

AFD RETIREE NEWS

News 1

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2014

#- 1-2014

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"FIRE ROCKET"

This work of art by artist Peter Reiquam is on display at the new fire station two Located at 2401 Alumni S.E. near Gibson and I-25. The rocket is lit up at night.

The fire rocket is a metaphor for today's firefighters and their response capabilities Required of a modern fire department. The project is part of the City's 1 % for The arts required in the construction of public buildings and projects. The program Was begun in 1978. 1% of all City construction funds are set aside for the arts from The general obligation bond program. This includes construction of all fire stations. The program supports a broad variety of arts, cultural projects, and assures high Quality care and maintenance of the works of art throughout the City.



David Downey, Appointed Interim Fire Chief

(By: Herman R. Bishop)

On Tuesday, December 24, 2013 David Downey a 20 year Veteran of the Albuquerque Fire Department was appointed Interim Fire Chief by Mayor Richard Berry. The position of Fire Chief came open upon the retirement of Chief James Breen effective December 31, 2013. Chief Downey served Through the ranks from Firefighter, Driver, Lieutenant, Captain, Division Commander, and Deputy Chief. Prior to his appointment To Deputy Chief of Operations Downey served as director of the Fire Academy. On January 6, 2014 Chief Downey addressed members of the City Council and said he was honored to serve as head of the Albuquerque Fire Department one of the finest and best Fire Departments in the United States.



Chief David Downey (1-8-2014)

Chief Downey is a Graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Downey has the Personal and technical skills to lead the department into the future. The rank and file firefighters along with Diego Arencon, President of the FF. Union, Local 244 , expressed a desire to work with the Chief and are hopeful the department will take a new direction in providing the best emergency medical and fire service to the citizens of our City. Mayor Berry has said he will wait until later in the year to decide if Chief Downey will be given a permanent appointment or whether a national search for a Fire Chief will be conducted.

FIRE CHIEF JAMES BREEN RETIRES

(By Herman R. Bishop)

On December 3, 2013 Albuquerque Fire Chief James Breen announced his retirement effective December 31, 2013. During he past four years he has headed the largest fire Department in the State of New Mexico. The City population is about 500,000 and covers 182 square miles. The fire budget is \$72.5 million dollars and the uniformed personnel number over 700 and operate out of 22 fire stations throughout the City. Joining the department in 1990 he served in the ranks of firefighter, driver, Lieutenant, Captain, and Commander. In November, 2009 Breen was appointed to Chief by Mayor Richard Berry. Although he has enjoyed serving as Chief, Breen said it is time to move on and seek other opportunities outside the department.



FIRE CHIEF JAMES BREEN

Prior to joining AFD Jim was a United States Air Force Veteran. He served a military policeman and para-rescue technician. During his stint in the military He served as a cannie narcotics handler.

Chief Breen is a nationally recognized expert in confined space rescue operations. In 2005 he led New Mexico's task force one to New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. Again, after the terrorist attacks in September 11, 2001, he went with the New Mexico task force to assist in rescue and clean up operations at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Chief Breen on his retirement.



Fallout Shelters from the Past

Signs of the Cold War are still all around Albuquerque.

➔ One Tuesday a month, at noon, a shrill alarm would ring out across Albuquerque. This was during the Cold War, says Herman Bishop, who was the Albuquerque Fire Department liaison to the Office of Emergency Preparedness, which was part of the Civil Defense Program at the time.

The sound heard throughout the city wasn't a drill. "It was a reminder," Bishop says. "At that time, the possibility of an attack was very real."

As a result, countless Albuquerque buildings were labeled as fallout shelters—and some still have the signs displayed (just check out the bigbyte.cc Corporation building on the corner of Central Avenue and Second Street).

"This has them all laid out," says David Hoover, curator at The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, unfolding a 1968 map of Albuquerque. Each section of town is color-coded, and it's covered with tiny black dots that represent shelter facilities.

In 1969, Bishop was in charge of training volunteer firefighters that would be assigned to emergencies, including nuclear attack. If people had to go to these fallout shelters, one of "Bishop's Raiders" would be assigned as a team leader.

In a back storage room at the museum, Hoover points out old barrels and a box. The box was a medical kit that once sat in a shelter. One barrel has 17 1/2 gallons of drinking water, and the other contains supplies like toilet paper, hand cleaner, a commode seat, and a can opener.

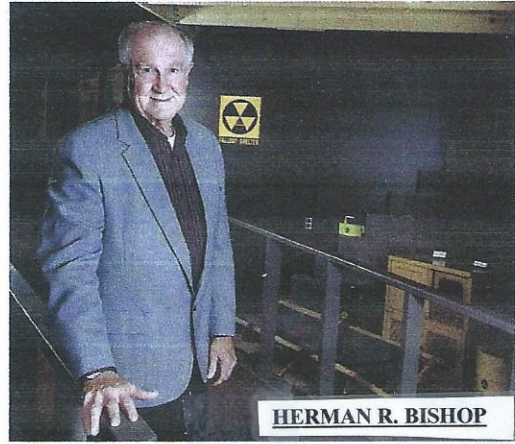
Bishop can remember when these barrels and boxes were new. "People around Albuquerque had built fallout shelters at their home," Bishop says, which was encouraged—indeed, the back of the map has instructions on making your own.

Bishop's department no longer exists, but there is something in its place. Gary Jones is an officer for the Albuquerque Office of Emergency Management, which is more focused on planning and preparedness for things such as natural disasters and biochemical attacks. "We have plans in place now that just weren't back then," Jones says, including a plan to pass out antibiotics to the entire city within 48 hours in case of something such as an anthrax attack. "They're extreme, but they'd work."

As for heading to fallout shelters in an emergency, Jones says shelter-in-place is emphasized: stay put and seal your shelter as best as you can. "That would be better than running out and assembling somewhere," he says.

These days, most old fallout shelters are most likely used as storage units or extra rooms. Bishop says they eventually got rid of all the survival food: they gave old crackers to farmers for their livestock, and he remembers a drum of hard candy sitting in his downtown office. But he'll always remember "Bishop's Raiders"—and knows that other people from his era will, too.

—ARB



HERMAN R. BISHOP

 = FALL-OUT SHELTER LOCATIONS



HERMAN R. BISHOP

As a fire captain Herman Bishop was the first fire department liaison officer to the Office of Emergency Preparedness from 1969 to 1972. Initially the Civil Defense Office was under the City Manager's office, (Mr. Dick Wilson). Mr. George Dunham was the Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Preparedness. During this time the City procured 50% matching funds from the Federal Government to build the first Emergency Operating Center in the basement of the Police Building located at Third Street and Marquette Avenue N.W. Radiological Monitoring kits were placed on all fire apparatus. In case of nuclear attack radioactive levels could be monitored. Bishop also trained a cadre of civilian volunteer firefighters to work with AFD personnel in case of nuclear attack. Therefore these volunteers were named, "Bishop's Raiders."

Dear President Trujillo,

February 12, 2013

The family of Joseph D. Escobedo "Scooby" acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Just hours after Scooby passed away, Sam Trujillo, Fred Casillas and Tom Romero showed up at the house to offer their condolences on behalf of the Albuquerque Fire Department's Retiree Association. They immediately supported the family by discussing the funeral support that the association would provide and a list of financial planning that needed to be done in the coming weeks. This was followed up by Mr. Casillas joining the family at the funeral home to make the plans and ensure all of us that everything for our husband and father would be taken care of and that he would receive the highest honor.

To our surprise, Deacon Santos Abeyta, a fellow fireman requested to say the Rosary for Scooby and told about his short time working with him in the 1980's. Throughout the Rosary and funeral the honor guard was present to ensure that everyone understands the true hero that Scooby was. We will never forget the beautiful Eulogy that Mr. Romero read at the Rosary expressing the great work that our husband and father did for the City of Albuquerque. It was not until the fireman came to the altar by the dozens, did we understand the true impact that Scooby had on the Albuquerque community.

Finally the honor guard ensured that Scooby was taken to his final resting place at the Gate of Heaven cemetery by passing by Fire Station #9 one last time. This was the same fire station that our husband and dad started his career at in 1976 and ended his career at in 1997.

We are exploring creating a scholarship for students who are interested in fire science in Scooby's name. We would appreciate and encourage the participation of the Albuquerque Fire Department's Retirement Association in this endeavor. Could we set up a meeting with your executive team to discuss this further?

Time remembered is grief forgotten. Your kind remembrance will remain forever in our hearts. We will never forget the support you gave us and we are forever indebted to you for your kindness, generosity and love. Please keep in touch with us at 505-292-3596 or by email at Escobedo_j@aps.edu.

Sincerely,

Gina Escobedo
Gina Escobedo
Wife
Joseph D. Escobedo
Joseph D. Escobedo
Spn

Dear Sam & Fellow Retired Fire Fighters

February 07, 2014

We would like to thank all of you for the Beautiful Ceremony, I know my dad enjoyed his last ride in the fire truck the last call, the "Striking the Four Fives" was incredible. The Honor you bestowed on our Father (Juan Sanchez) will always be cherished in our hearts and memories. Thank you for all the wonderful and funny stories you all shared with us. Our dad was always very proud to have been a Fire Fighter and often share stories of the guys he had the honor to work with.

Sam I want to thank you for calling me with all the phone numbers and people I had to contact, I wouldn't have known where to start with out your help. THANK YOU.

Enclosed is a donation to your Association

Sincerely,
Judy M Garcia
Judy M Garcia & Stella Torres
& the Sanchez Family

December Monthly Meeting- On December 11, 2013 the 160th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order at 7:13 P.M. After the Pledge of Allegiance Deacon Santos led the opening prayer. We observed a moment of silence for our deceased members and Sam remembered Juan Sanchez who passed away on November 30, 2013. After roll call Sam introduced our guest Chief George Dhal from the Placitas, N.M. Fire Department.

The Secretary's report from the November meeting was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Eddie Abieta and was seconded by Eddie Torres. The motion carried.

John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. He reported that our recent fund drive was successful and he gave special thanks to all who sent in donations and pledges. A motion to accept was made by Ray Flores and was seconded by Santos Abeyta. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He said that the new Station # 2 has an art display in the front yard called "Fire Rocket." It is lit up at night and is a metaphor for today's modern firefighters and the department's capability to respond to emergencies. Herman and Santos Abeyta remembered the fun times they had working at Station # 1 in the early 1960's and all the memorable characters and the neighborhood people who used to drop by for visits and a free cup of coffee and a free lunch.

Recently the Lucky 66 Bowling Alley had a fund raiser in memory for our deceased brother Tommy Lopez who was an avid bowler. Tom's family donated the proceeds to the AFD Retiree's Association. On behalf of our members we send a special thanks to the Lopez family and to Lucky 66 Bowling Alley.

Results of the December raffle drawing was as follows: Fred Teupell, Barbeque Grill, Noel Baca, Grill Cleaner, Fred Casias, Knife, Mark Chavez, Carbon Monoxide Detector, Sam Trujillo, Hair Trimmer, Kerry Horton, Mirror Dice, Marvin Gouch, Golf Package, Juan Sandoval, Salad Chopper.

Christmas Party- Eddie Torres and Ray Flores reported that the Christmas Party will be held on December 20, 2013 At 6:00 P.M. in downtown Bernalillo, N.M. at the Rotary Park Community Center. Go to downtown Bernalillo, turn west on Calle Don Francisco, go 1/2 mile to the community center on the right. There is no charge for the party.

Bill Raupfer Chairman of the Funeral Detail and Honor Guard stated that he is real pleased as to how appreciative the family members are as to how the members of the Retiree's Association pay respect and honors to our fallen members. At Juan Sanchez' funeral the family members gave the retirees a round of applause and a standing ovation. Speaking on behalf of our members Bill stated that their recognition and sincere gratitude was really heart warming.

We remembered our members who are on the sick roster and send them our best wishes: Ignacio Perez, E.V. Marquez, Dave Junick, Orlando Duran, Dan Johnson, Tommy Tucker and Bart Vallejos. Our condolences to Ralph Padilla who recently lost his father.

Fred Casias reported that after the first of January he plans to start our photo I.D. project. Hopefully we can contact all our members to have their photos taken. More on this at next month's meeting.

The closing prayer was led by Mark Chavez and the December meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

*** NOTICE *** ** NOTICE ***

FRED CASIAS, SECRETARY, IS UPDATING RECORDS OF OUR RETIREES. HE PLANS TO GET PHOTOS OF ALL OF US. PLEASE SEND A PHOTO OF YOURSELF (3" x 3"), WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS. HE IS ALSO PLANNING A YEARBOOK OF RETIREES WITH PHOTO I.D. CARDS. YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROJECT WILL BE MOST HELPFUL.

FRED'S E-MAIL: afd.retirees@yahoo.com Telephone: 269-0370, ADDRESS: FRED CASIAS, AFD RETIREES ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 608 BERNALILLO, N.M. 87004

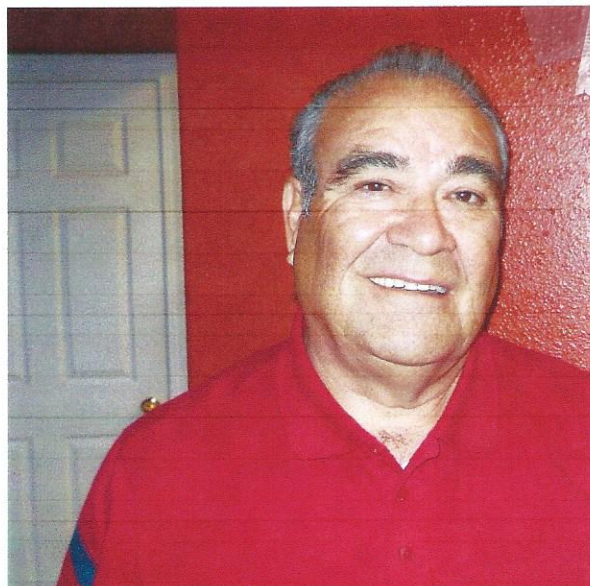
Fire Stuff is Always Numero Uno

Ralph Sedillo Story by Eddie Abeita

Ralph Sedillo started his career with AFD in 1974 and retired in 1994. The fire training staff was composed of Assistant Chief Louie Trujillo, Captain Joe Gonzales and Captain Bill Pedigo.

Ralph said my first big fire I responded to happened right out of fire academy training it was the Ralston Oil Company Fire on 4th Street NW. I was a pipemen assigned to Engine B the officer was Captain Ernie Lopez, he was a good officer. That fire was hot, smoky, and never ending, after multiple alarms, and a lot of foam it was extinguished. That fire truly brought all fire training I learned right into play.

Ralph said I loved our work schedule back then it was; 3 day shifts, 3 night shifts followed by 3 days off. After completing the 3 day shifts we went to nights where it seemed like we had 6 days off in a row. Even if it was considered a 56 hour work cycle it was still nice.



I learned fire house cooking at station one Ralph said, one favorite dish was taught to me by Lieutenant Tim Gonzales. Tim taught me how to make pizza from scratch the main thing was the dough. I slowly added some of my own ingredients to jazz it up a little over time and it became a hit. When I was assigned to station 15 you know firefighters they like to eat, they would say, "Ralph Pizza tonight"? I never said no to them it kept them happy and it felt rewarding to me.

Ralph has many interest and hobbies they all revolved around the world of fire. Ralph said, during my career any extra duties given to me involving fire projects made it feel more like a reward. It did not matter if it was fixing, installing or restoring fire stuff it was always a rush. I worked side by side with Pablo Garcia Junior on many projects he also loves fire stuff just like me Ralph said.

I was directly involved in the restoration of the 1920 American LaFrance Ladder Truck and the 1927 American LaFrance Pumper. I understand the ladder truck was parked in someone's yard in Texas for many years until AFD recovered it. I believe our Historian Herman Bishop has information on the find and its recovery. Although fire truck restoration is a lot of work it is enjoyable and rewarding.

In my early years I remember riding the tailboard responding to fire calls where a fire alarm box transmitted the alarm. The fire alarm boxes were found at intersections and at major buildings like hospitals. The box alarm would transmit a 4 digit number to the alarm room the first two numbers transmitted would signify a quadrant of the city the 3rd and 4th number would signify the numbered intersection. After the boxes were no longer in service they were taken down and thrown in a pile as junk. However after sand blasting and painting they soon followed the national trend and became collectable memorabilia

Ralph said I like doing any type of restoration the big thing is you never know what you will come across; I have been involved in 3 way purchases or trades involving different memorabilia. I recently had an oil type lamp made around the 1940's which was neatly displayed in my yard. I received a call from an acquaintance who said; Ralph I have an old fire department call box used in Chicago, they were on street corners, inside is a 2 piece telephone. The acquaintance said I can sell it to you or..... Well I can trade it for that oil lamp you have I've been wanting one? Ralph said it's not unusual for deals like that and well I have the call box now.

I love collecting different types of memorabilia however *fire stuff is always numero Uno* Ralph said. Old cars and Coke-a-Cola items can be just as exciting to collect and restore. My vintage vehicles I reworked from the radiator to the tailpipe or as some would say bumper to bumper. Normally I replace the old engines with a pepped up V-8 engine and install an automatic transmission. I do most all work except for the final paint job; I do prepare the body for painting. The reward is being able to drive them on a road trip like to California or wherever there is a car show to enter.

I have coke machines dating back from the 1960's that still work with coins, friends get a big kick out of them Ralph said....However when they see my candy vending machine they say wow now I seen it all... Nostalgia is a great thing we still look for, some people call these types of items collector's or antiques others say its junk.

One of Ralph's cherished awards he received was Albuquerque Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year award he received in 1992. The follow up was being nominated for National Firefighter of the Year. Ralph proudly displays his award in his fire museum with other awards and trophies.

Today Ralph is active in providing quality assurance (QA) to seven fire departments in the northwest part of New Mexico. Ralph said; it allows me to keep somewhat involved in firefighting which is great. These areas have seen a lot of business growth from major store chains although they have their fire protection systemsfire suppression response is still needed. Some of Ralph's duties include; insuring pump operators are able to complete pump operations and keep readiness their fire trucks. Part of the QA is to insure the pump operator can operate the pump under changing conditions. I do this by giving the pump operators scenarios in supplying hand lines or master streams. I use the "what if" approach in questions to get them thinking of correct pump operations and hydraulic calculations.

Ralph previously worked with New Mexico's Homeland Security and Emergency Management where he functioned as Logistics Manager. Ralph said I was able to travel as a team member to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita that was eventful. When you work these disasters you may respond with other New Mexico members and at the disaster location work with others from all over the country. The majority of the emergency responders are always firefighters.

Ralph spends time with his wife Lucy who also retired from City of Albuquerque in 1996. Lucy's last assignment was Human Resources and currently serves as board member with Rio Grande Credit Union. Their daughter Nadine also retired from Albuquerque Police Department in 2011.

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, FORMED AUGUST 1, 1893

In August, 1893 through a committee selected from the Albuquerque fire department, a call was issued to the volunteer firemen throughout the territory to meet with them in the City of Albuquerque to organize what should be known as the "New Mexico Association of Volunteer Firemen," for the general purposes of promoting a spirit of fraternity among the volunteer firemen of the territory and mutually protecting and perfecting their organizations by means of annual conventions and tournaments.

To this call nine companies, three from Albuquerque, three from Las Vegas, two from Santa Fe and one from Socorro, responded with five delegates each on the morning of September 21, 1893 and the first general firemen's convention ever held in the southwest was at that time called to order at the headquarters of the Fergusson Hook and Ladder company in Albuquerque.

After a brief speech of welcome by Chief W.T. McCreight, a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws and the following officers were elected for one year: President, W.T. McCreight, Albuquerque, Vice Presidents- W.M Berger, Santa Fe, J.H. McCutchen, Socorro, M.J. Crowley, Las Vegas, N.M. W.G. McCormick, Albuquerque. Secretary, C.E. King, East Las Vegas, NM, Assistant Secretary, A.P. Hill, Santa Fe. Treasurer, Charles Yondorf, Albuquerque, Executive Committee, J.H. McCutchen, Socorro, John Shank, Las Vegas, NM, G. Ashdown, Santa Fe, O.J. Ennis and P.J. McCanna, Albuquerque.

It was decided to hold the first tournament at Las Vegas and later the dates decided upon were July 3, 4, and 5, 1894.

Everything was progressing nicely, about \$1,000.00 was to be given in prizes, a grand time was expected and success was assured. But on the 27th of June the great railroad strike was declared and for ten days the trains were not moving. The tournament was hence postponed until August 23rd and 24th, 1894. The delay caused additional expenses, and to meet them the prize money was reduced; but never the less the first annual tournament and second annual convention was a great success. The citizens of Las Vegas were congratulated upon the manner in which they entertained the firemen. The pleasant time enjoyed during those two days will long be remembered and cherished by the gallant firemen who were so fortunate to be in attendance.

SANTE FE SELECTED

At the convention held on August 23, 1894, it was decided to hold the third annual convention and second annual tournament at Santa Fe. It is needless to say that the hospitable people of the historic Capital will do all in their power to promote the pleasure and comfort of the visitors and to prove the wisdom of the selection of Santa Fe as the meeting place.

After deciding on a place for holding the next convention and tournament the following officers were elected; W.T. McCreight, Albuquerque, Vice-presidents, L.A. Skelly, Silver City, M.J. Crowley, East Las Vegas, C.C. Romero, Las Vegas, C.Cortinas, Socorro, Bernard Ruppe, Albuquerque, C.J. Bacon, Secretary, J.B. Sloan, Santa Fe, Assistant Secretary, P.J. Martin, Las Vegas, Treasurer, F.J. Long, Las Vegas, Executive Committee, John Shank, East Las Vegas, George M. Cundiff, Albuquerque, W.G. Ashdown, Santa Fe, A.R. Quinley, East Las Vegas, Ed M. Keeler, Socorro, the President and Secretary being ex-officio members.

Present Membership of The Association- Since the organization with nine companies as charter members, five other companies have been admitted to membership. Albuquerque, one, Silver City, three, Eddy, one.

At a meeting of the executive committee held in Santa Fe, January 25, 1895, it was decided to hold the tournament on July 3, 4, and 5, 1895. Since then painstaking preparations for the eventful occasion have already been in progress and a royal good time is anticipated. President McCreight and Secretary Sloan, especially have done earnest, faithful work, and it is hoped that their efforts will be rewarded by bringing all the volunteer fire companies in the territory into the association before the next tournament

REAL RED LETTER DAYS, MEMORABLE WEEK IN STORE
FOR HISTORIC AND HOSPITABLE SANTE FE

Program Detail, Blending of Firemen's Tournament and Fourth Of July Celebrations
(July 1, 1895)

The coming week promises to be one of the most eventful in the history of modern Santa Fe. It will be a grand jubilee week; a week dedicated to pleasure, prize-winning, and patriotism. It is a week of fluttering flags, booming cannon, bright and imposing processions, dazzling fire works, inspiring music and history and closely contested tournaments, in which the rival volunteer fire companies of the territory will strive for generous purses and the magnificent championship belt; a week in which the good people of historic and hospitable Santa Fe, in holiday attire and with smiling faces, will extend friendly hands of cordial welcome to hundreds of visitors from all parts of New Mexico, and so entertain them one and all that they will rejoice that they came, and return to their respective homes sincerely regretting that the ceremonies are over. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July will be genuine red-letter days in this city, days beautiful and running over with pleasures and hospitality, days in which dull care will be banished and merry Mirth and joyful Jollity, twin sisters, will have full sway. The elaborate program, in the faithful carrying out of which visitors and entertainers will vie with each other, speaks significantly for itself. It will be lengthened and improved rather than ignored and those who win the prizes offered, aggregating about \$700 in the firemen's tournament contests can depend upon full and prompt payment of the same. Subjoined is the program for the three days:

First Day- Wednesday, July 3rd

Association of Volunteer Firemen, with an address of welcome by Honorable C.F. Ensley Mayor of Sante Fe, and response by Mr. W.T. McCreight, of Albuquerque, President of the Firemen's Association.

- 1:00 P.M. - Baseball game at Christian College grounds between Las Vegas and Sante Fe's teams.
- 2:00 P.M. - Second event, dry test, 1st prize \$75, second prize, \$40 .
- 3:00 P.M. - Second event, ladder climbing contest, first prize \$30, second prize \$10
- 4:00 P.M. - Third event, foot races, 200 yards, first prize, \$20, second prize, \$10.
- 5:00 P.M. - Instrumental and vocal contest by Sante Fe talent at the court yard arranged by Professor A.W. Conroy Orchestra led by Mr. William E. McFir.

Second Day- Thursday July 4th

- 8:00 A.M -Grand procession led by Professor Perez' band, will form on the plaza and march to A.T. & S.F. depot to meet the Albuquerque excursion; reforming there, the procession led by the 1st regimental band of the territorial militia and company G, New Mexico militia, fifty strong, will parade back to the plaza.
- 9:00 A.M. -Fitting Fourth of July exercises in the plaza, including the reading of the Declaration of independence by R.E. Twitchell and an oration by W.T. Thornton.
- 2:00 P.M. -Sharp, First event, championship wet test, first prize, championship belt and \$75 second prize \$40 .
- 3:00 P.M. -Second event, coupling contest, first prize, \$25, second prize, \$15.
- 4:00 P.M. -Third event, 100 yard foot race open only to firemen, first prize, \$20, second prize \$10.
- 4:30 P.M. - Fourth event, hook and ladder race, first prize, \$60, second prize, \$30.
- Miscellaneous events, including burro races, tug-of-war, sack races, wheelbarrow races, etc.
- 6:00 P.M. - Grand open air concert in the plaza by the 1st regimental band, New Mexico Militia
- 7:00 P.M. - twenty- round glove contest, Mottley's opera house between Kid Gallagher of Helena, and Jim La Chapell, Kansas City for a purse of \$200.
- 8:00 P.M. - Brilliant display of fireworks in front of Firemen's Hall on Lincoln Avenue.

Source: Santa Fe "New Mexican," July 1, 1895

Story submitted by: Barbara Price, Moro, Oregon. Her great grandfather George M.Cundiff was an Albuquerque Volunteer fireman. When the Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company was formed on September 8, 1891, George Cundiff was one of 25 volunteer firemen who were members of that fire company. In 1895 George Cundiff became foreman (Captain) of the Fergusson Hook & Ladder Company.

February 12, 2014 Monthly Meeting-The February Monthly meeting was called to order @ 7:10 P.M. at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo led members in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the opening prayer led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. After observance of the last alarm for our deceased members roll call was held. Sam recognized Toby Pino who attended his first retiree meeting. Guests speakers were: Joe and Gina Escobedo, who addressed the members and expressed their heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to the retirees for the honors paid at the funeral of Joe Escobedo retired firefighter.

Lawrence Rael Democratic Candidate for New Mexico Governor addressed the retired firefighters and asked their support in the upcoming Democratic Primary. He is former City Manager of Albuquerque and is a friend of the firefighters. Lucy Sedillo and Cynthia Borrego are running as a team for the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Credit Union. We will be getting ballots in the mail in early March and they would appreciate the support of the retired firefighters. Both ladies have many years of experience in Credit Union Management and assured us they would look out for the interests of firefighters. Mike McKinsey President of the Local Chapter, "Random Acts of Kindness," addressed our group. He and Chaplain Mark Chavez presented Sam Trujillo with a chain saw carving of "Smokey The Bear."

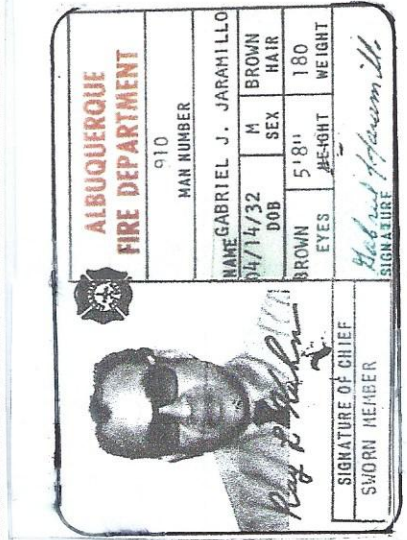
Sam Reported that Daniels Funeral Home gave a generous donation to support the purchase of uniforms for our Honor Guard. Noel Baca has joined the Honor Guard and will be fitted for a uniform. Diego Arancón and the Firefighters Union, Local, 244 representatives are working the New Mexico State Legislature and are looking out for the good and welfare of both active duty and retired firefighters. A new fire cadet class is underway and the F.D. is now recruiting for the July, 2014 Cadet class. Sam also thanked the F.F. Union for their generous donation towards our newsletter.

The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Tom Romero and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by John Serino and he reported that thanks to all who made recent donations we are running in the black and are meeting our financial obligations. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Eddie Torres.

Historian Herman Bishop read two nice letters sent to the retirees from the Joe Escobedo family and the Juan Sanchez family thanking our members for the great and heartfelt honors given to their family members who recently passed away. Both families gave special thanks to Sam Trujillo for his assistance in the funeral planning. He also met with Ralph Chavez Jr. and his wife Aaron who wanted information about the firefighting career of Ralph Chavez Sr. during the years he spent with AFD as a fire Lieutenant and also his experiences while assigned to the first rescue squads of Albuquerque. Ralph Chavez Sr. is 88 years old and is in a nursing home.

Bill Raupfer invited everyone to attend the Seventh annual Blue Mass. It will be held on Tuesday March 4, 2014 starting at 12:00 noon at Saint Pius X High School. The Blue Mass is held in tribute to all Public Safety Sector, First Responders and the Military. Representatives of the AFD Retiree's Association will be participating and our Honor Guard will make a presentation by ringing the Fire Bell in a series of 4-5's.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Pat McKinney. The Feb. Meeting adjourned @ 9:20 P.M.



January, 2014 Monthly Meeting- On January 8, 2014 President Sam Trujillo called the 161st monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association to order at 7:15 PM at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. Sam led members in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Pat McKinney led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed to remember our deceased members. After roll call President Sam Trujillo recognized retiree Omar Dimingrat who had not attended a monthly meeting for several months. Welcome back Omar!

President's Report- Sam said he will be working closely with officers of the Firefighter's Union, Local 244, at the short session of the New Mexico State Legislature this year and will monitor any legislation that affects firefighters and retired firefighters. He reported that he and several members met with interim Fire Chief David Downey and congratulated him on his appointment. Chief Downey gave the retirees a warm reception and expressed a desire to work with us. Sam and Bill Raupfer discussed the new guidelines for firefighter's funerals which was written and coordinated by Commander "Skip" Tangenero. Chief Downey assured us that he will work with us to bring the funeral truck up to normal operational standards. Sam also announced that retiree Noel Baca has agreed to serve on the Retiree Honor Guard.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report for the month of December. A motion to accept the Secretary's report was made by Eddie Abieta and seconded by Ramon Maldonado. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's account balance is in the black after we paid costs for the December newsletter and the Christmas Party. John gave his sincere thanks to all who made donations and honored their pledges. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Jimmy Candelaria and seconded by Tom Romero. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He read a letter sent by Chief Porky Abieta from Gallup who thanked us for running the story about him in the December, 2013 newsletter recognizing his achievement for receiving the New Mexico Meritorious Service Award at the 2013 New Mexico Fire and EMS Expo in Socorro. Herman congratulated active duty firefighter Lieutenant Ron Herrera who was presented a proclamation at the January 6, 2013 City Council meeting recognizing his 40 years of service with AFD. Herman was Ron's first District Chief in 1973 when Ron was a rookie at the old station two at High and Silver S.E.

Eddie Torres and Ray Flores gave a big thanks to all who assisted in making our annual Christmas party a huge success. The event was well attended and everyone had lots of fun visiting with old friends and we are sure no one went home hungry that night. Best wishes to all our friends on the sick roster, E.V. Marquez, Ray Flores, Ignacio Perez, Toby Pino, David Junick, and H.H. Chavez.

Kerry Horton is asking assistance from our members to compile a list of all fire cadet classes including photos of the class dating back to cadet class # 1. We are not sure of the exact date of Cadet class # 1, but we think it is sometime in 1959 or 1960. If you have photos or names and information from your cadet class please contact Kerry. Telephone: 934-2669.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez, and the January meeting was adjourned @ 9:03 P.M.

GABRIEL JARAMILLO DIES
(By: Herman R. Bishop, Historian)

Our fellow firefighter and brother Gabriel "Gabe" Jaramillo, age 81, passed away on February 8, 2014. Gabe joined AFD on July 16, 1955 and spent 26 years with the department prior to his retirement on July 1, 1981. He was a dedicated firefighter who loved his job and was hired by the Late Fire Chief Art Westerfield. There was no fire academy and only 9 fire stations in 1955. Station # 10 opened the following year in early 1956. Training was mostly on the job and new firemen were sent to the Engine 1-A Lieutenant for training at station # 1. Training lasted usually a few days to one week. Part of the firefighter's training was the requirement to jump into the life net from the third floor of the drill tower.

Also old station # 3 and station # 1 had brass fire poles the firemen would slide down from the upper floors when responding to fires. This caused many injuries over the years, resulting in the removal of fire poles from the fire houses. Pay for new firemen was about \$250.00 per month. Firemen rode the back of the fire truck on the tail board and hung on for dear life when responding to fires. Self-contained breathing apparatus was not widely available and firefighters had to go into fires without breathing protection and eat lots of smoke. Gabe's brother Lieutenant Rudy Jaramillo, (deceased) also served the department 27 years from 1951 to 1978. Our sincere condolences to the Jaramillo family.

New Mexico Fire Officer of the Year in 2012.

(Submitted By: Fred Casias)



James Maxon serves as the Fire Chief for the Sandoval County Fire Department. The Sandoval County Fire Department consists of 240 personnel that are both career and volunteer firefighters. Sandoval County Fire Department covers 3,700 square miles and provides EMS and Fire response through 20 fire stations. Chief Maxon was named New Mexico Fire Officer of the Year in 2012, at the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy's - FIRE & EMS EXPO .

Chief Maxon has been in the fire service for 21 years and started his career with Hondo Volunteer Fire Department in Santa Fe County in 1992. He previously served in the U.S. Air Force as a Firefighter, and with the New Mexico State Fire Marshal Office.

Chief Maxon has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico, a Bachelors Degree in Business Management, and an Associates Degree in Fire Science. He is in his fourth year of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy.

A Note To My Fellow Retirees

To those of you who have been to a few of our meetings and to those of you who have not yet attended, I would like to extend an invitation to come out and join in the next meeting and see for yourself what kind of Association you have.

At the meetings, which are held the second Wednesday of each month, we have regular business conducted by a group of dedicated officers and their staff. This is an organization founded on helping our retirees, their spouses, their families & the community.

One of the most outstanding functions that the association performs is to assist following the death of a retiree. Proclamations are presented to the family honoring their loved one.

Occasionally, guest speakers are at the meeting dealing with subjects from PERA, insurance & Social Security. Families are always welcomed.

Meetings are not all business, it's a way to socialize with our fellow firefighters. The strong bonds we developed while on active duty are still present with each meeting we attend. With our ranks thinning out, we need to maintain our brotherhood while encouraging the younger retirees to become involved in their Association.

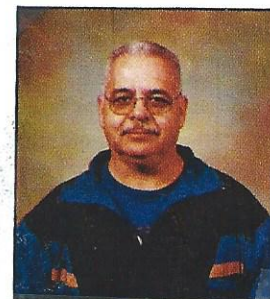
Functions such as the annual picnic and Christmas Party are always a favorite!

Brother and sister retirees, come on out and give your Association a try, before it's too late.

God Bless,

Ray Flores

Death, Joseph D. Escobedo- We regret to report the death of Joseph D. Escobedo, age 64. He was our fellow retiree, friend, and brother. He passed away suddenly on December 14, 2013. His fellow firemen nicknamed him "Scubby Doo." Joe was born in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He moved to Albuquerque and joined the Fire Department on October 4, 1976. After serving over 21 years with the department and the community he retired on December 31, 1997. He was a Member of the 29th cadet class. After completing his probation he was promoted to firefighter 1st class. Later he was certified as an EMT-Paramedic and served as a driver and Lieutenant on the rescue. In December, 1987 he was appointed as Quality Assurance Officer with the Rescue program. After three years in that position he transferred back to the field and took a Position as a rescue Lieutenant.



JOSEPH D. ESCOBEDO

Following his retirement Joe had a successful career as an EMT instructor. He was exceptionally proud of being a firefighter and EMT-Paramedic. He loved being a firefighter and was good natured and had a good sense of humor. He was well respected by his fellows and supervisors alike. He was a member of the AFD Retired Firefighters Association. We have fond memories of Joe. He will be missed by our fellow retirees but he will live on in our hearts.

AFD RETIREE TONY ARMIJO, PRAYERS AND ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

(Submitted by Marcela Sandoval, Family Friend)

Tony Armijo was an AFD firefighter. He is now living in Washington State with his daughter. He has severe dementia or Alzheimer's. His ex wife, Diana is a good friend of mine. Their son, Paul, has been diagnosed with liver cancer. They have been up to the Mayo Clinic and he is on the transplant list. While Paul has been very ill and is getting very weak, Tony and Diana's daughter, Missy passed away. She was in her 40's and just didn't wake up one day. A couple of weeks ago, Paul received a call that there was a liver available for him. They went up to Phoenix, and he was readied for the transplant. Right before they gave him the injection to put him out, the doctor stated that the liver was not "good". He has had to stay in the Phoenix area because he is #1 on the transplant list. Diana had to return to Albuquerque because she has a twin sister who is bed ridden, and Diana is her caregiver. After the transplant, Paul (49) and his wife, Susie, will have to stay in the Phoenix area for 6 months. Diana has purchased a fifth wheel for him because rents in the Phoenix area run around \$1,000 - \$1,500 a month, even for a studio apartment. Diana's husband, John and Tony and Diana's grandson, Paul Jr. (27) have gone to Phoenix with the fifth wheel, hoping to get things in place for Paul.

Paul has only Medicare, no other insurance. Paul and Susie have a daughter (16). I don't know what kind of arrangements they will be making, but for now we know that their expenses are and are going to be astronomical. Of course, Tony cannot help. They had a raffle and a fund raising dinner, but that is not even a drop in the bucket.

John Serino suggested that we contact Mark Chavez from Random Acts. Although Tony or his family has not asked for help, this is a special case where he and his family can use some help. They need both prayers and financial assistance. John will be happy to coordinate and accept any donations on their behalf. To assist you may contact Marcella Sandoval or John Serino at 1504 Hermosa S.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87108. Telephone: (H) 505, 266-1252 or (Cell) 505, 710-6030

YOUR FIRE FAMILY IS STILL HERE

By Kerry Horton
(December 18, 2013)

My last day with the Albuquerque Fire Department was December 28th, 2012. It was a wonderful day filled with laughs, reminiscing, and camaraderie, but also a day filled with sadness, knowing that it was the last day that I would be around the people that had been a large part of my life for the past 21 years. I am sure that my experience was not much different than your last day on the job, because we all know that there is no career in the world quite like the Fire Service. Whether your career was 20, 25, or 30 years, those years flew by because of the wonderful second family that you had come to rely on, the Fire family.

All of us can reminisce about the exciting and fun times that we shared with our Brothers and Sisters that rode the trucks with us, but knowing that their most important role was to be there after the hard calls, the calls that only another firefighter can relate to. We all made a career of helping the citizens of Albuquerque deal with the worst day of their lives, and it was our Brothers and Sisters that were standing at our sides on those days that we respected and depended upon to help us relieve the stresses of the job. The fire service builds a camaraderie that lasts a life time. Then comes the day of our retirement; a day of pride and sadness mixed together. We will no longer ride the trucks through the streets of Albuquerque, or sit around the kitchen table at the firehouse to discuss the day's events, or throw the friendly insults back and forth. For me, I was ready. I was ready to re-connect with my wife and kids, and try to make up for all the missed holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries. I was also ready to decompress, to relieve the stresses that a 21-year career can bring, and to learn how to sleep through the night once again. After I whittled my wife's "honey do" list down to a manageable degree, I began doing what retired people are supposed to do, and that is to relax, travel, and get back to the hobbies that you found you didn't have time for while working. My wife and I shared some great trips together, and I found time to pick up my old hobbies again. Believe me, retirement is great. It is almost time to start planning next year's trips.

If you are like me, you needed that initial time away from the job, and if I may say so without offending anyone, time away from those who reminded you of the job. As the months went by, I started to realize that I didn't miss the 2 a.m. calls to pick up a "down n out" on a cold winter's night, and to my surprise, I didn't even miss bunkering up and running into a burning building; I long ago realized that that is foolishness that is best left to the younger crowd, but what I did miss was the light-hearted conversations that filled the room around the kitchen table. I was starting to miss the camaraderie of my Fire family. We all know that the fire service continues on after we retire, new kids coming in all the time to replace us old dogs – old dogs that have had our day, and pretty soon you begin to see new crews on the street, and realize you don't recognize any of them. You may go by your old station to visit the guys, and some young Probie in a starched uniform meets you at the door and asks if he can help you. You want to inform him that you've invested more in the coffee fund than he has in PERA, but you realize that that young Probie was you 20+ years ago. The job and the camaraderie doesn't change, but the faces do.

SPECIAL NOTE: Kerry Horton is compiling a list of names with photos of all fire trainees/cadet classes starting with the first fire department training class. When the project is completed he will display the plaques and photos at the fire academy. So far he has not found sufficient information to determine exactly when the cadet classes began the numbering system. If you have photos or names Of the people in your cadet class please contact Kerry at : 934-2969, or Sam Trujillo @ 800-1500
firkdh@gmail.com

I knew that the Albuquerque Firefighters Retirement Association had been around for a long time (founded in 2000). And that they have a very dedicated group of guys that work very hard conducting the business of the association. What I didn't realize was exactly what that business was, or that they are the "kitchen table in the firehouse." I started asking some fellow retirees if they had attended any AFDRA meetings, and to my surprise, they said they had not. The reasons they offered for not attending varied, but the two reasons that I heard most was that didn't feel they had been retired long enough to join, and that they felt that the AFDRA was just a place to hear about who was sick, or who had passed away. Well, I decided to see for myself, and start attending meetings to find out just what the AFDRA was about, I'm very happy I did.

There is no joining the AFDRA, and there are no dues. The fact that you are retired from the Albuquerque Fire Department makes you a member. When I attended my first meeting and walked in the door, I immediately saw familiar faces and met many more people that I now consider friends. Everyone attending AFDRA meetings has had the same career as you, experienced the same things that shaped your career, and can relate to your stories as if they were their own. The meetings have the same feel as the kitchen table at the firehouse; happy conversations, friendly insults thrown around, and the occasional call of BS when a story gets embellished just a little too much. There is structure to the meetings, and there is an Executive Board that handles the daily business of the association. At the meeting, reports are given, and yes, the members are informed on the health of members that are under the weather, and the ones who may have passed away. The AFDRA's primary role though is to be the social hub for all retirees, and the monthly meetings are the method of keeping this huge fire family in touch with one another. The AFDRA hosts a picnic every summer, along with a Christmas party every December. They assist local 244 in many endeavors, and the AFDRA has an Honor Guard and Funeral Detail that honors a family's wishes for a full Fire Service funeral for a member that has passed away. The AFDRA accomplishes all of this without collecting dues; It survives only on the voluntary donations of it's members, along with a raffle at every meeting.

I strongly encourage every retiree to come on by, attend a meeting and see for yourself just what the AFDRA is all about. I guarantee you will see familiar faces, meet a lot of new friends, and get re-acquainted with people that you might not have seen in quite a while. I understand that we all get busy in our lives, and it is difficult to find time just to go out and socialize, but I am sure that a few hours in the evening of the second Wednesday of each month will definitely improve your life. And besides, we really need some new stories around the kitchen table.



KERRY HORTON (11-13-2013)



SAM TRUJILLO PRESENTS FIRE AXE TO RECENT RETIREE ROBERT V. SANCHEZ (11-13-2013)

Death, Bartolo C. "Bart" Vallejos- On December 24, 2013 "Bart" Vallejos, age 77, passed away after a long term illness. He was our friend, brother and had been a member of the AFD Retiree's Association for the past thirteen years. He joined the Fire Department January 18, 1960 and after 25 years of faithful And dedicated service to the department and his community, he retired on July 1,1985. The department was growing when he was hired by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. Later that year the new fire station # 12 was opened. Then Assistant Chief Ray Kuhn was the training chief at the old fire academy Located by the Zoo at 1610 Kit Carson S.W.



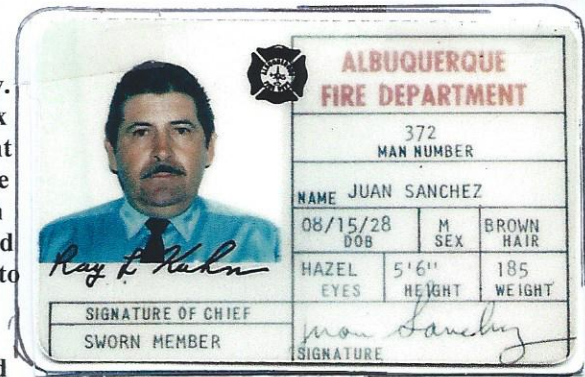
"Bart" Vallejos

After his promotion to firefighter first class he worked at most fire stations Throughout the City. The new fire station #13 opened in the spring of 1964. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to driver in July, 1964 and was assigned as the tiller man driving Ladder 3. Bart loved his job as a driver and was a large robust man. He had a great smile and loved playing jokes on his fellow firemen. He was strong and agile. When he went to a big fire we knew we Could count on him to back us up

In the fire house culture most firemen are given a nick name early on. His Coworkers named him "Black Bart." He accepted his nick name graciously. Fellow Firefighters would name their friends after cartoon characters, movie stars, or people they knew from childhood. These nick names were not meant to be mean spirited but are meant to be used as terms of endearment or Reverence for a person they liked.

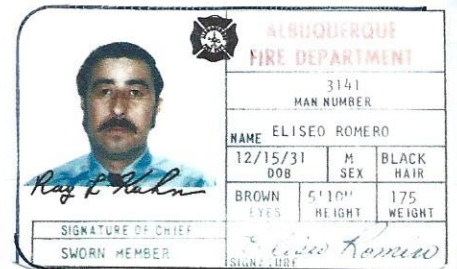
Because of his age and experience "Bart" was a good role model for the young firefighters and taught them to drive the 100 foot aerial ladder. We remember "Bart" for his patience in teaching the new firemen and his great sense of humor. We were happy to have known him and to have him part of our lives. Although we will miss "Bart," he will live on in our hearts. Our sincere condolences to the Vallejos family. (By: Herman Bishop)

JUAN SANCHEZ DIES- On Saturday November 30, 2013 fellow Retiree, friend and brother, Lieutenant Juan Sanchez passed away. He joined AFD in January, 1951 when the department only had six Fire stations. After serving the community and the fire department Over 30 years Juan retired during July, 1981. His death marks the Passing of an era of several firefighters who preceded him in death During 2013, Manuel Herrera, Jimmy Chavez, Martin Romero and Sid Garcia. Juan was of the old school of firefighters who came into The department before self-contained breathing apparatus was Available. Although the department had filter type masks, Juan, Along with the firefighters of that day went into heavy smoke filled Buildings without breathing masks. They were truly smoke eaters. Young firefighters had to be pretty brave and tough to keep up with the old timers during smoky conditions. However, Juan was a good leader and was well respected by members of his crew as he led them into dangerous situations during fire emergencies. He always looked out for the safety of his crew and they had confidence in his ability as a firefighter.



In 1962 Juan was a charter member of the Local IAFF Union (Local 1455), now Local 244. He was active in organizing efforts for the firefighter's union and worked diligently devoting many long hours fighting to improve benefits, pay, and working conditions for firefighters. During the last few years he worked at stations # 1, # 2, # 7 and served on the Rescue squad, Ladder trucks, and pumpers. We offer sincere condolences to the entire Juan Sanchez family.

DEATH ELISEO ROMERO- RETIRED FIREFIGHTER/DRIVER ELISEO ROMERO, AGE 82, PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 18, 2014. ELISEO JOINED AFD ON AUGUST 17, 1959 AND AFTER A CAREER SPANNING OVER 22 YEARS SERVICE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HIS COMMUNITY HE RETIRED IN OCTOBER, 1981. THERE WERE ONLY 11 FIRE STATIONS THEN AND STATION # 12 WAS OPENED THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THERE WERE ABOUT 250 FIREMEN AND PAY WAS ONLY \$250 PER MONTH. CAPTAIN RAY KUHN HAD JUST OPENED THE FIRE TRAINING CENTER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO DRIVER ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1968. HE WAS A GOOD FIREFIGHTER AND WAS WELL RESPECTED BY HIS FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS. HE WAS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION SINCE JUNE, 2000. SINCERE CONDOLENCES ARE OFFERED TO THE ROMERO FAMILY.



**LIEUTENANT RON HERRERA HONORED
BY ALBUQUERQUE CITY COUNCIL**

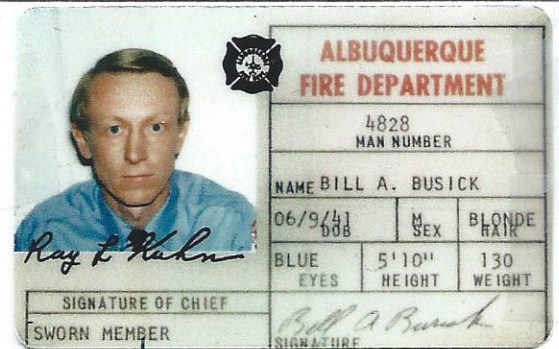
On January 6, 2014 fire Lieutenant Ron Herrera, age 61 Was recognized for his 40 years service to the citizens Of Albuquerque and to the Fire Department. City Council President Ken Sanchez presented a proclamation to Ron Commemorating this milestone that very few firefighters Achieve. Ron joined AFD in December, 1973 and was Assigned to the old Station # 2 at High and Silver S.E. The Crew was Lt. Joe Hernandez, Trinidad Lopez, James Gallegos And Ron. He was joined at the presentation by his many fire Department friends, Herman Bishop, his first District Chief, Joe Zamora, his current Commander, Chief Downey and many Fellow firefighters. Chief Bishop and Commander Zamora Addressed the Council and made a few remarks about Ron And his dedication to the fire department during his career. Ron stated, "This is a great honor for me and I have really Enjoyed my career as a firefighter, as well as all the firemen I have worked with over the years." Ron acquired two nick Names along the way, "Crackers," and "Colonel," which he Has graciously accepted. Best wishes to Ron in the future.



LT. RON HERRERA(1-6-2013)

BILL BUSICK, "FIRE SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD"

On November 15, 2013 AFD retiree Lieutenant Bill Busick was Awarded the "Fire Service Recognition Award," during ceremonies at the Kimo Theater downtown at the Fire Cadet Graduation program. Bill joined AFD in October, 1962 and After serving 23 years with the department, he retired in December, 1985. . He served as a field Paramedic, Quality Assurance officer, and Liaison officer between the various local EMS providers. Also he served as representative of AFD To the Bernalillo County EMS Medical Control Board.



Bill attended the first EMS Academy Paramedic Course (Inaugural Program) along with 12 other AFD Students and six Bernalillo County Fire Department Students. He graduated in December, 1974. After a few years of experience he was given the task of researching and preparing up to date local, State, regional and National Paramedic level educational standards to ensure the AFD had the most current and accurate educational materials.

During his tenure he worked along side Doctors, and Medical Directors. He worked closely with Albuquerque Ambulance Services , Bernalillo County Fire Department, and area hospitals. While with AFD he served as representative with the Bernalillo County EMS Medical Control Board.

After his retirement from AFD as Paramedic Lieutenant he joined the UNM Emergency Service Academy and served as Paramedic Instructor for 20 years. During this time, he was the liaison for the EMS Academy and AFD when the fire department initiated their internal paramedic training program. In 2006 he joined the CNM Paramedic Program and served as Paramedic instructor for seven years.

Bill fully retired in March 2013. He now enjoys more time with his wife Brenda, who is also his best friend, competing with their horses, fly fishing, playing golf, and farming. Bill's most rewarding contributions is for his recognition through the State of New Mexico's EMS communities, for his affiliation with the Albuquerque Fire Department.

Our sincere congratulations go to Bill for this prestigious award for which he is most deserving.

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RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
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Sam Trujillo

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By: Sam Trujillo

As we start a new year (2014), I reflect on our older AFD Retiree's and I am saddened by the fact that we have lost so many of the generation that were my mentors 50 years ago. I joined AFD upon my return from military service and I am grateful that I experienced the opportunity to have worked with so many great men. Our association has lost 91 AFD Retiree's since the year 2000 when we formed our AFD Retiree Association including the 13 AFD Retiree's that passed away in 2013. I reflect back on these Fire Fighters and the working conditions that we endured then. The younger generations will never experience open cab fire trucks and riding on the tailboard as the truck responds to emergencies in inclement weather. Our pay and benefits were substandard but we made up for this by making life at the Fire Station enjoyable thus bonding as brothers for life. Our Fire Department was much smaller but we seemed to have made working conditions better by looking out for each other. I encourage all our retiree's to continue in supporting our association and all our endeavors especially in honoring our brothers in their "LAST ALARM ". I stress to you that together we remain stronger and can accomplish more.

I also want to remind you to keep me informed (899-1500) on any address / telephone number changes. This includes e-mail address changes. Our e-mail network has grown extensively and this allows us to communicate with our members on a daily basis if needed. Thank you for your support!