

# AFD RETIREE NEWS

## “UNITED WE MOVE FORWARD”

News 1

September 1, 2015

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

# 3-2015

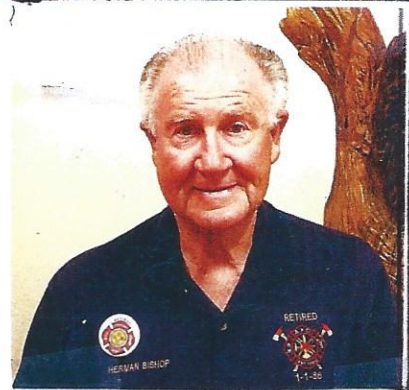
President, Sam Trujillo,	5318 La Colonia NW, Albuquerque, NM,	87120	899-1500
Vice President, Bill Raupfer	19 Valley Trail, Edgewood, N.M.	87015	281-8478
Secretary Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, NM,	87004	269-0370
Treasurer, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. NW	87120	934-2969
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. NE, Albuquerque NM,	87111	294-7165

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PUBLISHED BY  
THE AFD RETIREE'S  
ASSOCIATION



**HERMAN R. BISHOP**  
**EDITOR**

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**CHIEF CHRIS CELAYA, BERNALILLO COUNTY FIRE CHIEF**

On May 4, 2015 Bernalillo County Commissioners appointed Chris Celaya Fire Chief of Bernalillo County. Chief Celaya and his wife Linda are natives of El Paso and have four Children, Chris, Marissa, Jessica and Andy. Chief Celaya is a former Deputy Chief of the El Paso, Texas Fire Department and spent 27 years on that department. He joined the Department in 1987 and served first with the ambulance paramedics, then transferred over To the firefighting division as a firefighter. He served in all ranks from firefighter through Deputy Chief. He served in all major divisions, pumpers, ladders, rescues, Training, Fire Prevention, EMS Chief, Operations Chief and Fire Administration. He is excited about his new job and believes he has joined a top notch department. Currently the department has A 22 million budget, 250 personnel, 10 Engines, 2 Ladders, and 12 Rescue Units. Their Pumpers are staffed with 3 firefighters, Ladders 3 firefighters and Rescues 2 FF/Paramedics. Chief Celaya was given a big welcome by AFD retirees at their June, 2015 meeting.

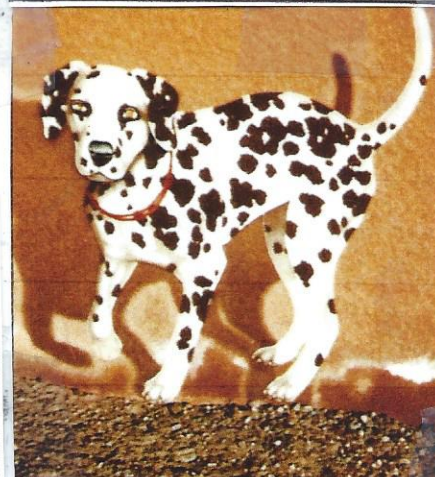





Photo By: Johnny Elwell

L-R, ALFONSO "DOC" PADILLA, JUAN A. VIGIL, JUAN SANDOVAL (March, 1975)

Juan A. Vigil Dies - Our brother retired firefighter Juan A. Vigil, age 88, passed away on Saturday May 23, 2015 while traveling on vacation in Amarillo, Texas. He and his family were en route to Dallas, Texas to attend the graduation of his grandson when he suddenly fell ill. Juan was born in Llano de San Juan, New Mexico, near Penasco. He was a United States Army veteran. He followed his older brother Manuel Vigil who also was a career Albuquerque firefighter. Juan joined AFD on February 15, 1957 and retired on October 30, 1983 after serving 26 years as an Albuquerque firefighter. During 1957 the department built the new Station # 1 at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Silver Avenue SW, established a Fire Prevention Bureau, a Training Division, and started the first rescue squad housed at Station # 1.

Juan was a kind and loving person who was proud to serve as a firefighter. He was an excellent gardener and would always share the fruits of his harvest with fellow firefighters. We called him "Johnnie," or "Juanito," and we have fond memories of his great smile and his big bear hugs when he greeted his friends. We extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Vigil family.

 SIGNATURE OF CHIEF SWORN MEMBER		<b>ALBUQUERQUE</b> <b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	
		1616 MAN NUMBER	NAME JUAN A. VIGIL
08/5/26 DOB	M SEX	BLACK HAIR	155 WEIGHT
BROWN EYES	5'5" HEIGHT	<i>Juan A. Vigil</i> SIGNATURE	

**June Monthly Meeting** - On June 10, 2015 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the IAFF Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by President Sam Trujillo @ 7:08 PM and he led the members in The Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mark Chavez led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members and brothers Juan Vigil and Ernest Sanstestevan who passed away recently. After roll call Sam introduced recent retiree David Samonson who attended his first meeting. David was given a big welcome by our members.

Our guest speaker was Chief Chris Celaya who was recently appointed to Fire Chief of Bernalillo County. Chief Celaya was given a warm reception by our members and he told us he served 27 years with the El Paso, Texas Fire Department and retired at the rank of Deputy Chief . He is happy for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Bernalillo County and feels that the Bernalillo County Fire Department is a modern state of the art department. He and his wife Linda like Albuquerque and they have four children, Chris, Marissa, Jessica, and Andy. We wish Chief Celaya well and we look forward to having him as part of our fire service community.

President Sam Trujillo swore in officers for 2 year terms beginning July 1, 2015. They were: Bill Raupfer, Vice President, Kerry Horton, Secretary, and Herman Bishop, Historian. Every one gave Bill, Kerry, and Herman a big round of applause and wished them well as they carry out their duties during the next two years. Sam thanked Eddie Abieta for serving as chairman of the election committee for Vice President, Treasurer, and Historian.

The Secretary's report was given for the month of May by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Mike Murphy and seconded by Leroy Barboa. The motion passed. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that our treasury is on solid footing and he has enjoyed serving the past 9 years as Treasurer. The members gave John a hearty round of applause and a big thanks for the fine job he has done as our treasurer during the past few years. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by T.V. Jaramillo. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop read a letter from James "Baby" Dahl. James thanked all members for their prayers and support after he suffered massive injuries in a recent motorcycle wreck near Roswell, NM. He was treated at a hospital in Lubbock, Texas and is now home recovering which is expected to take one year. (See Letter on page 4, this newsletter). Herman also called attention to the two stories he did for the June newsletter about two famous fires in Albuquerque, the Sears fire in 1953 and the Payless Drug Store fire (Barnett Building), 1963.

Eddie Abieta is chairman of the picnic committee. The annual picnic/reunion will be held on August 22, 2015 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Rotary Park, downtown Bernalillo, New Mexico. Eddie will be contacting volunteers who will be assisting in this year's picnic. We send our best wishes and prayers to our retiree's who are on the sick roster. They are: Orlando Duran, Orlando Robles, Florinio Sanchez, Orlando Robles, and Jerry Barboa. The June monthly raffle was won by: Marvin Gouch, Noel Baca, and Johnny Marquez. The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval and the June meeting adjourned @ 8:45 PM.

May 22, 2015

**To: My Brother Firefighters**  
**From: Jim "Baby" Dahl**  
**Subject: Assistance Given in Time of Need**

As we all know fire fighters are a special breed.

It's defiantly not an easy career but most will agree very rewarding.

I was fortunate enough to serve in the Albuquerque Fire Department for 20 years. Being a part of AFD has been a blessing for myself and my family.

Recently I had a severe life changing motorcycle accident. I was airlifted to UMC in Lubbock Texas. I was hospitalized for about 6 weeks. I will be unable to walk on my own for about a year. Wheelchair bound, I was going home--A home without wheelchair access.

Brothers Mark Chavez, Pat McKinney & Donny Sanchez reached out to me and asked if we needed anything. How awesome is that!

I mentioned needing a small ramp to get into the house.

The next day they assembled a very excellent crew of retired firefighters and active firefighters, Rio Rancho Firefighters all to build not one ramp but 3 for our home.

These guys went after it like contractors and finished in no time.

Wow we are blown away. Those ramps will be a vital part of getting around my home. My family and I sincerely would like to thank the IAFF Local 244, Sammy Trujillo and the AFD retiree association, The Random Acts personal, AFD Chaplin Services and the Rio Rancho Fire Department for all their generosity.

I would also like to thank all of you for your cards, visits, phone call and prayers.



JAMES DAHL

Many Sincere Thanks,

Jim "Baby" Dahl

**July Meeting -** The 179<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the AFD Retirees was held on July 8, 2015 @ 7:08 PM at the Firefighters Union Hall, local 244, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by President Sam Trujillo who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was led by Deacon Santos Abeyta and a moment of silence was held in honor of our deceased members. After roll call Sam recognized recent retirees, Dave Simonson, Donnie Sanchez, Gabe Sanchez and Greg Vallejos. Fred Casias read the June monthly minutes and a motion to accept was made by Mike Murphy and seconded by Eugene Baldonado. Kerry Horton recently elected Treasurer gave the monthly report. He said the transition of turning over the books from former Treasurer John Serino went smoothly. He reported that the books were in order and up to date. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Ralph Sedillo and was seconded by Jeff Elks.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. He presented a letter of commendation and a firefighter's pompier hatchet to John Serino who served the past nine years as Treasurer of the AFD Retiree's Association. John was recognized for the fine job he did as Treasurer and for his excellent stewardship of our financial affairs. Herman also read a letter sent from retired Firefighter Bob Kneivitt and his wife Honey Kneivitt. She sent



**Photos By: Fred Casias**

information and brochures about the Fire Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. The information was shared with members present and a copy of the brochure was posted on the bulletin board.

Sam reported that a new fire cadet class is scheduled for August 10, 2015. He stated that Diego Arencon, President of IAFF, Local 244, has requested support for the fire pac - election 2016. Firefighter issues will be addressed at the 2016 N.M State Legislature. Donations are appreciated from our members. See Sam If you would like to donate money. Sam appointed John Serino to be in charge of collecting and selling association badges, patches, hats etc. See John if you need any of these items.

Sam commended Kerry Horton for chairing the restoration project at the Fire Museum. Numerous retirees have assisted in this worthwhile project. Current they are restoring the 1927 American La France pumper on display there. (Photo, P-11). Eddie Abeita reminded all members that the annual picnic/reunion will be held on Saturday August 22, 2015 in Bernalillo., NM at Rotary Park. All members and their families are invited. Fees will be by donations, please contribute. The raffle door prizes at Wednesday's meeting were won by: Bill Raupfer, Eviristo Marquez, and Steve Marquez. The closing prayer was led by brother Juan Sandoval. The July Meeting ws adjourned @ 8:55 PM.



**LR, Herman Bishop, John Serino (July 10, 2015)  
J. Serino Presented with letter & Pompier Hatchet**



**LR, Bill Raupfer, V. President, H. Bishop, Historian,  
Kerry Horton, Treasurer, Sworn in to their  
new positions at the June 10, meeting**

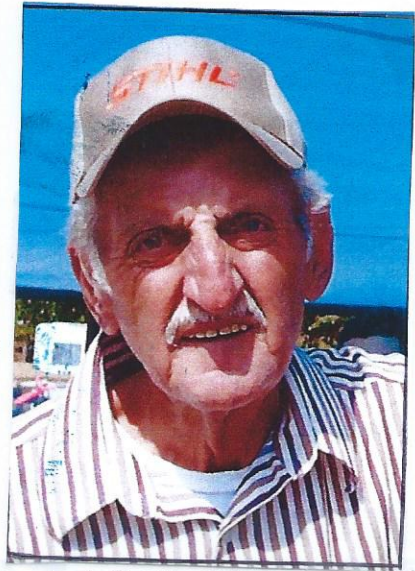
**Death, Ernest "Saint" Santistevan**

We regret to report the death of our good friend and brother Retired firefighter Ernest "Saint" Santistevan age 72 who passed away on Sunday June 7, 2015 after a long term illness. He joined AFD in March 1965 and retired on April 25, 1985 after serving The department over 20 years. He retired at the rank of Paramedic Lieutenant. He joined the department shortly after Station # 13 was built near Winrock Center and Station # 14 was opened on the west side. There was no paramedic program as we know it today when Ernie joined in 1965, just The three rescue squads. Shortly after the paramedic division was formed in 1974 Ernie was one of the first group of firefighters to attend UNM Regional Medical School and certify as a paramedic. He was a knowledgeable and well rounded firefighter in addition to his skills as a paramedic. He Was a mild mannered, jovial and personable fellow who was well respected by his fellow firefighters and officers alike. He was proud to have served with his two brother firefighters, Don Santistevan, now retired and younger brother Gil Santistevan (active duty) who serves as a Deputy Chief. Ernie Was an excellent role model and always went a step above and beyond to train new firefighters and to train them in firefighting and paramedic procedures. He will be missed by his fellow retirees. Our Most sincere condolences are offered to the entire Santistevan family.



**ERNEST J. SANTISTEVAN**

**DEATH LUIS, "BIG BIRD, PADILLA** - We regret to report the loss of our friend and brother retired firefighter Luis Padilla age 71. "Big Bird," passed away on Friday June 26, 2015 after a long fought battle with cancer. He Joined AFD on March 27, 1967 and retired on March 24, 1987 after faithfully Serving over 20 years with the fire department and the City of Albuquerque. Louie loved his job as a firefighter and was the driver of Ladder 15 for many Years during his career. He was a strong robust man during his prime and was The image of what a firefighter should be. He had a good sense of humor and A strong personality. Usually he was the leader of fire house jokes with the crews He worked with. The young firefighters looked up to him for his maturity and Experience. He was an active member and avid supporter of the AFD Retiree's Association until the very end. After he discovered he had cancer in 2006 he Had a great celebration of life at his ranch in San Antonio, NM. What a great Day and celebration he had with his firefighter friends, neighbors and family. About 100 retired firefighters attended along with a large number of friends And family. On behalf of the retired firefighters our sincere condolences go to the entire Padilla family during their time of loss.



**Luis Padilla, "Big Bird"**

**New Mexico  
Professional Fire Fighter**

VOL. VIII — NO. 3 FALL 1982



**COVER STORY**  
Albuquerque firefighter, Luis Padilla, was honored by City Hall Wednesday, July 14, for his quick action in saving the severed finger of six-year-old Lisa Quintana at the scene of an accident.  
Padilla, with the Fire Department for 15 years, is credited with putting the finger on ice and administratering first-aid, enabling doctors to reat-tach the digit.  
For Padill's actions on May 16, Mayor Harry Kinney proclaimed July 14 as "Louis Padilla Day."  
Hats off to Louis Padilla!

**LOUIS PADILLA DAY**  
Photo by Sam Burnett

## The Ray Sedillo Story

by Eddie Abeita

### *I remember hitting the bottom of the pool and the weight of my bunkers*

I retired 27 years ago where I worked mainly in district one (1) and assigned to Engine 6, Engine 7, and Engine 10 Ray said. My final career assignment was at Engine 10 it was great because I lived in the area I would walk to and from work, so you could say it was the greatest years in ending my career. I was given the nickname "SADIE"



Sadie said all the stations that I worked at, I would offer to cook. At Engine 6 the officer was the cook Manuel (Pinto) Vigil. He would be the one that would ask me to cook and would say Sadie you cook today I need a break. At station 10 I would ask the troops what would you like for lunch today? Someone would say pork chops, another would say hamburger steaks etc. one particular firefighter would always say **NO**, no matter what was suggested, he said I had that at home last night or going to have that tonight. That went on with him for a while so it turned into not asking and telling him "just eats what's cooked or you can starve"..... That fixed the problem. My specialty was homemade bread and I enjoyed making it. Maybe that's why...when I floated to a certain station the meal being cooked was perfect for fresh baked bread.

Everyone has a call that they remember for whatever reason Sadie said, while floating into Engine 4 we had a fire call at night in a residential area. There was heavy smoke a lot of it and looked like the whole neighborhood was on fire. I caught the hydrant with the 5 inch hose and when signaled I opened the hydrant and followed the hose back to the truck. I headed toward the house to join the crew who were in the rear of the house, visibility was zero. Walking toward them in full bunkers unannounced I stepped into the middle of a swimming pool I went down like a rock. I remember hitting the bottom of the pool and the weight of my bunkers, I pushed with my feet as hard as I could to surface....don't know how I did it but made it to the end of the pool. The firefighters rushed to my side and pulled me out of the pool they made sure I was OK.....seconds later I said I am OK ...without missing a beat Pablo Garcia Jr. said immediately are you sure your OK Mark Spitz? Sadie said these guys are something else!

Sadie talked about other experiences and said; I was awarded a citation for a rescue, working with Jonnie Mares we were at a house fire where it was reported someone was inside. We went in immediately to search for the victim without putting on our self contained breathing apparatus, it was hot, eyes burning and we were choking from the smoke. I stumbled over something which turned out to be the victim, I grabbed what I could which was his feet and started pulling him out of the house. The thing about it was there were stairs and his head bounced down each step of the stairs as I was pulling him out, oh well, bottom line he survived.

The call that bothered me a lot, I was just out of training and we had a rescue call a 10-45 (MVA) on Broadway a child was in the mangled car and in serious condition after our rescue was completed and the occupants transported to the hospital, then it hit me I started to think "I have small children" it could have been my kid in that car. I could not wait to get home and hug my kids it makes you thankful that your kids are safe!

Upon my retirement I bought an old house, remodeled it and became a landlord over night It continued with other properties where I sold a few. However just like a lot of ventures after a while it's not fun anymore just work so now it's become a thing of the past.

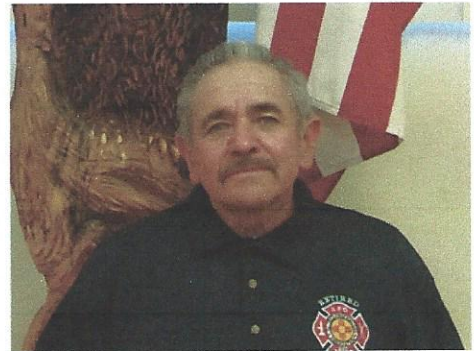
With all the kids grown and gone we have 5 grandkids and 1 great grandchild. I dedicate most of my time taking care of my wife Frances who has some medical problems Sadie said. Looking back what a wonderful career and life..... I look forward to our retiree meetings each month great place to be visiting with all the old friends

## The Ralph Padilla Story

by Eddie Abeita

***This type of call never goes away or at least not in the past 25 years!***

I retired from Albuquerque Fire Department December 28, 1992, that was 23 years ago or just think a firefighter starting his/her career with the fire department when I retired, could have completed their career and now be retired said Ralph.



My first assignment after graduation from the fire academy was at ladder one, in those we used double jacketed fire hose, with it being cotton or nylon you washed tested and hung a lot of fire hose. Day or night over the intercom someone would announce "everyone to the hose tower" to wash and hang hose, it most likely had just been used at a fire. On the day shift it was take down the dry hose, roll and stack it. The ladder crew would fill self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for a lot of companies the fill station was a cascade system no compressor just large bottles of air.

I was transferred to other engine companies but my last assignment was at Engine 7 where I was there for 13 years and that's where I retired from. Working with other crews was always an experience, you always learn something new even if was a minor thing. One thing when an alarm came in it turned into our business and everyone performed as duty called Ralph said..

During my career I experienced good and bad incidents some we think about and others we try to forget but I think that's happens to all firefighters during their career.....

One call I think about from time to time happened on New Year's Eve while assigned to Engine 7, the alarm/hit and dispatcher said; a 10-45 (motor vehicle accident) on St Joseph Drive with trapped occupants. The officer Lieutenant Robert Murphy said while putting on his bunker coat that's Engine 17's run they must be out. Driver Phil Lovato handled the Mack pumper real well, when he turned onto Coors Blvd. he had the Mack wide open, I think what was going through all our minds was "trapped occupants". There were 3 passengers in the car that flipped upside down police and bystanders were able to pull two of the occupants out from the front of the car. Just as we arrived the car blew up being upside down and gas leaking it immediately became fully engulfed in fire. The 3<sup>rd</sup> occupant was trapped in the back seat of the burning car. Lieutenant Murphy called for the 1 1/2" hand line for needed volume of water. We did what we could as the final screams were heard coming from the car, the feeling of helplessness was so heavy. This type of call never goes away or at least not in the past 25 years!

We did a lot of cooking at Engine 7; green chile stew was always a favorite with sopapillas or tortillas. When it was my turn to float to another station the captain at station 4 would say you are floating here to cook for us. One thing I liked to do was play ping pong at fire station one and four there were a lot of players so you could enjoy hours of playing ping pong. When I first started I chased the ball a lot but picked the game up and then it was my turn I had others chase the ball. You would be surprised on how good firefighters were at playing ping pong.

After retirement I volunteered to help with some *minimal* handyman type repairs at Holy Family Church It's hard to say NO to the church. Retired CEO Gene Romo who was involved with Holy Family Church



asked me about my other talents, I said heating ventilation air-condition (HVAC) repair. Boy oh boy it turned into a job, which later Gene Romo placed me on payroll which seemed OK at the time because the amount of work was getting bigger and bigger. Six (6) years later I hurt my knee so that slowed down my productivity so I later resigned and once again retired (yeah).

I never had an actual nickname given but heard a lot of what you would call “short jokes” maybe because I am 5 foot 2 and eyes are blue. With our 3 grandkids one being 21 years old they keep my wife Dora and I busy. My career as a fire fighter with AFD was one of the most gratifying and rewarding experiences in my life and what a wonderful retirement package. Just like Heaven “*God Blessed Us!*”

## The Phil Lovato Story

by Eddie Abeita

### *I guess you could give our platoon credit for making two parking lots on the same block!*

Phil retired from AFD in December 1992 after 20 years of service. His last duty assignment was at Engine 7. Phil was ready for retirement in October 1992 however fellow firefighter Ralph Padilla was going to retire in December of that year so Phil said I will retire with Ralph and makes it a twosome exit..



Phil said after graduation from the fire academy his first assignment was at Engine 2. In those days we rode on the tailboard of the truck, Engine 2 had a large running and backup district. I remember some large fires that we responded to in the downtown area one was Mike London's Wrestling Center on Copper NW the fire occurred in the late evening.

Upon our arrival the owner Mike London had escaped the fire and ran out of the building only wearing bikini underwear, the District Chief yelled someone cover him up! An offensive attack was made on the fire with 2 hand lines (2 1/2"), a skylight created a natural opening and was venting the hot smoke and gas up and out of the building, that was short lived all of a sudden the ladder truck opened its master stream and shot down water directly into the ventilation hole. The crews inside the building were forced out by the tremendous amount of heat and smoke being pushed on them, I can't tell you what was said because of the language used by the steamed firefighters!

Another fire happened on the same block except on the Central Avenue it was a stubborn fire. Most fire units were on scene from about 8:00PM until shift change the following morning at 8:00AM, temperature dipped to 20 degrees that night and just thinking the fire that was keeping us a little warm we were trying to put out. I guess you could give our platoon credit for making 2 parking lots on the same block.

As I said we had a large backup district even backed Engine 14, we had runs to the Gun Club Edition in the far south valley. The location was in the county however the Gun Club Edition was annexed as city residential property. Bernalillo County Fire did respond under a mutual aid agreement but AFD always would respond accordingly. Calls at night to Gun Club, were interesting because while in route you could see across the valley the flashing Mars light from Engine 14 also in route, it kind of turned into who would get there first.

Back then there was no social media so most fires did not get any publicity which could be a good thing. We were dispatched to a house fire and it looked like a good working fire so the officer had us catch the

first hydrant he saw however that was not the closest hydrant to the house. About 25 feet from the house we ran out of hose, all 1600 feet of 2 ½". Upon our size up and investigation, we paused at the back kitchen door and look at each other because we all recognized the smell of burnt food, yes sir it was burning beans on the stove...

When promoted to driver Phil floated in district one to fill in where needed. Phil said when driving at Engine 14 emergency calls could be long and tiring. It was not uncommon to have calls out west on I-40 toward Laguna. Semi-truck drivers would send out calls for help on their CB radios people monitoring the truckers CB radio would relay the message by phone to AFD dispatch. These calls were tuff calls because you never received enough information so sometimes the exact nature of the call was not known until arrival.

Phil' first permanent assignment as driver was at Engine 7, he remembers with any truck, it was Important to insure your truck and equipment was ready for emergency response, this was done at start of every shift and after every call. Engine 7 was an open cab 1,000 GPM, 5 speed, Mack diesel pumper, the radiator had louvers thermostat controlled that would open and close depending on engine temperature and of course the chrome bulldog mounted on the top, this particular truck was a great running piece of equipment and looked good.

Phil said.... and there are some calls that you don't talk a lot about, or hope nobody finds out about. We had a brush fire on the river bed and the road we took looked good but ¼ mile in the axle was buried in sand. The logical thing is to radio for a wrecker in which the whole city will know you buried your truck. We got lucky another governmental entity was in the area with a big front end loader. The operator yelled out hey "Need some help"? Heck yes I yelled back,...Prayer answered... Phil said smiling.

Phil said he would cook now and then to change the food taste, one dish was Chinese he called Hog Suey, a pepper steak configuration with rice it was real tasty based on the fact there were no leftovers. One tradition in AFD I could not understand was, on your own birthday why **you** bring the cake and ice cream?

Phil enjoyed sports but his game was fast pitch softball and played in the city league with fellow firefighter Bobbie Baca who both would pitch and play other positions. Phil was asked to traveled to El Paso TX to play in the annual softball game between the 2 fire departments. Phil was called upon to pitch in the first game, Phil took center stage with his junk on the ball he controlled the 1<sup>st</sup> and championship game, El Paso Fire named Phil the Most Valuable Player of the series.

Phil said what I want to know is now being retired why do we get targeted and bombarded with junk mail and advertisements? I get all these advertisements and stuff in the mail and elsewhere. Ads for hearing aids, pain medications, diabetic testing, fiber help, pills to make you smile, hide the wrinkles, cream for cracks on your body and all other kinds of stuff?

Today Phil and his wife Lottie enjoy their 3 adult children and came out of retirement to help with their 6 precious grandchildren. Its quality time anytime you can spend time with the grandkids even just to chuffer them around the city Phil said.



**RESTORATION TEAM**

**L-R, RALPH SEDILLO, GABE SANCHEZ, PABLO GARCIA JR. NICHOLAS SANTISTEVAN**  
During the past month these guys have been working diligently and donating their time to make repairs and to restore the AFD 1927 American La France Pumper at the Fire Museum.



**RESTORATION OF 1927 AMERICAN LA FRANCE PUMPER**  
**(ALBUQUERQUE FIRE ACADEMY)**

# AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



**Sam Trujillo—President**



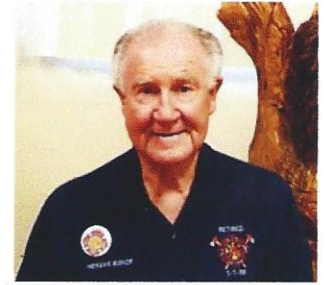
**William Raupfer—Vice President**



**Fred Casias—Secretary**

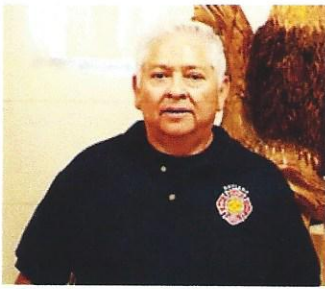


**Kerry Horton—Treasurer**



**Herman Bishop—Historian**

## Advisory Board Members



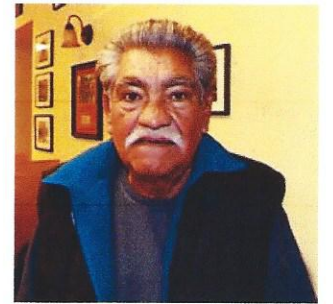
**Abeita, Edward**



**Abeyta Santos**



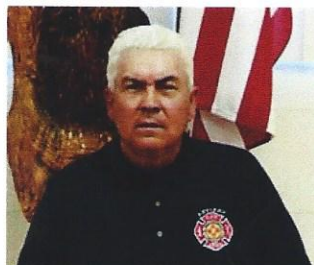
**Baca Noel**



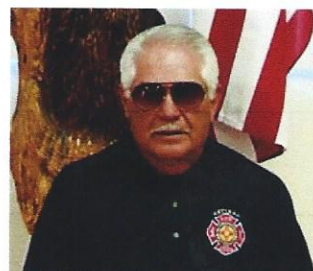
**Baldonado Eugene**



**Flores, Raymundo**



**Garcia, Pablo Jr.**



**Holcomb Vince**

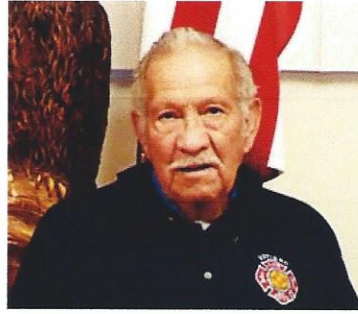


**Martinez Joe**

## Advisory Board Members Continued



Romero, Tom



Sandoval, Juan



Sedillo, Ralph



Teupell Fred



Torres, Eddie II



Trujillo, Louis C.

## Officers Who Served In The Past



Torres, Eddie II

Vice President



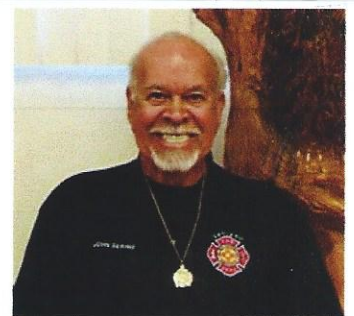
Sedillo, Ralph

Treasurer



Trujillo, Louis C.

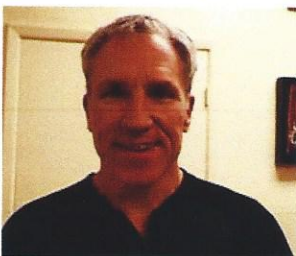
Secretary



Serino, John

Treasurer

## Our Chaplains and Religious Leaders



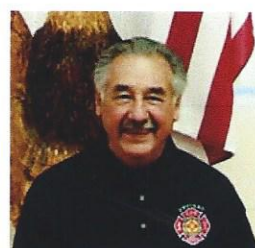
McKinney, Pat

Chaplain



Chavez, Mark J.

Chaplain



Abeyta Santos

Deacon



Sandoval, Juan

Brother

**August Meeting** - The 180<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on August 12,,2015 @ 7:10 PM at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mark Chavez led the opening prayer and moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. After roll call Sam Trujillo recognized Scott Creange, David Samonson, Gabe Sanchez and Donnie Sanchez, recent retirees.

Guest speakers were Dan Mayfield, Chairman of the PERA Board who gave us an up date on the financial status of PERA which is positive. He reminded us to keep involved and to support legislation regarding PERA retirees and their benefits. Gerald Chavez, retired City of Albuquerque retiree addressed our members and asked for our support in the up coming PERA Board Election. You should receive ballots in the mail during August. Our other guest speaker was Miguel Tittmann who is the Sgt. Of Arms of AFD FF Union Local 244. He is starting a monthly Union news letter and would like to feature AFD retirees during the next year. Please prepare a short biography about yourself, listing, name, dates of fire service, rank, years married, name of wife, names of children. His e-mail address is [tittmann244@gmail.com](mailto:tittmann244@gmail.com)

Sam and Bill Raupfer reported that Chief Downey has been cooperative in making repairs and safety upgrades to the funeral truck. He assigned retired firefighter "Re-Bar," with maintenance to install casket rollers (valued @ \$1,000.00) and donated by French Mortuary. Sam and Fred Casias conducted a "Bell Ceremony," for a retired Sandoval County firefighter during August in Cuba, NM. Sam requested members donate money to the FF Union, Local 244, for the Fire Pac, (Political Action Committee) to promote FF legislation in the 2016 NM State Legislature. See Sam to give donations.

Fred Casias read the minutes from the July, 2015 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Joe Martinez and was seconded by Eddie Abieta. Motion Carried. Kerry Horton gave a the Treasurer's report. Currently we are in the black and Upcoming expenses are the annual picnic and the September newsletter. The picnic is funded by donations only. We hope you will support the picnic. He reported that the executive board approved \$1,100 dollars to build a canopy/cover for the picnic trailer which is used to store and haul picnic tables, chairs, and BBQ grill. If you would like to donate money to cover costs of this trailer project please contact Kerry Horton. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Ramon Maldonado.. Motion Carried.

Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. Recently he was contacted by Mr. Charles Gatchell who requested information about his Grandfather Secondo Navaria. Herman's research found that Mr. Navaria served as a FF with AFD from about 1920 to 1941. When the U.S. Army Air Base (Now Kirtland AFB) opened in July, 1941,they formed a new fire department. AFD Captain Pat Kane was appointed to Fire Chief and several AFD firemen left AFD and joined the new department. Mr. Navaria was in that group. He rose to the rank of Assistant Chief and retired from the KAFB fire department after serving there about twenty years. Several other AFD firemen who joined that department later served as Fire Chief of the KAFB fire department. They were: Pete Shayka, P. Bradley, and S.W. Walsh. Herman recognized retiree Jose Salas who donated a 1 ½ inch fog nozzle to the AFD Fire Museum which he found last year in the river Bosque. "Thanks Jose."

Eddie Abieta reported that the plans for our annual picnic/reunion to be held Saturday August 22, 2015 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM are pretty much complete. He is assisted by Ray Flores, Sam Trujillo, Steve and Victor Marquez, Marvin Gouch, and Louie Trujillo. Please send donations for the picnic to Treasurer, Kerry Horton.

The gifts for the August raffle were won by Johnny Marquez and Jose Salas. Frank Maestas donated 14 Gifts with firefighter themes for the retiree picnic this year. A "Big Thanks," to Frank for the gifts. The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The August meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM



L-R, Jose Salas, Jim Tuma, Sam Trujillo 8-18-2012

**"THE PICNIC, AUGUST 18, 2012 "**

To the Firefighters of the Albuquerque Fire Department,

My Dad, Jerry Barboa, is a Retired AFD Firefighter. He retired from AFD over 30 years ago. On the evening of July 4, 2015 he was having a very bad time due to his Alzheimer's disease. He heard fireworks going off in his neighborhood and insisted that he had to go the Fire Station and report to work. His aggravation was so severe that I was about to take him to the ER to be evaluated as I could not control him or keep him from leaving and walking to the Fire Station.

I drove him around Albuquerque for a short time and he told me to take him to Station 1 on Silver SW as he spent many years working there and felt that Station 1 is where he must report to work. Rather than aggravate him further, I stopped in front of Station 1 and spoke to a couple of Firefighters that were outside. I advised them that my dad was Retired AFD with Alzheimer's and that he was having a bad day. After first inquiring whether or not my Dad needed to be evaluated for any other health issues, they told me to bring my Dad inside the Fire Station.

The Firefighters of A Shift were so accommodating and welcoming to my Dad that I just DO NOT know how to thank them and express my appreciation. They sat down and spoke with my Dad about the time he spent with AFD, they gave him a tour of the Station, and they just showed him the utmost respect and thankfulness for his past service that I was speechless.

I would like to thank the members of the Albuquerque Fire Department and particularly A shift at Station 1 for treating my Dad the way they did. They even sent me a text inquiring as to his health and well-being about a week later. A shift- you really helped me out. I appreciate each and every one of you and thank you for the way you treated my Dad and made a rough night much more bearable.

Thank You!

Jerry C. Barboa



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



Sam Trujillo

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

By: Sam Trujillo

As always, I want to thank our Retiree's for their financial support .... Without your support we cannot continue in sending our quarterly newsletter. We are starting our 16<sup>th</sup> year as an active Retiree Association and I want to let you know that after 16 years as President of the AFD Retiree Association, I have made plans to step down next June when my current term is completed .... As stated in previous newsletters, we need the younger retiree's to step up and start leading us in making our association stronger ..... **Why?** ..... As we learned while working at AFD, together we are stronger on issues such as our PERA solvency, and this includes the Annual COLA that is so vital to our defined pension .... We have learned that as a group, we have a much stronger voice in PERA related issues, I ask you to not take your PERA Retirement Benefit for granted and that you get involved with our association and make our voice even stronger .... We have established bonds that allow us to remain united in lending support to our Fire Family .... These bonds include maintaining a close working relationship with the current AFD Administration and with IAFF Local 244 ....

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