

AFD RETIREE NEWS

- PUBLISHED BY THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

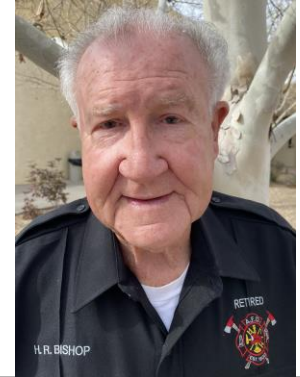
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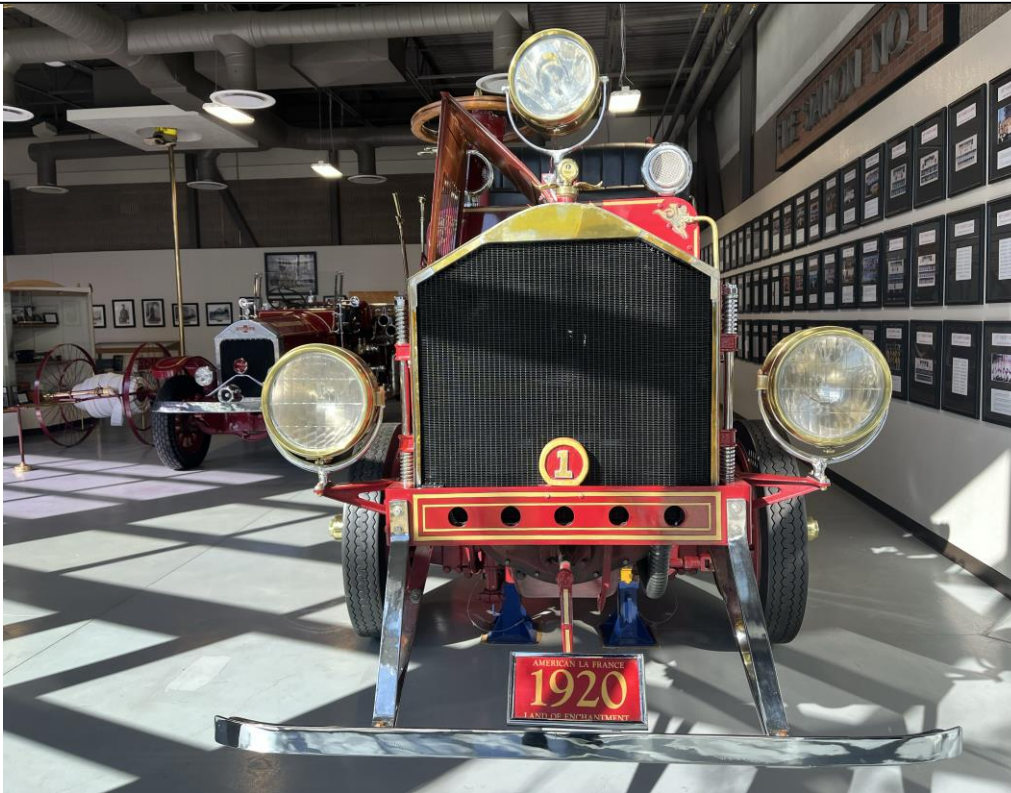
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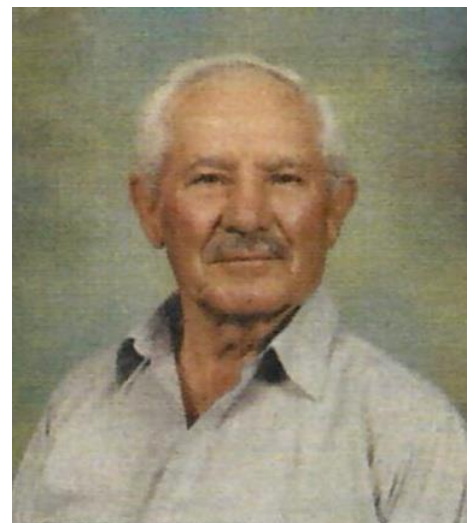


ANTIQUE LADDER TRUCK – pictured here is Albuquerque's 1920 American La France 75 foot aerial ladder truck displayed at the fire Museum, 11,500 Sunset Garden S.W. The truck was accepted in June, 1920 and was housed at fire station number one, second Street and Tijeras N.W. for 26 years and was retired in 1946. During the annual report 1915 submitted by fire chief Jacob Klein, he proposed that the City purchase a ladder truck. After many years of service the truck was replaced by a new 1947 Seagrave 75 foot aerial ladder truck. (See story on page 3 of this newsletter)

Minutes March 22

Minutes March 2022 - On March 9, 2022 the 259th meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He led members in the Pledge of Allegiance and brother Morris Guterrez led us in our opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in honor of our deceased members. We remembered our two brothers Gene Padilla and Jose Luna who passed away in February, 2022. Roll Call — President Kerry Horton, Vice President Pablo Garcia Jr., Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman R. Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo. Secretary Fred Casias was absent. Kerry asked for a motion to suspend reading the February, 2022 minutes. Fred Teupell made a motion to suspend reading the minutes and Bill Raupfer seconded the motion. Motion passed. President's Report — Kerry congratulated Historian Herman Bishop on receiving honors, and a special award of, "Exemplary Service," as the department's Historian at the AFR'S Promotions and Recognition Ceremonies on February 28, 2022. Fellow retiree's offered their congratulations to Herman as well. Herman said, "Indeed I am humbled and honored to receive this prestigious award from my fellow firefighters and retirees." Kerry also recognized Herman for the historic photos and displays he has prepared for the Fire Museum exhibits. Kerry thanked retiree Ahren Griego for the two AFD 1880's photos he donated. Ahren collected the photos from the movie set, Better Call Saul," used in background scenes. The historic archives of our association (photos, stories, etc.) continue growing. Kerry asked members to approve \$1500.00 so we can build a professional grade storage shed to store and protect our collection. A motion was made by Louis Trujillo to construct a shed and the motion was seconded by Eddie Abeita. Members approved. Kerry advised that our IAFF Local 244 Union President, Justin Chaney recently retired. Our hearty best wishes and congratulations are extended to Justin. Mike Fox gave the Treasurer's report. He gave a big round of thanks to our members who sent donations for the annual fund drive. He also gave a special thanks to members of our IAFF Local Union, 244 for their generous donations. Mike gave thanks to all who gave their support and donations to make our association strong. Historian Herman Bishop thanked members for their recognition and support for the work he is doing with our department's history. He is especially pleased with the photos, stories and items our retirees have donated to our Museum project. He thanked Mike For accepting his appointment as the assistant editor of our newsletter. His computer skills have proven invaluable to ensure the success of the quarterly newsletter. Kerry appointed Louis Trujillo to chair the nomination committee for this year's election for the positions of President and Secretary. Louie asked members to contact him and nominate people who are willing to serve in these positions. Best wishes and prayers go to our members on the sick roster: Carmen Gonzales, Danny Saavedra, John Serino, Eugene Baldanado and David Allarid. The raffle was won by: Noel Baca, Morris Guterrez, Ray Sedillo and Willie Telles. Morris Guterrez led the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Death Mariano Padilla — Regretfully we announce the death of our brother and fellow retired firefighter Mariano Padilla, age 96, who passed away on April 4, 2022. He joined AFD on March 30, 1956 and after spending 25 years of faithful and dedicated service to the department and his community, he retired on July 1, 1981. He was promoted to driver on April 18, 1960 and spent most of his career driving the apparatus at Station one, Engine One, Ladder One and Rescue One. He was part of a family of firefighters. His Brothers Marvin and Victor Padilla joined their brother and made firefighting their career as well. We referred to them as the Padilla brothers and they were an asset to our department and were all well respected by their fellow firefighters. After retirement they served over twenty years with the Retired Firefighter's Association. Mariano was a pleasant and outgoing person and he always stood ready to teach the new firefighters the finer points of pump operations and fire truck driver safety. We will miss his great smile and friendly nature. Our sincere condolences and sympathies go out to the entire Padilla family.



AMERICAN LA FRANCE 1920 75 FOOT AERIAL LADDER TRUCK

(by Herman Bishop)

On April 19, 1915 Fire Chief Jacob Klein submitted his annual report to the City Council and recommended that the City purchase a 75 foot aerial ladder truck. When Fred Russell was Fire Chief in 1919 the City Commission approved \$20,000 to buy a 75 foot motor driven aerial ladder fire truck. It was manufactured in Elmira, New York at the American La France factory. The new ladder truck arrived in Albuquerque via the railroad during January, 1920.

The ladder truck was a tillered vehicle. It had a steering wheel in the front and a steering wheel in the back. It had a six cylinder engine, and four solid rubber tires. Included were four kerosine lanterns, and four rubber fire buckets. The siren was hand cranked by a fireman.

The first fire call answered by the new truck was on February 4, 1920 to the Economist store at 308 West Central Avenue. There was a small electrical fire and the firemen quickly extinguished it.

The truck was known as Ladder # 1 and was stationed downtown at station # 1 located at 2nd Street and Tijeras N.W. After 26 years service it was retired in 1946. In the late 1940's it was donated to the City of Moriarty, N.M. In the late 1950's it was acquired by the Longhorn Ranch (40 miles east of Albuquerque on 1-40) as a tourist attraction, east of Moriarty.

A gentleman who regularly drove between Albuquerque and Amarillo was fascinated by the old fire truck slowly deteriorating outside in the sun with no cover. Mr. Ross Speer was a security administrator for the old Atomic energy Commission in Albuquerque. First he worked for Sandia Labs and then for Pantex Nuclear Weapons assembly plant in Amarillo.

Mr. Speer acquired the truck, got it running and had lots of fun driving it about town, visiting neighbors and showing it off. After Mr. Speer died in 1977 his widow, Roberta Speer, offered the vehicle for sale to the City of Albuquerque. Mayor Ken Schultz and Fire Chief Gerald Grimm agreed on a price of \$7,500 and purchased the truck from Mrs. Speer.

Firefighter Ralph Sedillo was given the job along with Firefighter Pablo Garcia Jr. and Frank Apodaca, AFD maintenance, for the restoration. The City provided time and money for the job. Working from American La France catalogs, Sedillo and his crew used the City maintenance yards on 4th Street to turn the vintage truck into a restored masterpiece.

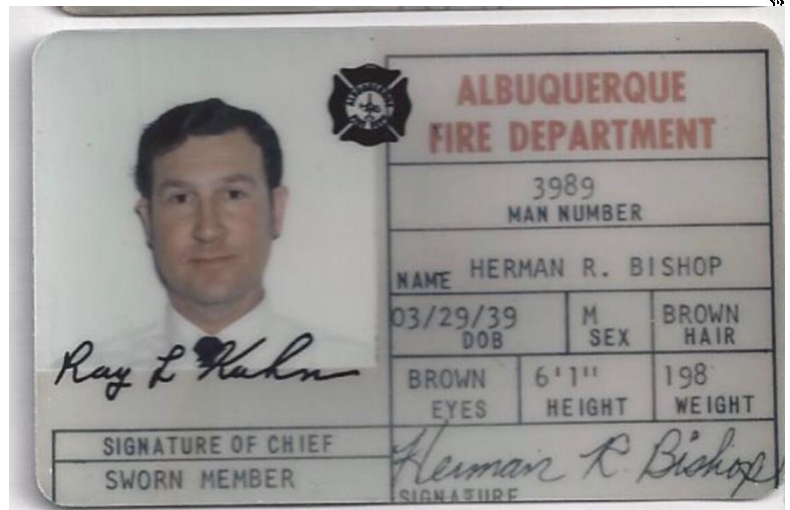
They had to fabricate new fenders, a steering wheel, reworked the motor, found new solid rubber tires, and gave the entire truck a snappy new red paint job. Ralph said, "there was no pep boys store or local parts store to find parts for the antique truck." The restoration crew led by Ralph Sedillo had to be creative and inventive to put it together. Now the truck is displayed at the fire museum, 11,500 Sunset Gardens S.W. by the Fire Academy.



Herman Bishop story

By Eddie Abeita

Jan 15, 1972, a new television series aired "Emergency 51" about the life of firefighters in Los Angeles County California. The casting was designed to show real fire station life with a senior officer (captain) in charge. If you thought the fire captain character would only be found in this Hollywood production,



believe me we know of one. Albuquerque's Fire Departments House Captain at station # 1 Herman Bishop mirrored this character. The term House Captain was used to describe the fire officer in charge of multiple fire companies assigned to one fire station. In the early days at fire station one there were a complement of two engines, one ladder and a rescue unit with minimum manpower assigned of 18 firefighters per shift. Herman held an executive business type look but the demeanor of a close family uncle. Prior to start of shift he gathers all pertinent information including briefing from the captain on the outgoing shift. A structured roll call is made with attentiveness and respect given by all, messages and daily activities are given with his final announcement as he would say the final thing, are you cooking today, Toby? Herman was a sincere friend to all but always maintained the level of person in charge. Herman would remind his officers to hold daily study classes per operating procedures but always hope(d) this would help subordinates in promotional exams.

Herman was promoted to Albuquerque Fire Marshall where it seemed fitting for him to head the office of code enforcement. His first week in FMO to insure he had things in order, Herman understood the mission of FMO he felt the daily activities of the office and staff should be understood first. He found the inspectors and their immediate supervisors were highly talented he also knew all have the heart and emotions of a "firefighter". Although Herman kept his finger on the pulse of the office operation he still believed in the chain of command. So, when a questionable item was brought to his attention Herman knew it could end being a high-profile situation. It was a code citation(s) that was involved in litigation with a business or another governmental entity. One thing Herman instilled was for his inspectors to have proper documentation. When Herman's direct involvement became relevant normally heading toward a legal battle he said its best to try and resolve an issue, but at this stage it was already a moot issue. At times our city legal department would get involved and this also meant the violators had their legal representatives involved and sometimes political contacts. So never a dull office! The fire chief had his thought of rotating his administrative staff which lead to Herman's next assignment as district chief and assigned to headquarter station at station four. Herman felt I

am back to where I started with, station life. This time a lot more personal involvement with many more firefighters at their stations. Although its all-firefighters responsibilities for safety, you are responsible for many crews who put their lives on the line daily. As district chief Herman had to deal with so many items including disciplinary actions of firefighters which is not a popular subject. However, I've kept in mind the words "disciplinary action" it is normally thought of as a negative. However the metaphor we remember, when you have lemons ,make lemon aid. So I have felt when you *have to* deal with disciplinary action we all can learn from it. It's never a popular outcome but should resolve the issue and create a learning experience for others. The action involved provides another step in better understanding of rules and regulations which could also springboard into updating or interpretation of a rule Herman said.

As district chief while in route to a fire incident Herman felt confident that his first in officers would make the right decision prior to his arrival. Herman said never try to run an emergency while in route to an incident but acknowledge their verbal size-up and needs. Although as chief you have control of the incident, you never take apart the first in officers' actions/decision just add on to what has transpired, build to mitigate the situation.

Herman always tried to promote the development of firefighters and prepare them for their next level. One morning at 4 AM, Herman's presence was requested by Albuquerque Police, a stolen vehicle that was set on fire the previous day was being investigated. Although this location was in station 10 response district, Herman called for engine one to assist. Herman knew the engine one officer was a driver upgraded to officer. Herman went over all information about the situation with the acting officer and commented to the crew you may have to deal with a similar situation in future years, I felt this is good experience Herman said.

Administration realigned some fire district which moved district headquarters to station number one. Herman was asked by the fire chief to carry out a particular project that would take a lot of time and patience. This was to reorganize all fire department associated material. This became the Albuquerque Fire Department Operating Procedures placed in ten separate volumes.

Herman's Personality

District One Headquarters was moved from station four to station one. Late one evening a fire alarm was transmitted for Commercial SE address which was in district two. All apparatus from station one responding, except for district chief one, district two chief was dispatched. This was a large commercial building used as storage, about 2 hours into the fire, Chief One Herman



Bishop showed up he was not dispatched to the scene. He gets out of the chief's car and said, "hey guys I brought you some hot coffee"! The firefighters were thankful for hot coffee on a cold night but jokingly said, Chief Bishop was lonely in the big station by himself, so he came to visit us. Herman always wanted to maintain a relation with firefighters, that was important to him. When Albuquerque Firefighters traveled to El Paso TX for the annual softball game Herman and wife also attended. With Albuquerque sweeping El Paso Fire the celebration at the host motel was energized with fun. Herman found out rank was not considered protection as he was lifted high in the air by 6 firefighters and launched into the swimming pool. No consideration was given to his new Italian dress shoes. After climbing out of the pool dripping wet, he said I should have known better, but that was fun. Herman had several talents in which he was a closet artist and played a mean harmonica. One Sunday afternoon at station one he asked Eddie Abeita to accompany him on guitar. The instrumental song they recorded was "Me and Bobbie Magee" although it was great it did not hit the music charts top 100.

Herman was district chief for years but thought retirement sure sounds good so it's time to retire. While on duty and returning to headquarters from the fire chiefs office, his last radio transmission was, "Chief one Out of Service and I am retired". Like an old fire horse Herman still was ready to give more of his fire service talents. So, Herman took the fire chief job in Hickory NC, this lasted for approximately 10 years.

After Hickory, Herman returned back to Albuquerque and became historian with AFDRA.



One of Herman's many assignments

Herman Bishop Receives Award.



On February 28, 2022 at AFR's promotion and recognition ceremonies, Mayor Tim Keller and Fire Chief Gene Gallegos presented a special award to retired Assistant Chief Herman R. Bishop for his many years of service as the department historian.



Presentation speech given by Fire Chief Gene Gallegos

Herman Bishop grew up in a small coal mining town in West Virginia. After a distinguished service in the military, he joined the Albuquerque fire department in 1960. Herman had many accomplishments during his tenure in the fire department, which are too numerous to mention in their entirety. He was responsible for the creation of Bishops Raiders, which was a civil defense organization that functioned through the office of emergency preparedness. Herman also converted the Albuquerque Fire Department operating procedures from a single booklet to a ten volume comprehensive set. After over 25 years of service to the citizens of the city of Albuquerque, Herman retired in 1986. Four short years later he was appointed as the fire chief of a North Carolina fire department. After returning to Albuquerque he was instrumental in helping create the Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association. He has served as their historian for over 20 years and has catalogued numerous documents and photographs, many of which he saved from certain ruin. Additionally he has published many articles on the history of the Albuquerque Fire Department. He truly is a treasure to the community.

Minutes April 2022

Minutes, April, 2022 – On Wednesday April 13th the 260th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighters Union Hall, Local 244, at 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:05 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Tommy Romero led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held for our deceased members. Kerry Horton asked that special prayers be given for retiree Mariano Padilla who passed away on April 4th. Also we remembered the wife of brother Morris Guterrez, Geraldine, who passed away unexpectedly recently. Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President Pablo Garcia Jr. Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop, and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo. Secretary Fred Casias was absent due to illness.

Our guest speaker was Cynthia Borrego, former City Councilor, District 5. During June, 2022, she is running for State Representative in District 17, on the West Side. Cynthia is a friend of firefighters and is a retired City Planner, Board Member of the Rio Grande Credit Union, Member of the State PERA Board. She has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from UNM and supports Economic Development, Jobs Creation, and strongly supports public safety.

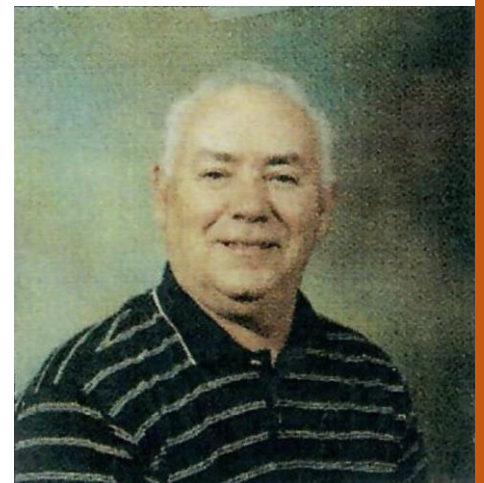
President's Report – Kerry gave an update on brother Eddie Abeita who is in Aurora, Colorado this week receiving treatment for Cancer. We wish Eddie the best during his recovery. Condolences was given to Morris Guterrez. His wife Geraldine passed away recently from a sudden illness. Prayers and best wishes are given on behalf of our members to the Guterrez family. Chisholm Trail RV Center will be conducting a raffle shortly for a new RV to support the AFD Retirees. Tickets will go on sale next month. On behalf of our members Kerry congratulated Miguel Tittman who was elected President of the Firefighter's Union, Local 244, after Justin Cheney stepped down due to retirement. Pablo Garcia refurbished Station # 4's old benches and placed two of them in the Fire Museum. The red bench represents today's trucks and Logo. The white bench represents the previous era of white fire trucks and the old style logo. "Great Job !" Thanks Pablo for a job well done.

A motion to table the Secretary's report due to the absence of Fred Casias was made by Jimmie Candelaria and was seconded by Ramon Maldonado. Motion passed. Mike Fox gave the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's books are open for members to review and Mike reported that the Association's finances are in good shape due to the generous donations due to our recent fund drive. All funds are recorded and accounted for. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Bill Raupfer and seconded by Tommy Romero.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. Best wishes go out to John Barnum who is recovering from neck surgery. Old AFD historical records files which were stored in the Union Hall had to be moved due to space limitations. Mike Fox graciously agreed to store them in his garage. We are looking into getting a tuff shed, (8' X 8') to store the records permanently. Mike has agreed to place the shed in his back yard. About 5 years ago Herman had a vendor make 300 pins with the AFD Retiree's Logo. They were passed out to members and friends of the retirees. Pablo Garcia Jr. is having a vendor make 200 more of these pins to be given to our members.

The Election Committee is chaired by Louis Trujillo. Nominations are open for the offices of President and Secretary. Please contact Louis (505) 604-7732 to nominate members for these positions. The officers serve for two years and will be sworn in during the July meeting. The raffle was won by Rob Sanchez, Lawrence Padilla, and Cynthia Raupfer. Tom Romero led the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned @ 8:45 PM

Death Marvin Padilla – Sadly we announce the death of our fellow retired firefighter and brother Marvin Padilla age 80, who passed away April 27, 2022. He joined AFD on March 27, 1967 and was a member of the 15th fire cadet class. Twelve of his fellow cadets made AFD their career. After serving over 21 years of faithful and dedicated service to his department and to the community Marvin retired during September 1988. He was a member of a firefighter family. His brothers Mariano and Victor Padilla served as firefighters with him. Marvin served mainly as a Firefighter at station one at 8th and Silver Avenue SW and worked at most stations on the west side as well. He served on pumpers, ladders and the rescue squad. He was well liked by his fellow firefighters and Chief officers as well. He had a pleasant nature and was quick to smile including laughing at all the jokes and pranks his fellow Firefighters pulled on each other. He was a good strong dependable firefighter who could be counted on to train and assist his fellows at all emergency situations. He was a member of the AFD Retired firefighters Association for over 22 years. Our most sincere condolences and sympathies are extended to the entire Padilla family



AFR Museum Update

By Kerry Horton

Our museum is ever changing, and with the help of Herman Bishop, Pablo Garcia, Mike Fox, and Bill Raupfer, we have some new additions to the museum that we want to share with you. Some time back, Pablo and I were talking about how nice it would be to get one of the old metal benches that sat out in front of some of the stations years ago, so people could sit and watch the slideshow playing on the television at the museum. After getting permission from the department, Pablo acquired the bench that sat by the back door at station 4 since the late 70's.

Once we saw the bench, we realized that it was 8 foot long and too big for the museum. Not to be deterred, Pablo set about cutting the bench in half, and had retiree James Rebarchik use his metalwork skills to produce a duplicate set of curved legs for one of the halves. It was quite a task, but working on it in his spare time, Pablo got the benches ready for powder coating. The final design went through several phases, and it was finally decided that each bench would represent a different era in AFD/AFR history.

One bench would be painted white and carry the AFD logo used on apparatus into the late 1990s. The other bench would be painted red and represent the current apparatus with the modern AFR logo. Now when you go visit the museum, and need a little rest, you have two 4-foot benches to rest your weary bones on.

Herman, Mike, and I are working to keep the display cases new and fresh, with updated displays every few months. Mike is almost ready to deliver the new display case that will house the Department Redbooks and Rules and Regulation guidelines in a permanent display.

As one of the founding members of the AFDRA Honor Guard, Bill Raupfer has generously donated his Honor Guard uniform and a cash donation for the purchase of a mannequin to wear the uniform in our soon to be Honor Guard display. We told Bill that he was more than welcome to just stand in the museum with his uniform on, but he nixed that idea.

We are very excited about the current and future displays that represent the history of the Albuquerque Fire Department, and we hope that you find the time to tour the museum soon.



PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

OFFICIALS OF THE ALBUQUERQUE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT WERE JOINED BY MAYOR TIM KELLER TO CONDUCT PROMOTIONAL CEREMONIES

On February 28, 2022 seventy Albuquerque Fire Rescue personnel were promoted in ceremonies held at the Sid cutter Pavilion, Albuquerque balloon Park . Mayor Keller also confirmed Gene Gallegos as Fire Chief, five seasoned veterans were promoted to Deputy Chief, four personnel were promoted to Battalion Chief, twelve personnel were promoted to captain, eleven to Lieutenant and twenty-four to Driver. Additionally, the crews of Engine 12, Rescue 12 and rescue 8 were awarded metals of valor for their heroic actions at a police shooting in 2021. Also in 2021 the crews of Engine 12, Rescue 12, Rescue 5, Medic 5 and Battalion Chief 2 were given medals of valor for their actions at a life-saving structure fire incident. Retired Assistant Chief Herman R Bishop was given a special award for his many years of exemplary service as the department historian. On the following two pages, you will find a brief biography of the six current Deputy Chiefs of Albuquerque Fire Rescue.



Albuquerque Fire Rescue Deputy Chiefs

Deputy Chief of Emergency Services

Emily Jaramillo

Emily Jaramillo grew up in rural New Mexico. She achieved a BA in English and Secondary Education at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1999. After returning home to New Mexico, Emily taught and coached for four years at Albuquerque Public Schools before joining the Albuquerque Fire Department in 2005. During her time at AFD, Deputy Chief Jaramillo has served as an officer in both the Paramedic and Fire Suppression Divisions, represented the department at regional and local STEMI meetings, served on the AFD Safety Committee, taught in the EMS Training Division, and coordinated both the Professional Development and Firefighter Health and Wellness programs. For six years, Emily managed the departments Peer Fitness Training Program. She also teaches fire officer development classes as an adjunct instructor for the New Mexico Firefighter Training Academy and taught Paramedicine in the USAF Pararescue training program for the University of New Mexico. In 2015 she was the recipient of the IAFF 244 Outstanding Leadership Award.



Deputy Chief of Human Resources & Training

Santos Garcia

Deputy Chief Santos Garcia is originally from Riverside, California, moving to the Land of Enchantment in 1993. Santos is a 20 year veteran with Albuquerque Fire Rescue since 2002, graduating from the department's 65th Cadet Class and achieving his paramedic license in 2006. During his time at AFR, Santos has served his entire career on front-line operations in both Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Divisions. For almost 6 years, Santos served as an EMS Quality Improvement Officer; focusing on training, equipment, and industry best practices. In 2018, he was promoted to Battalion Chief 2C, where he managed the department's operational response in the SE area of the city. Deputy Chief Garcia has represented the department on several department Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, he was vital in creating AFR's Annual Haunted House Community Outreach event and was the recipient of the department's Outstanding Leadership Award in 2017. Recently, Santos has served as the department's EMS Battalion Chief, focusing on obtaining CPSE Accreditation. Deputy Chief Garcia brings a significant amount of experience, wisdom, expertise, and diversity of front-line operations. With an Associate's of Science Degree in Emergency Medical Services and a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management, Santos demonstrates a foundation to ensure and improve AFR's operations.



Deputy Chief of the Fire Marshal's Office

Kris Romero

Deputy Chief Kris Romero joined Albuquerque Fire Rescue (AFR) in 2003 as part of the 66th Cadet Class. Kris is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Albuquerque. Prior to his career with AFR, Kris graduated from Eldorado High School and attended Colorado College in Colorado Springs where he received his B.A. in Economics. During Kris's 18 year tenure with Albuquerque Fire Rescue, he spent over 13 years in Emergency Operations, where he served the citizens of Albuquerque at several stations along the Central corridor. In 2010, Kris and his crew were honored by Uniting New Mexicans Against Adult Abuse's as their "Outstanding Professional" recipient. In 2013, Kris was honored by former Fire Chief David Downey for his team's response to a lightning strike involving a pregnant patient and her partner. In 2014, Kris was a recipient of the Albuquerque Mayor's "Friday's Heroes" for a successful mountain rescue. Kris spent 5 years as the Captain of Technical Services Division. During Kris's tenure with that division, he led several new initiatives that resulted in upgraded phone, radio, and computer technologies and helped increase the efficiency of several processes that support day to day operations. From 2014-2019, Kris was the EMT-Basic Representative for the NM Medical Direction Committee. More recently, Kris was selected to be a member of AFR's Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Committee. The CPSE accreditation provides a quality improvement model that promotes the establishment of community-adopted performance targets for AFR. Kris enjoys life with his wife, Jenifer, and their two daughters. They can often be found on the sidelines of a soccer field or a volleyball court supporting his family.



Deputy Chief of Operations

Jimmy Melek

Deputy Chief Jimmy Melek has been a member Albuquerque Fire Rescue since 2004. He is proud to say he is born and raised in New Mexico and graduated from West Mesa High School. After high school, he attended Adams State College in Colorado where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. While in college, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a Wrestling All-American and a two time Academic All-American. While finishing his degree, he decided he wanted to serve his community and pursue a career as a firefighter in Albuquerque. He was a teacher and wrestling coach at Cibola High School while waiting to be selected. He served in various roles throughout his time with AFR. He promoted to Lieutenant through the Suppression side of the department and then went to paramedic school as an officer. This career path gives him a diverse perspective of emergency response. This also gives him experience in almost every role on every apparatus. Certified as a HTR Technician he was assigned to Station 3 as Heavy Technical Rescue Captain. In addition to field response, he also participated in numerous activities to help progress the department. He was the lead of the HEART (Home Engagement and Alternative Response Team) program that focused on high utilizers of the EMS system, fall prevention, and harm reduction aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. He also participated in the EMS Quality Assurance & Improvement Program, Firefighter Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee, CPSE Committee, Report Compliance Committee, Blue Card Committee, and Professional Development. Jimmy is also a passionate father and a loving son who likes to spend his free time watching his daughter play volleyball, play pool with his dad, golf with friends.



Deputy Chief of Communications

Kevin Ferando

Deputy Chief Kevin Ferando was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After graduating from Eldorado high school, he went to college in Colorado and graduated from Western Colorado University with a degree in business and accounting. Kevin moved back to Albuquerque after college and worked as a financial adviser for several years before entering the fire service. Kevin has served in both suppression and EMS divisions during his time with Albuquerque Fire Rescue. He obtained his paramedic license in 2007 and has promoted through the EMS ranks. Kevin is also a Heavy Rescue Technician and worked at fire station 3 for six years as a Rescue Driver and Rescue Lieutenant. He was promoted to the EMS quality assurance Captain in 2018 where he was able to be an active member in the department's EMS guideline review, education, and paramedic credentialing process. Kevin has helped with AFR's professional development program by teaching fire instructor and fire officer classes and being an instructor for the department's officer's certification classes. Kevin most recent assignment has been acting Battalion Chief overseeing AFR's Fleet and Capital Improvement Division.



Deputy Chief of Planning and Logistics

Nathaniel Meisner

A New Mexico native raised in the Albuquerque Area, Deputy Chief Nathaniel Meisner has been in the fire service for over 17 years. Meisner has most recently worked as the Battalion Chief of Fleet Operations for Albuquerque Fire Rescue. He manages the accreditation process, which analyzes all fire department programs and services and developed 5-year strategic plans for AFR. Prior to that, Meisner worked as the Community EMS Captain for the Albuquerque Fire Rescue HEART program, where he developed and helped implement programs to help the most vulnerable populations in the city. Meisner also served as Albuquerque Fire Rescue Records Division Captain where he managed the report-writing system for the intake of 250,000 fire and emergency medical incident reports annually. He administered documentation, quality assurance, and compliance programs for the department. He also provided extensive data analysis and reporting for effective operational and planning decisions. Meisner won the 2014 Motorola Solutions Future Leaders Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation. He twice received the Albuquerque Mayor's Hero of the Week Award and was the Captain of the HEART program when it won the Albuquerque Fire Rescue Division of the Year in 2018.



Minutes May 2022

On May 11, 2022 the 261st 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 at 7:00 PM by President Kerry Horton. Kerry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Morris Guterrez led the opening prayer. A last alarm prayer was given and a moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. A special prayer was said for our recently deceased retired brother, Marvin Padilla. Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President Pablo Garcia Jr. Secretary, Fred Casias, absent, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian, Herman Bishop, and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. Recent AFR Retiree Carl Martinez attended his first meeting. He is planning a long bicycle trip from Canada to Mexico, over 2,000 miles. He will be raising money for the AFD Retiree Assistance Fund. Your pledges by the mile (5, 10, 15, Cents etc) will be greatly appreciated. Contact Mike Fox to donate: (505) 385-7292.

President's Report – Kerry Horton congratulated Miguel Titman who was recently selected as President of AFR's Union President, Local 244. Kerry invited retirees to attend the funeral of AFR Lt. Ben Leverette on June 21, 2022 who passed away during April, 2022. Kerry thanked the staffs of TLC Uniforms, AFR Firefighter's Local 244 and Rio Rancho Firefighters, Local 4577 and the Rio Grande Credit Union, for their recent donations and support to AFD Retiree's Association.

Due to the absence of our Secretary, Fred Casias, a motion to table the reading of the April, 2022 minutes was made by Mike Murphy and seconded by Joe Martinez. The Motion Passed. The April Treasurers report was given by Mike Fox. He also read the annual treasurer's report. Our finances are in the black and we are already making plans for the annual picnic. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Bill Raupfer and was seconded by O.G. Lucero. The motion passed. Morris Guterrez has agreed to chair this year's picnic committee. He will be assisted by: Ken Goodyear, Mike Padilla, Donnie Sanchez, and Pablo Garcia Jr. Retiree O.G. Lucero was awarded a miniature funeral truck by Ralph Sedillo for his leadership of the funeral committee during the past year.

Louis Trujillo, chairman of the election committee submitted his report. Kerry Horton is running for President and Fred Casias is running for Secretary. Both positions are for 2 year terms and are unopposed. The election will be held at the June meeting and the officers will be sworn in during the July meeting.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. Pablo Garcia had 200 AFD Retiree's Badges/Pins made to be given to our members to promote the Association. Herman remembered our brother retired firefighter Marvin Padilla who passed away in April. They worked together on Engine 1-B for several years at Station One. Special tributes were given to our N.M. neighbors around the State who have had displacements and fire loses to their homes and properties. Wednesday's raffle was won by: Ralph Padilla, LeRoy Barboa, Ray Sedillo & Ken Goodyear.

The closing prayer was led by Morris Guterrez. The meeting adjourned @ 8: 45 PM

Death of Robert N. Graham – We are sorry to announce the death of retired firefighter Robert N. Graham age, 62 who passed away on May 24, 2022 . He resided in Paguete (Laguna, N.M). He Joined AFD on November 14, 1983 and after serving over 20 Years of faithful and dedicated service he retired on December 31, 2003. He was a member of the 37 th fire cadet class. His training officers were Ed Abeita and Art Loera. There were 18 cadets in his class: Eric Aragon, William Armijo, James Baca, Leslie Brito, Chris Chavez, Michael De Herrera, Anthony Hernandez, Tom Kaminski, Gerald Lovato, Jerry Lujan, David Marquez, Patrick Marquez, Patrick Mulligan, Gene Ray Jr. Anthony Robles, David E. Siow Jr. Jesus Solis Jr. Robert Graham. Cadets jumped into the life net, climbed the drill tower dozens of times a day, and endured the dreaded smoke room. After many weeks of physically strenuous and rigorous training the cadets were certified as firefighters. Our sincere condolences go to the Graham family.



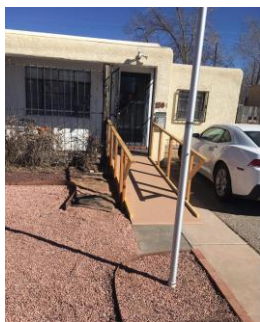
Robert N. Graham

ALBUQUERQUE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (as published in the Albuquerque Fire Department 2016 annual report)

The Albuquerque Retired Firefighters Association was established on June 9, 2000 - on the centennial anniversary of the Department's founding - with the stated purpose to "preserve the rights, interests, and welfare of retired members of the Albuquerque Fire Department; to promote sociability and friendship; to keep retirees in touch with the Fire Department Family on a regular basis; and to create and maintain a cohesive, cordial, and warm feeling of friendship between all active members and retirees and their families." The association promotes social events - such as an annual summer picnic and Christmas Party - and works at keeping retirees informed through both a phone tree and an e-mail network. A quarterly newsletter provides information about events of interest to Association members, as well as historical material about AFD. To accomplish these goals, the Association strives to maintain a working relationship with the Fire Chief, the Department's Executive Staff, and other department members, in order to promote the success of the Association and its members. There are regularly-scheduled monthly meetings where retirees are able to get together and maintain the bonds of friendships, and the membership is kept informed through a quarterly Association newsletter. In addition to maintaining a current roster of all retirees, the Association also maintains a similar list of all deceased members, each of whom are remembered with a moment of silence at each meeting. A key role of the Association is its commemoration of deceased AFD retirees, through the presentation of a Firefighter Funeral - honoring the deceased for their service to the Department. Included in the ceremony is a special proclamation, as well as the presentation of the "Last Alarm" ceremony. During the service, the Association Honor Guard performs the "Last Alarm" ceremony, ringing the "Four Fives" on an antique fire engine bell - as is traditional within the American Fire Service. Since its inception, the Association has recognized more than 100 AFD Retirees with the service. The bell ceremony has also been used in the annual Archdiocese of Santa Fe "Blue Mass" and at the City of Albuquerque's annual September 11 memorial. Association members also volunteer to assist in the Albuquerque Fire Department's annual Rio Grande bosque patrol activities, in support of the Department's Open Space fire prevention plans. Members staff bike patrols during the high fire danger season when the bosque is otherwise closed to the public.

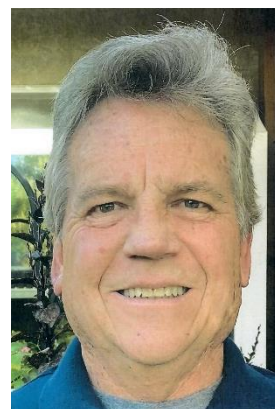
John Serino Home Improvement Project

John Serino's home received some much-needed access improvements last month thanks to Albuquerque Fire Rescue's HEART program and a few retirees. The Home Engagement and Alternative Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.), was made aware that John was having difficulties navigating his home, so Athena Valerio-Hirschfeld, the programs director, stepped in and made the improvements possible. Steve Selgado, HEART's primary carpenter, and a few retirees made John's home safer with the addition of a front door ramp and grab-bars in critically needed areas in his home. On behalf of the Serino family, we want to thank Athena and Steve, and those retirees that lent a helping hand.





ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
RETIREES ASSOCIATION 5818 LA COLONIA
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President's Message

By Kerry Horton

It's already summertime, where is this year going? It is also an election year and I want to bore you with that for a minute. The election season starts June 7th with Statewide Primaries, and the General election on November 8th. There are a lot of important races this year, everything from the Governor's race, U.S. House, State House, State Senate races, Attorney General, and many more.

When our Association was founded in 2000, our founding members were smart enough to stipulate that our Association will not endorse political candidates, and we have held true to that ever since. What we do endorse is for all retirees to do their homework and support the candidates that support our pension. Our pension is the monetary reward you earned for every year you sacrificed your family life and health serving this community. It is vitally important that you support people that understand the importance of a healthy and solvent PERA and are willing to fight to keep it that way.

So please, take the time to understand who is on this year's ballot. Find out their position on protecting PERA and how their voting record and personal views will affect your income and way of life. Then get out there and vote.

Hope to see you all at the Summer Picnic.



RIO GRANDE
- CREDIT UNION -