

### AFD RETIREE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION (please visit our website [www.afdretirees.com](http://www.afdretirees.com))

September 1, 2022

# 3-2022

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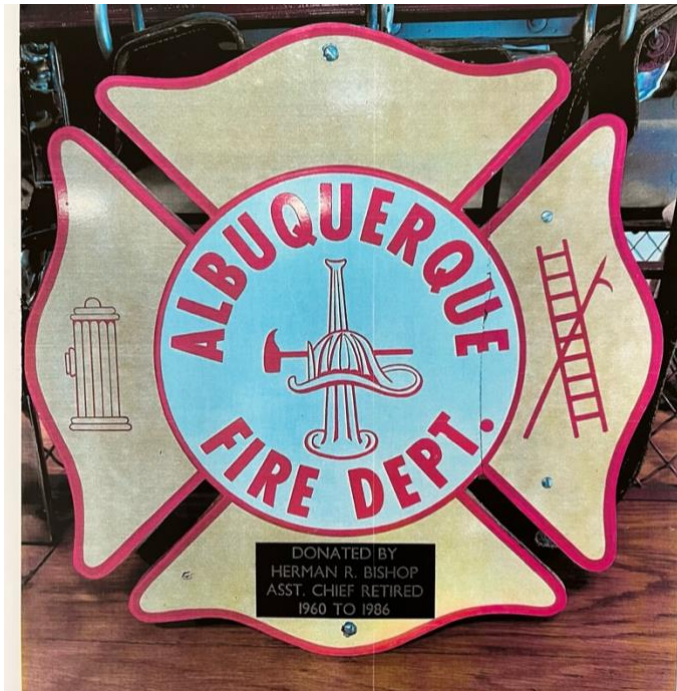


HERMAN R. BISHOP, EDITOR



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#### ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK DECAL.



During the 1970's and through the 1980's, the Albuquerque Fire Department used this truck decal on all apparatus. As times changed the department staff discarded the above design. Department decals have changed over the years and evolved to the modern decals used by our department today. The decal pictured here was donated to the fire Museum by historian Herman Bishop from his AFD/AFR collection. He rescued this decal from the trash as it had been broken in half and declared as junk. This decal was used for many years by department public information officer Sam Burnett who was assigned to the fire prevention bureau. He gave many many fire safety lectures to school children, local corporations, hospitals, service clubs and civic groups, etc. Sam displayed the department logo/decal at his presentations.

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## Minutes June 2022

The AFD Retired Firefighter's Association's 262<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, on June 8, 2022, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Morris Guterrez led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in observance of the last alarm for our deceased members. Kerry asked that we give a special prayer for our retired brother firefighter Robert Graham of Laguna Pueblo who passed away May 24, 2022. Roll Call- President Kerry Horton, Vice President Pablo Garcia, Secretary, Fred Casias, absent, Treasurer, Mike Fox Historian, Herman Bishop, President Sam Trujillo, President Emeritus, absent. Our guest speaker was Lieutenant David Myers who recently was appointed to the AFR Division of Health and Wellness for firefighters. He replaced Miguel Tittmann who was recently elected to President of AFR Firefighter's Union, Local, 244. David has been a firefighter for eight years and has served on Engine 5, Engine 12, Engine 13, as a driver. He recently completed an assignment as an Inspector with the Fire Marshal's Office. Currently he is also serving as AFR's Chaplain. He outlined a new program he heads, Albuquerque's City Clean-Up Initiative called, "Imagine Albuquerque." After months of planning and getting support of City Officials, several local landscape and general cleaning businesses, "Imagine Albuquerque," is scheduled to kick off on Saturday, September 24, 2022. Nine homes in Albuquerque, one in each City Counselor's district, will be chosen for a yard/cleaning makeover. Teams will go around the city picking up trash wherever it is needed. David hopes to bring back civic pride and help get Albuquerque shining again. He has invited our members to assist in making this program a success. To join David you may contact him: [dmeyers@cabq.gov](mailto:dmeyers@cabq.gov) or (505) 250-7236.

President's Report- Kerry continues working on our museum improvement project and is always looking for new/old displays. Recently he was contacted by retired Captain Steve Villescas who donated numerous items to the museum. Included are, two roof jacks (can openers), an early model hose clamp, pompier hatchet, a badge and insignia display board, and some spanner wrenches. Retiree Carl Martinez contacted Kerry to report that his bicycle fund raiser trip from Canada to Mexico had to be called off after three days because, unfortunately, his support van driver was unable to continue assisting with the trip. We will be reaching out to those of you who pledged donations to our Retiree Assistance program and allow you to cancel your pledge. It is possible Carl can re-start the bike ride at a later time if he overcomes his technical difficulties.

Our retiree group has been invited to speak to the 98<sup>th</sup> fire cadet class on Tuesday June 14, 2022 @ 9:45 AM. Mike Fox will speak on firefighter ethics Herman Bishop will give a lecture on AFD History dating back to 1882, the coming of the railroad and formation of the first volunteer fire brigade. Due to the absence of Secretary Fred Casias the monthly minutes for May was suspended. Mike Fox gave the May financial report. All funds are accounted for and the books are open to our members for review. Kerry hopes some one will come forward and review the books so Mike will feel appreciated.

Historian's Report- Herman talked about how tools and equipment disappeared from the department over the years and have now ended back into our hands. As people are slowly returning them we are displaying them again. Mike will install another museum display cabinet shortly. Bill Raupfer donated an honor guard display. Herman mentioned that many items we now cherish was saved from the trash including many historic pictures. Herman summarized an article he is working on for the September newsletter. Ed Lucero who spent 40 years with the department and retired in 1966 at age 74 was serving as the officer at Engine 10. Men of his era worked into their 70's because the retirement system was really poor.

Officer Elections – Kerry Horton was sworn in as President and will hold that office for two years. Secretary Fred Casias will be sworn in during the July meeting. Plans are underway for the Picnic/Christmas Party. Morris Guterrez led the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

### Death of Sam Sanchez

We are sorry to report the death of fellow retiree Sam Sanchez, age 63, who passed away on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He joined AFD on September 30<sup>th</sup> 1985. He served 25 years with the department and retired on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. He was a member of the 40<sup>th</sup> fire cadet class, there were 32 cadets in his class. Sam's son Gabe Ulibarri and nephew Drew Chavez are currently AFR members. He is a native of Albuquerque and graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1977. He was an active member in the firefighters union local 244. After retiring from the fire department Sam worked as a school resource officer with the Albuquerque Public Schools at La Cueva, Sandia and Del Norte high schools. His grandchildren were the joy of his life and he loved spending his days off with them and his family. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing and camping with his family and brother firefighters. He was a member of the Risen Savior Catholic Church. We extend our sincere condolences to the Sanchez family.



**AFD Retirees, Old Timers (1920's to 1960's)**  
**(By Herman R. Bishop, June 14, 2022)**

Recently I was contacted during June, 2020 by AFD retired fire captain Ahern Griego who inquired about a retired fire Lieutenant Ed Lucero who served the department from 1926 to 1966. His friend Kelly Sanchez Wanted to know if any of the retired firefighters knew or worked with her great grand father Ed Lucero. At the request of Ahern I conducted some research about Kelly's grandfather. During Ahren's career he was a member of the AFD firefighter's Union, Local 244, executive board. Also he served as the union Vice President for several years. During his tenure as a union representative he worked with the Mayor's staff as well as with the staff of the City Council to gain their assistance on personnel matters concerning the good and welfare of firefighters. During that time he worked closely with Kelly Sanchez who was an executive assistant to members of the City Council. I joined the department in 1960 and I did know Mr. Lucero. He was a Lieutenant at station ten located at Rio Grande Boulevard and Oro Vista NW. Although I was not assigned to his crew I did work with him from time to time. Mostly I filled in for a few days when other firefighters were off. Lieutenant Lucero was a friendly and personable man who welcomed me to work with the crew at station ten. In those days station ten's Fire district was mostly rural with a few businesses and a lot of residences. We went to a lot of grass fires, hay stack fires, barns and farm buildings. I do not recall any 2nd alarms but at engine 10 we were always busy. Ed Lucero liked to play pranks on his fellow firefighters. One incident I recall was that a fireman assigned to engine ten had an old motorcycle and the engine needed an overhaul. The fireman took a week or so to rebuild the engine at the station. He took the engine apart and stored the parts, nuts, screws, bolts etc. in several buckets. On the guy's days off Ed decided he would add a little excitement to the motor overhaul. He went to his storage box where kept car parts, nuts, bolts, screws, washers and so on. He got a mix of spare parts and placed them into the buckets holding the motorcycle parts. After his days off the fireman began putting the motor back together. After a while he had trouble matching parts and properly completing the project. As his co workers watched him struggle they decided to lend a hand. They told him that Ed had played a joke on him and added extra parts. The crew including Ed spent several hours sorting out the proper parts and eliminating the unneeded ones. Finally the engine repair job was completed and they all had a good laugh. Ed was part of a group of old time firefighters hired during the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. They did not have a good retirement plan. The retirement system was rather poor during that era. Usually they worked all their life and most had not planned to retire. In the 1960's because of concerns about the health, safety and welfare of firefighters the Federal and State Governments passed laws requiring mandatory retirement when firefighters reached age 62. Realizing they were going to be forced to retire, about 20 Albuquerque firefighters filed a class action suit to prevent their retirement. When the final judgement was handed down it was agreed that if a firefighter age 62 and over would pass an annual physical they could continue employment on a year to year basis. Finally a few years later these men had to retire. Sad to say, only a few years after retirement most of them had died. Ed Lucero at the age of 74 was serving as an engine officer at engine 10. Art Westerfeld the Fire Chief died on the job as did Assistant Chief Joe Bowdich. Both died of cancer in 1962 and did not live to retire. Fire Chief Simon Seligman was the first fire chief to retire. Lieutenant Reno Stableton and Lieutenant Maurice Cordova both worked as engine officers until age 63. Pumper drivers Lucias Springer and Trinidad Lopez, worked. Until age 62. Today Lieutenant Ron Herrera age 69 is still serving the department as a line officer on a pumper, still responding to fires on a daily basis. On December 17, 2018 Fire Chief Paul Dow and his fellow firefighters recognized Ron for his many years of faithful service to the department. Currentlv he has served 48 years, the longest serving member of the department.

Finally Ed Lucero retired at age 74 after serving 40 years of faithful and dedicated service to the department and to his community. Ed Lucero lived to age 77 and passed away due to cancer on December 12, 1969. To the firefighters of my era, Ed and the fellow firefighters of his time were the fire department. We always thought

of them as the ones who invented the fire department. They paved the way for us and set forth policies and procedures used by us during our careers. Now the firefighters of today still practice and use their proven methods. Because of the men in his time they also set the direction which began a good retirement program that firefighters enjoy today. As the fire department historian I have researched the history of the Albuquerque Fire Department since 1882 when the first volunteers founded the bucket brigades hand drawn hose carts, and hand drawn ladder wagons. The population boomed and exploded when the railroad first arrived. I think of the past 140 years of the Albuquerque Fire Department as the romantic age of the fire service. During this time we have moved from the hand drawn fire carts, to horse drawn wagons in 1900, on to motor driven engines in 1912, to the modern fire pumpers, ladder truck's and rescue trucks with diesel engines and air conditioned cabs with radio communications, computers and cell phones.

#### AFD MEMBERS AND YEARS SERVICE PRIOR TO 1975

Milton Grande	Born 1896 (AFD 1919-1966) 47 years' service, Asst. Chief Retired age 70
Art Westerfield	Born 1896 (AFD 1919-1962) 43 years' service Fire Chief, died age 66, while still Chief
Ed Lucero	Born 1892 (AFD 1926-1966) 40 years' service Lieutenant, retired age 74
Simon Seligman	Born 1903 (AFD 1927-1968) 41 years' service Fire Chief retired age 65
J.C. "Slim" Davidson	Born 1915 (AFD 1939-1975) 40 yrs ser. (4 yrs. Parks Dep) 36 yrs. AFD, Asst Chief, age 60
Reno Stableton	Born 1903 (AFD 1939-1975) 36 years' service, Lieutenant, retired age 63
S.B. Skidmore	Born 1915 (AFD 1938-1973) 35 years' service, Asst. Chief, retired age 61
Louie Jurado	Born 1907 (AFD 1934-1968) 35 years' service, Asst. Chief retired age 61
Carl Macaluso	Born 1906 (AFD 1936-1970) 34 years' service, Asst. Chief, retired age 64
George Tafoya	Born 1905 (AFD 1933- 1966 33 years' service, Asst. Chief, retired age 61
Maurice Cordova	Born 1907 (AFD 1937-1969) 31 years' service, Lieutenant, retired age 62
Joe Bowdich	Born 1922 (AFD 1933-1962) 29 years' service, Asst. Chief, died age 51, did not retire
Matt Ortiz	Born 1907 (AFD 1939-1965) 27 years' service, Asst. Chief, retired age 59
Trinidad Lopez	Born 1914 (AFD-1947-1974) 27 years' service, Driver, retired age 60
Lou Valdez	Born 1905 (AFD-1942-1968) 26 years' service, Lt, Alarm Superintendent, retired age 63
Leo Renaud	Born 1901(AFD 1941-1965) 25 years' service, Asst. Chief, retired age 65
Lucius Springer	Born 1903 (AFD 1940-1965) 25 years' service, Driver, retired age 62



Old City Hall/fire station number one (Circa mid 1920s)



## ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY INTRODUCTION

By: Herman R. Bishop September 1, 2022

I first became interested the history of the Albuquerque Fire Department during the late 1960's when as a young Captain I was assigned to fire station one downtown at 8th Street and Silver Avenue S.W. It was there in an obscure storage closet I discovered numerous hand written ledgers from the late 1880's through the 1920's which gave daily accounts of activities conducted at the fire department. Many items were listed such as dates, names of firefighters, fire chiefs, hose wagons, hose companies, the hook and ladder company, City Managers, City Councilors, fires attended, visitors to the fire house, names of the fire horses, their weights and daily checks for their welfare, supplies received such as hay, oats, coal, kerosine oil, stove polish, beds, mattresses, ice, etc. Also listed were current events, such as the State Fair, famous boxing matches, Jack Johnson VS. Fireman Jim Flynn, (Las Vegas, NM) and the announcement that World War I had ended in 1918.

As I began discovering the AFD history in these hand written ledgers I began taking notes. Over the next few years the books started falling apart. During the late 1970's when I was an Assistant Chief I made a decision along with Assistant Chief Don DeBlassie to turn the books over to the Albuquerque Public Library to be placed in the official archives. Many years later, (about 2013) I contacted officials at the main library downtown and inquired if those old ledgers were still there. Indeed they were still there but a few years earlier they had been transferred to the Albuquerque Museum, the Library's sister organization, and were in the official Albuquerque Museum Archives. After contacting museum officials they verified they had custody of the ledgers. Arrangements were made for me to get an appointment to visit the archives. On the appointed date I spent a day viewing the ledgers. Today they are there, preserved and in good condition as when I turned them over to the main library.

When the AFD Retiree's Association was formed in June, 2000 I was appointed as Historian of our association. Since that time I have researched and written a history of AFD dating from 1882 to current date (September, 2022). As historian I have become a focal point for information surrounding AFD history such as, photographs, stories, inquiries from citizens, firefighters, retired firefighters, firefighter's families, City Officials, Library and Museum officials and other interested people.

I have given lectures to members of the Albuquerque Historical Society, Friends of the Library, citizen groups, and on a regular basis I give lectures several times a year to the AFD fire cadets on AFD history. I have worked closely with officials at the special collections library at Edith and Central Ave. NE. Library officials at the Main Library downtown, Genealogy division, and officials at the Albuquerque Museum.

As historian of the AFD Retiree's Association I am the editor of the quarterly newsletter for the retiree's. I have held this position for the past 22 years. We have put copies of the newsletters (2000 to 2022) on a Thumb drive which is available to our members. Recently we created a website [afdretirees.com](http://afdretirees.com) which also has AFD's History and copies of the newsletters (2000 to 2022), photos, and many items of interest about the fire department and information about the AFD Retiree's Association.

We have 15 volumes (about 100 pages each) of photos and historical items of the Albuquerque Fire Dept. Our archives contain 2,000 Employment record cards of AFD firefighters dating back to 1918 There are two books of photo I.D. cards of AFD firefighters (About 400 cards). We have created a small fire museum located at 11,500 Sunset Gardens SW (Fire Academy). There is a beautiful black marble plaque with gold letters (8 foot X4 foot) developed and displayed at The AFR Fire Academy honoring over 400 AFD retired firefighters both living and deceased.

## HISTORY AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

(By Herman R. Bishop)

September 1, 2022

Early during the year 2000 Sam Trujillo and Herman Bishop along with several retired members met with Fire Chief Morris Huling and discussed the possibility of forming a retired firefighters association. On Friday evening June 9, 2000 Chief Huling and his staff held a reception and dinner at the Albuquerque Convention Center to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Albuquerque paid fire department on June 6, 1900. This celebration honored both active-duty and retired firefighters for their contribution to AFD's 100 years of success. About 350 active duty and retired members along with their families attended.

During the evening Chief Huling discussed feelings and interests of those attending as to whether we should form an AFD Retired Firefighter's Association. He conducted a vote from the floor to determine if there was interest in organizing an association. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal. Chief Huling then conducted nominations and an election of officers for the AFD Retired Firefighter's Association by members present. Sam Trujillo was elected President, Frank Sierra was elected Secretary, Ralph Sedillo was elected Treasurer and Herman Bishop was elected Historian. The initial election did not include a Vice President or members of an advisory board. These positions were incorporated during the next few meetings of the association after the development of the organization's By-Laws.

During the next few weeks several meetings were held to organize the association, at the homes of Sam Trujillo, Ralph Sedillo, and Herman Bishop. Other key members who assisted in organizing the new organization were: Vince Holcomb, Bill Raupfer, John Herrera, Pat Cano, Robert Cisneros, Noel Baca, Joe Martinez, Charles Alderete, Eddie Torres, Santos Abeyta, Victor Sanchez, and Bob Murphy. This group developed the By-Laws, Mission Statement, and set Goals and Objectives. We also implemented a telephone notification system that enabled us to communicate information to our members quickly. Chief Huling and members of his staff, Lieutenant Gil Santistevan and Marie Cano were actively involved in forming the retiree's association.

One key task of the new officers was to compile a list of known retirees, their address, and telephone numbers. During the past few years we had lost touch of each other because of address changes and telephone numbers.

Chief Huling agreed to assist us by providing a regular meeting place at the Fire Academy and to assist with the costs of printing and mailing a newsletter. We published our first one page Newsletter on August 1, 2000. We published our second newsletter on August 8, 2000. On September 9, 2000 a short time after the organization was formed, Chief Huling arranged a meeting at the Albuquerque Convention Center downtown and a large number of interested retirees attended. Shortly thereafter Chief Huling arranged for members of the association to meet regularly at the Fire Academy, 11,500 Sunset Gardens SW. We set the meetings for the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

After several meetings our Secretary Frank Sierra resigned in late 2000. We elected Bob Murphy as Secretary.

Bob served as Secretary for a few months and unfortunately in December, 2000 he passed away. We then

Elected Louis Trujillo as Secretary. In February 2001 members determined that our organization needed a Vice President's position. Eddie Torres was elected to Vice president. It was also determined that we needed to add more members to the Advisory Board to assist in activities of the association. In March, 2001 the Advisory Board members were: Charlie Alderete, Noel Baca, Pat Cano, John Herrera, Vince Holcomb, Joe Martinez, Bill Raupfer, Victor Sanchez and Frank Sierra

## Minutes July 2022

On July 13, 2022 the 263 rd monthly 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 @ 7:05 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Morris Guterrez led members in the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed in honor of our deceased members. A special prayer was given for our recently deceased member Brother Sammy Sanchez and his family. 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. Kerry welcomed our guest Bill Raupfer's daughter Lynette visiting from Phoenix.

**President's Report** - Kerry Horton gave the president's report. He said plans for the annual picnic have been finalized. It will be held Saturday August 27, 2022 in downtown Bernalillo, NM, Rotary Park. We will gather at 10:00 AM. Food will be served at 12:00 AM Picnic Committee Chairman Morris Guterrez said plans are underway for a great picnic. He has assembled a committee of about 12 people who will assist in the grounds clean-up, setting up tables & chairs, and preparing the food and drinks. Ralph Sedillo and Eddie Abeita will prepare the door prizes and will also conduct a silent auction. Our friend from Colorado Frank Maestas (former AFD Paramedic) will provide numerous door prizes and has donated several items for the silent auction. Kerry and Mike will purchase new tables and chairs and picnic supplies to replace broken and worn out items. Members and their families are cordially invited. There will be no charge, however, we will gladly accept donations. Kerry thanked Mike Fox and Bill Raupfer for their displays now in the museum. Kerry announced that he will be attending the National Firefighter's memorial service on September 17, 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has invited members of our retiree's association to join him at the memorial ceremony. Call Kerry for information and details @ (505)934-2969.

Due to the absence of our Secretary, Fred Casias, Kerry asked for a motion from the floor to suspend reading of the June monthly minutes. A motion was made by Morris Guterrez and was seconded by O.G. Lucero. The motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Mike Fox. He thanked our audit committee who performed the annual audit. Chairman: Donny Sanchez, Kenneth Goodyear, Richard Sanchez. The committee reported that our treasury is in good shape, and they commended Mike Fox for the fine job he has done this past year managing the finances of our association. A motion was made to accept the audit report and the monthly Treasurer's report: Motion by Kenneth Goodyear, seconded by Dennis Lowder. Motion Passed.

The **Historian's report** was given by Herman Bishop. The September newsletter is under development. Herman will be assisted by articles from Ed Abeita, Mike Fox, and Kerry Horton. Herman wrote an article about our "Old Timer's," from the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. It's about the struggles they fought to set the ground work for a retirement system we enjoy today. Stories include a firefighter's story, beginnings of AFD History (1882-2022), and history of The AFD Retiree's Association (2000 - 2022) and a museum update by Kerry Horton and Mike Fox. Wednesday's raffle was won by: Ray Sedillo, Bill Raupfer, and Bernie Martinez. Just a reminder about our AFD Retiree's website, [afdretirees.com](http://afdretirees.com). Check it out. Morris Guterrez led the closing prayer. Adjournment: 8:25 PM.

### **Death of Lieutenant Matthew A. King BCFD**

Regretfully we learned of the untimely death of brother fire fighter Lieutenant Matthew King, age 44, from the Bernalillo County Fire Department who died in a public safety helicopter crash. He died in the line of duty near Las Vegas New Mexico on July 16, 2022. He was serving on the helicopter performing an aerial wildland fire rescue mission along with three Bernalillo County sheriffs members who died as well. They were Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers and Deputy Michael Levison. Our sincere condolences to all the families.



**The Life and Times of Toby Pino**  
**Unusual Things that People do - Firefighters will tell you it's Not that Unusual!**  
**By Eddie Abeita (10-15-2013)**

Toby started his career in 1964 under Training Captain Ray Kuhn, Lieutenants Skippy Padilla and Joe Gonzales. Toby said he and Ray Padilla were friends after their military days and heard about the city fire department taking applications. Ray said to Toby let's try it we need a job.... yeah Toby said so we applied.

It will be 30 years since I have been retired said Toby and I still think about the first years in the fire department. Back then we worked 2 weeks of days and 2 weeks of nights, I was also assigned to what was called "floating crew". Back in them days the tillermen's position driving the back part of the aerial ladder truck was done by a Lieutenant. It later changed to a driver's position. Fire station camaraderie and hazing was something that only us firefighters would understand and appreciate. Every time someone saw a monkey on TV or in a magazine they would say hey look it's Toby. The troops said I had long arms like one however there were firefighters that were actually called monkey but for other reasons.

While I was a a pipemen Toby recollects, we had a a fire call in the Barrales neighborhood an apartment was fully involved so there was a lot of water flowing. Three of us were standing in about 6 inches of water when Tom Lopez grabbed onto a wire he could not let go of, Vince Holcomb grabbed Tom and he could not let go of Tom, I grabbed Vince and I could not let go of Vince lucky we fell back onto the ground to break free heck we were energized.... Like the Bunny. Yes the electric meter had been pulled just someone running electricity from another source. Unusual things that people do - firefighters will tell you it's not that unusual! Toby said, remember the first years of working on the rescue the officer was Lieutenant Eloy Mascarenas, the main piece of equipment was the Emerson respirator. Back then the procedure was to give the patient oxygen for just about everything! The oxygen tanks for that respirator were large and heavy. The respirator case had 2 holes where the tanks would stick out it seemed like it weighed about 100 lbs. At rescue calls Nidel Martinez would grab the back of the tanks and I would carry the front part of the respirator into the house, what a workout just getting it to the needed location.

Our rescue trucks received a lot of runs and would need repair. We did not have good reserve vehicles back then so when we spared out it was to an old panel truck referred to as unit 61. It was a real death trap.....!

Toby said I was recruited into the Paramedic program which was great. One particular incident I remember was; a new ambulance paramedic was trying to take over our patient he got a little physical. Well one thing led to another and let's just say, he had to lock himself in the ambulance for his own safety! Some calls that am proud of was the delivery of three babies in my career they went down with not too much recognition but we (crew) will always remember them.

Another call that I will never forget was; we responded to a call reported as a man that had been shot in his house. Upon our arrival a police officer yelled out he's right in here get him out the shooter is still here. Lieutenant Fuqua and I immediately pulled him out of the house to the sidewalk it looked bad for the victim. I happened to look up to the second floor where the shooter had climbed out to. The bad part was he had his rifle sight fixed right on me..... Luckily the police had their weapons drawn on him so he reluctantly dropped his!



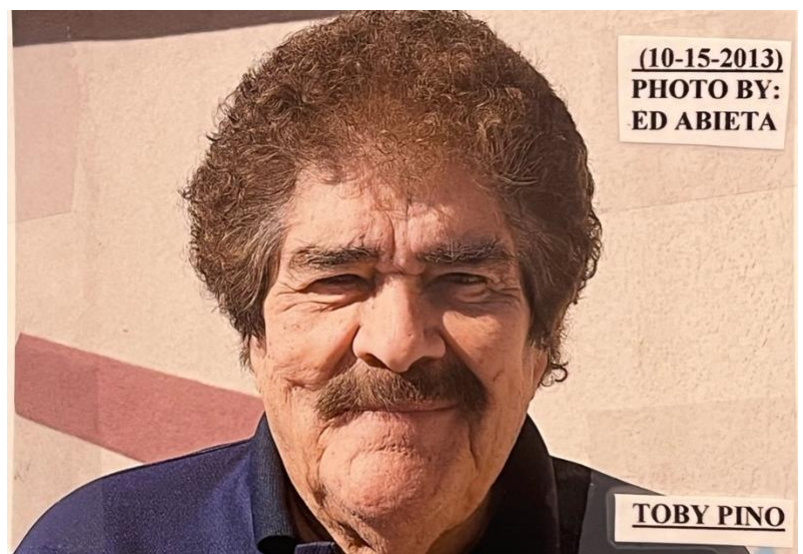
While assigned to Rescue Four the AFD agreed to help Pocatello Idaho Fire Department in providing field experience to their new paramedic(s). One of their paramedics assigned to our crew was a pleasant quite person. However after a shift or two with the guys at the station four he became one of the boys quickly, we enjoyed his company.

At fire station one I would cook for the troops some would say how about some pay-day steaks for lunch but others would say there too expensive. I would compromise with hamburger, Mexi-corn and 5 pounds of potatoes. If the menu was Green Chile Stew the chow list would Start out with 10 to 15 people. However the word would get out and requests to get on list would come from the Fire Chiefs Office (the Chief's office was located on the west side of station one), Fire Prevention Bureau, Alarm Room and even Training Staff. So the joke was 'just add more water" and hope we had enough bowls and spoons for all. However all these meals always turned out great, Green Chile Stew in the fire department was a tradition.

I played fast pitch softball with the firefighters, our uniforms were red with white pin stripe. I played 3rd base and HH Chavez was the 1st basemen, he was a big target to throw to. After the games were the fun times win or lose because we drank beer and joked. The picnics we had for the entire department were something we all looked forward to each year at our old camp grounds on south hwy 14 in the Manzanos. One year our shift at station one got together and had our own Matanza, we pitched in to buy a pig butchered it, cooked it and devoured it....the guitars were played until dark now that was good party!

After my retirement most of my time was dedicated to my family we did a lot together and just had fun together. Tragedy hit my family where we lost five family members in motor vehicle accident that changed our lives, but our faith, family and friends helped us through it. I recently lost my wife where this coming February would have been our 50th wedding anniversary.....

Looking back I think a firefighter will always have two families, their own personal and of course their firefighter family.



## The Steve Marquez Story

by Eddie Abeita

Steve started his 22 year career with Albuquerque Fire Department, September 2, 1986 and Retired January 1, 2008.

Steve said I thought about starting my career with AFD years earlier but it did not happen. Later on I knew it had to be "a commitment" to be hired into AFD, and become a firefighter which I did do. This is what my dad Evaristo told me about making a commitment he retired after a 29 year career.

As a fire cadet he remembered fellow fire cadets, Peter Romero, Dave Garcia, William Mora and Brandon Moss to name a few. Instructors were, George Nichols, Mel Vigil and Eddie Abeita. We would drill with every piece of equipment carried on the trucks. One particular piece of equipment was a cellar nozzle called the Bresnen Distributor, it shot out spinning revolving spray of water 209 gallons per minute (gpm). One hose drill evaluation was called, "cellar nozzle to the kitchen floor". Tom Velasquez and I were on the pumper so we estimated the distance, pull the working hose, break the 2 ½" and rapid advance connection and placed the uncharged hose line and nozzle into the floor. Then started to retreat however the instructor said don't abandon the line, so we held onto the line now being charged with water boy oh boy that was a lot of water coming out of the nozzle and it's spinning spray. We got soaked with water thinking back Steve said; with most drills, we would end up getting soaked (down to the underwear).



Steve said during the interview, you did not fully understand what the instructors were thinking or trying to make you think, maybe more on your own or it was just the "school of hard knocks". One morning it snowed so before class all cadets shoveled and cleaned the snow on the area used for physical exercises. How funny it ended up the instructor said today is the scheduled day we move our exercise location to another place, so we still ended doing pushups in the snow..... You figure!

My first field assignment was at station 13 platoon "B" in which my dad Evaristo was assigned to platoon "A" at station 13. When I walked into station 13, "A" platoon was going on their days off. My dad took me to the bunk room and pointed at a locker and said that locker and that bed are now assigned to you, okay dad, thank you I said. My dad was referred to as a short timer with less than a month of service left in his career. At fire station 13 Steve Saddoris and Mark McIntire were the main cooks unless they were on leave or in training then one of us would fill in but just until he returned we relied on Steve's cooking.

EJ. Sanchez was the House Captain I remember engine 13 responding to car fire in the early morning hours. Temperature was below freezing and upon arrival the car was fully engulfed in flames, the the captain called for the hand line to knock down the flames, upon investigation we saw someone in car, the doors were locked, we worked fast to get inside the car. With the water that we used it had turned to ice and we were slipping and sliding trying to get him out, he was not breathing so we started CPR. It was kind of scary because all of a sudden he took a breath and smoke came out of his mouth but quit breathing again. The rescue arrived and started working on the patient while we continued CPR.

The rescue transported the patient to the emergency room because the ambulance did not show up. Our crew felt good about bringing him back but found out later he did not make it. When I was promoted to Lieutenant my first assignment was at engine 1, later transferred to engine 7. The crew consisted of Willy Vigil, Randy Cordova, John Chavez, and me. John and I were second generation firefighters. John's dad is HH Chavez an AFD firefighter for 25 years, so we felt a lot of pride in being part of AFD. John did most of the cooking he was a great cook. The specialty was carne adovada we picked it up at Nelsons Meats which was down the street, in our running district. One thing our crew had in common was, we all graduated high school the same year 3 from Rio Grande and one from Highland High School.

Steve said one evening we were dispatched to a call involving a gas tanker on fire on Coors Blvd N. W. A few minutes into the fire a second alarm had to be transmitted. This type of fire is hot and smoky which all firefighters will experience in their career. When the fire was under control we told to return to quarters it was late at night. Hours later we were dispatched to the same location a rekindle occurred. During overhauled a security guard approached us and said, can I show you something on the other side of the parked trucks? It was the AFD command vehicle left behind, all companies were back in quarters except us. Not to make a big deal out of it I got keys to the academy gate from station 17 and had one of my firefighters drive it to the fire academy for overnight storage.

My last three years of service was in the Fire Marshalls Office which was a big change and a great experience Steve said. I assisted inspectors with some of their inspections that needed additional work. One thing that would come up repeatedly was dealing with some of the business owners or their managers on NFPA Life Safety Codes. EXIT signage not illuminated or visible and means of egress (exits) that were blocked, you would think would not be a problem with enforcement .....but it was.

Steve said another thing I did like about FMO was interacting with the public and being able to assist the field with inspections. Also the inspectors in FMO, had lost contact with them over the years, I did not know that these firefighters promoted into FMO so it was good to see them again. During that time the movie industry was booming in the Albuquerque area. Inspections had to be made on the movie sets the film crews welcomed us because they were fire conscientious. They knew if a fire broke out on the set it meant a shut down and no work for them and a huge loss in time and money. After retirement from AFD still felt had some good miles left in me so I applied at Sandia Laboratory. With my background I worked with the Fire Protection Group handling private fire protection systems, which included; fire extinguishers, fire alarms systems, automatic sprinkler systems and hood suppression systems.

Still employed it can be sometimes difficult to make the monthly retirees meetings. I mainly attend when my dad calls and says; need a ride to the meeting stop by and pick me up; once at the meeting I completely enjoy them it's the brotherhood thing. Last year was my first involvement with a retiree's function it was the annual picnic, it was good working with firefighters again. If everything goes well ! look forward to helping again it feels good in giving something back to the retirees. Today I think our family is a lot busier than when I was employed with AFD. We have two kids attending Manzano High School our daughter Tina is involved in music and our son Gabe plays football and baseball. This keeps my wife Thelma and busy with concerts and ball games all the time. [END]

## Minutes August 2022

On August 10, 2022 the 264<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244 . The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Kerry Horton. Kerry led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Morris Guterrez led the opening prayer. The last alarm, moment of silence ceremony, was observed in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call - President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Pablo Garcia, Treasurer Mike Fox, and Historian Herman Bishop. Absent were Secretary Fred Casias and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. Our guest was Robert Sanchez, Los Alamos firefighter, son of retiree Robert Sanchez.

Morris Guterrez reported that the AFDR annual picnic will be held on August 27, 2022 at Rotary Park Bernalillo New Mexico. All retirees and their families are invited. There is no charge, however, donations will be accepted. There will be lots of door prizes, and a silent auction to support our Retiree Assistance Program. Kerry reported that U.S.

Congressman Rodney Davis (R) Illinois, has introduced the Social Security Fairness Act (HR-82) that would repeal the social security Penalty that we all suffer due to our PERA Pension. The IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial has been set for September 17, 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our deceased member Jeff Elks will be added to the memorial this year. Fred Casias, Secretary was absent but Herman Bishop read the July minutes. A motion to accept the minutes passed. Mike Fox gave the treasurer's report. All funds are accounted for and the books are in good order. Mike also gave the fire museum report. The Redbook/rules and regulations display and Honor Guard displays are now completed. Robby Sanchez, President of NM District 10, Firefighter Motorcycle Group, reported that members will attend the Firefighters Memorial in Colorado Springs during September, 2022. Tom Romero made a motion that our association donate \$250 to the motorcycle group for expenses. Ralph Sedillo seconded. Motion Passed. The July raffle was won by: John Barnum, Richard Sanchez, Mike Murphy and Kerry Murphy. Closing prayer by Morris Guterrez, meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

### Lieutenant Michael King, Bernalillo County fire rescue specialist – funeral (by Herman R Bishop August 1, 2022)

On Monday August 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 the funeral for Lieutenant Matthew King Fire Rescue specialist from Bernalillo County was held at Tingley Coliseum. Lieutenant Matthew King died in a line of duty helicopter crash on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 near Las Vegas NM while serving on a wildland Fire Rescue mission. He was killed along with three Bernalillo County sheriff's members who were also killed in the crash .

The funeral was attended by over 1000 firefighters, police officers, first responders, friends and relatives from around the state of New Mexico. Officers and firefighters were in attendance from Santa Fe, Raton, Grants, Gallup, Roswell, Las Cruces, Clovis, Rio Rancho and Farmington that we observed. The bottom floor of the Colosseum had over 1000 folding chairs for attendees . Bernalillo County Fire Chief Greg Perez presided. The New Mexico Police/Fire Rescue bagpipe band, drum and bugle corps played for the ceremonies.

The members of the band was comprised of both men and women playing the bagpipes, horns, drums and bugles. They started softly playing Amazing Grace in the back of the building as they marched towards the front. I was sitting about mid- way in the audience and as they marched by me they had reached a high crescendo. Needless to say, hearing this band, and thinking of the symbolism it represented, brought chill bumps down my spine. They marched and played around the entire perimeter of the building.

Chief Perez introduced the speakers. Eight speakers each gave a five minutes Eulogy honoring Matthew: Bernalillo County Manager, Julie Moragas Baca, New Mexico Governor Michele Grisham Lujan, United States Congresswoman Theresa Leger Fernandez, Northeast N.M. Congresswoman District # 3. Bernalillo County Sheriff Manuel Gonzales, Several Bernalillo County Fire Deputy Chiefs and Captains spoke. AFR F.F. Union President, Local 244, Miguel Tittmann.

There was a slide show. Presentations were made to the family. Chief Perez and the Governor presented the United States Flag, and Department Flag, The Medal of Honor Award was presented by Chief Perez. A traditional ringing of the fire bell was given, honoring the deceased. In closing Lieutenant Matthew King was given the final dispatch by a dispatcher from the Bernalillo County Emergency Communications Department.

3-3's or 4-5's  
A story of traditions  
By Kerry Horton

The fire service is filled with tradition, whether we're talking about FDNY, Albuquerque Fire Rescue, or a small volunteer department in anywhere USA, the tasks and ceremonies provided by the department are often based on age-old traditions. The Roman Empire is often credited with developing the first dedicated fire service by having nightwatchmen sound alarms when a fire was spotted and slaves manning bucket brigades to douse the fire, but that's a little further back than we need to go. In 1736, Benjamin Franklin organized the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This was the first volunteer fire service in the new colonies, and soon the idea of volunteer fire services spread throughout the country. Many of the traditions that we hold onto today began back in the infancy of the fire service in this new country. The trumpets that adorn fire officer lapels are representative of the trumpets used by chief officers to give commands on the fire ground back in the day, and bell rings were the communication method of the time. Bells announced the presence of a fire, the start and end of a shift, and the death of a firefighter or city dignitary.

Today's fire service is faced with a more dangerous work environment than ever before and is forced to continually change their strategies and tactics to accomplish their tasks. Though the methods change, the goals remain the same as they were in the past - to save lives and to protect property. As today's fire service changes to adapt to today's environment, it holds onto traditions founded more than 200 years ago.

In the past, as firefighters began their tour of duty, it was the bell that signaled the beginning of the day's shift. Throughout the day and night, it was the sounding of a bell that summoned the firefighters into action - saving lives and protecting property, often by placing themselves in great peril. When the fire was out, and the alarm had come to an end, it was the bell that signaled the completion of that call. When a firefighter died in the line of duty, paying the ultimate sacrifice, it was the mournful toll of the bell that announced a comrade's passing.

Today, these traditions are utilized as symbols, reflecting honor and respect for those who gave so much, and served so well. To symbolize the devotion that these brave souls had for their duty, a special series of bell tolls represent the end of our comrades' duties, and that they will symbolically be returning to quarters. The series of bell tolls used to honor a fallen firefighter differs in different regions of the country, and even from department to department, but the sentiment is always the same, to pay homage to a firefighter that selflessly gave of themselves to save lives and protect property.

The IAFF, and many departments across the country, use a special signal of three rings, three times, to represent the end of a comrade's duties and that they will be returning to quarters. This signal is known as the 3-3's. FDNY utilizes a special series of bell tolls commonly called Striking the Four Fives. A tradition that dates to the late 1800's, this series of bell commands signal that a comrade has died in the line of duty, or that an important official or personage has died. FDNY used the 4-5's to announce the death of Abraham Lincoln back in 1865, and the custom has continued to this day. Other departments use different bell series in their service to honor their fallen brothers and sisters. Boston Fire Department utilizes a special series of two bell strikes, four times, whereas the Houston Fire Department uses seven strikes, one time.

When the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association developed our Honor Guard to honor our deceased members, we had a heavy influence from Retired Chief Bobby Halton, who favored FDNY's Striking the Four Fives, so this was the tradition that we chose to follow. The AFDRA uses the 4-5's symbolically, but AFR has adopted Striking the Four Fives in its Line of Duty Death protocols as well.

We recently attended BCFD Lieutenant Matthew King's funeral services, and BCFD Fire Chief Greg Perez and the entire BCFD did a fantastic job honoring one of their own in a fashion that celebrated the career of Matt King and brought honor and respect to Lt. King and his family. BCFD has chosen to follow IAFF's lead and they utilize the 3-3's. The honor, and respect that the bell ceremony symbolizes is the same whether it is the 4-5's, 3-3's, 2-4's, or what ever each department utilizes.

I want to thank John Kowalski and his article "Ring of the Bell Ceremony" for assisting me in researching the history of fire service bell ceremonies.



## Tidbits - short stories

### A Fight Ensued

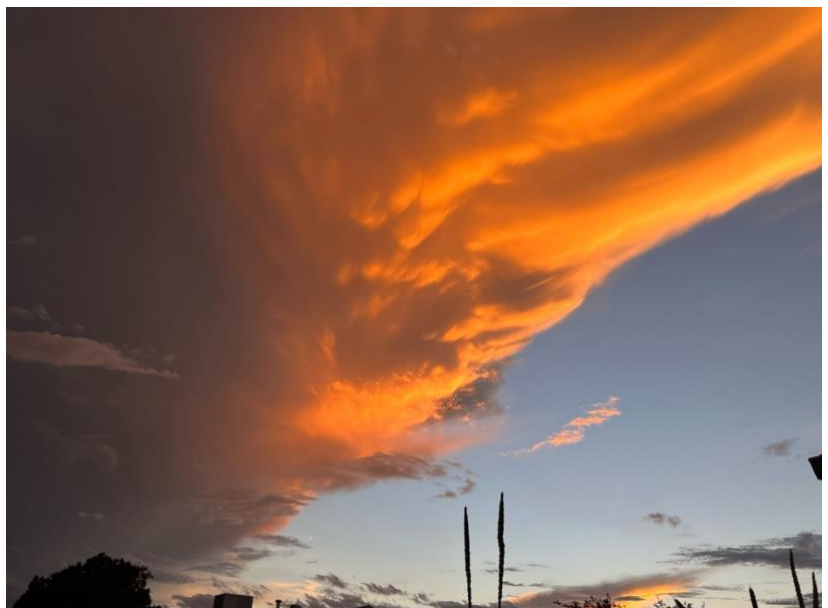
(story by Mike Fox)

One day, while on temporary transfer to the fire Academy to teach the EMS portion of the cadet class, I was sitting in the training room at the old Academy on Kit Carson and heard a loud commotion coming from Brian Levie's office in the back. It was a very loud commotion with loud voices and angry screaming. I ran in the back just in time to see Eddie Abeita throwing Brian over his desk and onto his chair. My immediate reaction was to say what the F#%\* is going on in here? Brian and Eddie had set me up by staging a fake fight. Their intention was to continue when I came in and make me break it up but they were both laughing so hard they couldn't continue. These firemen and their pranks, I don't know.

### The Hiring of Herman Bishop

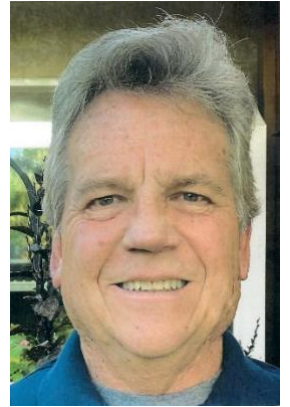
(Story as told to Mike by Herman Bishop)

Herman Bishop had a friend that knew assistant chief George Tafoya in the Albuquerque Fire Department. George was looking for baseball players so they could beat the darn cops and saw Herman as a tall strapping young man that would make a good addition to their team. He worked hard to get Herman hired. Herman was waiting for a call back from the personnel department when Assistant Chief Tafoya called him and asked why he was not in the next cadet class. Herman informed him he was still waiting for a call from the personnel department. When Assistant Chief Tafoya contacted the personnel director to see what had happened, she informed him that she had been told Mr. Bishop had gone back to North Carolina and he was dropped from the list. Assistant Chief Tafoya then approached the Fire Chief and asked him to put Herman on as an alternate. The chief said he could not do that, he didn't have the budget. He was finally convinced to put Herman on the list in case somebody failed their physical examination. The following day some poor gentleman lost some fingers in a lawnmower incident and Herman was hired. Assistant Chief Tafoya was excited and checked on Herman frequently in the cadet class because he thought Herman would make a fantastic addition to their baseball team. After his graduation Assistant Chief Tafoya had him assigned to his station. Herman said after about three days he felt so guilty he finally went up to him and told him you know I don't even know how to play baseball. Assistant Chief Tafoya laughed it off and said that's OK you're a big guy you'll make a good fireman anyway.





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

By Kerry Horton

As Summer winds down, we hope that everyone has had a great summer season. There's a coolness in the night air, kids are back in school, and we had another great picnic. It was great seeing everyone again, and a lot of fun catching up with old friends. A lot of door prizes were handed out and the silent auction and NMIAFFMG raffle were big successes. Morris and his team of cooks put on a delicious spread of hamburgers, hotdogs, and salads. I hope that this entices those that didn't make it this year to be sure and put next year's picnic on the calendar.



**RIO GRANDE**  
 - CREDIT UNION -