez	Danny Jaramillo	
Art Loera	Tommy Lopez	
Eppie Ortega	Donald Padilla	
Anthony Vigil		
Did Not Make AFD Their Career		
Bill Bartlett	Wayne Thigpen	
Frank Maestas	John West	

Special Note: Chris Lovato graduated from the University of Albuquerque in 1973 With an Associate's Degree, "Fire Technology." He graduated with Honors, "Cum Laude," of which he is very proud.

TODD BETHKE

Todd Bethke Joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on September 14, 1987 and after serving 22 years with the department he retired on December 31, 2009. In addition to being a firefighter he is a professional culinary chef. During his fire career he was noted for his firehouse cooking skills and always delighted his fellow firefighters with his many delicious dishes. Recently his fellow retired firefighter Morris Guterrez published a book, "Firefighter Nicknames, Crossword Puzzles Games & Firefighter Recipes." Todd submitted this article for the book Along with some of his favorite recipes.



I was so excited when I was asked to be part of this publication and was told what it was about. Many memories came flooding back. *Nicknames* - Wow, now I can learn my brothers' real names. As I think about the 22+ years I was with AFD, I remember one of my first nicknames was "station 10's token white boy" I was kind of proud of that nickname, but it never stuck. At station 4, *Scarecrow* and *Dorothy* never really took off because North Dakota is a long way from Kansas (some of you will understand). Through the years every station had nickname ideas like, "*The Human Ventilator*", "*the cook*", and even "*Todd the wadd*", but ultimately I was *Toddster*. AFD was such a blessing and privilege for me to be a part of. It filled my heart to be able to cook for so many wonderful firefighters knowing their tummies were full, because I knew they were sure to have my back on calls. I also have great memories of the crews helping with peeling, dicing, shredding and doing all the dishes that I made dirty. We were all there to help each other out, and it's *without a doubt* that I was amongst some of Albuquerque's greatest.

Here are a couple of the crews' favorite recipes:

<p><u>Picó De Gallo</u> <i>(By Todd Bethke)</i></p> <p>In a bowl place</p> <p>1 medium Onion- Chopped 4 or 5 Jalapeños- Chopped 2 Cloves Garlic- Minced add 1 Tbsp balsamic Vinegar 1 Tbsp Oil 1Tbsp salt Squeeze 1 Lime over add 4 or 5 Tomatoes chopped Add chopped cilantro to taste (about 2 Tbsp) Mix</p>	<p><u>Jalapeño Salsa</u> <i>(By Todd Bethke)</i></p> <p>About 20 Jalapeños boiled or seared (blackened) 1 large Onion halved & blackened 4 or 5 cloves of Garlic 1 Tbsp of Salt 1 Tsp Knorr seasoning</p> <p>Blend all together</p> <p>Then add ¼ Onion Chopped add chopped cilantro to taste</p>
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"Bagpiper" the Elliot Knighton Story

by Eddie Abeita

Albuquerque Fire Department has its own Highland Bagpiper Firefighter Elliot Knighton who has been active duty for approximately 12 years. Assigned to squad two station three. Elliot started his firefighter career with Grants Fire Department where his interest in the pipes started.

After September 11, the Grants Fire Department's honor guard began to use the tune "Amazing Grace" from a CD called "All Hands Working". This was produced by the F.D.N.Y Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, whose members are all active, and retired members of New York City Fire Department. They are the first and oldest fire department bagpipe band in the United States. Elliot said, he loved the feeling he got when listening to the tune Amazing Grace, "it sent a chill up my spine" and still does now, he said.

Elliot's dad was Irish and Welch with mother being of Spanish heritage from across the pond, where the Scottish Instruments and its music was common.

Elliot actually started playing bagpipes about 8 years ago. Elliot said I am a self-taught bagger; I listened to and played the music over and over until I learned it.



AFD Firefighter Elliot Knighton

The Great Highland Bagpipe has its own sheet music as its scale has only nine notes. Elliot said. By using a tutor book called the "College of Piping Bagpipe Tutor #1" helped me in the basics of playing a practice chanter. Most pipers call this book "the green book". While given pointers from seasoned pipers, the green book and internet Elliott said, actually began my playing.

Learning to play the bagpipe was one big task, the next big step I thought would be easy however it was not. The challenge was, learning to march with other bagpipers and that was tricky. The seasoned(older) pipers tell younger pipers, when marching think of doing the stroll dance moves from 1958, [yep 1958 well OK, but most of us don't even remember the twist]. The first few times in marching and playing is like the old jargon, of rubbing your stomach in a circle and tapping your head at the same time, it takes some practice. Elliot said history in the United States, credits the Irish with being first in playing their bagpipes at funerals to honor their dead which were mainly firefighters and police officers. Today some first responders are also honored with the playing of bagpipes at their funeral(s). Our group will practice especially for upcoming performances with my fire schedule I was given permission to practice with our group at station three where currently assigned. With COVID it's been hard to practice at the station because of the gathering number requirements.

“Bagpiper” the Elliot Knighton Story

by Eddie Abeita

One particular ceremony that is so compelling to me said Elliot is the Bataan Death March Memorial Ceremony mainly because my Grandfather, Harold Knighton was a Prisoner of War and Bataan Death March survivor. Also, my first *solo debut* was May 25, 2016, in which I played graveside funeral service for my grandmother on mother’s side.

After playing at a funeral or ceremony people will ask questions, the most frequent was, what do you charge to play and how much does a set of pipes cost? The first few times was difficult to answer because my playing was intended to honor our deceased brothers and sisters. Later the answer became a donation would be fine. After us bagpipers discussed the different situations and noted that request for our presentations from the “*general public*” can get out of hand, easily. The paramount thing was keeping focus on our deceased brother and sister first responders. The funeral homes may hire bagpipers for playing at services which is best.

The bagpipe today are made from mostly synthetic material, where hundreds of years back actual animal body parts were used. African Blackwood pipes are the most preferred Cost can start at \$900.00 and can get expensive just like a Stratovarius Violin.

With a smile on his face Elliot said, I have a beautiful wife Ambrosia and three wonderful children, son Serai, 21, daughters Amara, 16, and Isela 13. They have always given me so much support in all my endeavors!

New Mexico Fire and Police Pipes and Drums



MEDICARE - SENIOR HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER – Teri Rocco CdeBaca is a representative of the City of Albuquerque Senior Affairs Division and is available to educate seniors/retired firefighters, who are on Medicare or getting close to that age about healthcare options. Consultation is free and Teri will assist you in obtaining the right medicare plan. She is working with Kerry Horton to assist firefighters. Call Teri to make an Appointment @ (505)249-9264. FREE! A VALUABLE MEDICARE RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO FIREFIGHTERS.

Fire Academy Training- Behind the Scene

by Eddie Abeita

Preparing for In-service training took good planning. However, things that happened before, and after training was another story. If you remember working with our comrades in a fire station you can relate to the following [just remember it's the nature of the beast.]

So, the first thing the curriculum is established subject matter identified and teaching outlines ready all based on local, state or federal requirements. If possible, more than one subject was identified for training, if EMS subject matter was included the training hours could be used toward state recertification. Haz-Mat was always a good subject to have however with one Haz-Mat instructor on staff, help from field units was needed. Support divisions would also participate in training especially when there was a change in the fire code.

Next, memo with schedule prepared for chief's approval and signature. Upon approval copies made for field distribution. After the training memo was read, a few calls were received from field or support division pertaining to the training memo and schedule.

Some conversations remembered were; **caller**, are we scheduled for training, because we can't all leave the office at once? **Staff**, no problem you have a lot of sessions to attend. **Caller** after classroom stuff can we leave and come back to the office? **Staff** NO, but make sure you bring your bunkers with you. **Caller**, WHY bring our bunkers, we don't go to fires anymore the Arson guys may go? **Staff**, well you are supposed to have them with you when on the clock. **Caller**, when did they changed that rule or what? **Staff**, Well, in the Rules and Regulations it states you can be called in for support to any incident at any time, so you should have your bunkers in your office or in your assigned vehicle! **Caller** well I guess we missed that memo. OK how do we drill; we have no pumper? **Staff**, well you can use the academy pumper and use other firefighters to make up your own company if needed. You also get to select who will drive who will be the officer who will catch the hydrant etc. **caller**, well OK, will see you then, thanks!

The feedback after the training was completed from support divisions was all positive. Most said "this was great" we need to do this stuff more often, because you get away from it in the office, and you forget some things. This also breaks up the office routine, they said!

At times the alarm room would call and request that certain companies be released and placed back in service because too much equipment was out of service due to mechanical problems. Sometimes a company scheduled for training would leave their apparatus at the mechanics shop so another company could use it. Safe spare equipment was *not always* available.

Lieutenant M.R. Sanchez would bring his crew to the academy periodically so the driver could work with the other firefighters (pipemen) in pump operations. He would always say, next in-service training always schedules our engine first. His theory was, I don't want to hear what the drill was about from other officers that have already attended. It's just like going on a call you get the information however, upon arrival things are different. You have to immediately make a decision. There is *NO exact preparation for an incident!* I feel give us the scenario and we will drill/execute and you can point out things we need to work on, if needed, M.R. said!

Fire Academy Training-Behind the Scenes

by Eddie Abeita

When companies arrived at the academy for training it was always the firefighter humor and nature that came with them. First handshakes and rumors to tell us or to verify them, a lot of the time the rumors was news to us. Next was, can we use the phone, have to call the station to find out if we can get on their chow list? Also, can we use the academy van for lunch?

During fire scenarios two Battalion Chiefs Mark Lucero and Tom Romero stepped aside and had a captain assume their position and take Command. They felt this is good hands on training for captains. They are always subject to be upgrade in our absence at one time or another the battalion chiefs said. This also happened when some officers would have their driver(s) go over pump operations with their firefighters (pipemen).

After the end of scheduled training came the "make-ups" for firefighters who slipped through the cracks and did not attend. The battalion's chiefs in their respective districts worked to schedule their personnel to attend. One particular fire chief and his administration moved the three district manpower status boards to one location which was station 17. The captains would handle all manning assignments across all three districts it was easier to balance the manpower by looking at all districts at once. The three captains were Fred Casias, Danny Duran and Dave Friend which helped me out a lot, "big time".

Reasons for firefighters not attending were, when scheduled for training, they were floating or being up graded at another station. The other was being on scheduled vacation or sick leave. One irregular reason for nonattendance was a few firefighters were on what was called a scam. The way it worked was, one would work a shift (trade) for another to give them an extra day off this could be a three-way operation. Now station 17 captains schedule make-ups, the captain(s) would place as many firefighters as possible on one piece of equipment to minimize the amount of apparatus going out of service. The captains would start setting up the status board for the off going battalion and let them know; "you are scheduled for make-up training next cycle, so, report to station such and such".

[Series of non-documented quotes from different sources] The captain(s) would get some push back from a few firefighters for attending. Back and forth conversation; FF I am off that day I am on the "scam" or I am not the floater I floated last cycle. The captain(s) were seasoned for this and would respond starting with; **Captains**, need a copy of your **approved trade of shift** form, have your battalion chief send a copy for our records, OK? FF which company do I report to I forgot? However, there was always the exception, FF challenging the captain's directions and would say, it's in the rules and regs that I don't have to float twice! The **captain(s)** would say well tell me something, where are you getting this from? Maybe you are right, well tell me, from our red books, what volume section article, are you referring to, so we can post it on our board for immediate reference OK? **Captain(s)** also I will send a copy to your battalion chief so he will know. One particular FF said after his discussion got snotty with one captain he said, well what are my other alternatives not to float? The **captain(s)** said after a long pause, well you can just resign! Outcome, the firefighter attended make-up with **no** negative attitude!

AFDRA and 2020 By Kerry Horton

This is our final newsletter of 2020, and what a year it has been. As with all of you, the AFDRA Executive Board had no idea how this year was going to disrupt everyone's lives. We started the year looking forward to celebrating AFDRA's 20th anniversary, having a big summer picnic to mark the occasion, and just enjoying the year staying in touch with our fire family. The first few months started out normal. We had meetings, assigned committees to plan elections and the picnic, and never gave thought as to what was about to hit us.

At the end of March, this pandemic was in full swing, and staying home and social distancing was the order of the day. We cancelled our April meeting, and had to scramble to figure out what to do. Never in the nearly 20 years of AFDRA meetings had we cancelled a meeting before, though one or two were moved to a different day for various reasons. Do we ZOOM, Face chat, Facetime, we had no idea. I didn't even know what those things were back in April. It was decided that the e-board reports would just be put out via email, and sent out to everyone that we have an email address for. That worked well enough that when May came along, and we again had to cancel our meeting, we just did email again.

The world looked a little normal in June and July, so we were able to hold in-person meetings again. This was a blessing as it allowed us to conduct our elections and get our officers sworn in. To be honest, nobody ran opposed, so no actual election was held, Fred and I were just sworn in for another term. If someone ever is challenged in an election, our only method of holding a vote is by a hand count of the members present at the June meeting. This is something that we will have to address in the future.

By August, the gathering restrictions were back in place state wide, so we had to cancel our meetings again, along with the summer picnic. Since we did not think that we would get a good turnout with a ZOOM meeting, it was decided that the email meetings would have to do, at least for now. By October it was evident that this pandemic was not going away, so the e-board decided to cancel the rest of the 2020 meetings, and in November it was clear that the Christmas Party had to be cancelled as well. We do not know when this pandemic will end, and at this time we do not know when we will be able to conduct our normal in-person meetings, but we certainly hope that 2021 brings us a more normal life.

Despite all that 2020 has brought us, AFDRA has still been able to get some good things done. We have added new displays to the museum, and thanks to your generous donations, we have enough money to build a couple of glass displays to securely hold many different items from AFD's past. The Memorial Flagpole has been relocated to the Fire Academy, and a beautiful new mounting plate has been made for it. We are currently working on replacing the name tags with stamped engraved tags that will hold up to the elements for years to come. And we continue to honor our Brothers that have passed with some new members in our Honor Guard, and these guys are looking very sharp.

Even though we could not celebrate our 20th year in the fashion that we wanted to, we will just have to look forward to our 25th anniversary. In the meantime, we will get back to normal at some point, with real meetings, bro-hugs and back slaps, and all those same stories and jokes being retold again and again. Stay safe, stay healthy, and we will see you next year.

Memorial Flag Pole Dedication - On Tuesday October 20, 2020 the Albuquerque Fire Department Memorial Flag Pole was dedicated at the Fire Academy, 11500 Sunset Gardens SW. The names of about 300 deceased firefighters are displayed on the flag pole. The flag pole had formerly been located at Cosmos Hair And Nail Concepts, 2721 San Mateo NE. By agreement with Fire Chief Paul Dow and retired firefighter Morris Guterrez, President Kerry Horton, AFD Retiree's Association and retired members, it was re-located to the Fire Academy. Chief Dow was the Master of Ceremonies and speakers were Retiree President Kerry Horton, Retiree, Morris Guterrez, Retiree, Kenny Sewell and the welders who completed the welding. Numerous active duty firefighters, and retired firefighters attended the ceremony.



New Fire Station Nine Dedicated – On November 10, 2010 the new City fire station Nine was completed and dedicated at Menaul and Salem N.E. The new station replaced the 66 year old station located across the street which had out lived it's service to the community. The old station housed an engine company and a rescue squad. The new station will house an engine company, ladder company, and rescue squad. Deputy Chief Adam Eakes said the new station cost \$6.2 million dollars. Captain Aragon Gave a grand tour and he is happy To move into new quarters. He said, "The old quarters were rather tight And now we have room to breathe With 9 firefighters on shift duty."



Phoenix Statue, Station 9.
Phoenix Symbolism – a bird that Rises from the aftermath of fire From it's ashes. It Symbolizes Rebirth, eternity and hope.
Artist: Don Kennell, Santa Fe.
Statue 22 feet tall, made of Recycled car Hoods. In 1978 the City began a 1 % for the Arts program. This includes 1% of all

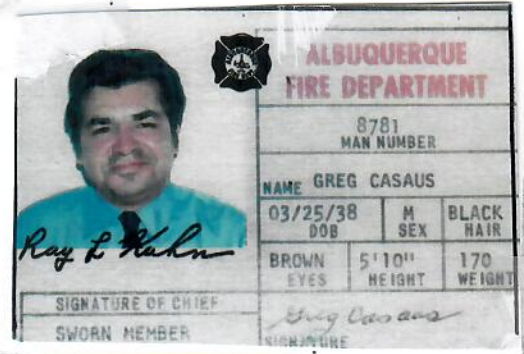
Construction funds including fire stations to be set aside for the arts. The program supports a broad variety of arts, cultural projects, and assures quality care and maintenance of the works of art throughout the City.



Firefighters, Grand Opening Station 9, November 10, 2020

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Greg Casaus Death – We regret to announce the death of our fellow retiree, firefighter, Gregory Casaus, age 82, who passed away on September 16, 2020. He joined AFD on February 26, 1968. He was a member of the 17th Fire cadet class. He was hired by Fire Chief Ray Kuhn and went through the Fire cadet class at the old training drill tower at 1610 Kit Carson SW next the the Zoo. After serving 20 years with the department he retired on December 19, 1987. He was promoted to firefighter first class on August 25, 1969 and promoted to driver during June, 1974. He was a cordial, quiet, firefighter who loved his job. He worked out of station one for many years and at most of the stations on the west side of town. On behalf of our retired firefighters we extend our most sincere condolences and sympathies to the entire Casaus family. The family will have a memorial service in his honor at a later date and time. Please keep the family in your prayers.



Joe H. Hernandez Death – It is with great sadness that we announce the death of retired fire fighter Lieutenant Joe Hernandez, age 94, who passed away on November 1, 2020. He was hired on Sept. 9, 1948 by Chief Art Westerfeld. After serving 32 years with the department he retired in May 1980. In 1950 he served 2 years with the U.S. Navy during the Korean war. In 1954 he was promoted to driver and in 1958 he was promoted to Lieutenant. He worked several years at stations # 1 and #2, on the ladder trucks and pumper trucks. He was a good officer and was a good role model for his fellow firefighters. There was no fire academy or paramedics when he joined the department. Only two people were hired when he came in and their training was mostly on the job by the Lieutenant on engine one downtown. During the first few weeks he didn't have bunkers or boots. He just wore heavy work clothes and shoes. He was a charter member of the firefighter's union when it was formed in 1962. He was also a charter member of the AFD Retiree's Association and served over 20 years with The retirees. Our sincere condolences to the Hernandez family. Joe will be missed.



Minutes November Meeting – The November 11, 2020 monthly meeting was conducted electronically due to the restrictions imposed state-wide limiting large public gatherings because of the Corona Virus. Participants were: President, Kerry Horton, Vice President Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian, Herman Bishop and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. Fred Casias submitted the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting and Mike Fox submitted the Treasurer's report for November, 2020. The Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report was approved by the board members.

President's Report – The executive board extends our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. Within the tolerances allowed, we hope you are surrounded by family and friends. Please keep those we cannot be with in your thoughts. We offer a moment of silence for our two retired brothers who recently passed away, Greg Casaus and Joe H. Hernandez. Let us keep their families in our prayers. It is with great sadness that the E-Board decided that the 2020 Christmas dinner was cancelled. This decision was really decided for us with all the gathering restrictions in the state. Committee Chair Eddie Abeita made contact with the Moose lodge, and Isletta Casino. They advised that a request to hold an event was not possible. The memorial flag pole raising was finally held on October 20 th and it went well at it's new home at the Fire Academy. The current name tags are fading and we are planning new tags that will be punch stamped.

Historian's Report – We are pleased to submit our Christmas edition of the quarterly newsletter and this completes our 20th year of this publication. Our first edition in the year 2000 was only one page and we were not sure if we would have enough information to publish a quarterly edition on a regular basis. During the past 20 years we have been blessed to have lots of information and photos that is news worthy for our members. Thanks to our members who have regularly submitted articles that are of interest to our members. We are looking forward to 20 more years of the newsletter and by that time I will be 101 years old. The edition that year should be fantastic.

We miss our monthly meetings with our fellow retirees during these difficult times. Hopefully you are all well. To our knowledge we have not heard of any of our retirees or their families who have received the Covid 19 Virus. Best wishes to everyone and "Happy Holidays Ahead."

Adjournment: We ended the 243 rd monthly meeting with a silent closing prayer.

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PRESIDENT. KERRY HORTON

President's Message

By Kerry Horton

Hello everybody, once again I hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. We are heading into the holiday season, which usually means travel, family and friend gatherings, and crowded shopping excursions. I'm not sure what adjustments you'll make this year, but we hope you stay safe and healthy throughout the holiday season.

I'm writing this on November 10th, and Herman Bishop, Fred Casias, and I just attended the grand opening of the new Station 9. It is located directly across the street from old Station 9, at 9410 Menaul NE. The department had to scale down the opening ceremonies a little due to the Covid restrictions, but it was still a grand affair. Dignitaries included Mayor Keller, Counselor Diane Gibson, Fire Chief Dow and his staff, and many others that were critical in getting the new station built. Chief Dow wanted me to pass along that when the state opens up again, he will hold a true open house at the station, and invite everyone to a luncheon to properly celebrate the grand opening. Herman has the complete story and pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

I want to take a moment to express how sad the Executive Board is that we have to cancel the 2020 Christmas dinner this year. It is the one time every year that we can truly get together and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed environment. Not to overlook how hard Eddie and Roberta work every year to make it happen, but being a catered event, there is still time for Eddie and Roberta to enjoy dinner with friends. This year Morris Gutierrez and his lovely wife Geraldine were taking over the festivities, but now they get another year to plan the dinner. Just think how big an affair it will be next year. Ha-ha.

Stay safe, be healthy, Happy Holidays