

AFD RETIREE NEWS

News 1

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2016

# 1-2016

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**WILLIAM S. SANGUINETTE ALBUQUERQUE'S  
FIRST VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF. (1882-1890)**

The Atkinson and Topeka Railroad reached Albuquerque on April 25, 1880. During the next two years the population increased to 3500. Due to rapid expansion of buildings built of substandard construction in close proximity to each other Albuquerque faced a large fire threat.

In February, 1882 the first volunteer fire company was organized consisting of 30 - 40 citizen volunteers. First they used bucket brigades, water from ditches, and wells, then portable water tanks.

William S. Sanguinette was elected the first volunteer fire chief and served several terms from 1882 through the 1880's.



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ASSOCIATION



**EDITOR  
HERMAN R. BISHOP**

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AFD FUND RAISER

**This Month We Kick Off Our Annual Fund Raiser. Send Checks To:  
AFD Retiree's Association,  
C/O Kerry Horton  
5605 Sweetwater Rd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120**



**RETIRED FIRE INSPECTOR GEORGE SANCHEZ DIES (No Photograph Available)**

On Friday December 11, 2015 retired Fire Inspector George Sanchez age 72 passed away after a long battle with cancer. His fellow firefighters knew him by his nick name George "Savage," Sanchez. He joined AFD during September, 1965 and retired after serving the department almost 25 years.

He was in the 11<sup>th</sup> cadet class. His fellow firefighters in that class were: Simon Hernandez, Don Hershberger, Joseph Jones, Gilbert Marez, Joe Bressler, Pablo Mirabal, Tom Placencia, Bernnie Rutan, Ray Sanchez, Joe Selgado, Sherl Stanley, and Larry Waldron.

"Savage" was a strong robust man with an out going personality. He usually kept his fellow firefighters laughing with his crazy antics. After serving 18 years in the firefighting division he was promoted to Fire Inspector on April 18, 1984. After serving in the Fire Marshall's office for six years he retired on February 12, 1990. George requested that his family commemorate his death privately. There was no Fire Department funeral. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the entire Sanchez family.

**December Meeting** - On December 9, 2015 the 184<sup>th</sup> AFD Retiree's monthly meeting was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE @ 7:10 PM. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance and conducted the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held for all our departed members who have passed away. Our last brother who passed away was Marty Richards on October 20, 2015. He was the 114<sup>th</sup> member we have lost since 2000.

After roll call Sam recognized Gary Corbett, retired in 1994, Tobias Pino Jr. who lives in the Philippines and is a driving instructor, Joey Velasquez, son of retiree Henry Velasquez, Joe Candelaria who retired in 2014 and retiree Frank Sanchez. The guest speaker was Tim Mathews who gave a talk on the Boy Scouts and it's programs.

The President's report was given by Sam Trujillo. On December 9<sup>th</sup> the Fire Cadets were addressed by retirees Kerry Horton, Sam Trujillo, and Fred Casias. Eddie Abeita gave a lecture to the cadets on the history of AFD. He was assisted by Fred Casias. The cadets will graduate on December 11, 2015 at Legacy Church, @2:00 PM. A new cadet class is scheduled to begin January 2, 2016. Their graduation is planned in May, 2016. Sam reported that 40 AFD firefighters retired during 2015. The funeral truck has a new home @ Station # 7. Sam thanked retirees who assisted in IAFF Local 244 elections December 8, 2015. The Christmas party for IAFF, Local 244 will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, tickets are \$25.00 per person. The AFD retiree's Christmas party will be held at the Moose Lodge on December 17, 2015. Tickets are \$10.00 per person. Leaders of Random acts of Kindness is having a gift wrapping party at County Fire Station #33. Their Christmas party will be held at fire station #4 on December 18<sup>th</sup> to hand out gifts.

The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias and a motion to accept was made by Paul Valencia and seconded by Eugene Baldonado. The motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Kerry Horton. He announced that tickets for the retiree's Christmas Party are still on sale. A motion to accept was made by Ray Flores and was seconded by Joe Martinez. The Historian's report was tabled because Herman Bishop was on vacation.

Raffle winners at the December meeting were: John Marquez, Louie Montoya and Gabe Sanchez. Eddie Abeita reported that the sales are going good for the Christmas dinner and that 96 tickets have been sold. This is the last night to purchase tickets. The party will be held at the Moose Lodge, 2121 Edith NE. Social hour is at 6:00 PM and dinner is at 7:00 PM.

We extend best wishes to our retirees who are on the sick roster. They are: Toby Pino, Rudy Sanchez, Kenneth Alvis, Danny Perea, and George Sanchez. (George passed away on 12-11-15). **The closing prayer was led by Louis Trujillo and the December meeting adjourned @ 8:30 PM**



## 2015 Christmas Celebration Report

The Christmas Celebration Committee was composed of; Ray Flores, Fred Teupell, Louie Trujillo, John Serino, Fred Casias, Vince Holcomb, Sam Trujillo, Kerry Horton and Eddie Abeita.

**GOAL;** provide an affordable and enjoyable Christmas Celebration for retirees.

**Objectives;** Name celebration to reflect the actual function/event. Consider change of venue. This celebration will not be a pot luck dinner. Minimize retiree physical involvement. Explore various eateries; restaurants, fraternal organizations, casinos. *Consider alternative* days of the week for celebration. Make paramount, cost and location of Christmas celebration. Keep dinner intimate. Insure retirees and their guest purchase a dinner ticket. Provide provision for out of town retirees to purchase tickets. Set ticket price and sales time limit. Provide door prizes for retirees.

The Christmas Committee was able to meet its initial goal and objectives.

The Christmas celebration will be called "Retiree's Christmas Dinner" and will be a *non* pot luck dinner. Ticket sales will have an approximate 30 day window for purchase. Out of town retirees are given an opportunity to purchase tickets by phone. Additional tickets will **not** be available at the dinner. Initial dinner locations considered; Bernalillo Community Center Bernalillo NM, City Limits Rio Bravo SW, Abuelitas Isleta Blvd SW, Moose Lodge Edith NE and Lindo Mexican Grill Central Ave NE. The Moose Lodge selected, based on cost and conveniently located. Dinner will/was held Thursday December 17, 2015.

Retiree's Association provided; gift cards for door prizes, coffee, cream, sugar, tea, water, chips, salsa and peanuts. Retirees Association also paid for hall rental, tables and chair set up. As goodwill *gesture* the association provided guest tickets to long time supporters of the retiree's association. Roberta Abeita provided table cloths, center pieces, snack dishes and bowls. Fred Casias provided background music.

The dinner menu included choice of two dinner entrées, chicken breast or chicken fried steak with trimmings including dinner salad and dessert. Cost per plate was \$10.00. A Social Hour was held @6:00PM Dinner served @ 7:00PM. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. The Moose Lodge provided bar service and invited retirees and their guest to socialize in their lounge.

Initial cost to the retirees association was **\$1,662.17**; purchases were 8-gift cards for door prizes **\$229.52**, hall rental and set up **\$220.00**, drinks and snacks **\$112.65**, 110 dinners ordered (includes 10 guest tickets) **\$1,100.00**. .....**MINUS \$1,000.00** in dinner tickets sold = **AFDRA NET/FINAL Cost of \$662.17**

2014 Christmas Party \$1,032.52 .....2015 Christmas Dinner \$ 662.17

Thank you letters sent to Local 244 President Diego Arencó'n and Sgt at Arms Miguel Tittmann. This was for allowing the Christmas Committee to use the union hall for three Christmas Committee meetings. Merry Flores assisted with snacks and drink shopping. Although some set up was needed (table cloths, center pieces, drinks, snacks) early arriving retirees and spouses jumped right in to help prepare. At the end of the dinner again retirees and spouses helped to clear tables and pack up items.

Committee member Fred Casias requested the Retirees Association consider paying tribute to our Honor Guard and or Senior Retirees 75 years of age or older with a luncheon this 2016.





LEONARD "TOASTIE" ZAMORA"  
OLD ENGINE 1-"B", STA. # ONE  
(CIRCA, 1955)



**January Monthly Meeting** - On January 13, 2016 the AFD Retiree's monthly meeting was held at the IAFF, Local 244 Union Hall @ 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order @ 7:08 PM by President Sam Trujillo who led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mark Chavez led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. Our last member who passed away was retired Fire Inspector George Sanchez who died on December 11, 2015. There were no guests and no guest speakers at Wednesday's meeting.

President Sam Trujillo recognized the following active and faithful members: A big thanks was given to Fred Teupell who always brings doughnuts to our meetings, Jose Salas & Eugene Baldonado who always assist in setting up and tearing down tables, chairs and general clean ups after the meetings. He recognized IAFF Union President Diego Arencon who makes us welcome to use the union hall and works closely with the retirees in all our endeavors.

The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias who read the December's minutes. A motion to accept was made by Leroy Barboa and was seconded by Ramon Maldonado. The motion was approved by the majority. The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Kerry Horton. He along with Eddie Abeita thanked the committee members for the Christmas dinner for their support and assistance for a successful celebration. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He thanked Eddie Abieta, Fred Casias, and Kerry Horton for recent articles they wrote for our quarterly newsletters. We are still getting a good bargain for the dollar for printing and mailing the newsletters. We print 700 newsletters quarterly and our costs are approximately \$1.00 per copy.

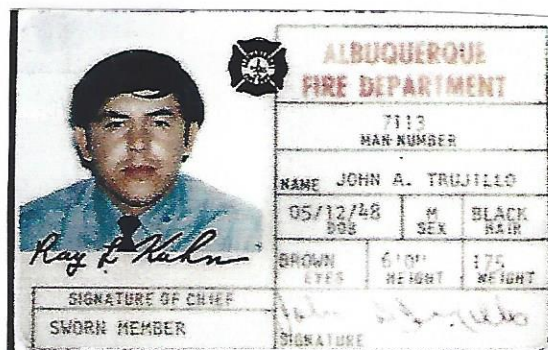
Sam reported that our retired firefighter friend Felix Zamora from San Antonio, Texas contacted him during the holidays and sent his best regards to all his Albuquerque Fire Department retiree friends. Felix and his wife Terri now live in Laguna Vista, Texas, near Brownsville, Texas. Former AFD paramedic Frank Maestas who lives in Colorado is on the mend from surgery during the holidays. He too sends his best regards to all his AFD retiree friends. Best wishes from our members go to our retiree friends who are on the sick roster: Rudy Sanchez, Juan Sandoval, Jim Dahl, Mike Maestas, and Jerry Barboa.

Bill Raupfer gave invitations to all retirees and their families to attend the ninth annual Blue Mass on February 18, 2016, 12:00 PM, St. Pius X High School Gymnasium, 5301 St. Joseph's Place NW. The AFD Retiree's Honor Guard will be in the ceremonies and will ring the fire bell (Four/Fives).

Eddie Abieta gave a report about the retiree Christmas dinner held on December 17, 2015, at the Moose Lodge, 2100 Edith NE. He reported that 110 tickets were sold and 95 people attended. The response from our members who attended was favorable and they liked the catered dinner. Eddie thanked members of the Christmas committee and the wives who helped.

Raffle ticket winners at Wednesday's meeting were: Mark Chavez, Jose Salas, and Marvin Gouch. Deacon Santos Abeyta led the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned @ 8:45 PM.

**JOHN A. TRUJILLO DIES.** AFD retired firefighter John A. Trujillo age 67 passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2016 after a long term illness. He joined the department on July 23, 1973. He was a member of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Cadet class. He served several years as a fireman at station One and at other stations in district # 1. He was promoted to driver In May, 1982. After serving the department honorably for 11 years he was assigned as an alarm operator. He was a Viet Nam veteran and was later diagnosed with MS/PTSD. This led to an early retirement on medical disability in 1988. Our sincere condolences are extended to the entire Trujillo family.

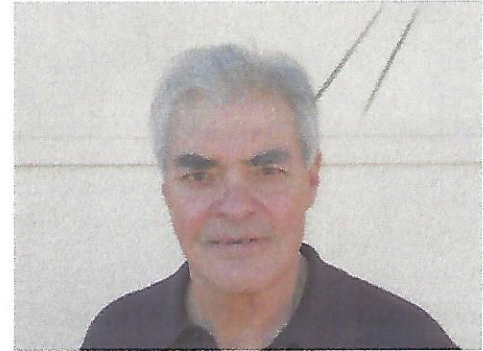




## Melvin O. Vigil Story

by Eddie Abeita

Mel Vigil started AFD March 30, 1970- Retired December 26,1992, his first contact with Albuquerque firefighters came about one day while driving the streets of Albuquerque, Mel said I saw Engine 4 crew inspecting fire hydrants, The crew was Captain Adolph Lucero, driver Juan Garcia, pipemen Andy Sanchez, Ray Sedillo and Alfonso Gurule (AKA Big AL). I had been wondering about the fire department so I asked the group; how do I get into the fire department? A voice from the group said, go to City Hall and apply..... See how easy that was to answer your question anymore questions said Big AL in a stern but friendly voice? I said guess not but thanks.



So I went to city hall and applied, I eventually was scheduled for an interview with Fire Chief Ray Kuhn, however upon my arrival Chief Kuhn was leaving his office and said, Deputy Martinez will interview you Mel said. Deputy Chief Art Martinez interviewed me and said, I like your discipline it comes from you're your military background. After completion of the interview, Deputy Chief Martinez said Mel Vigil you report on Monday to the Tower (training academy), I was so happy inside but did not want to show too much emotion so I just said "thank you Chief".

Upon arriving at the Tower Mel's first contact was another new hire Ray Encee who was real friendly. He told Mel we have to jump from way up there pointing at the 7th floor of the drill tower into a round net if you want to graduate. Mel said to Ray we might have to quite because that's a big jump! A few minutes later Training Chief Esequiel (Skippy) Padilla had just drove up to the gate, Mel said so I asked him about jumping from the training tower. The chief said don't worry anything you have to do we will teach you how, that made us feel better. The training Captain was Louie Trujillo. Our cadet class started out with 11 hires and only 7 of us actually completed a career as firefighter.

Upon graduation from training Mel worked at various stations including station six with Lieutenant Sid Garcia, driver Teddy Bear, pipemen Gerald Fleming and Herbie Wilson. I worked at stations with some top line cooks like, Joe Parra and Tim Gonzales. When Tim cooked he used every pot and pan in the station after washing all the dishes, and cooking stuff it turned out to be one big chore, but it was well worth it.

When promoted to driver most pumpers were Mack trucks and aerial ladder trucks were Seagraves. The older Seagraves were 5 speed standard shift transmission powered by Detroit engines and governed which meant no speed going down the road or going downhill, some made a lot of smoke and noise. The trucks drivetrain were not synchronized so it meant you better know how to double clutch properly when shifting or the gears would grind. You had to rely on the lower gears to slow the truck down because the brakes alone may not stop the truck. Some officers would tell young drivers you see this flashlight, next time you grind the gears I am going to hit you across your knee with it, I was lucky that I learned how to shift up and down properly!

I was assigned to Ladder13 the officer was Lieutenant Robert Gomez the station was located on Indian School Road NE. Lt. Gomez was the type of officer who followed rules, regs and SOP's all the time. On January 01, 1978 a firefighter told Captain Santos Abeyta, the building next door had steam or smoke



coming out of it. Santos and I went to the front of the station and looked. It was the Rio Grande Title Company on fire. Santos contacted the alarm room for dispatch. During the fire attack Lt Gomez directed our crew to place ground ladders around the building, the fire broke through the roof and the firefighters on the roof scrambled to get away from heat, smoke and fire. They were able to reach the ladders to escape from the roof luckily Lt Gomez followed SOP's. Herman Bishop was Captain of Emergency Preparedness, in his command were approximately 12 auxiliary firefighters who he trained and brought to the fire for additional manpower. They were a big help in moving 2 ½ "hose lines around the frozen fire ground.

One of my most memorable assignments was the Training Division. I spent combined time of approximately 8 years in training. One major reward I received from my involvement was all the cadets I put through the fire academy, the *majority* have retired and are doing well (*I guess I just remember my own cadet class very few retired*). Mel said I remember the countless hours of drills over and over so the cadets would not have to think about how to do a particular task or function, like raising a ground ladder or putting on a self contained breathing apparatus. Also insuring young recruits understood the importance of maintaining their equipment and facilities. At one graduation a cadet's parent thanked us for teaching his son obedience he said now my son keeps his apartment clean and neat something he could never accomplish on his own. While demonstrating ladder trucks and there functions I was operating the elevating platform (Snorkel). I had a few cadets in the basket with me while operating about 65 feet in the air when one cadet said "sir what if this basket would fall to the ground". I told him before it hits the ground just jump up.

Mel said life after retirement from AFD, started with Art Loera who was working in Las Vegas NV. Art called me and said our company is in need of a safety consultant here in Las Vegas NV if you are interested? I thought I would like to try it first before a big move to LV. So I tried the job and city on a temporary base which turned out....not for me. So I came back to Albuquerque. Another employment opportunity came with a call from Zack Romero who was with Safety Counseling Mel said. I worked with Zack at Intel, we were assigned as safety consultants, I was employed there for about 6-7 months. One day I saw an ad from Taylor Communication advertising for a safety inspector's position which seemed appealing so I applied and got the position, it was what I wanted Mel said. The job involved travel in the southwest with direct field contacts in correcting safety issues. Later I was made the Southwest Safety Director of Taylor Communications.

Melvin said 3 months after retiring from AFD, I announced that I was moving to Cleveland, an old friend of mine said what's in Ohio for you? I said no Cleveland New Mexico....he said I've been in New Mexico all my life and don't know of a Cleveland in New Mexico. I finally said it's a suburb of the city of MORA. My main hobby is my classic cars one in particular is my 1946 Chevy Coup, in which I maintained the original body but added a V-8 engine, automatic transmission and electric seats, and it's wonderful. I was asked to be training instructor of the CHET Volunteer Fire Department but they had other ideas of what fire training was about so I resigned. I later was elected to serve on the Mora School Board which had a lot of challenges. Just maintaining my 3 acre homestead keeps me busy. Other community involvement was VFW Post 1131 Commander and American Legion 114 Secretary.

I have 3 adult children and 4 grandchildren. My daughter Wendy works with Council of Governments, daughter Audrey is employed at a Medical Office in Las Vegas NM and my son Bryan is a Safety Officer at Rinchem Hazardous Waste Recovery in Albuquerque. My grandkids are involved in, wrestling, basketball and cross country.



## Senior Moments by Eddie Abeita

Ever wonder why you become a little forgetful or why you have to concentrate more on things you are trying to complete, 20 years ago this was not a problem. Whatever this may be called we are all getting there some faster than others. It's healthy to laugh and be happy we had a wonderful career. A request was made to retirees to share their senior moments. Read On

### Senior Word Association Forgetful Moments

An elderly retired firefighter and his wife had dinner at another firefighter's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two retired firefighters were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly." The other firefighter said, "What's the name of the restaurant?"

The retired firefighter rubs his eye brow in obvious concentration, and finally said to his friend, "Aahh, What is the name of that red flower you give to someone you love? His friend replies, "A Carnation??" "No. No. The other one" the retired firefighter said. His friend offers another suggestion, "The Poppy?" "Nahhhh, growls the retired firefighter. You know the one that is red and has thorns." His friend said, "Do you mean a rose?" Yes that's it. Thank you!" the retired firefighter said. He then turns toward the kitchen and yells, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

### Senior Ear Moments by Louie Trujillo

A couple of years ago my wife Bea, Richard my brother-in-law and I made a trip to Washington DC in response to an invitation from then Senator Pete Dominici. and upon arriving at the Capital I asked a Security Officer for direction to the Senate Offices. What I heard him say was "go to the first street you see and go left", we did and it wasn't the offices we were looking for. Upon returning to the main street I realized that the streets were named alphabetically, ie; Street A, Street B, etc.. So what the Officer actually said was "go to C Street and go left"!! A senior hearing moment!

### Senior Geography Moments by Santos Abeyta

Eddie Brito would invite me to the Lobo Women's Basketball games, and occasionally he had tickets to the Lobo Football games. One Saturday night, he picked me up to go to the Lobo Football Game. He always drove to the games, after the game coming out the gate we got separated. Eddie had continued out the gate and I had started to talk to an old acquaintance. After my two minute conversation I went out the gate and headed to the west parking lot and started searching for Eddie and his rose colored minivan, I expected this to be an easy find. I went from row to row from one end of the parking lot to the other end but could not find the van or Eddie. I kept going back and forth until almost all the parking lot was empty. I finally gave up and thought "Eddie must have given up waiting up for me and maybe thought I had found a ride with someone else"!

I made up my mind that I would walk home, about 2 miles. Walking west in the crosswalk on University toward the Lobo Pit, I heard "Squibber", the only one who called me *Squibber* was Eddie Brito, Eddie said where were you, I've been waiting in my van for a long time, it was good to see him!

The reason I could not find the van was because we had parked in the pit parking lot not the football parking lot! When we got home and I explained to my wife why we were home so late, she told Eddie, from now on, Santos is not allowed to go to any more games with you unless you pin a sign on him which says; "***My name is Santos, if lost please return me to 2800 Bridge Blvd SW, that's where I live!***" The name "Squibber" was given to me by late firefighter and friend Raul Lovato.



### **Senior Electronics Moments by Herman Bishop**

In March I will reach my 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. In today's modern technical world I sometimes feel like a square peg in a round hole. I am having a difficult time learning how to operate computers, printers, cell phones I-pad, texting, face book and evening learning to operate my new car. Recently we purchased a new Buick and it is totally computerized including the AM/FM radio.

After accepting delivery of the new car the next few days were hectic. First, I found I could not operate the radio. I had to return to the dealership and have a salesman instruct me on setting the various channels, sound levels, setting the clock and other simple procedures. One the third a day my wife and I took a trip to Santa Fe to try it out. We had lunch at a nice restaurant and headed home. It was a beautiful sunny day about 80 degrees about 5 minutes after heading home I felt my seat was getting hot and then really uncomfortable. The heated seat was on and I could not figure out how to turn it off. I roasted the next hour until I arrived at the Buick dealership. The nice salesman showed me where the computerized control switch was on the dash board.

A few nights later we headed to dinner after dark and my dashboard lights were off. Here again I could not find the switch to turn them on. Again another trip to the Buick dealership, more instructions about operating the light switches. Unfortunately by trying to learn all the new features on my car I pressed too many switches and controls turning things off and on, not knowing how to get them operable again. Why can't things be more simple like the old radios, you turn it on, switch to AM or FM select the channel and adjust the volume and soon you had it mastered. Oh how I long for the good old days! During the 1940's I could not understand why my grandmother could not learn to drive a car or why she was afraid the new gas cooking stove would blow up, after cooking all her life on a wood-burning cook stove. Now I understand, today I am grandma.

### **Senior Body Moments...by.... Name Withheld by Request**

While attending my 50<sup>th</sup> plus year class reunion I started talking with my 2 dear old friends Sam and Fred. We asked and answered the usual old questions what you been doing etc and of course our health. Fred said at my age it's good to feel the sun warm up the old bones and have to get up 2-3 times at night to pee and of course I get a little forgetful. Sometimes at the bottom of my stairs I have to think did I just come down or was I going up. I told the two, it's about the same with me, have to do the old fiber drink thing sometimes and I too at times while at the refrigerator have to think did I put something in it or was I going to take something out....after a short pause we smiled at one another..... Finally .....the wonder boy Sam spoke and said, I don't have the plumbing problems like the two of you, just like clockwork at 7AM every single morning I have a good BM and urinate without fail. We both said "wow" what else but perfection from the wonder boy! After a few seconds Sam said well I guess I have to confess I do have one senior thing, it's a sleeping disorder.....I **NEVER** wake up until 8AM every morning!

### **Senior Not Paying Attention Moment by Eddie Abeita**

While doing some fine dining with my friend Ray, we talked about proper dining etiquette what to order first\_soup or salad before the main entrée? We decided on soup so we each had a bowl of menudo, Ray and I each had coffee to drink. I started to prepare my coffee tore open a packet of sweetener and started to pour it into my soup when Ray stopped me he said Eddie stop. Oh Oh I said not thinking, I then opened a container of cream and started to repeat the same gesture once again, Ray said Eddie, it's your soup. Now that episode happened back to back is this a "senior moment" or just not paying attention.....? You be the judge.



**FEBRUARY MEETING-** The 186<sup>th</sup> retired firefighter's meeting was held on February 10, 2016 at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Evan & Gabriel Romero, grandsons of Tom Romero. The opening prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased firefighters. Roll call was held and the meeting continued.

Our guest speaker was Daniel J. Mayfield who is running for a four year term on the PERA board. He gave an update on the financial status of the Public Employee's Retirement Association. Dan is an avid supporter of active duty and retired firefighters. He asked that we once again re elect him to the PERA board. Ballots are forthcoming in the U.S. mail.

President's Report- Sam has been working with Fire Chief David Downey and has resolved several maintenance and mechanical issues with the funeral truck. Kerry Horton, Noel Baca, and Pablo Garcia are working to upgrade the brass tags on the retiree's honor roll boards at the fire museum. Sam is working with the Fire Chief to re-establish the bosque fire patrol using AFD retirees.

The Treasurer's report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Leroy Barboa and was seconded by Noel Baca. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Kerry Horton. He reminded everyone that our annual fund drive will begin on March 1, 2016. Hopefully everyone will be generous in their donations which keeps our organization sound and makes the quarterly newsletter possible. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He recently met with "Toastie" Zamora's daughters, Lorraine and Valorie. They presented several photos of their dad for the retiree's association. They will be published in future newsletters. Herman thanked Eddie Abeita for the story he wrote for the March newsletter, "Senior Moments," and thanked Kerry Horton for the article he submitted, "AFD Chaplain's Program." The March newsletter will include a story and photo of Albuquerque's first Volunteer Fire Chief William Sanguinetti from 1882 when the volunteer fire department was formed after the coming of the railroad.

Bill Raupfer invited all retirees and their families to attend the Blue Mass at St Pius X High School Gymnasium on Thursday February 18, 2016 @ 12:00 PM. The address : 5301 St. Joseph Place NW.

Sam asked everyone to remember our brother retirees who are on the sick roster : Juan Sandoval, Florinio Sanchez, Jerry Barboa, Mike Romero, Orlando Robles, Rudy Sanchez, and Toby Pino.

The raffle at Wednesday's meeting was won by: Jeff Elks, Ralph Padilla, and Bill Raupfer. A big thanks goes to Eddie Abieta and Ralph Sedillo who conduct the monthly raffles.

The closing prayer at February's meeting was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez who read "A firefighter's Prayer," by fellow retiree Henry Chavez. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Chaplain Mark Chavez led the closing prayer and the February meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.**





Police



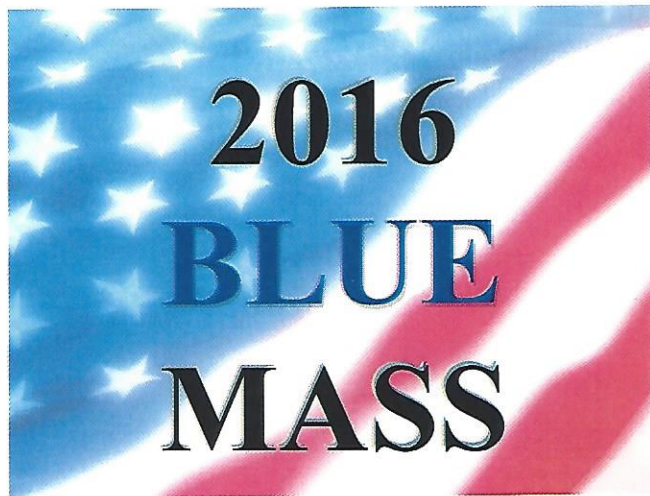
Fire



Military



Corrections



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
9th ANNUAL BLUE MASS**

12:00 pm, Thursday, February 18, 2016

**St. Pius X Gymnasium  
5301 St. Joseph Place NW  
Albuquerque**

Celebrant

**Archbishop John Wester**

The Blue Mass is a blessing for all Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies, Firefighters, Military, Emergency Medical Personnel, and Correction Officers in New Mexico and an opportunity to honor our fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The Mass is a prayer of thanksgiving for them and their service to our communities and for their families who love and support them.

**A reception for all follows the Mass.**

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For information on the Blue Mass please contact the Director of Deacons Office

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THE ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN DIVISION - Part 1

(By: Kerry Horton)

February 7, 2016

The Albuquerque Fire Department Chaplain Division has been a very important part of the emotional, spiritual, and physical health of our fire family for many years now. When I was approached to do an article about the program for this newsletter, I soon realized that one article could not do the Chaplaincy program justice. The story of the history, the mission, and the people that make up the Chaplain division is just too big for one article.

For the first article, I will concentrate on the history, mission, and responsibilities of the Chaplaincy program, and introduce you to Retired AFD Senior Chaplain, Lieutenant Jerome Rael. In the next newsletter, I will introduce you to the other members of the Chaplain Division, both uniformed and civilian, whose hard work and devotion to the AFD fire family make this division and its programs a huge success.

The history of the Albuquerque Fire Department Chaplain Division goes all the way back to the 1970s, and through the decades the program has had a few launches, and failures. But the need for the program, and the vision and leadership of a few AFD members, has given rise to the success of the current program. The following history of the program was provided to me by Retired Chief, and current AFDRA Historian, Herman Bishop and Retired Senior Chaplain, Lt. Jerome Rael.

Herman Bishop relayed the story of the first attempt of a Chaplain program back in the 1970s. In the early 70s, Reverend Jack Price was acting as the Albuquerque Police Department's chaplain, but because of the need for spiritual and emotional well being of the City's firefighters, the City appointed Rev. Price to be both APD and AFD Chaplain, and thus became first official chaplain for the Albuquerque Fire Department. Former Chief Bishop stated that he was on the job when Rev. Price would visit the fire stations and minister to the firefighters. Rev. Price was a volunteer, and devoted many hours to the fire department, but he is more noted for his accomplishments to the Albuquerque Police Department, to the extent that the police headquarters was renamed in his honor. As the 70s came to a close, the program faded, and it wasn't until the 1990s that AFD saw a chaplaincy program again.

The following history is relayed by Jerome Rael.

There were several things that "re-ignited" the vision of having a chaplaincy program in our Department. The first was more of a "grass roots effort" which involved several of our firefighters who had been selected to assist in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in the mid 1990s. One of those firefighters by the name of Tim Tsoodle had observed the horrific results of the tragedy and how it was affecting the first responders, including himself, and how the fire and police chaplains were offering and giving support, and the positive impact it was making on them.

Upon Tim's return, he took the initiative to share this vision with Fire Chief Greg Chavez.



Chief Chavez saw the value of a chaplaincy program, and assigned Firefighter Tim Tsoodle as the first uniformed volunteer Chaplain. Unfortunately, this program was relatively short-lived and disappeared when Tim retired.

After the 9-11 tragedy, the Fire Service as a whole, faced new and ever- increasing challenges which again re-ignited the vision of bringing a chaplaincy program to AFD. Several AFD firefighters went to ground zero, both through assignment and voluntarily, including myself, and again the benefit of chaplain support to the first responders, and the positive impact it made on the workers, was evident.

Shortly thereafter, a small group of AFD firefighters who had been meeting together throughout the 80s, 90s and now into the 21st century, who were a small chapter to an organization called Firefighters for Christ ( <http://www.firefightersforchrist.org> ) decided to take up the torch and draft a letter to the Fire Chief (Robert Ortega) which would outline the need for a Chaplain. Fire Chief Robert Ortega was agreeable to the idea of having a program, but after an attempt to bring one of the local pastors from the community on board failed, it again went on the back-burner.

Then, in 2003, with increasing evidence that our firefighters were experiencing many personal and job related stressors that were becoming more and more visible (high rate of divorce, alcohol and substance abuse, interpersonal conflicts, PTSD related symptoms, etc.), the group decided to take on the challenge of a chaplaincy program once again, and through several meetings with Deputy Chief Gil Santistevan, a steering committee was born in which the task of researching and gathering information on chaplaincy in the fire service on a nation-wide basis was initiated. The result of this effort determined that the most effective type of chaplaincy program for AFD would be a combination of uniform and civilian chaplains that could work as a team to serve the fire family.

In 2005 the program was initiated, and the search began to find our first official uniformed chaplain who would head up the program and begin development of the needed support for such a program through ongoing research, education, and grass- root community and department-wide collaboration. As a result of being the primary “driver” of the steering committee, and offering volunteer services in doing invocations, benedictions etc. in- department ceremonies and events, I was appointed by Chief Ortega as the first AFD Uniformed Chaplain and given the directive to continue with development and implementation of a working program for the department toward the AFD fire family as well as the community.

There were several challenges that we faced when the program was announced as a new program in our department. The biggest one was the outpouring of the needs that were coming forth requesting chaplaincy support. This led to an even greater need of developing a support structure to meet these needs, as well as policies, and procedures and protocols in which to operate within the department that would be in line with AFD administrative directives, Local 244 support and most important, that would meet the needs of the fire family.



The multiple tasks of responding to the ever-increasing needs of the fire family, fulfilling the fire chief directives and departmental requirements, as well as identifying and developing an infrastructure that would sustain the program well into the future, proved to be the greatest challenge

One of the spearheads in launching services of the Chaplaincy program was to address the retired fire family. This was ironically launched by a fire station 2 crew who called for chaplain services after responding to a natural death of a retired firefighter's father-in law, who was also a retired AFD firefighter. During the response, because of my paramedic/firefighting background in AFD, I was able to offer assistance to the ambulance service that responded to help remove the body of the retired firefighter from the house. The grieving family members were present, and through the experience of my firefighting career, coupled with the training in chaplaincy, we were able not only to carry out the necessary EMS protocol, but I was also able to facilitate the spiritual and emotional needs of the family by ensuring that the family had proper closure before the body of their loved one was removed, as well as making sure it was done in a dignified manner. That later led to the privilege of being asked by the family members to officiate his memorial service. This was the "seed" that led to what we now know as the retiree funeral honors supported by the Retirees Association, and conducted in participation with the Department, Local 244 and other entities, such as military and police when called for. Much of the work of introducing the chaplaincy into the culture of the paid uniformed personnel can be attributed to the faithfulness and hard work of collaborating efforts made by the AFD Retiree Association.

The following addition to the history of the AFD Chaplaincy Division was provided by Retired Captain Patrick McKinney, the current Chaplain director.

In December of 2012, Senior Chaplain Lt. Jerome Rael retired from AFD. In January of 2013, retired AFD member Patrick McKinney accepted the position as Chaplain Director (a volunteer position). The all-volunteer chaplaincy is comprised of five retired AFD firefighters and five civilians who have a special calling to serve those in the fire service. All chaplains are required to have chaplain certifications through recognized national chaplain organizations. In addition to the chaplain certifications, each chaplain is required to attend classes in critical incident debriefing and crisis management. AFD chaplains have a diverse background including fire service, emergency medicine, theology, psychology, hospice care, academics, and human resources to name a few. All this experience allows the AFD chaplaincy to reach out and be available for assistance and consultation to cope with many crisis issues. Beyond immediate crisis, the chaplaincy has a strong network for referrals to ensure those in need are offered the help needed. AFD chaplains are involved in a myriad of community activities outside the chaplaincy, reaching into our community to include Red Cross, serving at various churches, Albuquerque Area Firefighters Random Acts and many others. The mix of civilian and former



firefighters, as well as the diversity of backgrounds and educations, allows the chaplaincy to reach out to a very diverse fire department.

### **AFD Chaplaincy Overview**

The Albuquerque Fire Department Chaplaincy programs were created to offer support serving the needs of the AFD firefighters, their families and AFD staff who are all referred to as the "Fire Family." AFD chaplains can also offer assistance to community victims impacted by fire or other emergencies. AFD chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support for the Fire Family when impacted by exposure to traumatic events, as well as providing care during personal tragedy and heartache. Chaplains can provide assessment for crisis management, assist the Fire Family in the referral process for counseling services, professional development guidance, marital and relationship support, provide funeral assistance, and conduct spiritual leadership when called upon.

### **Role/responsibility of AFD Chaplains**

AFD Chaplains are dedicated to making themselves available where assigned or when requested; a presence in the lives of the Fire Family and the community. The term *presence of ministry* is used to describe the philosophy behind the chaplain's heart to serve and support the Fire Family through the simple act of being present and available. The presence of ministry is practiced through the many recognized responsibilities as well as those unidentified. Presence of ministry is best executed through established relationships between the Fire Chaplain and the firefighter. The foundation of the relationship between the Fire Family and the chaplain is established through station, division, and support group visits.

In the next newsletter, I will introduce you to the members of the Chaplaincy Division, and their personal journeys that led them into the program. I will also discuss the Albuquerque Area Firefighters Random Acts with current Chaplain Retired Captain Mark Chavez.

**KERRY HORTON**- From time to time Kerry Horton writes stories for the AFD retiree's Newsletter. He is 55 years old and was born in Pasadena, California. In his early years he worked as a mechanic and in construction. In 1983 he joined the Big Spring, Texas fire Department. He was attracted to the fire service because he had several relatives who were firefighters. After 8 years as a firefighter he looked for a larger department with more career opportunities. In 1991 he joined AFD and served in all ranks from F.F. to Commander. He was a key member of the HAZ-MAT TEAM and after 21 years he ended his career as Director of the Fire Academy. He is proud to have led five cadet classes to graduation. His hobbies are photography and astronomy. Last year he traveled across the United States and visited 23 States in the mid-west, NE and SE. He is Treasurer of the AFD Retiree's Association. Recently he led a team in refurbishing two antique fire trucks at the AFD Fire Museum. He lives with his wife Sandi. Their son Darrell is a Senior at UNM and son Rich Marquez is an AFD Firefighter.



**KERRY HORTON**



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By: Sam Trujillo

As always, I want to thank our Retiree's for their financial support .... I remind you that without your support our AFD Retiree newsletter could not continue to be printed and mailed .... My message to our Fire Family this time is to ask all of you to please remain involved in our **AFD Retiree's Association** and to please lend support in all of our endeavors .... I remind you that we have to stay vigilant to any issue regarding our **PERA Pension** and that united we remain stronger in voicing our concerns .... I ask all of you to remind yourself that the Fire Service benefits we have today were earned by remaining united as one .... It is important to remember that we must lend support to our **IAFF Local 244 Fire Fighters Union** as they stand with us in protecting our **PERA Pension** plan .... The current pension **COLA** that we get today is 1% less than it was a few years ago .... There is no guarantee that we will not lose additional benefits in the future so please stay informed and involved .... I have read of other State Pension plans that have had drastic changes to pensions due to economy financial crisis issues .... It's very important to remain vigilant on issues regarding our own **PERA Pension** plan ....

As you know, I will be stepping down as President of The AFD Retiree's Association this June but I plan on staying involved and I stand ready to help our Fire Family in any and all issues .... I thank you for allowing me to serve you these past sixteen years !

I also want to remind you to keep me informed (899-1500 / 400-3644 or [samtrui@aol.com](mailto:samtrui@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 .... I thank you for your support ....

**\$\$\$\$\$\$ - - - - AFD FUND RAISER - - - - \$\$\$\$\$\$**

**This month we kick off our Annual Fund Raiser  
Please send checks to: AFD Retiree's Association  
C/O Kerry Horton  
5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120**