

AFD RETIREE NEWS

News 1

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2015

#- 1-2015

President, Sam Trujillo,	5318 La Colonia NW, Albuquerque, NM,	87120	899-1500
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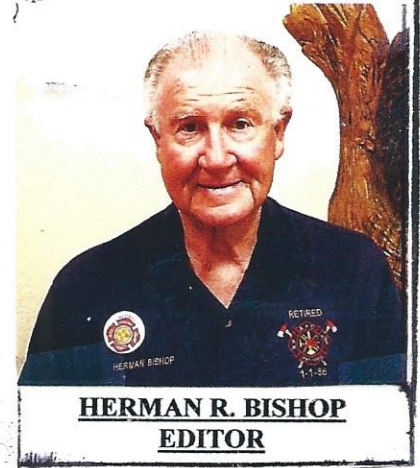


THE AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER, PROMPT TO THE RESCUE

A popular Currier & Ives lithograph issued in 1858 showing a rescue scene, drawn by Louis Maurer, of the New York Printmakers. Famous for his drawings of Fire engines and trotting horses.



PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



HERMAN R. BISHOP
EDITOR

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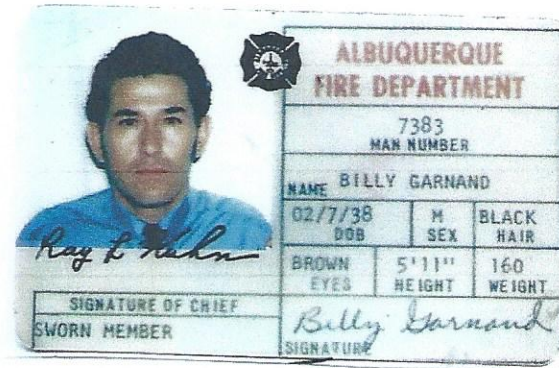
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CHRISTMAS PARTY

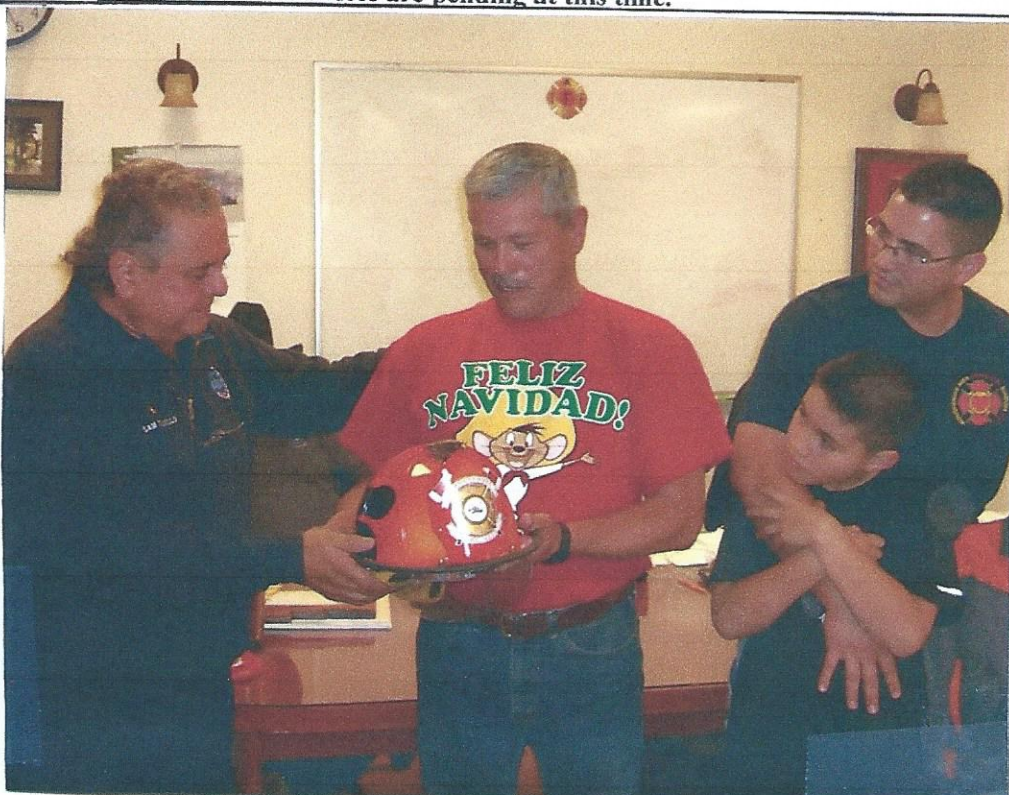
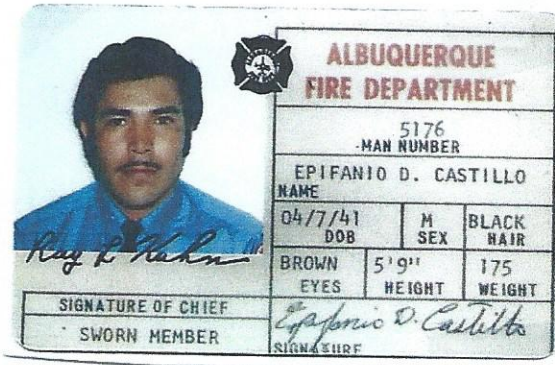
The Annual Christmas Party was Held on December, 20, 2014. It was Well attended and the food was great. Of Course Santa (Leroy Barboa) was There to take wishes from the children. A sincere note of thanks goes to our C0-Chairs, Eddie and Viola Torres, & Ray and Merry Lee Flores. To all Who attended, you made this annual Event a fun and enjoyable experience.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR !"

Death, BILLY GARNAND- We regret to report the death of retired firefighter Billy Garnand, age 76, who passed away on December 2, 2014 after a short term illness. He was born in Vaughn, New Mexico. Billy joined AFD during July, 1966 and Retired after 22 years service on June 22, 1988. He was a member Of the 13 th Fire Cadet Class. Fellow classmates were: Tony Anaya, Luis Benavidez, John Blake, Henry Bustamante, Dennis Lawhorn, Jose Padilla, Robert Perea, and Thomas Skidmore. He was Promoted to driver in August, 1971. He had a very pleasant and easy Going personality. He was of quiet nature and got along with his Fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. Billy knew his job as driver Very well and was proud of being a firefighter. He came from a Family of three brother firefighters. Billy set a good example for his two brothers, Narciso, and Robert Garnand who followed him as AFD firefighters. Our sincere condolences go to the Garnand family. Funeral services have been scheduled as follows: Rosary, December 4, 2014, 1900 hours at the Santa Rosa De Lima Catholic Church in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. The Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, December 5, 2014, 10:00 A.M. at the same location.



Death, Epifano "Epi" Castillo -It is with great sadness that we report the death of our brother retired firefighter "Epi" Castillo, Age 73, who passed away on December 22, 2014 . He joined AFD On March 13, 1972 and retired on May 20, 1987. He was promoted To driver during May, 1977. "Epi" was proud to be a firefighter And liked his job as a driver. He was honored to have served his Community and the Fire Dept. along with his brother and fellow Firefighter, Joe Castillo . He was a member the 21st fire cadet class. There were 22 new firefighters who graduated in that class. They Were: "Epi" Castillo, Manuel Aragon, Tony Armijo, Leroy Barboa, Carmel, Benavidez, Pat Cano, David Chavez, James Gallegos, Gary Ipiotis, James Johnson, Albert Lavigne, Phil Lovato, Billy Mora, Michael McColloch, Pablo Mirabal, Charles Norine, Robert Otero, Cornelio Padilla, Jimmy Serna, James Swann, Fred Teupell and Roy Winchester. We were happy to have served with our friend and brother firefighter "Epi." He will be missed . Our most sincere condolences go to the entire Castillo family. Funeral services are pending at this time.



AWARD, TOMMY ROMERO
 Sam Trujillo presents a special Award to Tommy Romero at The December 10-2-14 monthly Meeting. This firefighter helmet Was custom designed with flames And bright colors honoring Tom's Many years faithful and dedicated Service with the AFD Retiree's Association . Tom's son Carlos and Grandson look on as the award was Presented. Tommy said," I am Honored to receive this award, However, It was a total surprise."

December Meeting- The AFD Retiree's monthly meeting for December 10, 2014 was called to order by President Sam Trujillo at 7:08 P.M. 4100 Edith N.E. at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sam Trujillo and the opening prayer was given by Deacon Santos Abeyta. The last alarm moment of silence was observed for our retired fellow firefighters. Special observance was held for active duty firefighter Brandt Gibbs and retired firefighter Billy Garnand. After roll call Sam Trujillo recognized retiree Richard Ortiz who attended his first retiree meeting and Tom Romero's wife Monica, and son Carlos and his daughter Yahaira.

President Sam Trujillo presented retiree Tom Romero with a special colored fire helmet recognizing his long and faithful service with the AFD Retiree's Association. Sam thanked members Eddie Abieta and Kerry Horton for the fine job they did by conducting the annual audit of the AFD Retiree's Association Treasury. Eddie and Kerry reported that the books and all accounts were in order. They commended Treasurer John Serino for the fine job he has done as treasurer during the past few years.

The Secretary's report for the November monthly meeting was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Ramon Maldonado and was seconded by Eddie Abieta. The motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by John Serino. We are up to date on all financial transactions and all bills have been paid. There are adequate finances to fund the annual Christmas party on December 20, 2014. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Joe Martinez and was seconded by Eddie Torres. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop presented the "Man of The Year Award," to Mark Chavez who was unable to attend the awards presentations at the annual picnic during the summer. Herman read a letter of thanks on behalf of the Garnand family from son Mark Garnand for the honors paid to his father retiree Billy Garnand during funeral services held in Santa Rosa, New Mexico during December.

Eddie Torres reported the Christmas Party will be held on December 20, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M. at Rotary Park Community Center in downtown Bernalillo, N.M. A motion was made by L.C. Trujillo to reimburse Kerry Horton for picture frames and supplies for the Cadet Classes Photographs dating back several years. A second was made by Juan Sandoval. The motion carried.

Mark Chavez of "The Random Acts of Kindess," association and the AFD retirees executive board jointly presented Sam Trujillo with an official dress uniform for the President to be worn at official association functions and to retiree funerals. Sam was most honored and graciously accepted.

The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. The December monthly meeting adjourned @ 9:03 P.M.



Old Fire Station # 13, Louisiana & Indian School Rd. NE (July 1972)

Photo by: Dave Windle

To: Victor Padilla, AFD Deputy Fire Chief

November 24, 2014

Fr: Sam Trujillo, AFD Retiree's Association President

Subject: Fire Service Recognition Award

Dear Sir,

I am nominating AFD Retiree **Fred Teupell** for AFD's Recognition Award Fred Teupell joined AFD on March 17, 1972 and retired as a Driver December 18, 1991 Fred is a charter member of The AFD Retiree's Association and is currently serving as an Advisory Board Member with the retiree group Fred is also one of several Teupell's that has been part of AFD's ongoing history

As we know, Fire Fighting is a hazardous occupation and Fred Teupell is one of AFD's Bravest that can attest to the fact that being a Fire Fighter is very dangerous Early in his career, Fred responded on a Second Alarm Fire Call at "The Sandia Hotel " which was located downtown (SW 1st Street) Fred and another Fire Fighter were trapped under a structural support wall that had collapsed on them requiring ReScue Crews to frantically dig to rescue / extricate these two individuals It was uncertain at the time if Fred was going to lose his leg as a result of the injuries, but with time & physical therapy Fred returned to light duty and eventually full duty Fred Teupell had the support of all AFD Fire Fighters during this ordeal Fred Teupell reminds all of us of the dangers of Fire Fighting but he also serves as proof of the bond that exists between AFD Fire Fighters

Fred Teupell is a community leader and excellent role model for younger Fire Fighters to emulate Fred Teupell has always been a modest man who also is a decorated Viet Nam Veteran The AFD Retirees are proud to call him "Brother " For the above reasons, Fred is deserving of this special recognition award

Sincerely,

Sam Trujillo,

AFD Retiree's Association President

"FIRE SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD"

On December 12, 2014 Fred Teupell was presented With the "Fire Service Recognition Award," during Ceremonies at the Fire Cadet Graduation Ceremonies At the Albuquerque Convention Center.



Fred Teupell

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

THIS MONTH WE KICK OFF OUR ANNUAL FUND DRIVE. AS YOU KNOW WE RUN ENTIRELY ON DONATIONS. TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION OF OVER 625 MEMBERS NECESSARY OPERATING EXPENSES ARE INCURRED. OUR BIGGEST EXPENSES ARE: THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, ANNUAL PICNIC, AND CHRISTMAS PARTY.

IF YOU SUPPORT THE RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION AND WOULD LIKE IT TO CONTINUE AND TO REMAIN STRONG WE ARE REQUESTING YOU SEND A DONATION TODAY TO ASSIST IN OUR OPERATING COSTS. THE OFFICERS AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS WORK DILLIGENTLY AND FREELY DONATE THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR ORGANIAZATION. PLEASE HELP BY SENDING YOUR DONATIONS TODAY. MAKE CHECKS TO:

AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

C/O JOHN SERINO, TREASURER (Telephone, (505- 266-1252, or (505) 710-6030)
1504 HERMOSA S.E.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108

PLEASE NOTE: YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

JANUARY 14, 2015 MONTHLY MEETING- The retired firefighter's 173rd monthly meeting was held at the firefighter's union hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. @ 7: 06 P.M. President Sam Trujillo presided. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Deacon Juan Sandoval. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. After roll call President Sam Trujillo introduced our guest speaker Stephanie Wagner, Executive Director of MDS, N.M. She thanked the retirees for their assistance in the fund drive during the fall. Sam recognized Aaron Sandoval, fellow retiree who attended his first meeting.

Sam Trujillo gave the President's report. He is working with Fire Chief David Downy to make mechanical repairs and cosmetic improvements on the funeral truck. Herman Bishop read the minutes from the December 10, 2015 monthly meeting due to the absence of Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Ed Abieta. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that we are kicking off our annual fund drive on March 1st. Remember that your donations are tax deductible. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Michael Murphy and was seconded by Kerry Horton. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop thanked Eddie Abieta for submitting stories about our retired members for the quarterly newsletter during this past year. Also a note of thanks goes to Fred Casias for submitting several articles of interest for the newsletter as well this past year. Herman and Fred Casias are still gathering information for the photo I.D. cards. Please see Fred to have your official photo taken for the I.D. card.

Eddie Torres and Ray Flores Co-Chairmen of the Christmas Party gave their report. The party was well attended by about 120 people. Santa Claus (Leroy Barboa) was a big hit with the children as usual. They gave A big thanks to the ladies who prepared and served the food. A big thanks to the guys who set up tables and chairs and assisted in the clean up after the party. It should be said, " A Good Time Was Had By All !"

Bill Raupfer Chair of the Funeral Truck Committee gave a big thanks to all who faithfully assist in washing cleaning and preparation of the funeral truck prior to each funeral. Best wishes and prayers go to Bill Raupfer who is having major surgery on February 9, 2015.

Kerry Horton reported he has completed the fire cadet rosters and photos of our firefighters dating from 1919 To 2014. He is working with the Fire Academy Staff to properly display them at the Academy. Raffle winners at the January meeting were: Ed Abieta, polo shirt, Vince Holcomb, poster, Eugene Baldonado fire extinguisher.

The closing prayer was given by Deacon Juan Sandoval. The January meeting adjourned @ 8:45 PM

The Look in his Eyes -it Happened, I Knew I Was in the Right Place with my Brother Firefighters

The Felix Garza Story

By Eddie Abeita

Editors Note: Felix is a retired San Antonio, Texas Firefighter who has been a resident in Albuquerque and became an honorary member of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association. His SAFD Service Career 1964- 1997

Felix started at the San Antonio Training Division with a class of approximately 12 other firefighter cadets. Training lasted six months which actually seemed like a whole year Felix said with a grin. Training consisted of fire hose evolutions, ladder practices, ropes, breathing apparatus (BA), search and rescue, along with other subject matter.

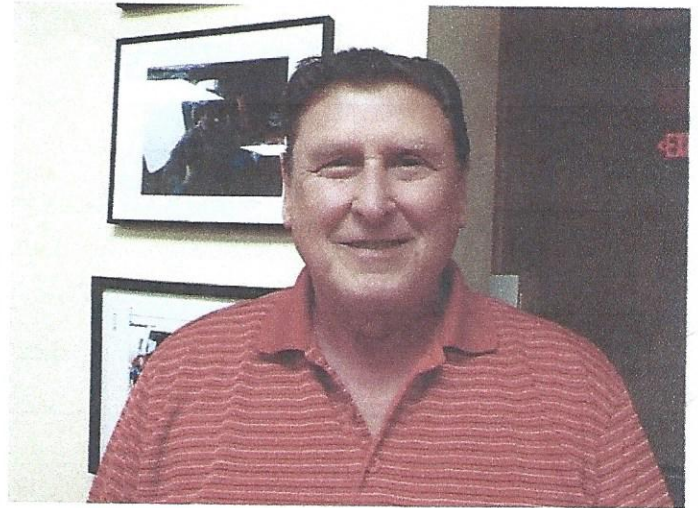


Photo of Felix Garza

I remember in training Felix said we did the “Church Raise” with ropes secured to the tip of the top of the ladder and down the other side. That was a tough drill as well as duplicating the drill again except with the aerial ladder, we would climb up to the top and down the backside. I am not sure if they were checking our nerves or covering different things that you could face or maybe just to check your confidence level. We would jump into the Life Net over and over and it got to be more tiring to go up the drill tower stairs then jumping into the net.

In the mid-1960’s, use of BA’s was taught during training because they were carried on the ladder trucks in the field. Later on, I believe the pumpers carried two (2) BA’s that were stored on top of the truck but were rarely used Felix said.

In the field the old “smoke eaters” would look at you funny if you put on a BA and would say, “what’s the matter – can’t take the smoke?” As a matter of fact, gloves were optional and you’d fight fires with just your helmet and bunker coat. So after a fire, the firefighters would come out of a building coughing, spitting, blood shot eyes and blowing the snot out from their nose and then light up a cigarette for rest and recovery (R&R). In the 70’s great changes started to happen with mandatory use of personal protective equipment (PPE) at emergencies.

Looking back Felix said as a firefighter I remember a rescue call where a man was trimming a large tree when one of the limbs approximately 8-10 inches in diameter snapped crushing his foot and he was unable to free himself. He was up the tree about 25 feet. Upon our arrival, the whole neighborhood showed up and they were screaming for us to do something. We laddered the tree and were able to free him...however, the story didn’t end there. Down below, two old men (about our age now) were yelling at each other and then they started to fight. An old lady about 81 years old came out of the house yelling at the men and then started beating both of them with a broom to stop fighting. That didn’t stop the fighting so the old lady grabbed the garden hose and started hosing them down and that finally stopped the fight.

This is one of those situations where there was a rescue in progress and a sideshow at the same time. After leaving the scene, we could not stop laughing...what a comedy!

Another rescue I remembered responding to was a fully engulfed house fire. Upon arrival things were happening really fast. A distraught mother screamed that a child was in the house. A pre-connect was pulled and an off duty firefighter actual started knocking down the fire as we entered the back of the house. We went through heavy, dark, hot smoke and at first we couldn't find the child. We stood silent and that's when we heard the faint breathing and coughing. By the time we found the 14-month old child behind an old claw foot tub his body was lifeless and I immediately started CPR and brought him back. The cause of the fire was a space heater, the things people do Felix said!

Eddie said, Felix you talk about this rescue with a lot of feeling why? I talk about this rescue because in our firefighting careers we have all experienced different outcomes so it's nice to remember the good ones Felix said.

My association with the Albuquerque Fire Department's Retiree Association (AFDRA) started when my wife and I stopped at a garage sale. She noticed a FF's license plate on a parked truck. I asked about the plate and the person turned out to be Joe Martinez and one thing led to another. Joe invited me to attend a meeting and the warm reception from "brother firefighters" was great and now I am an Honorary AFDRA member. That's been over 4 years ago and it's been a great fellowship for us as we've enjoyed the picnics and Christmas parties.

One of the first meetings I attended at the union hall everyone and everything was still new to me. I found out just like church retirees had their own place to sit. One side of the room against the wall was some nice comfortable high back swivel chairs so I said to myself think I will sit here. Well being comfortable looking around this tall mature looking man said; "you are in my chair"! I stood up and apologized to him for sitting in his chair, he immediately said in a serious voice, this row of chairs is called "DEATH ROW" for us old guys with short time left! However with his immediate warm smile and *the look in his eyes it happened, I knew I was in the right place with my brother firefighters*, thanks Juan Sandoval. In my time with AFDRA what Juan said may have some merit because some of the retirees who sat in the Death Row Seats have left us, this is something only firefighters can say to one another.

Felix said with a smile one thing I can say is, what you guys did (Albuquerque Retirees) to put together an association like this one is so wonderful and great. I hope other retired firefighters across the nation have something like the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association.

We moved to Albuquerque over 14 years ago and were involved in the choirs at St Anne's and San Felipe de Neri Church. My wife was the choir director and led adult and children's choir. With my wife's musical training, I learned to be a cantor and that can be tough because you are now alone in front of the congregation (more stressful than some working fires I encountered).

I'm proud to say that my son-in-law is also a Lt. and is aspiring to be promoted to Captain. His son (my grandson) is also a firefighter. So we can truly be called a "firefighter family." We are moving back to Texas and have set our sights on living at the coast because I want to relax and do a lot of fishing in the gulf. Also, my wife's doctor suggested that she needed a more humid climate. We have two daughters living in the San Antonio and our son who just retired from the Navy and lives in California. With our seven grandkids and two great-grandkids in Texas, we'll be able to see them more often. Although the kids loved coming here to Albuquerque during Balloon Fiesta and for skiing, now they'll have to visit us and learn to fish instead.

I will miss the fellowship of the AFDRA and sharing our mutual experiences. I thank you all for welcoming us into the Albuquerque firefighter family.....Felix Garza.

Drills Like This Had Impact On The Old Gluteusmaximus

The David Junick Story

by Eddie Abeita

Dave started his career with Albuquerque Fire Department (AFD) July 1978 retired July 1998 perfect 20 year career.

Dave said my interest for the fire service began when I met firefighter Paul Mares, his mother lived 3 houses away from ours so I would talk with Paul now and then. After listening to some of Paul's stories it got my excitement level going and I was determined to be a firefighter especially with AFD.

When I started fire training, Louie Trujillo was Training Academy Chief; there were 5 instructors for our class of 13. The instructors were JP Kendrick, Frank Chavez, Bernie Rutan, Solomon Jojola and Pete Mirabal.

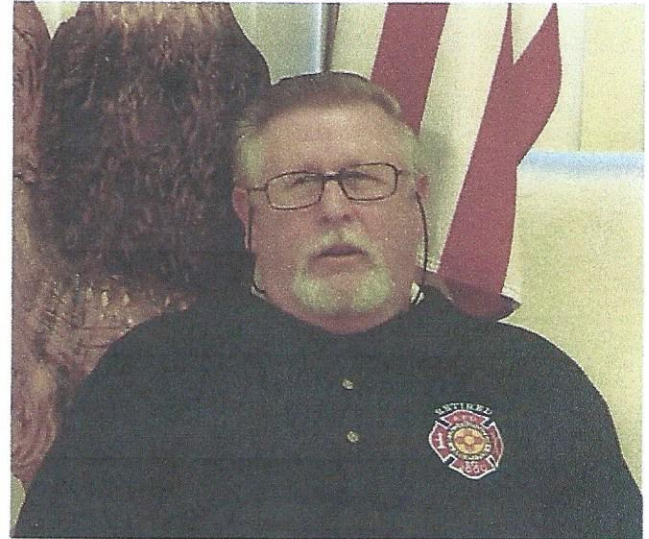


Photo of David Junick

Ladder drills were something else especially when the instructors said Church Raise with the 50' Bangor Dave, said because it never failed the wind would blow. You would climb to the top rung of the ladder, call out your name and climb over the top and climb back down to the ground. Another drill conducted Dave said was, Solomon would have us jump into the life net over and over again until he felt we did it right, yeah what was right? *Drills like this had impact on the old gluteusmaximus* One big plus was our entire class made it from start to finish we all graduated together.

Dave said my first field assignment was ladder 3 platoon "A"; my first officer was Dave Villanueva and the drivers were Kenny Alvis and Jerry Valencia. The pipeman would float to the rescue and pumper from the ladder, the pumper had to have a five man crew at all times.

I actually offered to be assigned to the rescue because I liked the medical aspect of the calls I thought were exciting. I also worked for Superior Ambulance part time for 20 years. Back in the early days Superior would transport deceased persons from their homes or hospitals to a mortuary as well as other patient transport activities. It never bothered me because it's all part of the job you are doing.

Joe Escobedo (Scooby) and I worked part time together at Superior Ambulance and our friendship continued to the end. The staff started calling us the "Odd Couple" because of our kidding and yelling at each other, *you know how fireman are!* As with any fireman Scooby liked to eat so I did volunteer to cook in the station, because as tradition the cook did not have to wash dishes but I did wash anyway. My dishes were; meat loaf, pork chops and enchiladas' three days three meals.

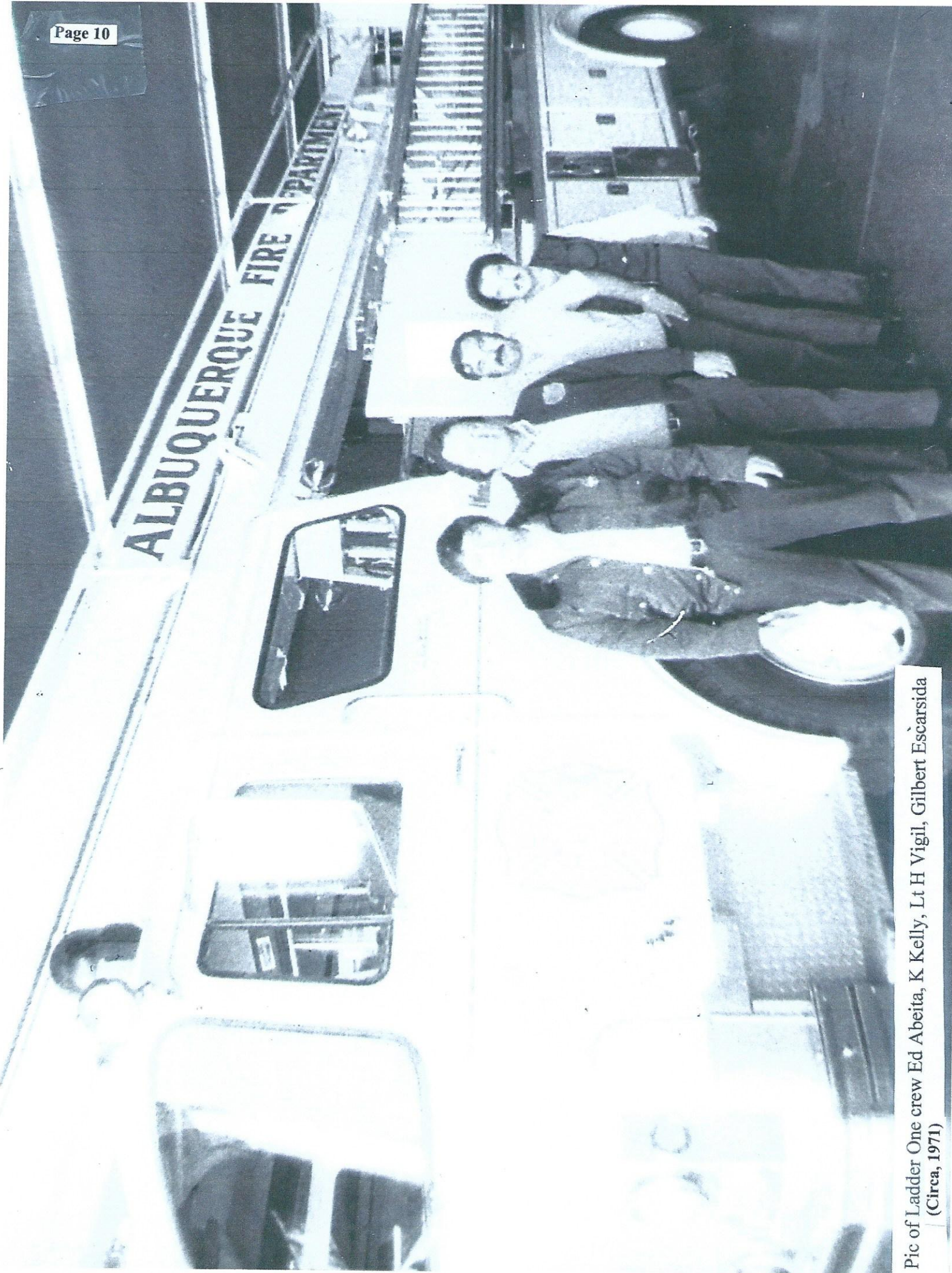
From station three I was transferred to station 15 which was ok, I also worked at stations 11, 8 and 9 Dave said. While assigned to station nine (9) Ralph Ortega was our officer and I guess he had an understanding with Eddie Abeita who was a training officer at the fire academy. Engine nine (9) would be scheduled first for in service training which would involve a drill. Lieutenant Ortega said I want our engine to go first so we do not hear from others what the drill is about. The scenario is just like going to a fire unknown factors. Another officer on the opposite shift also felt the same way but the 3rd one would say he (Eddie) is just picking on us to go first. I guess we worked well because Eddie would tell us, "with your crew doing the drill first" we can make adjustments to the drill if needed.

Station life was always interesting I worked approximately 15 years with Joe Martinez (aka Blue Eyes) at different stations we just could not break away from one another. When Joe and were at station 8 we had the Ford pumper standard shift the pipemen would ride the tailboard. The trend in the 80's was to retire the tailboard so we received another pumper with jump seats for us to be belted in and boy it was a hand me down a 1973 American La France pumper it was old but it ran and pumped.

Firefighters would ask me about my nickname, I was called "OJO" (eye) that was given by James Gallegos. He would kid everyone just his sense of humor. One firefighter would call me "JuneNeck" because I would rub and scrub them pans real hard. On the pumper we had a perfectly sized pike pole which I claimed as mine...so when working with James Parker he would tell other firefighters, at any fire be careful not to use David's pike pole because it belongs to him! Yeah I said it's mine!

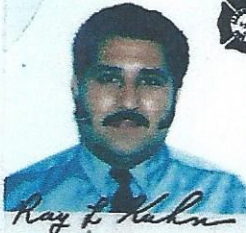
Upon retirement I worked full time at Sandia Casino with other firefighters Dave said, the shift I worked was the grave yard. You would deal with people that had been partying for hours and so you encountered rowdy people. I took up golf many years ago but kind of let it go however started playing again with Gabe Serna but that became limited.

I do not have much personal time due to my wife's illness and her accidents these past years Dave said. It seems when she starts doing well something else goes wrong, Kind of like we take one step forward and then two steps back. But we are fighters so we will overcome, even if it is a slow process so most of my time is dedicated to her.....



Pic of Ladder One crew Ed Abeita, K Kelly, Lt H Vigil, Gilbert Escarsida (Circa, 1971)

Death, Emilio Carriaga - We regret to announce the death of our retired brother firefighter Emilio Carriaga, age 80, who passed away on Saturday February 14, 2015 after a long term illness. He joined AFD in January 1956. He was a driver and retired during July, 1983 after serving 27 years with the department. Early in his career he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served two years at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. After his military service he returned to work as a fireman and served most of his career in District # 1 and worked at all the West side fire stations. He was promoted to driver in May, 1968. While assigned to Station # 10 he and fellow firefighters were the care takers of the 1927 American La France antique pumper which was used in the annual State Fair Parade and Fire Prevention exhibits. Emilio was a strong muscular man and a good firefighter. He is remembered by his fellow firefighters as a kind, jovial person of pleasant demeanor. When he joined the department there were only 9 stations. The new Station # 1 at 8 th Street and Silver Avenue S.W. had just been relocated and opened in January, 1956. Shortly after that Station # 10 opened in March 1956. There were a little over 150 firemen in the department at that time and beginning pay for firefighters was around \$ 285.00 per month. We will miss Emilio and his great smile. He was a part of our special band of firefighters who formed strong bonds even into retirement. On behalf of the AFD retirees, sincere condolences go to the entire Carriaga family.

	ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT		
	1061 MAN NUMBER		
	NAME EMILIO CARRIAGA		
	10/16/34 DOB	M SEX	BROWN HAIR
BROWN EYES	5'8" HEIGHT	180 WEIGHT	
SIGNATURE OF CHIEF <i>Ray L. Nelson</i>		SIGNATURE <i>Emilio Carriaga</i>	
SWORN MEMBER			

February Meeting - On February 11, 2015 the monthly meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by President Sam Trujillo at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. The last alarm was observed by a moment of silence for our deceased members. After roll call President Sam Trujillo recognized fellow retiree Ron Sanchez who attended his first retiree meeting. Welcome Ron ! Our guest speaker for the evening was Loretta Narajno who is running for the PERA Board of Directors in April, 2015. Loretta is currently serving on the PERA Board and is the past President of AFSME and is a strong advocate for firefighters retirement benefits.

President Sam Trujillo invited the retirees to attend the annual Blue Mass on Tuesday February 17, 2015 which is to be held at St. Pius X High School Auditorium at 2:00 P.M. He reported that fellow retiree Louie Padilla has invited his retired firefighter friends to attend a matanza he is hosting on Saturday, February 28, 2015 in San Antonio, NM @ 11:00 AM . Call Sam @ 899-1500 for additional information. Sam asked for prayers and support for Vice President Bill Raupfer who had surgery on February 9th for colon cancer. Our best wishes go to Bill and his family. Sam is working closely with President Diego Arencon and representatives of the AFD Firefighters Union Local 244, who are representing firefighter's issues in the 2015 New Mexico State Legislature. Sam asked our retired members to lend support to Local 244 as they represent firefighters.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report for the January, 2015 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Noel Baca and was seconded by Eddie Abieta. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's for January. All bills have been paid and we have funds set aside to publish the March 1, 2015 newsletter. John thanks everyone for their support and reminds us that the annual fund drive kicks off March 1st. Please make your tax deductible donations to our association soon as possible. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by L.C. Trujillo. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop gave a report on he and Sam's visit with Emilio Carriaga who is suffering a long term illness. Emilio sends his regards to his retiree friends. Also Herman visited Bill Raupfer who is recovering from surgery for colon cancer. Bill is in good spirits and says to tell everyone, "Hello," Herman recognized our fellow retiree brother Felix Garza from the San Antonio, Texas F.D. who has lived in Albuquerque the past few years and is an Honorary Member of our association. Felix and his wife Terry are moving back to their hometown, San Antonio.

Felix and Terry have been active and avid supporters of our association during the past few years. We give them our most sincere blessings and best wishes as they move back to Texas. Felix brought a delicious sheet cake which Our members shared and offered best wishes to the Garza's.

President Sam Trujillo recognized the following retirees who are on the sick roster. Bill Raupfer Art Loera, and Emilio Carriaga. The Executive Board reported on recent discussions about the future of our annual picnics and Christmas parties. We need more support and assistance from our rank and file members. More on this later.

The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The February monthly meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.



Front, L-R - Unknown, Theodore Padilla, Gabe Jaramillo, Emilio Carriaga Station #7
Standing, L-R - Julian Apodoca, Bennie Lovato, George Tafoya, Johnny Mares (Circa 1956)

BILL RAUPFER
(MARCH 14, 2001)

The following account is a short summary of my Fire Department career. When I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in March 1969, Ray Kuhn was the Fire Chief. My class consisted of eleven cadets. One flunked out and ten graduated. Out of that ten seven went on to retire. They are Al Armenta, Joe Tapia, Allen Rhodes, Danny Perea, George Torres, Andy Romero and myself.

Our training officers were two newly promoted men, Assistant Chief Esequiel "Skippy" Padilla, and Captain Alfonso "Al" Lujan.

In 1969 we went through six weeks of training mostly hose lays and with a small class it seemed never ending. Lay hose, pick up hose, lay hose, pick up hose, lay hose, pick up hose and so on.

Our training officers set aside one day for rappelling. Chief Padilla was going to show us how to rappell down a building, "freefall". With the assistance of Captain Lujan, who we later found out was not familiar with the duties during this maneuver, the Chief went up to the 7th floor of the drill tower and proceeded to wrap the life line three times around the hook on his safety belt. Now, with his weight of maybe 100 lbs, this was clearly too many times. As you can guess, he went about six feet and stopped, no hands, and swung back into the open window of the 6th floor. He stuck his head out the window and shouted down to us all on the ground. "Now I will show you how to get all the way down."

As I recall, Captain Lujan was as impressed as we were. After some adjustments to the lifeline, Chief Padilla again appeared in the window facing out and said "Ready" to which Captain Lujan replied, "Yes". Again, Captain Lujan was unfamiliar with this training procedure, but we cadets were totally unaware of that fact.

So, out jumps Chief Padilla and immediately began to wave his hands and yell something about the rope. "Rope, Rope, Rope!" As Chief Padilla was passing the 4th floor Captain Lujan reached over and grabbed the life line that Chief Padilla was coming down and took up just enough slack to bring the Chief to a gentlestop on the ground, feet first.

Well, let me tell you, all eleven of us cadets were so impressed that we could see ourselves in this same situation at a fire. With flames licking at our heels and children in hand we could leap from the window and pray that the Captain would have all his training by then. Now I look back on my career and remember all of the good times and a few rough times. Yes, I miss the department. There will never will be another job to compare with it. But I am older now, and I can finally sit back, relax, and say, "You gotta be crazy to run into a burning building."

Bill Raupfer- Currently Bill Raupfer is serving as Vice President of The AFD Retiree's Association and he is one of the original organizers Of the Association. He also heads our prestigious Honor Guard. Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana he eventually adopted Albuquerque as his home. He joined AFD in March, 1969 and was promoted to driver in May 1980. After serving the Department for 21 years he retired in November, 1990. Bill and his wife Marilyn are now living in Edgewood, New Mexico.



Raupfer, William



Abeita, Edward



Abeyta Santos



Aragon, Manuel A.



Armenta, Alcario



Armenta, Gregory



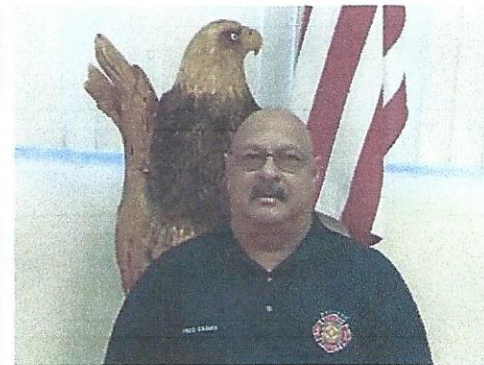
Baca Noel



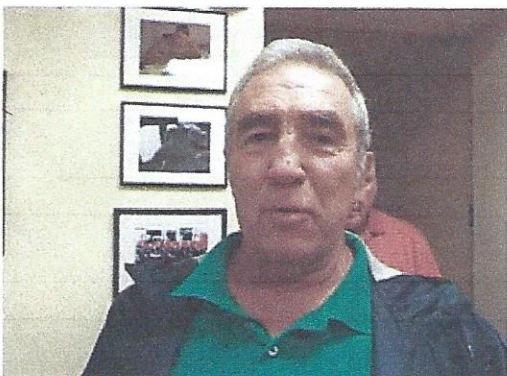
Barboa, Leroy



Bishop Herman



Casias, Fred



Chavez, Henry



Chavez, Hilario



Chavez, Mark J.

AFD RETIREES

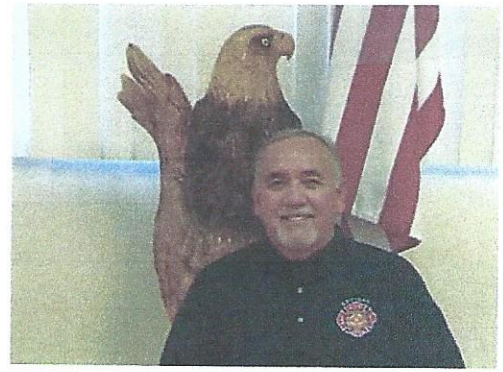
January 14, 2015



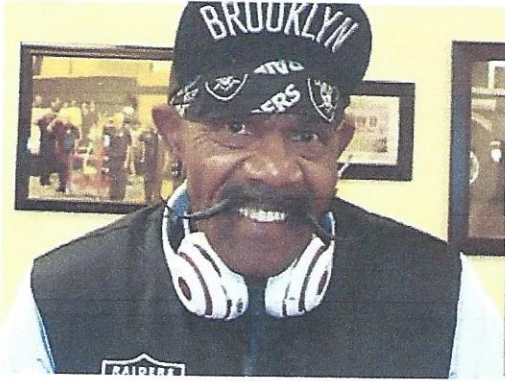
Cisneros Robert



Claude (Skip) Navarette



Costales Joe L.



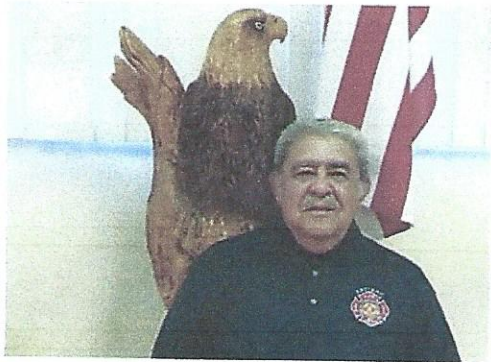
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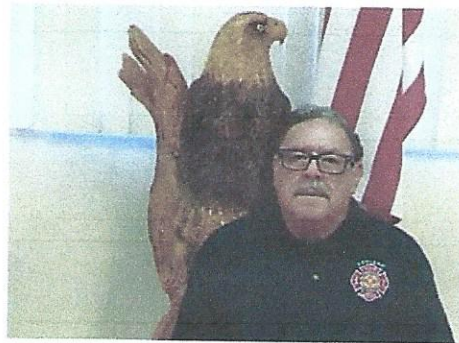
Elks, Jeffrey



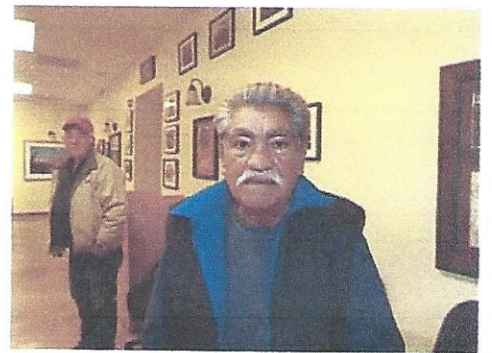
Epi Ortega



Escarcida, Rosinaldo



Escarcida, Victor



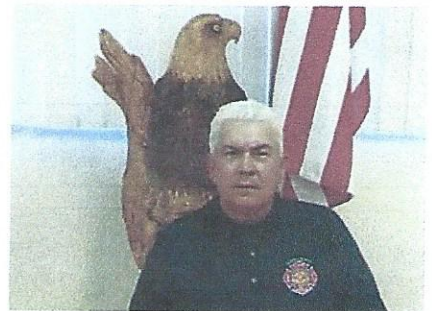
Eugene Baldonado



Flores, Raymundo



Gallego, Ramon



Garca, Pablo Jr

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
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5318 LA COLONIA N.W.
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Sam Trujillo

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By: Sam Trujillo

As we start 2015, I reflect on the past 15 years since we started The Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association and I am proud of what we have accomplished Therefore, I am asking all AFD Retiree's to stay involved in **your** Association and to step up and lend support in our AFD Retiree activities We need the younger retiree's to help us in making our retirement association stronger **Why?** Together we can make sure that our retiree's continue to have a voice in PERA related issues , that we continue to staying informed on any / all issues that pertain to retiree's, that we continue to honor our retiree's in Funeral Services and that we continue in having our annual summer picnic where we honor the most recent AFD Retiree's I ask you to not take your PERA Retirement Benefit for granted ... Remember that we only have our retirement because AFD Fire Fighters of yesterday made this possible We owe a lot to past / present **IAFF Local 244 (1455)** so it is important that we continue in lending support to the current **IAFF Local 244 Executive Board** They are working hard in protecting our PERA - COLA Lending your support to your AFD Retiree Association also includes your financial support as our cost of this newsletter continues to increase each year Our association operates strictly on your donations **Please lend support to your AFD Retiree Association** by sending your donations (tax exempt) to **AFD Retiree Association c/o 1504 Hermosa SE, 87108**

I also want to remind you to keep me informed (899-1500 / 400-3644 or samtruj@aol.com) 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 If you happen to run into another AFD Retiree, ask them if they get our newsletter and if they say no, please forward their name and phone number to me and I will include them to our AFD Retiree Master List Thank you for your support!