

“VOTE GERALD GRIMM PERA BOARD !”
PROTECT OUR 3% ANNUAL COST OF LIVING INCREASE

AFD RETIREE NEWS

News 1

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

June 1, 2012

#- 2-2011

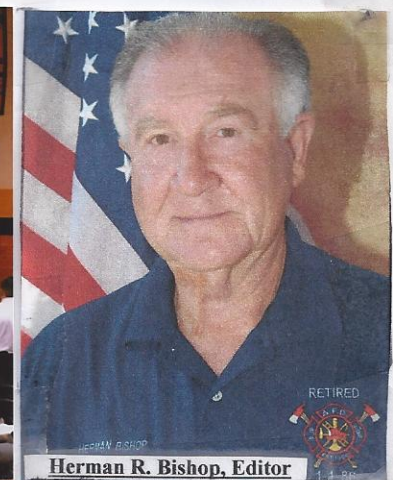
President, Sam Trujillo,	5318 La Colonia NW, Albuquerque, NM,	87120	899-1500
Vice President, Bill Raupfer	19 Valley Trail, Edgewood, N.M.	87015	281-8478
Secretary Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, NM,	87004	269-0370
Treasurer, John Serino,	1504 Hermosa S. E. Albuquerque, NM	87108	266-1252
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. NE, Albuquerque NM,	87111	294-7165

ADVISORY BOARD

Eugene Baldonado	344-6866	Noel Baca	836-2480
Vince Holcomb	897-2667	Joe Martinez	891-8817
Louis C. Trujillo	873-1544	J uan Sandoval	877-9650
John Herrera	856-1741	Tommy Romero	855-9389
Fred Teupell	259-6521	Ralph Sedillo	821-7802
Ray Flores	898-8948	Pablo Garcia Jr.	363-2233
		Eddie Torres	867-2631
		Santos Abeyta	877-2026



PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



Herman R. Bishop, Editor

**AFD RETIREEES HONOR GUARD SHOW OFF NEW
UNIFORMS AT THE “BLUE MASS,” FEBRUARY 21, 2012
L-R, MICHAEL MURPHY, JOHN SERINO, BILL RAUPFER, TOM ROMERO**

Contents

Page 1- Honor Guard, March Minutes
 Page 2- Deaths, Delgado, Gutierrez, Myrick
 Page 3- Blue Mass
 Page 4- March Minutes, Continued
 Page 5, 6, - “Slim” Davidson Dies, Story
 Page 7- Thoughts Retired F.F.
 Page 8- Frank Maestas Story
 Page 11- Annual Fund Raiser
 Page 12-Photo Vol. F.F. (1891)
 Page 13-Deaths, J.Parra, C. Mirabal
 Page 14-Death Allen N. Rhodes
 Page 15-G.Grimm, PERA Board
 Page 16- President’s Message

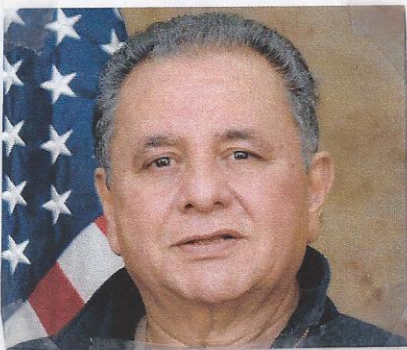
March Monthly Meeting- On Wednesday March 14, the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree’s Association was called to order @ 7:10 P.M., at the Firefighter’s Union Hall, 4100 Edith N.E. by President Sam Trujillo. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer led by Chaplain Mark Chavez a moment of silence was held for our deceased members.

Our guest speaker was District Court Judge Monica Zamora. She is running for the New Mexico Court of appeals. She is a graduate of the New Mexico School of law and has practiced law for over 18 years. Judge Zamora has served as a District Court Judge for six years and was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson. She stated that she is faithful to the belief that everyone deserves the right to be heard in a court of law by a fair and impartial judge.

Diego Arencon, President of the Firefighter’s Union, Local 244, addressed our members. On March 31, 2012 Albuquerque Area Firefighters will host a Golf Tournament, “Swing for Survivors,” at the Desert Greens Golf Course, 10035 Country Club Ln. N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. This will create the

(Continued on Page 4)

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



Sam Trujillo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By: Sam Trujillo

Let me start off by again offering our sincere condolence to the families of our recent AFD Retiree deaths. We have lost 11 retirees since the start of 2012. We have been very supportive of the retiree's families during their difficult time. We have lost about 74 retiree's since we formed our association on June 9, 2000. I need to remind you to make sure that you have taken care of letting your family members know what your "Last Alarm " wishes are. Make sure that your family is informed on all paperwork needed (i.e. DD-214, insurance policies etc.). I will continue in lending our support to the families of our fellow retiree's. I am very proud of our Funeral Detail Honor Guard, our " Last Alarm " Funeral Truck and our Funeral Proclamation / " Four Fives " Bell Ceremonies. Thanks to all AFD Retiree's that participate in our funeral ceremonies.

We were successful in getting Gerald Grimm placed on the upcoming PERA ballot. PERA will mail out election ballots on August 17th and the voting ballots must be returned to PERA by September 20th 2012. It is very important to vote for Gerald Grimm as him being an AFD Retiree, he will look out for all retiree's in protecting our COLA. We need to contact any/all PERA retiree that we may know (i.e. Municipal , County and State retiree's, ASME retiree's) and have them vote for Gerald Grimm. He is experienced (see attached bio page) and he is our best weapon in protecting our COLA. Our association officers will continue to lend support to IAFF Local 244 by staying involved in PERA related issues but we also need you to lend support in our endeavors . Getting Gerald Grimm on the ballot is only the first step in our battle to protect our PERA - COLA.

If you have any questions, please call me @ 505-899-1500 or by E-mail at samtruj@aol.com . I also want to remind you to keep us informed on any address / telephone number changes. Thank you for your support !

***** ANNUAL PICNIC, SATURDAY AUGUST 18 TH, 2012 *****

The annual retiree Picnic/Reunion will be held in downtown Bernalillo, New Mexico, at Rotary Park, on Saturday August 18 th @ 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Prices are \$5.00 for adults and Children 12 and under are free. If you need Directions call Eddie Torres @ 867-2631 or Ray Flores @ 898-8948. Go to Downtown Bernalillo and turn west on Calle Don Francisco (about ½ mile).

HANK DELGADO DIES

(By Herman R. Bishop)

It is with regrets that we announce the death of retired Lieutenant Henry "Hank" Delgado, Age, 68. He joined the department in March, 1965 and retired in May, 1967 after serving 22 years as a firefighter. "Hank" loved his job as a firefighter and was active in many sports. He served on the department baseball team for several years and was very athletic. He was a faithful and dedicated public servant. We remember him as a quiet but courteous fellow who was well liked by everyone. He was a strong man and always physically fit which was a plus as he performed his job as a firefighter.

Unfortunately he fought a long battle with cancer. The last few months he was able to visit with many of his firefighter friends he worked with and played ball with. He knew the dangers of firefighting but never hesitated to tackle the biggest and most dangerous fires head on. His fellow firefighters knew they could count on him to back them up during any emergency situation. "Hank" was part of our fire department family, and was our brother. We are sorry to lose him and offer our most sincere condolences and sympathies to the Delgado family.



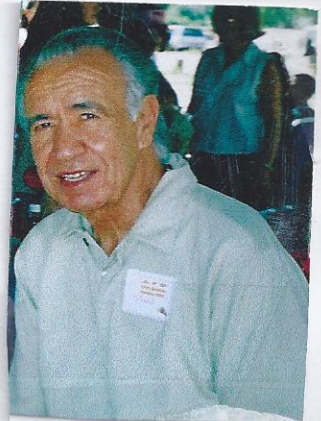
Henry "Hank" Delgado

DEATH OF EDUARDO "ED" GUTIERREZ

(By Herman R. Bishop)

We sadly announce the death of retired driver Eduardo "Ed" Gutierrez, age 73. For the past few years Ed had been on kidney dialysis. He passed away on February 12, after a long term illness. He joined the department in February, 1962 and served 24 years with the department prior to his retirement in September, 1986. He spent most of his career as a driver. He always knew the streets in his district and was an excellent mentor as he taught fire pumps to the younger firefighters. Because he was a large, strongman we gave him the nickname, "Large Ed." His strength made him a good firefighter and we all knew we could count on him to back us up on the hose lines at fires. He lived every young boy's dream and that was a real live firefighter. While assigned to Station # 10 When we housed the antique pumper there, a 1927 American La France. Ed always took pride in maintaining the old truck and made sure it was ready when we needed it for parades and fire department displays.

He was active in the retiree's association for the past eleven years and particularly enjoyed bringing his family to the annual picnics. As long as he was physically able Ed faithfully attended the retiree meetings. Our most sincere sympathies go out to the Gutierrez family. Ed was part of our firefighter family and we to share the loss of our brother firefighter.



Eduardo "Ed" Gutierrez

DORRENCE A. MYRICK, "HEAVY DUTY," DIES

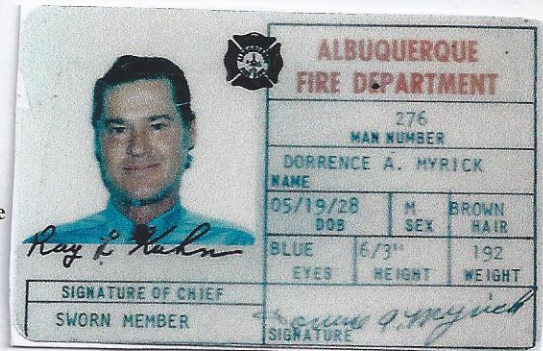
(By Herman R. Bishop)

We are sorry to announce the death of retired Lieutenant Dorrence A. Myrick "Heavy Duty." He was age 84, and passed away on February 11, 2012. He was a United States Navy Veteran and served in both World War II and the Korean War.

He joined the Fire Department in July, 1949 and retired at the rank of Lieutenant in January, 1979 After 30 years service. He assisted in the establishment of the first rescue squad in 1956 which was The forerunner of our present rescue paramedic program. In those days firefighters who served on the rescue squad were referred to as, "Rescue Men." During the first years of the rescue squads, he developed equipment specifications and designs for the first rescue units.

"Heavy Duty," was his nickname by fellow firefighters. Dorrence was given the title, "Heavy Duty," because he ensured all new rescue units and equipment must be designed and built to the strongest and most durable standards to handle all stresses and conditions encountered in field rescue operations. He was particularly attentive to details on all rescue units.

He was a leader in setting protocol and training standards for the early rescue squads and personnel assigned to rescue units. He was a great mentor to young firemen who joined the rescue program during the 1950's and 1960's. Because of his extensive knowledge of rescue operations and procedures he was highly respected by the Fire Chief, supervisors and fellow firefighters alike. When a new rescue unit arrived he was always given the task of ordering and mounting all equipment in the proper and most efficient manner to be used successfully on rescue squads.



**** ANNUAL RETIREE PICNIC, SATURDAY AUGUST 18 TH, 2012 ****

**DOWNTOWN BERNALILLO, NEW MEXICO. 10:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M.
GO TO CALLE DON FRANCISCO, TURN WEST (1/2 MILE) PICNIC IS
AT ROTARY PARK. ADMISSION: \$5.00 ADULTS, CHILDREN 12 AND
UNDER FREE. YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.**

From: SAMTRUJ@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2012 6:48 PM
To: ggriem770@gmail.com
Subject: Message from Gerald Grimm - PERA Candidate

Good morning, Sammy,
I request that you transmit this message to the membership of the AFD Retiree Association regarding the upcoming PERA Election.

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

WE Did It thanks your hard work and support of my candidacy for the upcoming election in September for the Retiree Representative on the PERA Board. Not only did we place on the ballot following the nominating petition process which ended in early April, we placed **{first}** because we submitted the most valid signatures for nomination. Now the real hard work begins. All of us have to remain involved over the next four months if are to win this election by reaching out to everyone we know who has worked for, and retired from local, county, or state government and encourage them to participate in this election by returning their ballot which they should receive in early September and, hopefully support my candidacy as their representative on the PERA Board.

We are facing some difficult and troubling times regarding our retirement fund and our future benefits. The PERA Board has developed a number of recommendations for modification to the benefits currently enjoyed by current and future PERA employees across the state and RETIREES as well which will be presented to the Legislative Committee in June. The changes include reduced service credit and increased contributions for existing and future employees and, a proposal to reduce the Cost of Living Adjustment for Existing Retirees which could possibly open the flood gate for future reductions as well.

There is no question that the PERA Board must find reasonable and fair ways to maintain the solvency of the fund which currently has an **"unfunded liability approaching five (5) Billion Dollars"** so all of us can look forward to and count on the benefits we have earned and paid for during our careers. However, the PERA Board appears to be unfairly targeting the Retirees by placing a substantial burden on the backs of Retirees to recoup previous losses in the fund balance. The studies done by the financial advisors to the PERA Board are limited in scope and **do not** look at other short and long term solutions to the unfunded liability without including Retirees who were promised a stable retirement annuity and a **3% COLA** for life at the time of retirement. Very few of us have the option of returning to work for a PERA Employer so we can readjust our financial planning for the future. We are left with the promises and commitments made by the State of New Mexico to ensure a stable financial future. Many of us rely solely on our PERA retirement because we did not contribute to Social Security and, if we did, our benefits are minimal at best.

There are roughly 30,000 PERA Retirees who are eligible to vote in this election. **We can't win with just Fire and Police votes alone in a state-wide election.** This will require a lot of hard work by everyone, but I know that we can pull this off if we all work together. Hopefully, we will be able to do a limited "mail out" to selected target groups in the state if we can secure funding which Sammy and I are working on. I am scheduling travel plans across the state to speak to various chapters of the Retired Public Employees of NM Association starting with their annual meeting in Raton during the first week of May. IAFF Local 244 has graciously donated money to pay for a "full page ad" in the Retired Public Employees of NM Association newsletter which will be mailed to its 4000 - 5000 members this summer.

I can't begin to thank each of you for your support and hard work. This campaign is not about me, it's about all of us and our financial future. **IT IS YOUR VOICE AND YOUR VOTE ON THE PERA BOARD** so we can protect the benefits we have earned and paid for!!

Thanks once again to all of you for your help and support. We should all join together and give a **"big shout out"** to Sammy Trujillo. He really busted his hump during the nominating petition drive.
Gerald Grimm

From: AFD Chaplain Division [afdchaplaindivision@cabq.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:13 AM
To: samtruj@aol.com; mbraupfer@q.com; hermanb80@q.com; lctrujillo1@hotmail.com
Subject: Blue Mass thank you

To all,

Thank you for participating in this year's 5th annual Blue Mass
Where many had come to share in the blessings and prayers for
The various agencies represented.

The AFD Retiree's Association really stepped it up this year with
Their new dress uniforms and they really looked sharp and did a
Great job as usual with the Last Alarm Ceremony to honor the
Fallen. Our ladder unit had a bit of a late start in hanging the
Large flag along with the BCFD ladder truck but managed to
Have It flying by the end of the ceremony for those that are
always looking forward to the patriotic ladder display and never
seems to get enough compliments from the public (Always a hit)!

It was good to see members of our leadership,
Firefighters, retirees and Chaplain team
Represented. A special thanks to Ray Flores-
Our faithful taps trumpeter !

Thank you all for making the 5th annual Blue
Mass another success by supporting the faith
Community in their efforts to bless, and support
those who serve !

Blessings,
Jerome Rael, AFD Senior Chaplain

THE 5th ANNUAL BLUE MASS
Tuesday, February 21, 2012



Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan
Archbishop of Santa Fe

As we gather here today for the Blue Mass, I want to take this opportunity to thank you
for your service to the communities on behalf of the people of the Archdiocese of Santa
Fe. Your commitment to serve and protect our communities is greatly appreciated. I
know you put yourself in harm's way protecting us, while making our communities safe
for us to live in. I know the sacrifices your families also have to make. I pray that God
will protect and keep you safe as you continue to serve our communities. May the peace
and love of God be with you and your families.

Yours in the Risen Lord,
Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan



St. Michael
Patron Saint of Police



St. Florian
Patron Saint of Firefighters

5th

Annual Blue Mass
February 21, 2012



St. Martin of Tours
Patron Saint of Military



St. Martinian
Patron Saint of Corrections

**THE FIREFIGHTER'S
PRAYER**

When I'm called to duty God
wherever flames may rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be its age
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert
to hear the weakest shout
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out
I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property
And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife.
--Author Unknown

A POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER

Lord I ask for courage
Courage to face and
Conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me
Where others will not go...
I ask for strength
Strength of body to protect others
And strength of spirit to lead others...
I ask for dedication
Dedication to my job, to do it well
Dedication to my community
To keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern
For others who trust me
And compassion for those who need me...
And please Lord
Through it all
Be at my side...
--Author Unknown

Diego Arencon President of the AFD Firefighters Union Local 244, introduced County Commissioner Michelle Lujan Grisham who is running for the United States Congress in the June Primary. Michelle is a Democrat and asked for our support and vote in the upcoming primary. She has been endorsed by the Firefighters Union, Local 244. Diego also thanked the retirees who painted the Firefighters Union Hall earlier this month. They were Sam Trujillo, Louis Trujillo, Herman Bishop, John Serino, Eddie Torres Sr. Noel Baca, Juan Sandoval, Eddie Abeyta, Fred Teupell, Bill Raupfer, Mark Chavez, and Tom Romero

Fellow retirees Morris Gutierrez and Eulogio Lucero invited the retirees to assist in renovations at retiree Zeke Hernandez' house on May 10, 2012. Zeke is battling cancer. Also everyone is asked to support the fund raiser for Zeke at the Firefighters Union Hall, 4100 Edith N.E. on May 12, 2012 from 4:00 P.M. to 7: 00 P.M.

The Secretary's report was suspended due to time constraints, a motion to accept was made by Danny Tate and was seconded by Eddie Abeyta. The Motion Carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report and thanks was given to Gabaldon Mortuary and to French Mortuary for their generous donations to purchase uniforms for the AFD Retiree Honor Guard. We are requesting fellow retirees to donate to the uniform fund (\$100 is requested). A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Ray Flores and was seconded by T.V. Jaramillo. The motion carried. Historian Herman Bishop read a nice letter from our friend Frank Maestas who sent a generous donation and now lives in Buena Vista, Colorado. Herman also gave a Eulogy for our brother firefighter and friend Allen N. Rhodes who passed away on May 6, 2012.

Our best wishes go to the following people who are on the sick roster: Tommy Tucker, Melvin Vigil's wife Margaret, and Jerry Barboa. We wish and pray that they will all have a quick recovery.

Juan Sandoval led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

ALLEN N. RHODES PASSES AWAY
(By Herman R. Bishop)

Recently we received news that Allen N. Rhodes retired Fire Captain, age 73, passed away at His home town of Mays Landing, New Jersey. Allen served almost 20 years with AFD and Joined The department in early 1969 and retired in late 1987. He served over 13 years in the Fire Prevention Bureau and Arson Division. He was a Firefighter, Fire Inspector, Arson Investigator, Lieutenant, and Captain. As an Arson Investigator he, along with fellow Arson Investigators went through two months of Police Officer training at the Albuquerque Police Academy to become commissioned Police Officers. Upon completion of training they were Given powers of arrest and were authorized to carry weapons. Allen was a top noch Fire Inspector and Arson Investigator.

He was President of the Albuquerque Firefighter's Union, Local 1455, (Now Local 244) for Several years. He was successful in negotiations with the City Of Albuquerque and was an Effective lobbyist in the New Mexico State Legislature in protecting and enhancing benefits for Firefighters locally and State wide as well.

At age 32 he returned to study at The University of Albuquerque where he earned an Associate Degree of Fire Science and later earned a four year Bachelor of Science Degree, of University Studies. Because of his bright red hair his friends called him "Dusty," and "Red." He did a lot To promote the Fire Service, Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation.

After retiring from AFD he moved back to his home town Mays Landing, New Jersey. Allen was born in Philadelphia, Pa. And grew up in Mays Landing, N.J. He served honorably in the United States Army for 27 years. After the Army he served in the Air Force National Guard. For years he was active in the VFW and was a life member of the local VFW Post 254. He served as Post Commander, Quartermaster, and was the Editor for the State of New Jersey VFW newspaper.

We feel the loss of our brother firefighter and friend Allen Rhodes. Our most sincere condolences and sympathies go out to the entire Rhodes Family.



ALLEN N. RHODES

March Minutes Continued

Firefighters Survivors Fund that will provide assistance to Firefighters who have been stricken with life threatening conditions. You are asked to send donations to: Albuquerque Area Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 244, P.O. Box 25602, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Diego also thanked Members of the Retiree's Association for their Assistance in the 2012 N.M. Legislative session To protect benefits for F.F. particularly the 3% Annual COLA.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report for the Month of February. A motion to accept was Made by Eddie Torres and was seconded by Ramon Maldonado. The motion passed. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. He thanked Those who donated to the Honor Guard's Uniform fund. A motion to accept was made by Michael Murphy and was seconded by Leroy Barboa. The Motion passed.

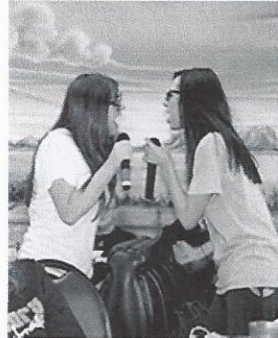
Historian Herman Bishop read a letter from Former firefighter Frank Maestas thanking Our members for appointing him to an Honorary Membership. He also appreciated The hospitality and brotherhood shown him when he attended the funeral of retired firefighter Hank Delgado. He says hello to all his old firefighter friends. Herman said we now have CD's for sale (\$10.00) of the Photo I.D. Book we published a few years ago. Please see Fred Casias or Herman if you would like one. Herman commended the Chaplain Corps for their participation in the Annual Blue Mass on February 21, 2012.

The Association received two nice letters of appreciation and donations from the Ed Gutierrez family and the "Slim" Davidson family for our participation and assistance at Ed and "Slim's" funerals.

Bill Raupfer thanked all those who assisted in making the annual Blue Mass a success. He John Serino, Michael Murphy, and Tom Romero received lots of favorable comments on the Retiree Honor Guard, the Bell Ceremony and particularly the new uniforms they wore proudly. Bill was happy for all the assistance he received in maintaining and preparing the funeral truck. The past two months has been particularly busy for the funeral detail due to the eight recent deaths of our retired firefighters. Bill and Sam Trujillo are working diligently with the Fire Chief and his staff to better coordinate the funeral detail with those of the active duty people to ensure the funeral truck is maintained and ready to properly respond to fire department funerals.

Sam Trujillo and Eddie Torres are coordinating the painting of the Firefighters Union hall later in March. Because the Union leaders have been so supportive of the Retiree's Association we decided we would like to return a favor and paint the Union Hall. So far we have 12 volunteers and two cooks who will prepare food for the workers during the painting project.

Fred Casias is working with the fire administration to provide photo I.D.s for the retirees. There has been a delay recently for this project because the I.D. machine has been broken. The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The March meeting adjourned @ 8:55 P.M.



Whether you're planning for that big day,
Want a night out for some fun & karaoke,
Or want the best dance party ever!

Contact
Karaoke
Entertainment
(505) 307-2616
Or
Gary@MyKaraoke.com



JOE F. PARRA PASSES AWAY

We regret to report the death of retired District Chief Joe F. Parra, age 77, on Wednesday, April 12, 2012. He had been suffering from a long term illness. Joe Was from Canadain, Texas in the Texas panhandle near Amarillo. As a young Man Joe served in the United States Coast Guard and served his country Honorably. After moving To Albuquerque, Joe joined AFD in January, 1960. After serving 26 years with the department, he retired in early 1986.

The department was expanding when Joe was hired, because of a shorter work Week for firefighters, and station # 12 was opened on the East side later that Year. Joe was hired by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld and the training was Only eight weeks long.

Joe served in all ranks from firefighter through District Chief. As a Chief Officer He had a reputation of being "firm but fair." He was respected and well liked by his fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. Joe was a good natured person who Enjoyed all the fire house pranks and jokes. He was always ready to lend a hand To his fellow firefighters and was a good role model for the younger people coming Into the department. Joe will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences to the Entire Parra Family.



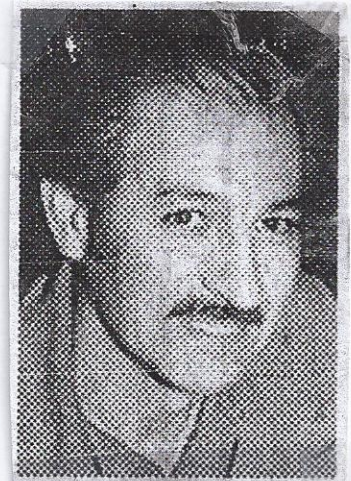
JOE F. PARRA

Cruz Mirabal Dies
(By Herman R. Bishop)

On Wednesday May 2, 2012 our brother and fellow firefighter Cruz Mirabal, age 70, passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He joined AFD in March, 1965 and was hired by the late Fire Chief Simon Seligman. Ray Kuhn, Assistant Chief Was in charge of training. The department used mostly 2 ½ inch hose and the rookies Had to lay miles and miles of hose during daily drills. Chief Kuhn was famous for the Dreaded smoke room, usually a fire of old mattresses laced with green chili peppers. Before the rookies were allowed to don breathing apparatus they first had to endure Long sessions of live smoke eating, therefore the term, "Smoke Eaters."

Cruz spent 21 years with the department and retired at the end of 1986. He served As a firefighter, driver, and as a fire alarm operator during his career. He was part of A family of firefighters. His two brothers Sebastain Mirabal, and Pablo Mirabal Served with Cruz during their careers. When Cruz joined the department there were Only 13 fire stations and Station # 13 had just opened at Indian School Road and Louisiana N.E. near Winrock Shopping Center. Cruz had a great smile, was witty, Intelligent and always enjoyed the fire house humor and pranks firefighters commonly Played on each other.

Cruz was an easy going person and was well liked by his fellow firefighters and Supervisors alike. He, like fellow firefighters built a special bond with each other which Carried over into his retirement years. We are all proud and honored to have had Cruz As part of our lives and as a member of our fire department family. He was our brother And will be missed greatly. Our most sincere condolences to the entire Mirabal family An be assured you are in our thoughts and prayers.



Cruz Mirabal

May Meeting- The May Monthly meeting was held on May 9, 2012 at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, at 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order at 7: 09 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez and a moment of silence was observed for our deceased retired firefighters. Sam welcomed first time attendee retiree Dennis Louder, welcome Dennis.

Guest Speakers- Valerie Espinosa, Santa Fe County Clerk is running for the Public Regulation Commission in District Three. She is a Democrat and asked for our support in the upcoming June primary.

John C. Davidson "Slim"
(By Herman R. Bishop)

Our good friend and fellow retiree John C. Davidson, "Slim," passed Away on Sunday February 26, 2012. He was 96 years old. "Slim grew up in Quay County, near Tucumcarri, N. M. He began work with the City Parks and Recreation Department in 1939 and was paid .79 cents per hour. After a few years he joined the fire department in December, 1941. A fireman's pay was \$ 48 per month. The work week was 72 hours. After many years with AFD he retired in 1975.



John C. Davidson, "Slim"

Albuquerque was small town when "Slim," went to work for the City and There were only three fire stations and 36 people in the department. The Old fire station # 1 was at 2 nd Street and Tijeras N.W. and Station #2 was At High and Silver S.E. The old fire station # 3 was at Monte Vista and Central N.E. Chief Westerfeld hired "Slim," and drove a new Roadmaster Buick Convertible. In those days the Chief went to almost all fires, 24 hours A day, seven days a week. The Chief called all the firemen "son,' young and Old alike.

There was a brief training program for new hires , only a few days. Mostly the training was on the job, and going to actual fires. Three other firemen were hired at that time, Emmit Rice, Jack Major and Lucius Springer. During his career "Slim" served as a Driver, Lieutenant, Captain and was a District Chief when he retired.

After retirement "Slim" was an active member of the AFD Retiree's Association for over eleven years. He attended the monthly meetings faithfully until the end. He said, "when I hear sirens or see a fire truck go by I still miss the fire department. I always enjoyed being a fireman. Most of all I really miss the fire house cooking and my firemen friends."



Top, L-R Ernie Rael, Maurice Cordova, Manuel Jimenez, "Slim Davidson, Ray Kuhn, "Red Colorado," Kneeling - Silver Sanchez, Robert Gomez, Florinio Sanchez, Romolo Turrietta, Alex Velarde, (Late 1950's)



ALBUQUERQUE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, NEAR OLD TOWN PLAZA
AT THE TERRITORIAL FAIRGROUNDS (Circa, 1881)

Page A

John C. "Slim" Davidson
(March 17, 2004)

My name is John C. Davidson and I was born May 12, 1915 in Quay County near Tucumcari, New Mexico in the community of Forest, New Mexico. In 1939 I went to work for the City Parks and Recreation Department and was paid \$.75 cents per hour. My boss was Glen Wilson and my job was mowing grass in the parks, trimming trees, watering the plants, landscaping and general parks maintenance. The City Manager was Mr. Charlie Wells and the Mayor was Clyde Tingley.

After three years there I was looking to better myself. I thought the Police Department would be a step up. When I applied there were no vacancies but they told me the Fire Department was hiring. They sent me to talk to the Fire Chief. I was hired by Fire Chief Art Westerfeld and went to work on December 9, 1941. My pay was \$48 per month.

Albuquerque was a small town then and I think there were only 36 people in the Fire Department and only three Fire Stations. Fire Station # 1 was located at 2nd Street and Tijeras N.W. Station # 2 was at High and Silver SE and the old Fire Station #3 was at Monte Vista and Central Avenue N.E.

At Station #1 there was Engine 1A, which was a 1941 Seagrave Quad. It was a combination pumper and ladder truck. It had a full compliment of ground ladders including a 50 foot bangor but no aerial ladder. It was much longer than a regular pumper and was very difficult to maneuver around city streets. There was Engine 1B, a 1927 American La France 750 GPM pumper, chain driven. This pumper was used for County firefighting because Bernalillo County didn't have a Fire Department then. Ladder #1 was a 1919, American LaFrance 75 foot aerial ladder truck with a tiller.

Chief Westerfeld drove a new 1941 red Buick Roadmaster convertible as his Chief's car. He went to almost all fires then day or night. Because he hired me I always liked him. As the boss he was friendly enough but he was always business like. It was hard to be buddies with him because he was always busy, meeting with higher ranking officers, City Officials, or people of the community. He always treated me fairly and with respect. He usually called the Firemen "Son."

There was a training program for new hires but it was very short in 1941. Maybe three or four days. Because the seven story drill tower was located next to the main Fire Station they assigned me and three other new hires, Emmit Rice Jack Major and Lucius Springer to the County truck Engine 1A.

Page C

I served all my career as a line fireman. I went through the ranks, Firefighter, Driver, Lieutenant, Captain, and District Chief. I always enjoyed my job and I liked being a District Chief. I got along well with the men and I enjoyed making the rounds of the Stations in my District and talking to everyone. Most of the times the men would invite me to eat meals with them. I still miss that part of the Fire Department.

The most memorable fire for me during my career was the Sears Fire at Central Avenue and 5th Street N.W. I believe this was about 1953. I was off duty and they called all off duty personnel in to help. Although I was a driver, by the time I arrived on the scene the hose lines had been laid and positioned. The pumpers were connected to the hydrants and were pumping water on the fire. The building was totally involved in fire and heavy black smoke when I arrived.

I was assigned to man a hose line outside for awhile, then our crew moved inside to make an attack. It was dark and heavy black/brownish smoke all around and very hot. Sometimes the heat and heavy smoke pushed us outside again. Then we would go back in. The men took lots of punishment at that fire. As I recall no one was seriously injured. Several firemen were overcome with smoke. Our breathing masks were not very good during that era. They were the old filtered type masks with a cannister attached. We didn't have the type of self contained breathing apparatus that the firefighters today have. We spent about two days cleaning up hot spots and mopping up at that fire.

When I was fairly new on the job some of the older men George Tafoya and Ed Lucero sent me to a nearby bakery on 4th Street N.W. to get food for the firemen. They told me to tell the restaurant manager that we had a big fire and the firemen needed something to eat. They said if I mentioned the big fire that the manager would give me the food for free. Sure enough the manager put our order together and there was no charge.

Several days later Chief Westerfeld called me in and said, "Son," why were you at the bakery a few days ago begging for food? You shouldn't be doing that. Don't you know that is not professional?" The Chief didn't give me a disciplinary action but firmly told me that type behavior was not acceptable. Of course I was embarrassed and it never happened again.

In May 1975 after 42 years with the City of Albuquerque and the Fire Department combined I retired. I have enjoyed my retirement years and have always been active. Mainly I do mechanic work on my cars and repair the cars of friends and family. Also I do some carpentry work and fix air conditioners for friends and family and do general maintenance work.

Page B

The first day Lieutenant Joe Bowdich began training us on catching fire hydrants with 2 1/2 inch fire hose. We started catching fire hydrants, laying out all the hose, reloading the hose, again, and again, and again all day. At first the driver went slow and each time he increased the speed of the truck, 10 mph, 15 mph, 20 mph, then to 30 mph or until you would fall. The objective was to increase the speed until you went sprawling on your knees. No matter how strong or quick you were eventually the increased speed would throw you down. Our knees and elbows were bruised and we hurt all over. Occasionally a man would get a sprained ankle. I don't recall anyone getting seriously hurt laying hose.

The second and third day of training we learned to position and to place ladders, then we learned all the tools on the truck and become familiar with taking orders from the officer in charge. We layed more hose, drilled with the ladders, and learned to use all the equipment on the pumper. After about four days our training was over. We were ready to fight fires and attend to other emergencies. Every Friday was training day, all day.

There were two shifts of firemen in those days. Some of the people I worked with in the early years was Assistant Chiefs Simon Seligman, and Milton Grande. People assigned to Engine 1A, Engine 1B and Ladder 1 were: Lieutenants, Joe Bowdich, Reno Stabelton, Ed Lucero, George Tafoya, Drivers: S.B. Skidmore, Carl Macaluso Max Gutierrez, and Matt Ortiz. We didnt have days off then and no sick leave. We did have two weeks vacation and if you took a day off for any reason it was charged to vacation, then leave without pay after that.

The pumpers only had a crew of four each and Ladder one had two Lieutenants. Lieutenant Ed Lucero drove the front and a Lieutenant George Tafoya drove the tiller in the rear. There were only two people assigned to the ladder truck and no pipeman were assigned.

The first fire I remember going to after joining the Fire Department was to the 1200 block of High Street S.E. It was a yard fire involving a big pile of rubbish and trash. I suppose every fireman remembers his first fire even if it wasn't a very big one.

There was no Fire Prevention Bureau nor an Arson Division or a Rescue Division when I joined. We did have company fire inspections. All rescue calls and first aid calls was made with the engine companies. If the engines were busy then the Assistant Chief on duty and a fireman made rescue calls with the Fire Chief's car. We carried oxygen resuscitators on the fire units then. Arson investigations were handled by Assistant Chief Grande and the Police Department. On big fires Chief Westerfeld worked on the investigations too.

Page D

I have always enjoyed working and keeping busy. A few years after retiring I was mowing my lawn and had an unfortunate accident when the lawn mower chopped off the big toe on my left foot. I soon recovered and am able to do most everything I always did. Unfortunately the year of my accident our family had planned a vacation trip to Disneyland. We had to cancel the trip.

I often think of the Fire Department and my career there. When I hear sirens or see a fire truck go by I do miss being a part of the Department. My career at the Fire Department was a satisfying and rewarding one. I always enjoyed being a fireman. Also I miss visiting with the firemen and most of all the firehouse cooking.

John C. Davidson Story
Interview by Herman R. Bishop

April, 2012 Monthly Meeting - The monthly meeting was held on April 11, 2012 , 7:08 P.M at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members and Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. After roll call Sam Trujillo introduced our guests, Mayor Martin Chavez, and Frank Maestas.

Guest Speakers - Former Mayor Martin Chavez addressed the group and stated that he is running for the United States Congressional seat. He would appreciate our votes. Former firefighter Frank Maestas who now lives in Buena Vista, Colorado spoke. Recently he was given an Honorary Membership to the retiree's association and has maintained ties with all his fire department buddies and fully supports the retiree's association.

Retirees Mark Chavez and Morris Gutierrez addressed the members and asked for support for two of our brothers who are battling cancer, retiree Zeke Hernandez and active duty firefighter Vincent Cordova. A fund raiser for Vincent Cordova will be held at the Moose Lodge on April 22nd and another fund raiser for Zeke Hernandez will be held at the Firefighter's Union hall on May 12th from 4:00 P.M to 7: 00 P.M.

President's report- Sam asked everyone to support Zeke Hernandez and Vincent Cordova. He thanked retirees Ralph Sedillo, John Serino, Fred Casias, Eddie Torres, Fred Teupell and Leroy Barboa for assisting in moving furniture for Victor Sanchez during his home renovation project. Victor is recovering from knee surgery. We have received necessary signatures to nominate Gerald Grimm to the PERA board. We recently purchased 5 additional tables and 30 more chairs to be used for our association picnics and events. We need volunteers to paint the Union Hall on April 19th and 20th. So far we have 11 volunteers. Sam and Louie Trujillo led our retirees in the bell ringing ceremony for a Sante Fe County firefighter's funeral during March. A hearty welcome was given to recent retirees David Herrera and Craig Lake at the April meeting.

Secretary's report - Fred Casias read the minutes for the March, 2011 meeting. A motion to accept was made by Eppie Ortega and was seconded by Juan Sandoval. The motion passed. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. We are still collecting donations to purchase uniforms for the Honor Guard. Please send donations to John Serino. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Greg Armenta and seconded by T.V. Jaramillo. The motion passed.

Historian's Report- Herman said he and Fred Casias have CD's for sale of the photo I.D. Book for \$10.00 each. "Slim" Davidson's nephew Ben Moffett who used to be the City Reporter for the Albuquerque Journal sent a nice letter of thanks for honors the retiree's gave at "Slim's funeral. Paula Navarez is conducting a fund raiser for firefighter Vincent Cordova at the Elks lodge on April 22 nd.

Bill Raupfer said the Funeral Truck is up and running and is now housed at fire station # 27. The Honor Guard now has a full set of dress uniforms and have been used at several recent retiree ceremonies. Best wishes go to our retirees on the sick roster: Zeke Hernandez, Ray Flores, Tommy Lopez, Juan Vigil, James Sanchez, Maclovio Olivas and active duty firefighter Vincent Cordova. Closing prayer, Chaplain Mark Chavez. Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 P.M.

ANNUAL FUND RAISER

WE ARE KICKING OFF OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER THIS MONTH AND ARE ASKING YOUR SUPPORT. AS YOU KNOW WE OPERATE ENTIRELY ON DONATIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS. TO RUN OUR ORGANIZATION OF OVER 600 MEMBERS NECESSARY OPERATING EXPENSES ARE INCURRED. OF COURSE THE BIGGEST EXPENSES ARE THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, ANNUAL PICNIC, AND CHRISTMAS PARTY.

IF YOU ENJOY THE NEWSLETTER, SUPPORT, AND BELIEVE IN THE RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, PLEASE SEND A DONATION. ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN GIVE WILL BE MOST HELPFUL. (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200).

SPECIAL NOTE: DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS TO: "AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION."
MAIL TO: JOHN SERINO, TREASURER 1504 HERMOSA S. E. ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. 87108**

DEAR JOHN,

YES I WANT TO SUPPORT THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY DONATION FOR THE AMOUNT OF: \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$75, \$75, \$100, \$200.

NAME: _____

Thoughts of a Retired Firefighter

No, I haven't forgotten the excitement of riding on a fire rig, "lights flashing, sirens wailing," nor the feeling of a "good save! Whether it be human life or valued possessions of a fellow citizen.

I haven't forgotten the feeling of standing, ankle deep, in freezing water on a 5 below January night, gloves frozen to the nozzle, fighting a fire I know was caused by carelessness or worse.

I haven't forgotten the terror of being lost in a smoke filled building...feeling the taste of hot coffee and a cold meat loaf sandwich at four in the morning.

Now, I walk into my old firehouse, only to find it filled with strangers. I may not walk as fast, or stand as straight as you. My hair may be gray or thin. My jokes don't come as easy as they once did. But I know in my heart that I have paid the price, and have "earned" the right to say proudly

"I'm a retired firefighter."

**Retired Battalion Chief Joe Carber
(Deceased)**

Fire Department City of New York

YOU are ELIGIBLE to JOIN.

As a current or retired City employee, you qualify for our outstanding benefits.

- ✓ FREE Checking
- ✓ Online Banking
- ✓ Auto Loans
- ✓ Great Dividends
- ✓ Personal Loans
- ✓ Mortgages
- ✓ Home Equity Loans
- ✓ Direct Deposit


Join Today!

Better Rates.
Lower Fees.



(505) 262-1401
www.riograndecu.org

RIO GRANDE
- CREDIT UNION -

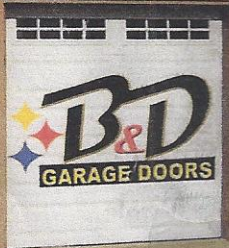


GARAGE DOORS
"You Call We Install"

BOBBY DOMY (505) 259-0914

- Installation
- Service
- Repair
- Door Openers
- Remotes

(505) 259-0914




BIG O TIRES
www.BIGOTIRES.COM

Octavio Garcia
Manager

3808 Isleta Blvd. S. W.
Albuquerque, NM 87105
(505) 877-5644 FAX: (505) 452-0408

Alignments • Brakes • Shocks • Struts • Major Brands • Custom Wheels

PUBLIC SAFETY UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

TLC Uniforms

247-8900
Competitive Prices

- ▶ Police Security
- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Sheriff
- ▶ Corrections
- ▶ Transit
- ▶ Gov. Agencies
- ▶ Boots/Shoes
- ▶ Leather/Nylon
- ▶ Body Armor
- ▶ School Uniforms
- ▶ Specialty Items

MON-FRI 9:00 - 5:30
SAT 11:00-4:00

FAX 247-8999 www.tlcuniformsnm.com
925 Second St. N.W.
(2 Blks N. of Lomas/Corner of 2nd & Marble)
SERVICE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

ADVERTIZING RATES

The rates are as follows:
 Business size cards \$5. 00
 Per issue or, \$20. 00 annually.
 1/8 page, \$10. 00 Per Issue,
 Or, \$40. 00, annually.
 ¼ Page, \$30. 00 per issue or,
 \$120. 00 annually.
 ½ Page, \$75. 00 per issue or,
 \$300. 00 Annually.
 Full Page- \$100. 00 Per Issue,
 Or, \$400. 00 Annually.

To place an advertisement in this newsletter contact: Louis Trujillo, @ 873-1544
John Serino, @ 266-1252, or Sam Trujillo, @ 899-1500

WE CATER TO THE HOMEOWNER

OUR SPECIALTY IS REPAIR • REPLACEMENT • TROUBLESHOOTING
ALL WORK GUARANTEED FOR 1 FULL YEAR • PARTS & LABOR



ELKS ELECTRIC
JEFF ELKS - OWNER
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
LICENSE # 58222
BONDED • INSURED

- GFI & AFI TROUBLESHOOTING
- ALUMINUM WIRING TROUBLESHOOTING
- COMPLETE EVAPORATIVE COOLER WIRING
- BREAKER BOX UPGRADES & REPAIRS

Member ABQ Fire Dept. Retirees Assoc

"No Overtime Ever"

SERVING ALBUQUERQUE & RIO RANCHO

505-352-9000







26 February 2012

AFD Retirees Association Members

Dear members,

On February 17, 2012 I attended the funeral of my very, very close friend Hank Delgado. I was asked by the family to do the eulogy and as I walked to the podium I felt apprehension. As I looked around people present, I recognized many old friends. At once my apprehension lifted and I was able to start talking about Hank. Every once and while I would look up and see a familiar face and that would calm me down to the degree that I did not break down as I was sure I would have.

A shining moment was when Herman Bishop and Louie Trujillo gave a talk about the retirees and made it very clear to Terri Delgado, son Hank Jr., and DD and Vicki Delgado that although Hank was gone all the retirees were now extended family. The family was assured that if they needed anything they were to call upon the retirees membership. Again I was impressed when all the retired firefighters, on their own, lined up and one by one gave their condolences to Terri, Hank Jr., DD, and Vicki. I was honored to have been called to the front with the firefighters and became a part of that extended family.

The procession to the cemetery and the encrypting of Hank's ashes was a memory I'll never forget. I knew that Hank wanted so much to have his final ride, his last alarm, on the fire engine. After the encryption there was a luncheon at the Moose Lodge on Edith street. I had, to my great delight, conversations with Rudy Sanchez, Phil Silva, Tommy Lopez, Ross Aranda, Sam Trujillo, Eliseo "Chamba" Pino, Eddy Brito, Louie Otero, John Herrera, and Vince Holcomb. At the funeral itself I talked with Herman Bishop and Louie Trujillo who made me feel very welcome to be there. I'll never forget their hospitality.

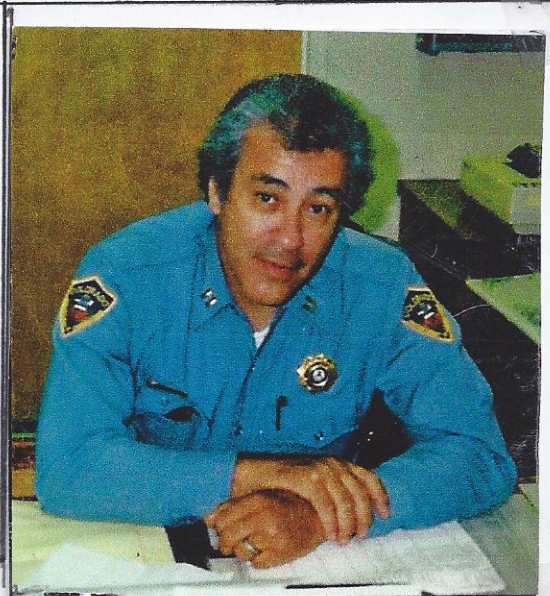
I would like to thank John Serino for taking the time to take Hank a firefighter's cap and t-shirt after I called him. Hank had expressed to me that he would love to have a cap and t-shirt and John Serino saw to that. On behalf of myself and my wife Dorothy, Betty Delgado, and daughter's DD and Vicki we wish to thank everyone for everything that was done for Hank Delgado and his family.

Appreciatively,

Frank T. Maestas
719-395-8880

Frank Maestas

In March, 1966 Frank Maestas joined AFD. He spent 13 years with the Department. Frank was a Paramedic Lieutenant when he resigned in 1979 To pursue a career opportunity with The Colorado Department of Corrections. He spent 20 years with That department until his retirement In 1999 as Deputy Chief of Corrections. He has maintained friendships with his Old AFD buddies and was recently Given an Honorary Membership with The AFD Retiree's Association. His Hobby is restoring antique cars and Currently he has 5 cars he is working On. Frank sends best regards to all His AFD friends.



Albuquerque Fire Dept. Retiree's Assn.



**PLACE YOUR
AD HERE**



CLASSIC SELF STORAGE

4821 Central NW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

(505) 836-6092
Joe & Agnes Marquez

(505) 836-6090
Home

TONY & COMPANY VARIETY BAND

MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS

440-7555
899-0629



GARY MARQUEZ

Attorney & Counsellor at Law

Yo Hablo Español



Serving the Southwest
Since 1984

(505) 344-3135
(505) 243-6633

Yellow Hots ROSALES PRODUCE Jalapenos

Green Chile Mid-Medium-Hot-Extra Hot-Super Hot (Lumbre)
7331 4th St. NW (Albuquerque)
2001 Isleta Blvd. SW (Albuquerque)
Lemitar, NM (just north of Socorro)

Melons 505/615-2220 or 505/550-6181 Tomatoes
Marty Mario

FLOORING

Paul Valencia

Phone: 505-319-7013

FREE ESTIMATES

Specializing in:
Laminate
Hardwood
Bamboo



Gallup Monument

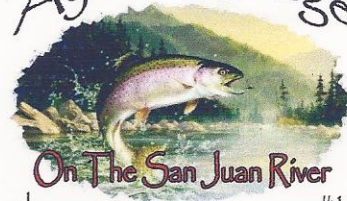


"A LASTING TRIBUTE"

Specializing in Headstones, Benches, Vases
(505) 681-2975

Tom Tafoya, Albuquerque Sales Rep.
Please call to schedule an appointment.

Ayala's Lodge



On The San Juan River

Dennis Ayala
505-634-2925
www.ayalaslodge.com

#19 CR 4251
Navajo Dam, NM
87419



Fireman's Corner

1-(505) 363-2233

ALBURQUERQUE, NM

FIRE APPAREL, STICKERS & AXES

HWY 173

Ayala's Lodge

Cr 4251
Sportsman

HWY 511

Firefighters -15% Off When You
Mention Paul Valencia's Name