

AFD RETIREE NEWS

September 1, 2017

3-2017

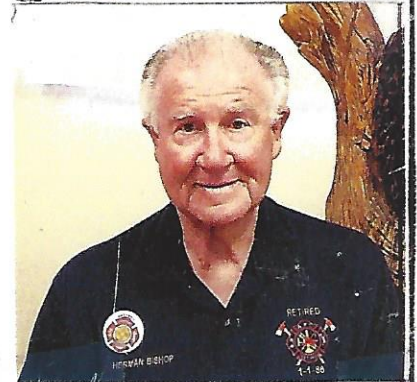
President, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W. Albuquerque	87120 934-2969
Vice President, Mike Murphy	433 Merlida S.W.	87121 264-1153
Secretary, Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, N.M.	87004 269-0370
Treasurer, Sam Trujillo	5318 La Colonia N.W. Albuquerque	87120 899-1500
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. Albuquerque	87111 294-7165

ADVISORY BOARD

Eugene Baldonado 344-6866	Noel Baca 836-2480	
Vince Holcomb 897-2667	Joe Martinez 792-1867	
Louis C. Trujillo 873-1544	Eddie Torres 205-6647	Juan Sandoval 877-9650
Eddie Abeita 869-3082	John Serino 266-1252	Tommy Romero 855-9389
Fred Teupell 259-6521	Pablo Garcia Jr. 363-2233	Ralph Sedillo 273-0613
Ray Flores 898-8948	Bill Raupfer 281-8488	Santos Abeyta 877-2026



PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



HERMAN R. BISHOP
EDITOR

CONTENTS

- P1. Photo, Rescue # 1, 1966
- P1. Photo, Dalmation
- P2. The Imposter, Herman Bishop
- P4. June, 2017, Meeting Minutes
- P4. Michael Murphy Story. E. Abeita
- P6. Morris Guterrez Story, E. Abeita
- P8. July, 2017, Meeting Minutes
- P9. Alaska Adventures, Kerry Horton
- P14. Random Acts of Kindness, K. Horton
- P15. August, 2017, Meeting, Minutes
- P16. President's Message



OCTOBER 1966 (L-R) BENNY GONZALES, DONNIE BECK BEN DAUBER, LT.HERMAN BISHOP

Old Rescue # 1- THIS TRUCK HAD A 200 GPM, ONE STAGE PISTON PUMP, CARRIED 150 GAL. WATER, 150 FT. 3/4" BOOSTER HOSE, 2- 10 FT. LENGTHS OF HARD SUCTION HOSE FOR DRAFTING OPERATIONS



THE IMPOSTER (By: Herman R. Bishop)

May 1, 2017

It was on a pleasant summer's evening during late July, 1966 that I was working on Rescue one out of station one downtown. I had recently been promoted to Lieutenant and I loved my new job. There was much more action and excitement than on my previous assignment as an engine officer at station twelve on the east side of town. My driver Ben Dauber was an experienced rescue man and knew district one like the back of his hand. The fireman working with us was Donnie Beck who was an experienced rescue man as well.

Shortly after dark that evening we began receiving a rash of trash bin fires, and small shed fires in the alleys in the vicinity of Second Street and Menaul NW. Around 10:00 P.M. we received a fire call, "trash on fire in the alley," one block south of Menaul and Second Street NW. The dispatch was Engine 4, Engine 1-B, Rescue 1, and Chief 1. As the fire was small and was quickly extinguished Assistant Chief Leo Renaud asked me to go to the back door of a house where the lights were on and talk to the occupants to determine if they had information about who was setting the recent fires in the neighborhood. Chief Renaud sent Engine 1-B back to the station and he left as well. There was still Engine 4 and Rescue 1 still on the scene, engines roaring and red lights flashing in the alley. The apparatus lights lit up the night sky like Christmas lights.

It took several minutes before anyone answered the door. Finally an elderly gentleman cracked the door and asked who I was and what I wanted. I told him I was Lieutenant Bishop with AFD. I inquired if he knew anything about the recent fires in his neighborhood. He said he had no information about the fires. I inquired further, asking more questions and asked if I could come into his house and talk to him. Quite reluctantly he cautiously opened the door and let me in. He immediately closed the kitchen door and locked it. As he turned around he had a long barrel colt 45 pistol aimed at me. He said, "Buddy you better not try to pull any funny business on me, or you will be a dead man!" I almost had a heart attack from fright, I thought to myself, how in the hell did I get myself into this predicament. My fellow firefighters were close by, in the back yard, just outside the kitchen door. Unfortunately they would be little help as the door was locked and the pistol was pointed directly at me.

The man who appeared to be in his early 70's was a tall skinny man, about 6 foot 4 inches tall and maybe 160 pounds. He had a fine trimmed mustache and goatee. He reminded me of the early Spanish hero in Miguel Cervantes famous novel, "Don Quixote." He identified himself as Dr. Smiley, UNM Professor of History. Again, He asked who I was and wanted to see my identification. I showed him my driver's license and my fire department photo identification card. Of course I was wearing my official fire department blue uniform and my Lieutenant's dress hat, and the shiny breast badge.

Still pointing the gun directly at me he said rather loudly, "Are you an Imposter?" I said, no sir, I am not an imposter. You can see the fire trucks outside and the firemen in your back yard. It would be quite a feat for an imposter to round up that many fire trucks with red lights and all those firemen in uniform just to pose as an imposter." Finally he put the gun down, sat at the kitchen table and invited me to sit down with him.

He said, "son, I am scared and am fearful for my life. That is why I am so skeptical as to who you are. I hope you understand why I took so many precautions to identify you and to determine your purpose for visiting me. Neighborhood kids have been setting these fires. I can identify them if you brought them here but I do not know their names or where they live. When I saw them in the back they threatened me and said they would set my house on fire and kill me if I talked to the cops."

I wrote all the information down in my note pad, and thanked him for talking to me. I assured him we would be on the look out for the neighborhood kids. Later I called the police officers and made a report. With in a few days the fires ceased and we never heard any more about vandalism by neighborhood kids.

Later that night when all was quiet back at the fire station, I said a prayer and thanked God for saving me from Professor, "Don Quixote." That was a memorable experience and after 51 years I think about it from time to time and get a chuckle about it. Sometimes I have a bad dream that the Professor is chasing me with that long barreled pistol and then I wake up relieved that it was only a dream.

June Meeting - On June 14, 2017 the 202 nd monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bill Raupfer @ 7:08 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance Deacon Santos Abeyta conducted the opening prayer.

A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members who answered their last alarm. Roll call: Vice President, Bill Raupfer, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, Historian, Herman Bishop President Kerry Horton was absent due to his vacation in Alaska.

Our guest speaker was Damian Lara, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Congressional seat which will be vacated when Congress woman Michelle Lujan Grishom runs for Governor on the Democratic ticket. Although our association does not endorse political candidates, we do allow them to visit and to speak at our monthly meetings. Mr. Lara asked our retiree's to support him in the upcoming election.

At June's monthly meeting we had the election of officers for the AFD retiree's association. Vice President, Mike Murphy, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, Historian, Herman. As the candidates ran un-opposed a motion was made by Joe Martinez to elect all three officers by acclamation. The motion was seconded by John Serino. The motion passed. The officers will be sworn in at the July meeting and will serve two year terms.

The president's report was given by Sam Trujillo for Kerry Horton who was on vacation. Sam led a birthday celebration for our oldest retiree Florinio Sanchez who is 91 years old. Retired firefighters, friends and family joined in the celebration to wish Florinio a happy birth day. IAFF President, Diego Arancon, Local 244, has requested retirees donate to the PAC fund (Political Action Committee). Sam reported that Clifford Bessom who suffered severe injuries in a recent motorcycle accident is recovering and improving daily. He is expected to go home within a short time. Our best wishes go to Clifford.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report. A motion to accept was made by Toby Pino and was seconded by Eugene Baldonado. The motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. Currently our Treasury is in the black and Sam gave a big thanks to all our members who donated during our recent annual fund drive. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by L.C. Trujillo and was seconded by Joe Martinez. The motion carried.

Herman Bishop gave the historian's report. He shared a few humorous stories he experienced during his career. (See Herman's story "The Imposter," which will appear in the September 1, 2017 newsletter.) Herman heard from our friend Pat McCarthy, retired Wisconsin firefighter who associated with us during the past few years. He now lives in Arizona and sends his best regards to members of our association.

Our best wishes go to our members on the sick roster: Ray Flores, Cliff Bessom, Clark Gray, Jerry Barboa and Florinio Sanchez. The raffle for the June meeting was won by: Toby Pino, Fred Casias and Donnie Sanchez. Eddie Abeita and Ralph Sedillo send a big thanks to all members who faithfully support our monthly raffle fund raisers.

The closing prayer was led by brother Juan Sandoval. The June meeting was adjourned @ 8:50 P.M.

"he pulled out a knife and the rumble was on"

The Michael Murphy Story Abeita

by Eddie

Michael started his career with Albuquerque Fire Department September 02, 1986. While in fire training, the academy staff consisted of Assistant Chief Robert Otero, Captain George Nichols, Lieutenant Melvin Vigil, Driver Eddie Abeita and Phil Candelaria EMT Instructor.



Michael said, being retired I sometimes run into my old fellow cadets, we start to reminisce about our academy days and sometimes about our old friends. My first field assignment was December 22, 1986 @ station four; we worked Christmas and New Years Eves. I remember roll call New Years Eve, the District Chief said "gentlemen at midnight I do not want to hear horns or sirens going off"! Yes sir said all the firefighters with a grin. Well at midnight it happened, all the lights, horns and sirens went off from the fire trucks in the apparatus room which lasted about 30 seconds and a second later everyone disappeared from the apparatus room. Before shift change that morning in the kitchen drinking coffee, the chief said; Murphy I heard it was you who hit the sirens at midnight? Being the rookie I got nervous but said; Chief I was there but I don't know how to work the siren and it could have been anyone. No one came to my defense but then laughter broke out, they set me up with the chief, what a prank.

One particular shift I was on Rescue Four with Lt. Jim Tuma and Driver Tom Tucker we were dispatched to a MVA (motor vehicle accident). Upon arrival we saw that a car hit a telephone pole head on. We started working to get the victim out of the car when all of a sudden he reached into his pocket pulled out drugs and attempted to swallow them, Tom grabbed his head to turn it so he could not put the drugs in his mouth suddenly *he pulled out a knife and the rumble was on*, us three trying to keep the knife from cutting us and drugs away from his mouth. Lucky APD arrived shortly and *jumped right on top of him* turned him over, handcuffed him, stood him up and placed him in the police car. Jim Tuma told the officer I think we should check him but the police officer said we

know this guy, first to jail then if he needs help we will call you OK Jim said still breathing hard eyes like a deer in a spotlight, from the encounter.

While assigned to Engine Two, a neighbor who was excited came to the station and asked the officer to get her cat down from her roof. The officer calmed her down and said the cat will come down on its own when it gets hungry and also we don't rescue cats anymore the fire service got out of that business. However the lady persisted in an emotional way that the officer finally said OK. We placed our 24 foot extension ladder to the roof of her house and you know the next order; Murphy go rescue the cat so here I go up the ladder. I grabbed the cat

The Michael Murphy Story continued
Abeita

by Eddie

it was scared so I talked to the cat, trying to relax him. With cat in hand we started to climb down the ladder, seemed like the cat came to life and his claws locked into my arm felt like a mad pit bull on my arm, my reaction was getting them claws off my arm, I flung that cat in the air so high and fast it looked like he was shot out of a cannon. When he hit the ground it was on all 4 paws. The crew kept laughing and said Murphy you are our hero!

Michael said, I guess my brother and I have followed our dad's footsteps Lt. Robert Murphy in becoming firefighters. He was called by his last name Murphy and was known for his large hands. During the 1973 AFD strike we were young but my dad had us walking the picket line daily. My dad retired April 1985 and died December 2000 of heart attack. I was on duty at station 7 when the call came in; the station knew it was our dad's home. Upon arrival the station crew worked hard on my dad all the way to the Heart Hospital where he was pronounced by the Emergency Room Doctor. The loss was big but the comfort I felt about my brother firefighters working on my dad, they never gave up, which I will always be thankful.

I feel good being an active member of our Retirees Association, when asked I immediately became part of our AFD Retirees Honor Guard Michael said. One particular year we had 12 or 14 retiree's funerals. I guess at first I felt bummed out or some would say stressed out (it was just a sad feeling). I knew some of these retirees personally and some just by name from stories told about them.

Attending retirees meeting is almost like a social event I can tell you the camaraderie is alive and well said Michael. Bill Raupher was the last AFDRA Vice President at the end of his term he elected not to run for office again sighting health concerns. Bill contacted me and encouraged me to fill the VP position he said, Mike you would do good as the VP, so I felt I would give it a shot and do my best, deep down I knew my brother retirees would guide me until I caught on, so I accepted the VP position.

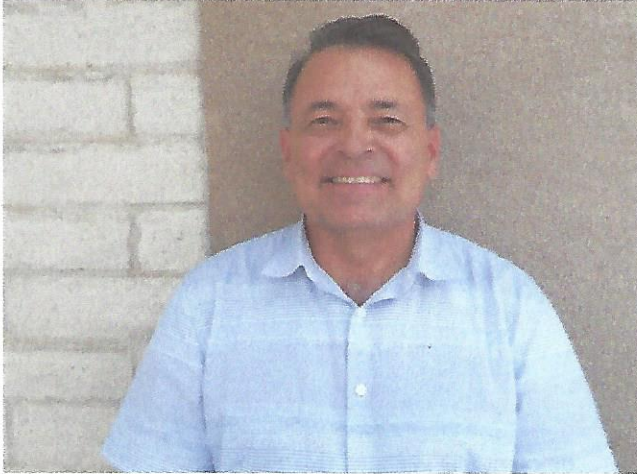
Michael said one evening I told my daughter Danette if anything were to happen to me (death) here are all my papers kept in this drawer especially the *Check List for AFD Retirees*. She said why do you tell me this, about your papers in this particular drawer, nothing is going to happen to you? I said stories from Sam Trujillo about *some* retiree's families trying to plan for a retiree's funeral has been confusion for them not knowing what the retiree's last wishes were. With the Check List it's a quick snap shop to help guide the family with arrangements.

Today I enjoy watching my 10 month old twin granddaughters grow they were born preemies. At birth Evangeline weighed 4 pounds 5 ounces and now weighs 16 pounds. Zariah weighed 3 pounds 5 ounces and now weighs 14 pounds, they are getting there. Currently my daughter Danette is a stay at home mother keeping close eyes on the twins but someday would like to return back to work at Health Care for the Homeless. My son-in-law Daniel is looking to work with Albuquerque Ambulance however I will try and get him to apply with AFD. We like to do family things like stroll around the Rail Yard Market or the Fair Grounds Flea Market and do some swimming as a family.

The Morris Gutierrez Story Abeita

by Eddie

Morris started his career with AFD August 20, 1982 as a fire cadet. The training division staff consisted of Assistant Chief Ted Allred, Lt. Art Loera and Driver Melvin Vigil.



Morris said I remember my old cadet days and things that happened, which would always turn into a learning experience or what you would call, "lesson learned". All cadets had responsibilities assigned to them such as cleaning toilets, emptying trash cans, mop the floors or put up or take down the flag.. One day the cadet assigned did not take down the flag. So the next day oh boy we heard about it, the class assembled in front of the flag pole and we apologize to the flag. The apology went like this; *Sorry Mr. Flag for Leaving you out in the Dark all Night*. Lt. Mel Vigil barked at us and said; what have we been telling you about working as a team? When you go out to the field you take care of your fire station including taking down the flag if assigned to do so. You have responsibilities just like taking care of your safety equipment, like your helmet that protects your brain, it's darn important, you might not think so, but it is.... OK lesson learned!

Another incident, one day a cadet was caught spitting on one of the floors of the drill tower. We thought oh-no it's going to be the old lesson learned again. The question what was going to happen or what are we going to encounter, it was like waiting for a prostrate exam. Lt. Loera told us to bring a toothbrush to class the next day. At roll call Lt. Loera asked; did you bring your toothbrushes today? Everyone said yes sir, except me, I said I forgot mine at home, but I have this hair brush that was in my car I raised it to show him, after a brief look he said use it. So we went to the drill tower and started to scrub the stairs and the floors from top to bottom. Lt. Loera said now all those germs from the spit are gone and dead so you won't have to worry about touching the drill tower and taking them germs home to your family. At the end of the day Lt. Loera told us; "don't use that tooth brush tomorrow morning to brush your teeth, except Gutierrez he can use his brush on his hair!

My first assignment after cadet graduation was at station 15 "A" platoon, boy we had a crew made up of; Henry Geofrion Kenny Elvis, Phil Carlson, Fred Reese, Don Fuqua and Billy Mora. I liked to cook especially Mexican Food most of the time which all enjoyed. One day I changed the menu and started to make a meat loaf, Billy Mora looked at the hamburger meat and said; I don't eat this stuff but grabbed a chunk of raw hamburger meat and ate it in front of everyone, someone yelled out, look he is part cannibal. I was cutting hair at this time, so the guys would ask me for a cut and of course fireman discount which was like an IOU. Henry Geofrion asked me to do a perm behind closed doors. The troops wanted to see his curls, just luck we got a call and Henry came out with his helmet on hiding the curlers, you look cute & sexy they said.

Morris Gutierrez Story continued

by Eddie

Abeita

One famous hair cut I did do was with Ted Knee hair but can't remember if it was Teds idea or someone put me up to cutting his sideburns so he would look like Mister Spock.

Morris said my first taste of having no seniority was sending me to another platoon and station which was platoon "C" station 3. At station 3 some of the personnel were Captain Joe Parra, Sip Romero, Ray Candelaria, Tino Maestas, Leroy Barboa, Tony Mancha, Joe G Hernandez, Jerry Barboa and Phil Gutierrez they were all great. After meeting Sip I thought now I knew all of the Romero brothers, however at a retirees meeting I met another brother Zak Romero that turned out to be the only Romero I did not know, it only took 30 plus years to get them all.



I am currently working on a firefighter memorial project that I started after the death of our brother firefighter Zeke Hernandez Morris said. Zeke had a chronic illness and required treatments and long hospital stays. When he did return home he knew his house needed work, it was lucky that Mark Chavez with Random Acts of Kindness came to the rescue. Several retired and active firefighters volunteered to help spruce up Zeke's house. This included a lot of house painting and work in the front part of the house.

There was a flag pole in the front yard that was in the way of work being performed, so it was removed and placed in the backyard on the ground to be reinstalled at a later date. Work was completed and just 2 weeks later Zeke expired. Later on Zeke's wife contacted me and offered me the flag pole which was still in the same location where we left it. It was wonderful to have, but where do I place it? I finally decided to place the flag pole on my business property COSMOS HAIR CONCEPTS 2721 San Mateo Blvd NE. This would be a centralized location. What came to mind was the flag pole at Engine 7 on 47th street NW, over the years firefighters scratched their initials into the pole. Now I thought, *pay tribute to all our deceased firefighters*. The vision is to have our deceased firefighters name on a tag and secured on the Zeke Flag Pole with a memorial plaque attached to the base of the pole. With the help of Pablo Garcia and Mike Fox, this project will be completed in the near future I welcome all firefighters, family and friends to view and visit the flag pole anytime.

Morris retired from AFD 2002 however still not fully retired, Morris said, I operate my business Cosmos Hair Concepts and my wife Geraldine is also employed at Stone Flooring here in Albuquerque. We have 2 daughters, Shuri who lives in California with our grandson Jonathan. Our daughter Roberta has 2 daughters Mia and Emma. Geraldine and I define "*quality time*" as spending it with family but mainly with our grandkids.

July Meeting- The monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on July 12, 2017 at the firefighter's union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. The meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton @ 7:09 P. M. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members who answered their last alarm. Roll Call- President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Bill Raupfer absent due to illness. Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, Historian, Herman Bishop.

Our guest speaker was Brian Colon candidate for Albuquerque Mayor. He asked for support from our members. Although we do not endorse political candidates we do allow them to make presentations to our retirees.

Retiree Morris Gutierrez made a presentation about a memorial flagpole he is erecting at his business, Cosmos Hair and Nail Salon, 2721 San Mateo NE, in memory of deceased firefighters and the display will have names of our deceased members.

President's Report- Kerry Horton gave us a summary of his two month's long vacation in Canada and Alaska. He said he had a great vacation. He thanked Vice President Bill Raupfer and Treasurer Sam Trujillo for managing the affairs of our association during his absence. The newly elected officers of our association were sworn by President Kerry Horton. They were: Vice President Mike Murphy, Treasurer Sam Trujillo and Historian, Herman Bishop. The officers will serve two year terms.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report. A motion to accept was made by L.C. Trujillo and was seconded by Toby Pino. The motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. A motion to accept was made by Toby Pino and was seconded by Ray Flores. The Motion carried. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. He was contacted by the children of former firefighter Larry Gallegos asking for photos and information about their father. Lindsey Gallegos lives in Albuquerque and Laura Michelle lives in Tampa, Florida. Herman sent photos of their father, his employment record card and a brief story about Larry Gallegos. Larry joined AFD in 1948 and worked off and on through 1963. He did not retire from AFD. After leaving the department in 1963 he made a career at the U.S. Post Office. He passed away during 2015 at the age of 90. He was a World War II veteran, served in the U.S. Marines, in Okinawa and was in the battle of Guadalcanal. Laura Michelle sent a nice donation to support the AFD Retiree's Association.

Eddie Abeita reminded us that the AFD Retiree's Picnic will be held on August 19, 2017 @ 11:00 A.M. at Rotary Park, downtown, Bernalillo, N.M. Retiree's and their families are cordially invited and there is no admission fee, however, donations are accepted. Wednesday's raffle was won by: Bernie Martinez, E.V. Marquez, and Jose Salas. Closing prayer was led by L.C. Trujillo. Adjournment @ 8:44 P.M.



Florinio Sanchez, 91st Birthday
On June 6, 2017 a birthday celebration was held for our oldest retiree, Florinio Sanchez who was 91 years old. He was honored by friends, family and fellow retirees. A beautiful birthday cake with ice cream was served. Attending were retirees: Sam Trujillo, John Serino, Jose Salas, Eugene Baldonado, Dave Villeneuve, Fred Teupell, Eddie Torres, Manuel Aragon.
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FLORINIO !"

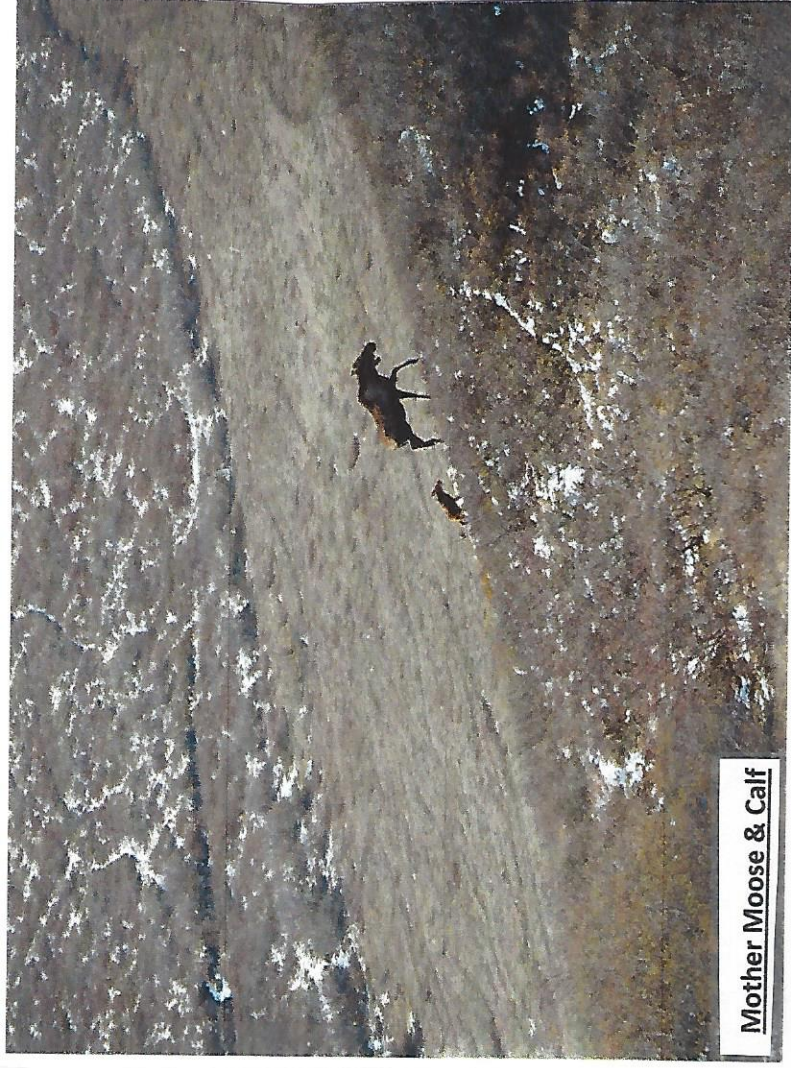
As many of you know, I recently returned from a 60-day journey through parts of Canada and Alaska. During the trip, I kept a journal so that I could remember what I did and saw. Herman has asked me to share some of my adventure with all of you, so here is an excerpt from the journal that covers my time in Denali National Park.

ALASKA 2017
BY KERRY HORTON

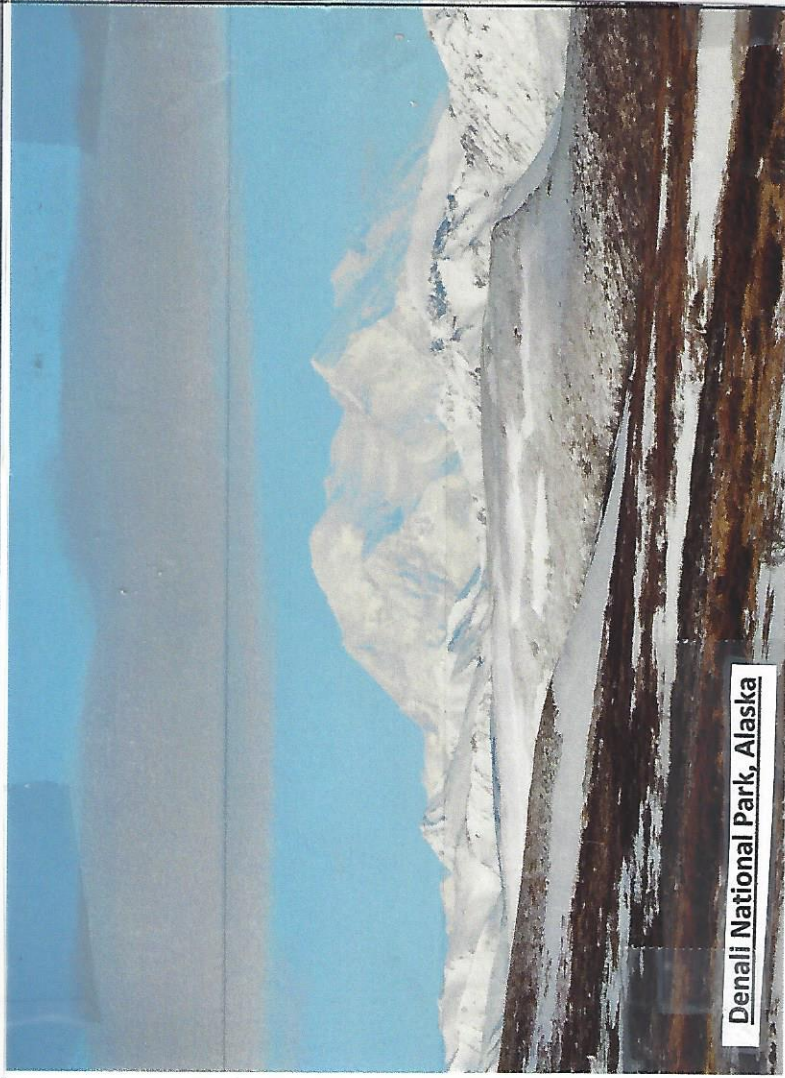
Day 32, May 31st Denali NP, Ak.

What a fantastic first day in Denali. The sun was shining bright this morning and it has been a while since I've seen sunshine in Alaska. After breakfast, I packed my camera bag and lunch for a day on the bus. The bus stop is less than a quarter mile from my camp, and is scheduled to arrive at 8:10. By the time it arrives, there are about ten of us from the campsite waiting. The driver opens the door and says that he can only take those with reserved seating, and that was me. The rest had to wait for a later bus, as I probably will tomorrow, because I could only reserve a seat once. The bus is packed, but we are all there for the same reason, and everyone is friendly, and packed in. The driver is a 40 ish guy with a very gravely, monotone voice, but he is knowledgeable and entertaining. Today the buses only go to a rest stop that is 53 miles into the park, I got on at mile 30. Tomorrow they will open the road to mile 66, and on June 8th, all the way to the lodge at mile 80.

The driver stops the bus any time we see wildlife, and there are two scheduled stops to look around for a few minutes before re-boarding and continuing to the next stop. At any time, you can request to be dropped off, hike around, and flag down a later bus on it's route. Today I got some great shots of a momma and baby moose, Mt. Denali in the far distance, and a lot of Dal Sheep on the way to Toklat rest area, where we must turn around.



Mother Moose & Calf



Denali National Park, Alaska

I remember on day 24 when Sandi and I were here taking pictures of a mountain and I said that I did not think it was Mt. Denali. I was right, Mt. Denali is a very impressive snow and glacier covered mountain that I have only seen from 50 miles away. My hope tomorrow is to see it from 33 miles, if the weather allows. My views today made for a very stark contrast, the mountains in the foreground are about 5 miles away and show brilliant white snow. Denali, in the background, and about 50 miles away, appears almost yellow due to viewing the snow pack through 50 miles of atmosphere. I hope tomorrow the views will be brighter and without so much cover in the foreground. Another observation today is that my assumption of Denali being primarily a forested park is untrue. All forested parts end by about mile 40 then it is a brushy desert with snowcapped mountains. You think that you are at least 15,000 feet in altitude, but in fact are only 3000 feet. Very different up here compared to the Rockies and our own Sandia's.

On the drive back, the bus is not nearly as full, many people staying to hike around and wait for another bus. I debated doing the same, but I had an issue to address back at camp. My refrigerator has quit working on propane, and without electricity here, I am relying on my ice chest. Not a major setback, but I want to get back and see if I can get it working. Thank you refrigerator, because on the drive back, we see a Grizzly Bear meandering down the road. This is probably the same Grizzly that has been reported around my camp site, and it is probably the same one some of us saw this morning at our first stop just a mile away from my camp. The bear we saw this morning was far away, and down in a riverbed, so nobody could photograph it. As we were approaching the Teklanika rest area, there it was, just parading down the road. At one point, the bear was corralled between two busses, but that didn't faze it a bit. We were eventually able to get close enough that I could get some good shots. I am pleased with the day.



Dal Sheep



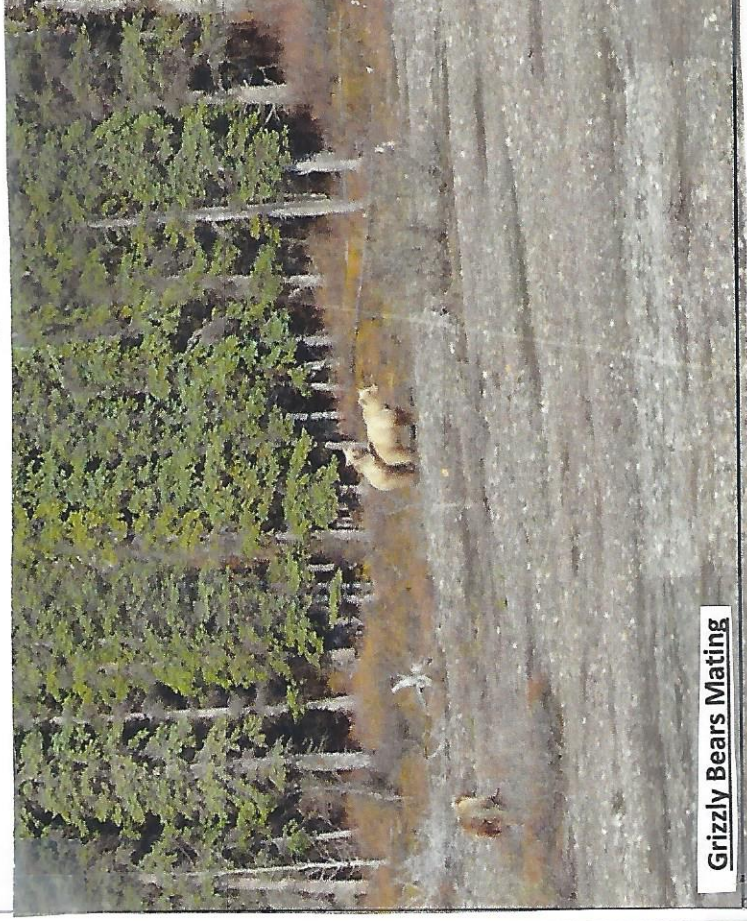
Grizzly Bear Caught Between Two Buses

Back at camp, the day got better. As I was working on the refrigerator, I needed someone inside the trailer to work the igniter button on the refrigerator control panel while I looked at the access door outside to see what was going on with the actual igniter. A gentleman, David, who was one of the people that could not get a seat on the bus this morning, walked by and I asked if he could help me for a minute. Between us, we were able to get the flame to light for a minute, but it would just die out. I thanked him for his help, and he went back to loading up his camp. He had been here a week and was continuing to his next destination. He and his wife were on a four-month trip pulling an Airstream. After he left, I pulled apart the igniter and burner to the extent that I could, and it had a lot of carbon buildup. All I could do was bang on it like a caveman to knock the carbon free and put it back together. Sometimes a hammer does fix the problem, for now anyway. The refrigerator has been working nicely for a few hours now. I'm sure this is an issue that will need to be properly addressed at some point. Before David left, he gave me a never used 5-gallon propane tank that he said he bought as a reserve to his two 10 gallon tanks. David said that he was tired of securing it in the back of his truck, and that I could just have it. I tried to pay him \$40, but he said to just pay it forward.

Day 33, June 1st, Denali Np, AK. - Today was such a tremendous day, I don't know where to start. Since it started and ended with two bears, I guess I'll start there. Apparently last night, near where I saw the grizzly yesterday afternoon, and about a half mile from my camp, bears took down a moose calf. As many as five bears have been reported in the area feeding on the carcass, so the Rangers put a hike and bike restriction for several miles around my camp. No worries, I walk to the bus stop outside of camp, and jump on the 8:10 bus to Eielson Visitor Center, about 31 miles west of camp. Today is the opening day for this part of the park, and I will only be about 33 miles from Mount Denali. At our first stop the Teklanika rest area - I see three bears down in the river bed. Unfortunately, they are far away, and I must max out the zoom for a good view. As I, and everyone else, was holding the bears in frame thru our view finders, two of the bears start mating. Now there are about 30 bear pornographers standing on the observation deck at the rest stop. On our way to Eielson, we see two more bears scavenging for food at two different locations.



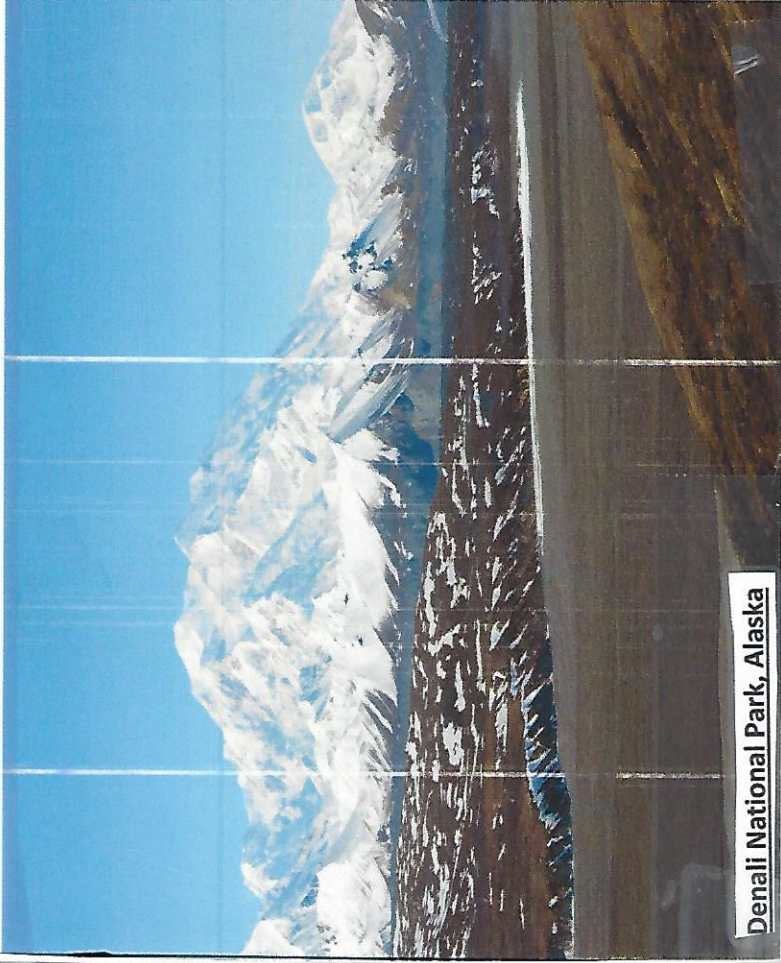
Grizzly Bear Strolling



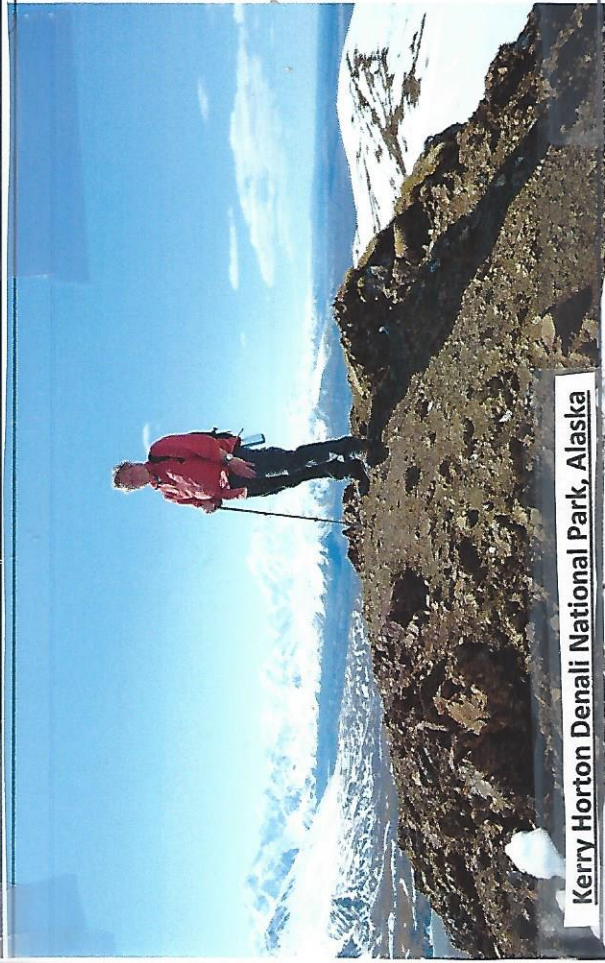
Grizzly Bears Mating

The bus arrived at Eielson shortly after 11 AM, and the views of Mt. Denali are great. It is said that only about 30% of Denali visitors can see Denali in all its grandeur due to clouds that cover the mountain most of the time. At over 20 thousand feet, and multiple glaciers covering the mountain, it apparently makes it's own weather patterns, and is frequently covered in the clouds. Yesterday, and today, the skies have been very clear, and bright and blue. The visitor center offered great views, but the Rangers said that the best views are on Alpine mountain. A one mile, 900 foot ascension hike. I eat lunch, and start up the trail around noon. The trail is well defined, but steep in places and as I got to the top, there were some snow fields over the trail. I was not alone on the hike, as many people wanted the best view of Mt. "Denali. At the very top, there was a 15 foot wall of snow that you had to scale. This was the first day the trail had been open this year - I'm here at noonish - and already there are footholds kicked into the snow wall. This made scaling the wall, and lifting yourself over the edge to reach the flat top, a lot easier. The views were spectacular, and everyone traded off cameras to get pictures of themselves with Denali in the background.

It is now about 2:10 and I start my decent. Going down is slipperier, but faster. When I got about a third of the way down a young couple yells that there is a bear above us. Sure enough, about 75 yards to my left, there is a momma bear and two cubs. Momma bear is busy digging in the ground and throwing dirt and rocks down the hill, with the two cubs trying to help, and learn momma's technique. I feel safe, so I remove my camera back pack and switch to my zoom lens. I stand there for a few minutes shooting pictures and having the time of my life. I asked the couple how they spotted it, and they said they saw it when a Ranger on the trail started yelling at them to get away from the area. That's when I looked up and saw a ranger getting upset that we were so close, and he was waving for us to get away A.S.A.P. This ended up being a pretty big event, as the Rangers shut down the trail. The couple and I were the last ones allowed down the regular trail, but there was about twelve people still at the top. Rangers from the visitor center made quick time up the top, and escorted the twelve down the mountain away from the bears. This mountain is only covered in short brush and tundra, so the whole episode was easy to view from the visitor center.



Denali National Park, Alaska



Kerry Horton Denali National Park, Alaska

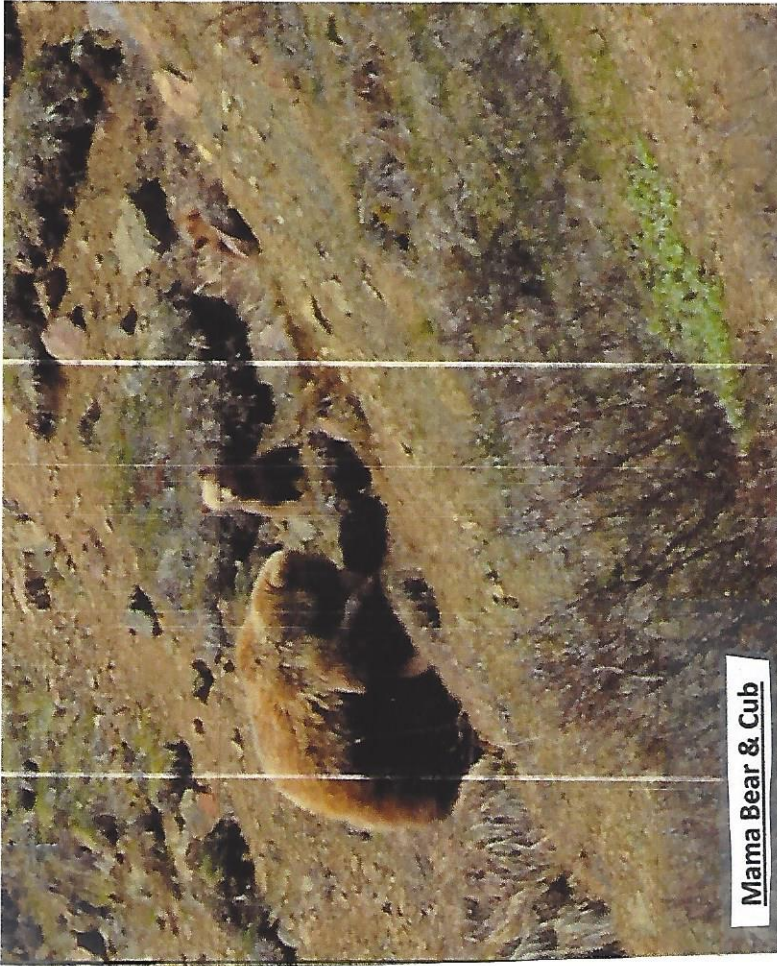
We obeyed the Ranger and headed down away from the bears, and that's when I noticed about a hundred people down there looking up at the bears, and the three of us. I'm glad we did not become National News, but I got some great pictures.

I get on a bus heading back around 3:15. Everyone on the bus is tired from a full day, and a lot of people fall asleep on the bumpy ride back. That is until someone sees a bear. We saw three more bears on the way back to my exit at the campground, I have no idea if they saw more on the rest of the trip to the park entrance. The last bear we saw was cleaning up the remnants of the moose calf. It was on the roadside gnawing on bones and licking it's chops. I got some great photos They still have the hiking and biking restriction up, so I exit the bus, walk back to camp, and think about the wonderful last day I've had in Denali National Park.

It's about ten in the evening, and I'm sitting by my campfire. The sun still has not set. My neighbor comes over and introduces himself. Dan is from Montana but spent his school age years in Clovis. His wife has gone to bed, and he wasn't tired, so we talk about 45 minutes before he decides he better get home. The interesting part of this evening is the small creatures that invaded the camp. Snowshoe hares, ground squirrels, and gray jays are everywhere. The squirrels were fighting and chasing each other, often running under our chairs and in between our legs, while the hares just hopped into and out of camp munching on the short grasses. The jays would land as close as three feet from us. They call the jays "camp robbers." I guess they will steal anything you leave around that they think is food. It is amazing how close these critters will get to you if you ignore them.

END

Photos For This Article
By: Kerry Horton



Mama Bear & Cub



Bear Feeding on Moose Carcass

Random Acts of Kindness Project

By Kerry Horton

As you all know from the Sick Call notifications, retired Battalion Commander Clark Gray, has had some medical issues that have made it necessary for him to use a wheel chair for mobility. His home was not accessible for a wheel chair, so Random Acts of Kindness stepped up and resolved the problem. Under the guidance of AFDRA Chaplin Mark Chavez, a group of retirees came together on July 25th and built ramps approaching both the front and back doors of Clark's house. Clark's wife June, and daughter Niki, were great hosts, providing breakfast burritos and cold drinks for all the workers.

Ten people showed up and made quick work of the project. As I already stated, Mark Chavez was there to lead the project, and thankfully, no one was injured this time, right Mark. Others that were there included, Mike McKinstry, Craig Lake, Larry Trujillo, Carlos Romero and his son Evan, John Serino, Herman Bishop, BCFD FF John Willgohe, and myself. Unfortunately, Clark could not be there as he was still in the hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery, and all our thoughts are with Clark and his family.



August Meeting - On August 9, 2017 the 204 th monthly meeting of the AFD retiree's association was held at the firefighter's union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:09 P.M. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Louis C. Trujillo. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call - President Kerry Horton, Vice President Mike Murphy, Absent, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, Historian Herman Bishop.

Kerry Horton welcomed retiree John Barnum who recently moved back to Albuquerque after living several years in Florida. "Welcome home John !" Our guest speaker for the evening was Dan Mayfield, Board Member of the Public Employee's Association (PERA). Dan is a friend of the firefighter's and gave a positive report on activities at PERA. The fiscal year ended recently with a good and strong economic report.

Kerry reported that the firefighter's museum at the Fire Academy has been updated and there are lots of new exhibits. He invited members of our association to take time to visit and see all the new additions. Due to the absence of Fred Casias Herman Bishop read the July minutes. A motion to accept was made by Eddie Abeita and was seconded by Bernie Martinez. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. He is working with the picnic committee to set up funding for the picnic supplies, and food. Sam reported that active duty firefighter John Melia is running for the PERA board. John needs our support. A motion was made by Ray Flores to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Toby Pino. The motion carried. Herman gave the historian's report. He thanked Frank Maestas for all the great door prizes he donated for the picnic. He commended Kerry Horton for the fine article he submitted for the September newsletter about his Alaska trip.

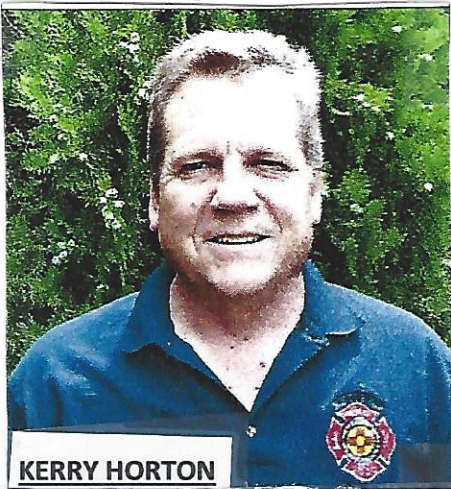
Eddie Abeita reported that the retiree's annual picnic/reunion is set for August 19th @ 11:00 AM, Rotary Park, Bernalillo, New Mexico. Members and their families are invited. There is no charge, however, donations are gladly accepted.

Sick Call - Bill Raupfer is still in the VA hospital due to a colonoscopy procedure. Tobias Pino is recovering from knee surgery. Fred Teupell is home recovering from recent surgery. Clark Gray is still in the hospital. Our best wishes go to our sick members and we pray for a quick recovery for all of them. The Wednesday raffle was won by: E.V. Marquez, Marvin Gouch, and Toby Pino.

The closing prayer was led by Louis Trujillo. The meeting adjourned @ 8:30 PM.

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Albuquerque NM
Permit No 1322



President's Message

Kerry Horton

Hello everyone, well here it is, already September. The kids and grandkids are back in school, our summer vacations are just an unpaid bill on our credit card statement, and the fun we had at the annual picnic is just a memory. Now it's time to start thinking about cold weather and raking leaves. Seriously though, I hope all of you had a great summer, and were able to spend it with family and friends.

The best thing that the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association does is gives us the ability to keep in touch with each other, our Fire Family. Whether it is the monthly meetings, the picnic and Christmas dinner, or just the e-mail communications, the AFDRA allows us to keep in touch. When we retired, some of us went on to new jobs and careers, some of us took on grandkid responsibilities, and some of us moved far away from Albuquerque. What we did after retirement is as diversified as our individual careers were in AFD. What those founding members of the AFDRA created in 2000 has allowed all of us to remain close to our Fire Family, no matter where our retirement has led us.

Every month, we have great turnout at the meetings, and the picnic and Christmas dinner is always a big success. Where we are failing is in getting our younger retirees to get involved. Our founding members have been the heart and soul of the E-Board, and the organizational structure of this association. We cannot give them enough credit for what they have created, but what we need to give them is a break. It is time for the rest of us to step up and carry on what they have started. Helping this association continue is simply a commitment of a few hours a month. Most of the E-Board positions can be handled with less than 8 hours of your time a month. Getting involved in the picnic, election, and Christmas dinner committees is only a commitment of a few hours a year. The point is, is that if more of us get involved in the association, then no one person is overworked. Just like humping a heavy fire hose through a building, it is always easier when we all put a hand in the effort.

So, let's see some new faces at the meetings, and volunteering on the committees, and maybe even stepping up to be on the E-Board. Our founding members could certainly use the break. Be safe, and stay healthy my Fire Family.