



AFDRA Retiree News



Published by the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association

December 1, 2023		# 4-2023	
President, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W. Albuquerque	87120	934-2969
Vice President, Donny Sanchez	5313 5th Court NW, Albuquerque NM	87107	228-3286
Secretary, Edward Abeita	37 Tribal Road 76 SW, Albuquerque NM	87105	250-7895
Treasurer, Mike Fox	3508 32nd Circle S.E. Rio Rancho, N.M.	87124	385-7292
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. Albuquerque	87111	294-7165
President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo.	5318 La Colonia Dr. NW Albuquerque	87120	899-1500

ADVISORY BOARD

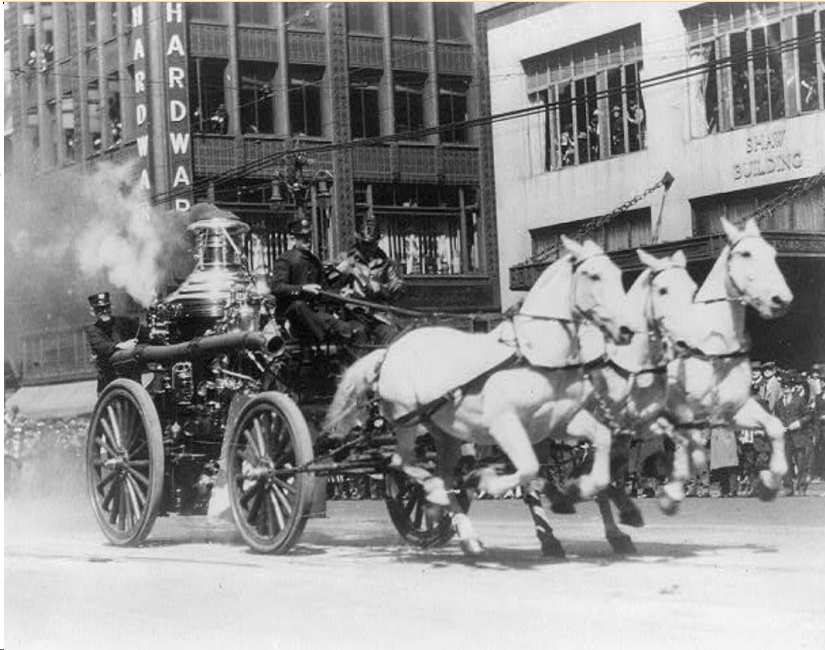
Eulogio Lucero	362-1228	Morris Guterrez	881-7833	Pablo Garcia Jr.	363-2233
Santos Abeyta	620-0670	Vince Holcomb	897-2667	Fred Teupell	259-6521
Joe Martinez.	792-1867	Louis C. Trujillo	604-7732	Tommy Romero	855-9389
Eugene Baldonado	344-6866	Bill Raupfer	281-8478		
Anthony Nuanez	573-0490	Jose Salaz	898-8373		



**HERMAN R. BISHOP,
EDITOR IN CHIEF**

CONTENTS

- P-1** Fire Horse Photos, Annual Christmas Dinner
- P-2** ☉ Minutes- August 2023
- P-3** Death of Jesus Frias
- P-4** Historical Stories
- P-7** ☉ Minutes- Sept 2023
- P-9** Fire Horses USA (1832-1917)
- P-10** Albuquerque Fire Horses
- P-11** ☉ Minutes- Oct 2023
- P-12**-Death of Albert Lavigne
- P-13** AFDRA Memorial Project
- P-13** Death of Ray Padilla
- P-14** Masterminds take on the Memorial Project
- P-15** AFDRA Honor Guard
- P-15** Death of Silverio Sanchez
- P-16** President's Message by Kerry Horton



HORSES IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Beginning in June 1900 Albuquerque began using fire horses to pull the hand drawn fire wagons. Horses were used to pull fire apparatus in the United States fire service for roughly 60 years from the Civil War era, 1864 to the early 1920s. During the horse era, Albuquerque had 11 fire horses to pull fire wagons, ladder wagons, and chiefs' buggies.

Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner!!!

Come join fellow retirees at our annual AFDRA Christmas dinner on Thursday December 14th. Final deadline to get tickets is December 8th, call John Barnum @ **505-582-6887**. Doors open at 6PM.



www.afdretirees.com



Mike Fox, Assistant Editor





Minutes, August 2023 08/09/2023



AFDRA 276th meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. President asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez said the opening prayer. Morris noted David Hererra was in surgery and will report when he hears something. Kerry stated during the President's report that David was out of surgery and the surgery went well. Barbra said "thanks for all the prayers", Kerry will put the information in the newsletter. [No deaths Reported]

Roll call of Officers present, President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo.

Advisory Board present, Morris Gutierrez, Vince Holcomb, Bill Raupfer, OG Lucero, Anthony Nuanez Joe Martinez, and Pablo Garcia

"Before the night is ends, we will learn about Bills brush with a rattlesnake."
Guest Speaker, Steven Astorga is running for PERA Board. Steven said he is running to represent all PERA members. Steven retired from Albuquerque Solid Waste and is running against Loretta Naranjo.

Statement by President Kerry Horton,

All of us know the most important thing is to protect our PERA fund. Protect it for the next generation and future generations. We all can agree.

Senate Bill 72 hurt some retirees; with all the evidence we had it was needed. Now we can make adjustments to help retirees.

Presidents Report, New Retiree Jeff Hankins was in the 154th cadet class and retired May 1, 2023. Jeff is currently employed by BNSF Railroad as a Haz-Mat Manager. Kerry said the letter from PERA did not explain how the ½% increase was formulated. Hopefully next time we will get at least 1 1/2% based on a 4-year average. Our last PERA representative John Melia kept us informed, hopefully our next board member will provide us better information. [*Steve Astorga said, I will keep retirees informed*"]. Our Last Alarm truck is getting ready for a new Paint job with gold-leaf print and stripping.". The last time it was painted was 2006. The work continues on the last alarm truck however still waiting for some driveline parts. This is a 6-month project, however, could be an 8-month project. Kerry had contact with Fleet Services, Monty Randoombloom he asked Kerry if he was OK with changing the Last Alarm truck badge to AFR. Kerry said the name change was not in the funding, however understood the truck is property of AFR. Kerry said Retirees do not support the change. New Logistic Chief contacted Local 244 President Miguel Tittmann about the change, Miguel contacted Kerry and asked him about the badge change to AFR. Kerry said if it was changed from AFD to AFR you would have a lot of upset retirees. Miguel wrote a compelling letter to the Logistic Chief about the retirees not wanting the change. Fire Chief Emily Jaramillo called Kerry and apologized and said she was unaware of the change. When she did find out she put an immediate stop to it and said it will remain AFD. Kerry said if any of you see her at Civic Plaza 911 ceremony give her a Thank You! Active-duty Chris Cruz called Kerry about a "Frequent Flyer Caller", Hilda and Eloy Ramirez, Eloy is a retiree of Roswell Fire Department. They moved to Albuquerque for needed medical treatment. Their home is in need of repair so Chris thought with some help from the retirees' repairs could be made as a Random Acts of Kindness. Prior to Kerry and Chris doing a site visit Eloy was put into hospices. A hold has been put on everything; Kerry will keep us informed by e-mail. AFR, PIO Jeff Bersetitive will coordinate 911 activities at Civic Plaza.

Vice Presidents Report, Donny Sanchez said the date for 911 Memorial in Colorado Springs is September 16. Local 244 is renting a house to help with some sleeping accommodation. Donny will be helping a friend Donald who shuttles families back and forth during the memorial. Donny asked the membership if anyone else is attending, Sam Trujillo said he will attend. Donny said, this is something I wanted to do, this was on my "Bucket List".

Secretary Report, Eddie read the minutes from the July meeting. Motion made accept the minutes, first by Morris Guterrez, second by Joe Martinez, motion passed.

Treasurers Report, Mike said *"We started with some money, We got some money, We spent some money, And we still have some money.* Mike provided overview of all expenditures for the month of August. Including donations received from Kerry Horton \$5.00, Earl, and Darla Gleason \$50.00 and \$100. In Honor of Noel Baca. \$100. donations for the Flagpole; Mike Fox, Bill Raupfer, Donnie Sanchez, Sam Trujillo, Anthony Nunez, Erasmo Garza, and Laura Pavatt. Motion to accept First by Pablo Garcia Second by O.G. Lucero. Motion Passed.



Historian Report, Herman said he had a call from Frank Maestas, Frank asked if we still would like some door prizes for the picnic. He sent a box full of prizes. Frank is 87 years old and had a stroke, however he did recover. His wife became ill, so they would not be able to attend. HERMAN asked the membership "has anyone turned in a story for the book Morris is putting together? Herman said Sam Trujillo wrote a story about himself joining the fire department and his tour in Vietnam. Herman said Morris's last book was a success. Herman read a story about District Chief Slim Davidson and his pipe and how he smoked it in bed at 3 in the morning. Eddie Abeita told a story about how Herman became a hero for Chuck Valdez. Morris gave a story about working with Chuck. Herman recognized Silver Sanchez, our oldest retiree who was in attendance. Pablo Garcia brought Silver to the meeting. Eddie also said at times Silver was a personal cook for District Chief Fred Marcelli.

Picnic, Morris Guterrez said they will be shopping on Tuesday and invites all to attend the picnic to be held at Rotary Park in Bernalillo NM on Saturday August 19th, starting at 11 AM. Also, Morris said the last book sales were over 300 and hopes to double that amount.

Museum, Mike Fox said all tags are being redone, they did put approximately 90 new tags on the pole and stopped, realized they would like to place them in alphabetical order so it would be easier to find a specific name. Mike noted that since the year 2000, 201 tags were placed on the pole.

Good and Welfare, Pablo said after several calls he found out that Lynn Turpin was not in rehabilitation but taken to his residence. Pablo brought Silver Sanchez to the retirees meeting. Evie Marquez is at Beehive. [Report given early; Pablo took Silver home] Sam Trujillo reported Ross Aranda is doing well.

Raffle, \$94.00 in ticket sales. Winners were Robert Sanchez, Vince Holcomb, Kenny Sewell, and Dennis Lowder.

Matters Good for the Association, Vote was held to change by-law wording, Article 5, Section 1, Duties of Officers, Item #3. Vote passed. Sam Trujillo said he has been on the board of the New Mexico Professional Firefighters and after 20 years is stepping down. Sam has served in the capacity as "retiree representative and Advisory Board member.

New Business, Mike Fox reported a color printer, copier was purchased at a cost of \$900.00, Last year alone over \$300.00 dollars was spent for ink plus other cost associated with printing at local businesses. This printer has a 4-year warrantee and a 2-year free supply of ink. The printer does not use print cartridges instead has ink **reservoirs**. Kenny Sewell donated a pair of chaps that were used by the AFD Horse Patrol. Killer's wife had given them to Kenny. They will be placed at the fire museum. Closing Prayer, by Morris Guterrez. Meeting adjourned



Death of Jesus Frias

Regretfully we announce the death of retired firefighter, Paramedic Jesus, "Jessie," Frias who passed away on October 10, 2023. He was hired March 19, 1962. After serving over 24 years with his community and the fire department he retired on May 25, 1986. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and will be buried at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. He loved his job as a paramedic and served on Rescue One, at 8th and Silver Avenue S.W. for many years. Jesus was a strong and honorable firefighter and knew the dangers of firefighting. He never hesitated to tackle the biggest and most dangerous emergencies head on.

We extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Frias family.

Historical Stories

AFR Opens New Fleet Maintenance Facility

by Kerry Horton and Herman Bishop



(Assistant, Editor's note) Here is an article that Herman and Kerry wrote several years ago, history is happening around us.

One of the most progressive things that the current Fire Administration has done, is to open the new AFR Fleet Maintenance Facility, located at 7601 Los Volcanes NW. Fleet maintenance is not the most exciting thing to discuss when talking shop in the fire service, but with over 200 vehicles in AFR's care, a new maintenance facility was long overdue.

AFR got its first motorized pumper in 1912, then quickly added a Chiefs car in 1913, and then added another pumper in 1914. The department did not have an official apparatus maintenance shop, so repairs were made by the fire chief or on-duty firefighters who had mechanical skills. By 1918, the department was a motorized department, but not many people knew how to drive back then. World War I was instrumental in teaching young men how to drive and work on vehicles. In 1918, Fire Chief Russell hired W.A. Westerfield, a WW1 Navy veteran and good mechanic to be the department mechanic and apparatus driver. Over the next ten years Westerfield advanced through the ranks to the position of Assistant Fire Chief, all while serving as the department mechanic. While major repairs were sent out to local shops, or even sent back to the American La France factory in New York, most of the daily maintenance and repairs were done at Station One, then located at Second and Tijeras NW.

In 1936, Carl Macaluso was hired as a firefighter and mechanic, working out of Station One until the original Station Four was opened in 1941 at 5th Street and Mountain Road NW. Station Four served as the mechanic shop until a new Station One was opened at 8th and Silver Ave. SW, with a mechanic/maintenance shop in the back of the apparatus bays. In 1956, AFR hired its first official mechanic, Marvin Wafer Sr., who served as the department mechanic for 24 years before retiring in 1980.

In 1979, the department purchased the Rust Tractor/ Caterpillar repair facility located on 4th Street NW. After extensive renovations, that facility became the fire department's maintenance shop, known as 4th Street yards. AFR used this facility for 41 years, even though the facility never had the infrastructure to properly service the heavy pumper and aerial apparatus in AFR's fleet. Many times, the apparatus had to be sent out to better equipped facilities to make repairs, at great expense to the city.

The new facility is a modern, six-bay drive-through garage with lifting capability for heavy apparatus, and with the well-trained mechanic crews servicing AFR's 200 vehicles, the department now has a true in-house service facility.



GRAND OPENING. ALBUQUERQUE FIRE RESCUE FLEET MAINTENANCE SHOP. JUNE 4. 2020 (Photo By. Kerry Horton)



Historical Stories (cont.)

AFD Fire Chief History



February 24, 1882 - Fire Chief William Sanguinette: Feb. 24, 1882. The Albuquerque Morning Journal newspaper reported that the Albuquerque Volunteer hook and ladder company was headed by Fire Chief William Sanguinette.

July 13, 1882 - William Sanguinette was re-elected Fire Chief. William Sanguinette was then re-elected to Fire Marshal in March 1886 by three fire companies, the Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company, and the Scott Moore and A.A. Grant Hose Companies



Bernard Ruppe – First Paid Fire Chief (circa 1900)

October 1, 1900 - Fire Chief Charles Bernard Ruppe appointed as Albuquerque 's first paid Fire Chief. (logged in the official F.D. ledger, this date)

April 1902 - Mr. Hubbs was named Fire Chief after Chief Ruppe resigned resulting from personnel problems.

March 1903 - Mr. Nash took over as Fire Chief from Mr. Hubbs.

March 20, 1904 - Mr. A.C. Burtless succeeded Mr. Nash as Fire Chief. Chief Burtless served (3-20-1904 to 5-18-1910

April 18, 1910 - Jacob Klein appointed Fire Chief. He succeeded A.C. Burtless. Klein served until 12-16-15.

December 16, 1915 - A.C. Burtless appointed to Fire Chief. Jacob Klein was removed by the Mayor and City Council.

April 17, 1916 - J.W. Burnette to Fire Chief when A.C. Burtless was removed by the Mayor and City Council.

March 1917 - Fred M. Russell appointed to Fire Chief and replaced J.W. Burnette.

April 17, 1917 - F. M. Russell resigns after the City Administration fired firefighters for trying to organize a Union.

April 17, 1917 - William Collister was appointed to Fire Chief after Chief Fred Russell resigned due to the City Administration's firing of firefighters for trying to organize a Union.

April 29, 1922 - William Collister was shown on the daily ledger as Fire Chief.

1922 to 1924 - It is not clear when Chief Russell was re-appointed as Fire Chief. The 1925 annual report is signed by Fred Russell. On 5-24-24, Pumper #1 and the Chief's car collided, then hit a streetcar while responding to a false alarm. Chief Russell and Fireman Simon Seligman were both seriously injured but both recovered.

August 21, 1931 - Fire Chief Russell passed away after serving several years as Fire Chief.

August 28, 1931 - W.A. "Art" Westerfeld appointed to Fire Chief after the death of Chief Fred M. Russell.

February 20, 1962 - W.A. Westerfeld dies after a long illness. He served 31 years as Fire Chief and 43 years with AFD.

Note: On the day Chief Westerfeld died Astronaut John H. Glen made a three-hour space orbit and became the first American to orbit the Earth.

February 1962 - Simon Seligman appointed Fire Chief after the death of Chief Westerfeld.

September 9, 1968 - Ray L. Kuhn appointed Fire Chief after Chief Seligman retires. Note: Chief Seligman was the first Fire Chief to retire from the Albuquerque Fire Department.

July 1974 - Arthur B. Martinez appointed Fire Chief upon the retirement of Chief Ray Kuhn.

March 10, 1980 - Leonard C. Ortega appointed to Fire Chief after the retirement of Arthur B. Martinez.

December 17, 1985 - Gerald Grimm Appointed Fire Chief after the retirement of Chief Leonard C. Ortega.

April 1990 - Tom Montoya former Asst. Chief from Denver, appointed Fire Chief after the retirement of Chief Grimm.

December 1993 - Greg Chavez appointed Fire Chief after the resignation of Chief Montoya.

December 1995 - Carlos Dominguez appointed Fire Chief after Chief Chavez retires.

December 1997 - Morris L. Huling appointed Fire Chief after Chief Dominguez retires.

December 2001 - Robert E. Ortega appointed Fire Chief after the retirement of Chief Huling.

December 2009 - James Breen appointed Fire Chief following the retirement of Chief Ortega.

January 1, 2014 - David Downey appointed Fire Chief upon retirement of Chief Breen

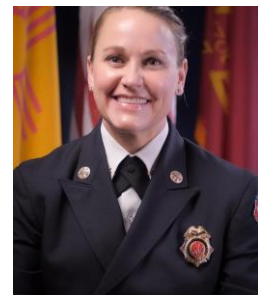
January 2018 - Paul Dow appointed Fire Chief upon retirement of Chief Downey.

April 2021 - Gene Gallegos appointed Interim Chief following the retirement of Chief Dow.

November 20, 2021 - Gene Gallegos appointed Fire Chief.

March 2023 - Emily Jaramillo appointed Fire Chief following the retirement of Chief Gallegos.

Emily was selected and promoted to become the first woman to serve as Fire Chief in AFR's 123-year history.



Emily Jaramillo
Current Fire Chief



Historical Stories (cont.)

Sam Trujillo Story (Sam Trujillo_May 7, 2001)



Having served as a member of the Albuquerque Fire Department is something I will always be proud of. It was on September 3, 1968, that I joined the cadet class that fall. This class was taught by Assistant Fire Chief "Skippy" Esequiel Padilla and Captain Alfonso Lujan. The cadet class lasted 13 weeks. My cadet classmates included Rick Winters, Al Cordova, Doug Sieben, Paul Lesperance, Rick Davidson, Melcor Chavez and Ramon Maldonado. All these men retired from the Fire Department. Our class started out with about 19 men, but only 13 graduated. Simon Seligman was the Fire Chief when I started my career. Following Chief Seligman, I worked under Ray Kuhn, Arthur B. Martinez, and Leonard Ortega.

My career allowed me to work in fire suppression, fire communications, EMT-Paramedic division, HAZ-MAT/ high rise, and administration. I held several ranks starting as Firefighter, Driver, and retiring as Assistant Fire Chief. I am proud that I came out number one on six different promotional exams including the first assessment center exam given for the rank of Assistant Fire Chief. I was also fortunate to have attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland on six different occasions.

I think the most memorable fire was the Winrock Apartments. The fire was so intense that I never forgot how close I came to ending my career on that windy day. Other fires that were memorable to me were not that intense or big, but they taught me a valuable lesson. The fire at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building located at Lomas and Washington N.E. was where I hurt my back when the rafters in the false ceiling caused me to fall through the ceiling and dangle over the kitchen stove where a big pot of stew was cooking. George Sanchez pulled me out of that mess. Another fire that taught me a valuable lesson (do not mix electricity and water) was the Indian School fire. During the fire we were using power generators and portable lights during the salvage phase of the fire when one of the power cords came loose and I was given the order to correct the problem. I followed the cord from the generator to the hook-up extension cord running to the lights and I found both ends and proceeded to re-connect the cords (forgetting that I was standing in 6 inches of water) At this time I was thrown back as if kicked by a mule and landing flat on my back in the water. I was too embarrassed to tell anyone, however, our driver witnessed the drama and let everyone know what had happened. I was razzed for a long time by the crew.

My favorite job was as a Paramedic Driver working with Ernest Santistevan and Robert Jaramillo. We worked well together and experienced many memorable calls. I also have good memories of my involvement as Captain in setting up the "H.E.A.T. TEAMS. "We were new in the field of HAZ-MAT and high-rise firefighting, so we learned as we went along. We were purchasing equipment with Federal funds that were available. Unfortunately, we were buying equipment that was already obsolete. Attending the National Fire Academy was a great help and gave us new insight as how to modernize and to streamline our operations.

I retired as Assistant Fire Chief in charge of Paramedic Services. I served on the Mayor's Emergency Services Board for 6 years and helped set up the Level One Trauma Center System that is now in place for the City of Albuquerque. As Paramedic Director I oversaw 59 Rescue Units, 27 different crews with 81 personnel and one Training Officer. I fought hard to retain the three personnel staffing on Paramedic Units. At that time Albuquerque Ambulance was trying to take total control of the Pre-Hospital emergency medical care within the City. Lieutenant Billy Busick and I were also instrumental in setting up the "Ditch Witch" safety program. We also developed and placed into service the flood rescue program that is in use today. This included the placement of arroyo names which were posted at all arroyo crossings.

It was 16 years ago in June 1985 that I retired from the Fire Department. Yes, I still miss the fire service. As I was only 38 years old, I was not ready to retire. Since my retirement I went to work with Louis Trujillo in the field of safety within the Insurance Industry.



NM Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham appointed Sam Trujillo this year to serve on the New Mexico Veterans Advisory Board. We thank Sam for his tireless efforts to improve the lives of not only AFD retirees, but NM Veterans as well.

I became a field Safety Inspector performing risk management inspections. At the present time I am not working. My nickname while working in the Fire Department was given to me while serving as Chief's driver for Chief Al Lujan. I was given the name of "Kissinger." This was during the administration of President Richard Nixon and the famous Watergate Incident. Chief Lujan was called "Nixon" by some of the men, and we would drive up to a station the crew would say, "here comes Nixon and Kissinger."

Today's Firefighters will never experience the excitement of working off the tailboard of a fire truck. I thank God that I was given the opportunity to have worked with so many wonderful people and for having served as a member of the Albuquerque Fire Department.



Minutes, September 2023 09/ 13 /2023

AFDRA 277th meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. President asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez said the opening prayer. **Kerry said, one of the quotes from our treasure/editor of the newsletter there are no obituaries in the newsletter, following month 4 deaths.** He's been trying to get fired, the best is a reprimand. At break everyone gives him a slap on the back. Moment of silence for our deceased brothers, Romolo Turrietta, Jack Rojas, Steve Keffer and Anthony Hernandez.

Roll call of Officers present, President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny with a "Y" Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo. Advisory Board present, Morris Gutierrez, Vince Holcomb, Bill Raupfer, OG Lucero, Anthony Nuanez, Joe Martinez, Louie Trujillo, and Pablo Garcia Guest Speaker, Brian Colon, of Singleton Schreiber, Law Firm Advocate for injuries. Fearless Advocacy. Brian Colon said, firefighters have been exposed to "Forever chemicals" which is an unbreakable chain of chemicals. We want to hold. 3M and DuPont liable for their actions. Studies have shown that firefighting foam Aquarius Film Forming Foam (AFFF) have caused cancer in many firefighters. Chemicals used to create AFFF are, Perfluoro octane sulfonate (PFOS) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), **both toxic and carcinogenic. The cancers linked to AFFF exposure include kidney cancer, testicular cancer, bladder cancer, pancreatic cancer, and prostate cancer. These chemicals belong to a class called per-or polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) which are known as "forever chemicals". PFAS has been found in turnout gear AKA bunkers. For more information contact Brian Colon, New Mexico Managing Partner 505-270-2154.**

Presidents Report Update on the Last Alarm tuck, paint job is done had to do paint matching in some areas. If you remember the controversy about the badge being changed to AFR, then Fire Chief Jaramillo put an immediate stop to that and said the badging would be AFD. So, the truck is ours. They were working on engine and drive train rebuild; however, it's been difficult in finding a short block. This model by Pierce had a small diesel engine which did not last. If unable to find a short block they will rebuild the engine. The truck has a backup camera. Kerry said, the work is happening, we receive a report every month, the start of the project was in June looking at a 6-month project that would have meant completion at the end of this year, but now looking for an eight-month completion. Received notice from the New Mexico Health Care Authority, everyone's premiums are going up. Kerry asked who received a flyer from the Retired Public Employees of New Mexico. They have come up with a concept to fix PERA and COLA, this is based on their conception of an "Automatic Escalator". An Automatic Escalator could adjust contributions by employers. Kerry noted while on the committee every time a good idea came up to keep funds solvent, an actuarial was run to determine if the plan idea would work. With this automatic Escalator the larger cities should be able to handle increases, but the smaller towns could not handle increases. No one wanted to lose the 3% however it was not sustainable. Local 244 will have their Muster on September 29, at Civic Plaza. Kerry will post a flyer with information. One point, no retirees' teams are allowed to participate. Kerry met with administration's Health and Wellness committee who is participating in the National Firefighter register for cancer. At one time the main cause of firefighter line of duty death was being killed in buildings fighting fires. Now 60% of firefighter deaths have been related to cancer. Kerry was sent a questioner by AFR in which he will forward to retirees to fill out.

Vice Presidents Report, Honor Guard participated in 911 ceremonies, which was a good turnout. James and others were there all day and represented retirees very well. Thanks to all who participated. We will do it again next year.



Secretary Report. Eddie read the minutes from August retirees meeting, Motion made to accept, first by Morris Guterrez, second by Willie Telles. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report, Mike Fox gave an overview of all expenditures and deposits made in the month of August. This included \$50.00 from Earl and Darla Gleason, Mike said sometimes the CU ATM machine won't accept bills which would cause a minor delay in deposits. Motion made to accept report, First by Tom Romero, Second by Jessie Gonzales. Motion passed.



Historians Report, Herman said Morris has inspired us to write more stories, Morris said the last book was 300 issues and hopes to double the amount of the new book. Herman asked if anyone had turned in a story? Herman said I have a guide for you to follow if I can find it. Herman read his story about Mayor Tingly to use as an example. Herman called on Bill Raupfer to read his story about men wanting to avoid the draft by going to Canada and needed to borrow \$50 each. Tom Romero told his story how Bill Raupfer was behind a prank of him getting butter stuck in his ears.

Committee Reports, Funerals, Sam said the funeral for Jack Rojas is September 21 at Calvary. Tony Hernandez funeral has not been scheduled a lot of difficulties. Kerry will post the funeral service for Steve Keffer as soon as it becomes available. **Picnic,** Morris thanked all the volunteers for their help, Robbie Sanchez and wife, Mike Padilla and wife, Ed Chavez and his wife. Special thanks to Mike Padilla for taking pictures. Mike Fox stated RGCU donated \$1,500 for the picnic. **Christmas Dinner,** Vince Holcomb said the dinner is scheduled for Thursday December 14, at the Moose Lodge. Eddie Abeita said more details will be announced at the Retirees meeting in October.

Museum, A slide was found of Fire Chief Greg Chavez which will be made into a portrait to be placed at the museum. **The raffle and donations** were good. Winners were Jessie Gonzales, O.G. Lucero, and Vince Holcomb.

Matters Good for the Association, Discussion on sick retirees, Kerry stated after visiting with Health and Wellness Committee, except for a signature David Herrera's, Health Care Treatment will be taken care of by workman's compensation, as opposed to insurance claims. Kerry said remember 60% of firefighter death are from cancers and considered Line of Duty Death.

New Business. NONE??? Closing Prayer, by Tom Romero Meeting Adjourned

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS!!



A special thank you to Jim Summers for his generous contributions and assistance. ABQ Firehouse Realty, call him! (505) 450-1842



A special thank you to Pat McKinney for his generous contributions and assistance. If you need behavioral health services, call him! Petroglyph behavioral health



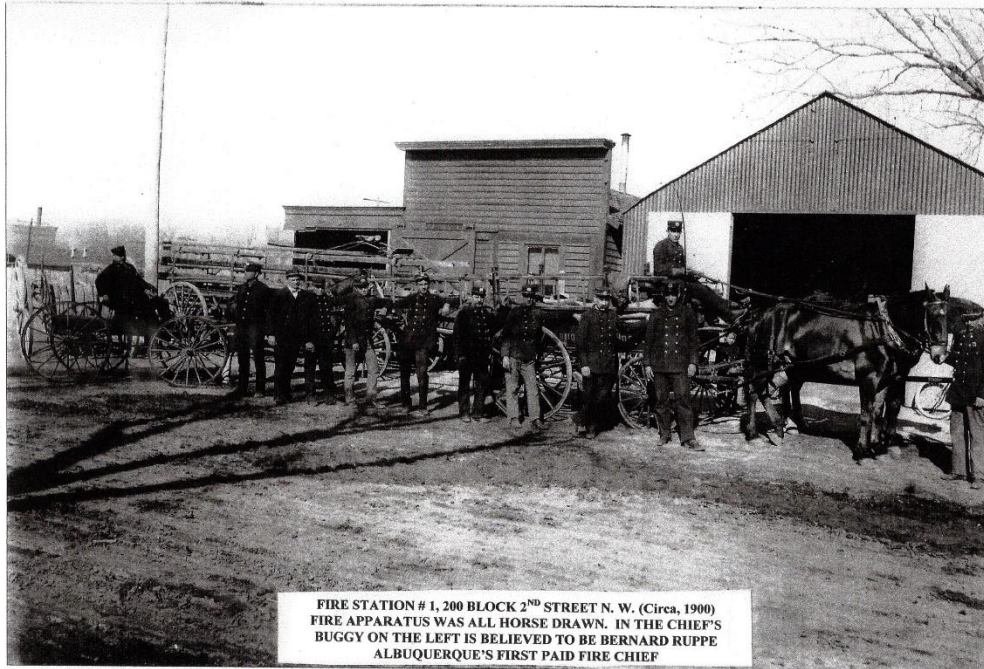
Fire Horses in the United States Fire Departments



(By Herman R. Bishop) December 1, 2023

According to records horses pulled fire wagons in New York City from 1832 until 1917 and were a source of great pride for firemen. Fire horses were shown at the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden. At first horses were not popular with the New York firemen. During the 1800's firemen resisted getting horses to pull the fire wagons because they thought it put men out of work since fire wagons were pulled by firemen, not horses. In the United States horses were used to pull fire wagons 60 years, commonly from 1864- to the early 1920's.

In Albuquerque horses were used for 18 years from 1900 to 1918. Albuquerque purchased horse drawn hose wagons when the first paid fire department was formed on June 6, 1900. Because horses were resisted by the New York firemen in 1832, one evening the anti-equine element crept into the stable, shaved the horse's mane and tail and painted a white stripe down the horse's back, embarrassing the company. To add insult to injury, the Oceanus volunteers beat the horse drawn apparatus to the fire. As steam engines gained popularity they grew in size and weight. Firefighters



FIRE STATION # 1, 200 BLOCK 2ND STREET N. W. (Circa, 1900)
FIRE APPARATUS WAS ALL HORSE DRAWN. IN THE CHIEF'S
BUGGY ON THE LEFT IS BELIEVED TO BE BERNARD RUPPE
ALBUQUERQUE'S FIRST PAID FIRE CHIEF

reluctantly accepted the need for horses. Firemen said, "A firehouse ain't no place for no stinkin' horse!" At first horses were stabled near the stations. When the alarm sounded, it took valuable time to unlock the barn. Fetch the steeds and harness them to the engine. Before long, the horses lived at the station and the reluctance to accept them was replaced by a deep affection for the noble animals. The stalls were positioned behind or next to the rigs. In 1871, a quick hitch was developed. Two years later Charles E. Berry, a Massachusetts firefighter, created a hanging harness with quick-locking names. His invention was so popular he left the fire department and sold his patented Berry Hames and Collars nationwide. Not every horse could serve as a fire horse. The animals needed to be strong, swift, agile, obedient, and fearless. At the scene, they needed to stand patiently while embers and flames surrounded them. They needed to remain calm while the firefighters fought the blaze. This was the case in all weather conditions and in the midst of a multitude of distractions. The fire departments carefully selected the horses. Veterinarians for the departments evaluated each animal. Both stallions and mares were eligible to serve.

Horse Sizes- Generally horse sizes were issued and accepted. Those pulling hose wagons must weigh 1,100 pounds, to haul a steamer 1,400 pounds, and to cart a hook and ladder 1,700 pounds. Stations also tried to create matched teams of two and three horses when possible. The breeds of Percheron and Morgan were commonly used.

Some cities had training stables, but most provided on-the-job training. Detroit had a horse college. They claimed to be the only fire department that trained their horses by this method. There was a fire station with an apparatus, training stalls, hanging quick hitches, a feed room a horse hospital, and a 700-foot racetrack. Each horse received progress reports and report cards at the conclusion of the training. The horses that successfully completed their education were placed in the city's fire stations. Departments added horse ambulances and horse shoeing wagons to their city's rigs. A horse might work at a station for four to ten years. In 1858, the Philadelphia Fairmount engine Company gave their fire horses a vacation. This became a tradition in the Philadelphia fire department. This was long before firefighters received vacations.

Fire Horses in Albuquerque (By Herman R. Bishop) December 1, 2023

Horses were used to pull fire apparatus in the United States fire service for roughly 60 years from the Civil War Era, 1864 to the early 1920's. Albuquerque did not use horses until 1900. Prior to that Albuquerque organized a volunteer fire department in 1882 after the coming of the railroad in 1880. During the next 19 years the volunteer firefighters used hand drawn hose carts, hose wagons, ladder wagons and bucket fire brigades. The city population increased rapidly after the railroad arrived, bringing many new businesses, increased residential areas and therefore an increase in the fire problem. Buildings of sub-standard construction, and highly combustible materials cropped up. There were buildings and shanties built of light



wood, cardboard, roofing materials, tarpaulins, canvas, and other flammable materials. The city formed a volunteer fire department during February 1882 and the population was 3500. They had two hose carts that carried 1200 feet of 2 ½ inch fire hose, and small water tanks. Early on they formed a hand drawn ladder wagon. The volunteer fire companies usually had 15 to 25 firemen. The apparatus had long ropes attached to the front of the apparatus. As the equipment was drawn through the streets the firemen jumped in, grabbed the ropes, and assisted in towing the equipment to the fire. Generally, the fire district was downtown from first street to 14th street east to west, and from north to south from Mountain Road to Hazeldine. During the volunteer era. The city purchased and installed fire hydrants in the city limits. Also purchased and installed was a fire alarm box system to report fires. By the turn of the century, in 1900 the city had continued growing and the population was 6,500. The fire problem was growing as well. On June 6, 1900, the City Council officially founded the Albuquerque Fire Department. They hired two full time firemen, Eugene Southerland, and fireman Ortiz. Their pay was \$65 per month. A fire chief was hired as well. His name was Bernard Ruppe, a prominent pharmacist in town. He was paid \$100 per year and served part time. The city continued using volunteer firemen, about 40 on call men. In 1900 the city purchased a horse drawn hose wagon with 1200 feet of 2 ½ inch fire hose and a small water tank along with two horses. The horses weighed 1200 lbs. each and were named Tom and Jerry. The horses were checked twice daily at 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. They were exercised and had fire drills. A veterinarian was on call and checked the horses' weight, health, and well-being weekly. Today we have standby spare fire apparatus to fill in if a first line of equipment is out of service. During the horse era the fire department had an agreement with Trembly's horse stable to provide spare horses if one of the horses was required to be out of service. In addition to a horse drawn wagon the fire chief's buggy was horse drawn. Other equipment included two hand drawn hose carts. The Scott More Fire Hose company and the A.A. Grant Fire Hose Company. Mr. Moore and Mr. Grant were local businessmen and were avid supporters of the fire department and contributed considerable funding for the hose carts. The hose carts had wheels 6 foot 3 inches high, carried 1200 feet of 2 h inch fire hose and had small water tanks. Each hose company had about 25 volunteer firemen. During the eighteen years Albuquerque used fire horses, they had eleven horses at one time including horses for the fire chief's buggy. Albuquerque used fire horses for 14 years through 1914. Albuquerque purchased two motorized fire trucks, the first in 1912 and the second in 1914. After the motorized pumpers proved their worth the fire horses were retired but kept on standby until 1918 when they were retired for good.

Special Note: In our research we have not found records that Albuquerque used horses to pull steam fire engines.



Minutes, October 2023 10/11/2023

AFDRA 278th meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. Vice President Donny Sanchez asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez said the opening prayer. Moment of Silence for all our deceased brothers.

Roll call of Officers Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasure Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo (Kerry Horton MIA)

Advisory Board present, Louie Trujillo, Joe Martinez, Morris Gutierrez, Bill Raupfer, Tom Romero, Anthony Nuanez, O.G. Lucero and Pablo Garcia **New Member(s)** Elizebeth Hernandez retired in 2018, her last assignment was, Fire Marshalls Office. Currently employed at Sandia Labs in the FMO's office. Elizebeth brought pie and ice cream, maybe Elizebeth is setting a trend?

Presidents Report (read by VP Donny Sanchez). There have been too many funerals this past month. On November 4, Local 244 sponsored a fundraiser "Strike for Survivors" bowling event. This event is held every 3 months.

Vice Presidents Report Donny traveled to Colorado Springs to attend the 911 memorial ceremony which took place on September 16. Donny assisted the Local Union with providing attendees with rides from the airport and to other destinations. There are 575 names on the wall and 200 names were read during the ceremony. Also held was, *battle of the bag and pipe competition* which drew a lot of attention, a local 244 member participated as an honor guard. Donny said if you have not attended it's something you need to do. Donny provided a brochure about the 911 memorial, written in French. Next year Donny hopes to be involved in more of the festivities with Local 244.

Secretary's Report Eddie Abeita read September minutes; one last item not read but provided verbally; New Business "NONE". It is the first report of no new business. Motion made to accept, 1st by OG Lucero 2nd by Ralph Sedillo. Motion Passed.

Treasure's Report Mike Fox provided overview of all expenditures for the month of September. Mike stated, "*we had some, spent some, we had a little bit left*". Mike stated with the purchase of our own printer we have saved a lot of money, office supplies were \$121.00, thanks for the new printer! \$45.00 was paid per plaque due to cost of plexiglass total cost, which was \$300.00, we will find another avenue for a better price. Deposits made from donations from Earl and Darla Gleason and Morris book sales. No request for help from the Assistance Fund Program. Motion made to accept treasures report, 1st by Louie Trujillo ,2nd by Morris Guterrez. Motion Passed

Historian's Report Herman said, he and Morris are working on projects together, mainly for the new book with fire stories. Herman had a work sheet for retirees to fill out to help with their firehouse stories. Herman also provided a narrative of old reports. The first was a list of 90 names who were employed in 1882. Between 1900-1940 no firefighters retired because there was no retirement system in place. 1948 firefighters became eligible to retire. 1960 firefighters at the age of 55 with 30 years of service could retire and receive 2½ % of pay for each year worked. Many of the OLD fire chief died before retiring. As an example of firehouse stories needed, Herman read one of his own called, *Fire truck on Fire*. Mike Fox read a story submitted by Bill Raupfer, called *Honor Guard Funeral*. Herman said an old historian Mark Simmons that wrote a lot of stories about our community died. Herman also said, "I attended this past picnic and did not see a lot of my old retiree friends". However, I met a lot of new retirees who were pleasant. I got to thinking the old retirees are dying on us, "maybe that's why I did not see them", QUOTE.

Committee Reports Funerals. Sam Trujillo said we had 4 in a row, and we did it. Steve Keffer had a nice service and Anthony Hernandez had a small quite service. The Honor Guard did an awesome job at all 4 funerals. Currently working on a dry-cleaning arrangement to pay for servicing honor guard uniforms. Sam said at some of our retiree's funeral services, BCFD Retiree Paul Stripmatter has shown support and respect to our deceased retirees, Paul has attended the retiree's funerals in his dress uniform. Sam said I hereby would like to make a motion that Paul Stripmatter be made an 'Honorary member of Albuquerque Fire Department

Retirees Association. 1st by Bill Raupfer, 2nd by Jimmy Candelaria. Motion passed. Don't forget when we attend a funeral it makes a difference, we have a special bond. The families of the deceased find it so compelling when we retirees attend. Once again anyone with prior military service keep your DD214 available for your family. Last I heard the Hernandez family was still looking for Tony's DD214. Sam said I sit on the Governors Veterans Advisory Board, and I am working to make things easier for the veteran's families who have a loss, such as implementing our Request for Last Wishes, that Louie Trujillo put together years ago. To date our association has had 208 funerals and all the funerals have been different. **Christmas Dinner**, Chairperson, Eddie Abeita provided an informational handout to retirees about the Christmas Dinner. The dinner will be, Thursday December 14, at the Moose Lodge, The Moose Lodge did not increase last year's dinner meal cost of \$17.00. As a "Thank You" to our retirees' dinner tickets will be \$10.00 and will go on sale at November's retirees meeting with one additional ticket sale on Saturday December 2nd from 10AM to 1PM, here at Local 244 Union Hall. Retirees unable to physically purchase dinner tickets may reserve their dinner tickets by contacting John Barnum @ 505-582-6887. Retirees will pay for their tickets at the dinner, no additional tickets will be sold at the dinner. No sale of any kind such as raffle tickets or merchandise will be allowed at the dinner. Donations to our Retirees Association will be accepted. Any person with questions shall contact Eddie Abeita @505-250-7895, or Vince Holcomb 505-582-6887. **Museum**, Morris said stories for the new book are coming in, but said we still need a lot more, keep in mind this is a fund raiser. The flagpole is getting weak, so the new memorial will be great. The fire chief has designated 3 cement pads that can be used for the memorial. This Memorial project would cost 10K however with all the work and donated material our cost is approximately 2K. The memorial is paid for by donations. **Raffle** Ticket sales were \$47.00, lucky numbers drawn by the "golden hand" were, 948, 958, 916, 941, 954, 929. Winners were Paul Stripmatter, Joe Martinez, O.G. Lucero, Mystery gift winner was Bill Raupfer. Morris's ticket was drawn twice but declined the gift saying, "run it again". **Matters good for the Association**. Retirees Robert Sanchez, O.G Lucero. Pablo Garcia and Kerry Horton went to the home of our deceased brother Paul Gonzales to provide some home maintenance. His widow needed help in winterizing the cooling system, replacing batteries and installing new outdoor lights. She is doing good. Sam Trujillo said she is on his follow up list in which he does a check on the survivor to see if any help is needed. Donny Sanchez said the district 10 Motorcycle Group did their annual Jeff Elks run. Some bikers continued their run to Colorado Springs for the 911 ceremony. The 911 ceremony included a run from Pikes Peak with a large number of motorcycle riders, fire apparatus and some vintage vehicles. **New Business**, NONE **Closing Prayer** by Tom Romero, Meeting adjourned.

Death of Albert Lavigne



Unfortunately, we announce the death of our brother firefighter Albert Lavigne who passed away on November 3, 2023, from a long-term illness. After his retirement he lived in New Mexico For several years. The last few years he has lived in Chadds Ford Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia close to his daughter. Albert was raised in Greenville Maine, a logging/sawmill town. He was a U.S. Army veteran stationed at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, N.M. He joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on September 16, 1963, and was a member of the 21st cadet class. There were 27 people in that class. Al worked most of his career at stations on the East side of town.

He retired on August 31, 1991. He loved being a firefighter and was well liked by his fellow firefighters. He enjoyed the firefighters' annual picnics and was always happy to visit with his old friends. We extend sincere condolences to the Albert Lavigne family.



AFDRA Memorial Flagpole Makeover (by **Kerry Horton**)

The AFDRA Memorial Flagpole is getting a makeover thanks to the hard work of Morris Gutierrez and some of his wonderful friends. All the name tags are being replaced with stainless steel tags that will be engraved with the names of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. The old tags unfortunately did not stand up to the New Mexico sun and faded, these engraved tags will stand the test of time. We have also installed a memorial stand next to the flagpole that will hold an additional 200 name tags. In November, Morris orchestrated crews and poured two concrete pads to hold the new memorial stand, with room for another stand down the road. AFD Retiree Steve Ortiz, owner of Sharp Industries, and his son Steve Jr. provided the expertise in building the forms and pouring the concrete for the pads, while Morris's lifelong friend Joe Cruz, owner of Star Paving, provided the concrete. The Stand and tags are being constructed by Nick Mendez of LA Welding LLC, and Pablo Garcia coordinated the powder coating of the stand. Eulogio Lucero, Johnny Sedillo and his son Joshua, and AFR Training Commander Will McMullen all got their hands dirty getting the pads poured. We will hold an unveiling party when all the work is completed.



Steve, Steve, Morris, Joshua, and Johnny.



Nick Mendez, LA Welding LLC

Major Asphalt Paving • Excavation • Equipment Rental
Pavement Maintenance Seal Coating, All Types
Patch Paving Concrete Work

STAR PAVING
CO.



Large Or Small We Do All

Lic. No.
23947

Office (505) 877-0380
Fax (505) 877-6655

www.starpaving.com

3109 Love Rd. SW
P.O. Box 12333

Albuquerque, N.M. 87195

Mobile Welding / Heavy Equipment Welding / Pipe Welding /
Seized Pin Removability / Custom Fabricator / CNC Plasma
Cutting / AutoCAD Designing for Business Signs & Metal Art.
(Materials)-Carbon-Aluminum-Stainless Steel-cast Iron-Cast
Steel-Polly Welding

LA WELDING
LLC

Find us on **Facebook** & **Instagram** @la_welding_llc

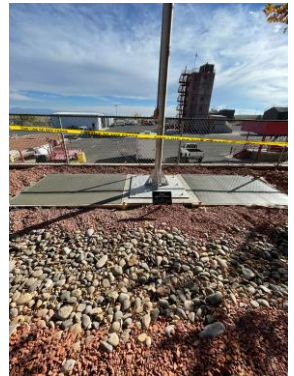
Masterminds take on the Memorial Makeover



(by Morris Gutierrez)

Our memorial flagpole, in memory of Zeke Hernandez. While firefighters landscaped Zeke's house there was a flagpole that we had taken down and eventually would have to put back up. Our Lord called him home, and a year later, Zeke's wife Mary called me and asked if I wanted the flagpole, it is an honor to have Zeke's memory

alive and well! I took it to my barber shop and set it up with the idea of making it a memorial flagpole for our deceased firefighters. We had a dedication ceremony with our city's delegation of the mayor's office, councilors, our own honor guard, Knights of Columbus, various speakers, 8 tents, 400 chairs, 4 food trucks, raffles and standing room for so many people who had nowhere to sit. Chief Paul Dow told me that day if I ever wanted to take it to the academy, I could pick a spot, where it stands today. With the pole holding so many tags, over 300, the integrity of the pole may be weakened, so with the help of our AFDRA association, which I must say, THANK-YOU for all that each of you have done to promote an amazing organization. We now have 2 more cement pads with stands to hold 400 more names. I am so humbled to see so many families who have been touched by our memorial and the fruition of how far we have come. I pray that through all this that our LORD will continue to be glorified and our association will be forever blessed.



The Finished Pad

Thankfully, your brother retired firefighter, Morris R. Gutierrez



Steve Ortiz and Chief McMullen setting forms.



OG Lucero hard at work



Steve Ortiz and his son Steven



Left to right, Steven Ortiz, Steve Ortiz, Morris Gutierrez, Joshua Sedillo and Johnny Sedillo

Death of Ray Padilla



We are sorry to announce the death of our retired firefighter friend Lieutenant Ray Padilla, age 82, who passed away on November 10, 2023, at his home in Denver, Colorado. He was hired by AFD on March 9, 1964. After spending 21 years with the department, he retired on July 1, 1985. After completing his fire cadet class in 1964 he was assigned to the new fire station thirteen at Louisiana and Indian School Rd. NE. He was promoted to driver during December 1967. When the paramedic school was offered in the 1970's, at UNM Regional Medical School, he certified and was promoted to Lieutenant on March 11, 1974. He was well liked and respected by his fellow Firemen. He was a good Role model and spent many hours training new paramedics who worked with him. Ray will be greatly missed. We offer our most sincere condolences and sympathies to the Padilla family.



Honor Guard By: Bill Raupfer October 2, 2023

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association Honor guard was asked by a funeral director to strike the four fives at a graveside service, for a retired firefighter and his family and a few friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery, in the remote countryside, and the Fireman would be the first to be laid to rest there. The Honor Guard was not familiar with the backwoods, and they became lost. They finally arrived in the area an hour late. They saw the backhoe and crew who were eating lunch, and the family standing by, but the hearse was nowhere in sight. OG Lucero apologized to the family for their tardiness, then the Honor Guard stepped to the side of the open grave where they saw the vault lid already in place. Donny Sanchez assured the workers they would not hold them up for very long, but that this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around still eating their lunch. Ralph Sedillo read the resolution of condolence, and Tom Romero read the striking of the four fives, Joseph Tenorio rang the bell, while Emiliano Chavez played Taps, and Jim Summers stood at attention, everyone started to weep.



When they were done the Honor Guard loaded up the van and started to drive off. One of the workers said to the family, "Sweet Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I have never seen nothing like that before....."

—"And I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years!"



Death of Silverio Sanchez



We are sorry to announce the death of our fellow retired firefighter, "Silver," Silverio Sanchez, age 94, who passed away on November 18, 2023. He joined AFD on May 18, 1953, and after serving over 30 with his department and the community he retired on December 31, 1983. He was a dedicated firefighter who knew his job and was liked and well respected by his fellows. He was promoted to driver in August 1955. He spent many hours driving the pumper and ladder truck at the fire cadet classes. He was

a good role model for the young firefighters and an expert on pump operations and tillering on ladder trucks. He worked at all stations across the city and spent several years as a driver at the old station thirteen. He had a good sense of humor and a quick smile to those he worked with on a daily basis. He will be greatly missed. Our most sincere condolences to the Sanchez family.



President's Message

By Kerry Horton



Hello everybody, I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season. Thanksgiving is behind us, Hanukkah, Christmas, and broken New Year resolutions lay ahead. Something else that's coming this month is our annual AFDRA Christmas Dinner, and Eddie and Roberta, mostly Roberta, have gone all out to make this year's dinner spectacular. They have recruited the help of a few wonderful people to bring this dinner together, and I would like to give them all a shout out, so a huge thank you goes to Vince and Linda Holcomb, John and Debbie Barnum, Nancy Diehl, Merry Flores, and Mike Fox.

Final deadline to get tickets is December 8th, call John Barnum at [505-582-6887](tel:505-582-6887). Doors open at 6:00 PM. There are two meals to choose from. Hope to see you at the dinner on December 14th at the moose lodge.

On behalf of the AFDRA Executive Board, we wish you a Happy Hanukkah, A Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Please take a moment of silence for all the brothers we lost this past year and keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. Better yet, reach out to the families you know and tell them they are in your thoughts and prayers.

ROOTED IN RELIABILITY

Like you, a heart to grow a stronger
New Mexico is in our roots!



RIO GRANDE
- CREDIT UNION -

we understand

RioGrandeCU.org