



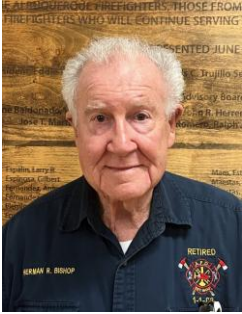
AFDRA Retiree News



Published by the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association

March 1, 2025

1-2025



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

Each morning, when I open my eyes, I say to myself; I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today.

Groucho Marx



Christmas dinner a huge success! (See page 6)



**Mike Fox,
Assistant Editor**

CONTENTS

- P-1** Monte Vista Fire Station
- P-2** ☉ Minutes- November 2024
- P-3** Death of Jose Maldonado
Death of Eugene Baldonado
Death of Ross Aranda
- P-4** ☉ Minutes-December 2024
- P-5** Monte Vista Fire Station (by Mike Fox)
- P-6** Christmas dinner and history (by Eddie Abeita)
- P-11** ☉ Minutes- January 2025
- P-13** Little Known Facts about the Honor Guard (by Bill Raupfer)
- P-15** Thank you Donors!
- P-16** President's Message by Kerry Horton
- P-17** *A Tribute to Sam Trujillo. (by Kerry Horton)

Headline Story

Monte Vista Fire Station

Fire station number three, known as the Monte Vista fire station, was built in 1936 with \$60,000 from the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

See page 5 for full story.





Minutes, November 2024 (November 13, 2024)

AFDRA 291st meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. by President Kerry Horton. Kerry asked the retiree body to uncover, stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Opening prayer by Morris. Notice of Last Alarm. Kerry said, since our last meeting we lost retiree Ignacio Perez. On the 29th of October, Ignacio was 84 years old. His family requested a firefighter's funeral, the rosary will be November 14, at French Funeral Home with Funeral mass the following day at Saint Charles Church. Ignacio has a son who is a firefighter with the White Sands Fire Department.

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

Advisory Board present, Pablo Garcia, Louie Trujillo, Morris Gutierrez, Bill Raupfer, Ogee Lucero, Fred Teupell, Anthony Nunez, Vince Holcomb

President Report, Kerry said no guest this evening. Mike Fox did say one of our last guest Carson sent some information on "Long Term Health Insurance", it's here on the table. Kerry said on break you can come and get some material so there is no need to rush up here. First time meeting attendee, Justin Staley retired in 2021, working at CNM. Hope most of you received my e-mail about washing the Last Alarm Truck for Ignacio's funeral at the academy. IAFF Local 244 is having their Christmas Party at Sandia Casino, on December 20th with an open bar and loud music. See secretary Kelly if you would like to purchase tickets. Reminder to make plans to attend the IAFF 2025 Memorial Ceremony in Colorado Springs. Not sure of the exact date but it's been the week after 911. Local 244 President is submitting the paperwork IAFF to have David Herrera's name placed on the wall. Sam Trujillo asked the members, with a show of hands who attended the IAFF Memorial for the first time? Next question, what did you think of it? Morris said, "I did not want to leave" and other positive commits were made. Kerry said an interesting thing, is when the bagpipers are tuning up their pipes all at once sounds like 300 cats fighting. Local 244 President Miguel Tittmann said, there should be no problem with David's paperwork for his name to be placed on the memorial. The IAFF does not require any doctor's certification. The state identified 17 cancers that have been considered as Line of Duty Deaths. David died of the same type of brain cancer as Jeff Elks did. Donny said, two years ago, our union did not have much of anything, some fire groups had all kinds of food for sale and did well. I made a point to spell this out to our union people. Especially when Colorado said they have the best green chili around. This year we had all kinds of our New Mexican dishes with our good New Mexico chili and ours was free. Next year it will be bigger. Kerry identified first time meeting attendee, Paul Butler, some of you may remember his brother Jeff Butler. Most of you are aware that our fire Marshall's Office has been named the Herman Bishop Fire Marshalls Office.

Vice President's Donny Sanchez, that is it!

Secretary's Report Eddie Abeita read the minutes from October 9th, 2024. Motion made to accept, first by Pablo Garcia, 2nd by Morris Guterrez. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report, Mike Fox brightly said, "we have money, no ABQ" and a Rainy-Day Fund kept separate. After an overview of payments and deposits a motion made to accept treasurer's report, 1st by James Parra, 2nd by Bill Raupfer. Motion passed.

Historians Report, most of you know, I had a great honor bestowed on me, I was so surprised and honored at station one. Kerry called me and asked me if I was available to attend a meeting on October 4th. **Correction**, Kerry said it was November 4th, Mike Fox said he was one month late for the meeting. Herman said in my career I had awards and surprises, but this was so "overwhelming". I put this in my book. I've told so many people even Jesus, I thought I was bragging. I did remember what Yogie Berrera said, *If, it's the truth then it's not bragging*. Chief Jaramillo gave an excellent speech, I received many compliments. You would think the mayor was my best friend the way he shook my hand and congratulated me. Kerry said after this, your brother Tom in Virginia is now my best Facebook friend. Kerry said not trying to outdo you Herman, I have two buildings at the academy named after me, they are the 2 outhouses on the drill field. Herman said I am sorry for the loss of my friend Ignacio, back in the days we had mandatory class in each station. For fun we would give Ignacio a large group of numbers and when the last number was put down, he had the answer. I had an interesting call from a person from Trinidad CO, he wanted the address for our museum. He had seen a picture or something at the Albuquerque airport. I remembered we had 4 fire chiefs from Trinidad CO. Art Westerfeld, Leonard Ortega and Robert Ortega. HERMAN In conclusion, again I don't know what to say, *but thank you guys!*

Committee Reports Funeral, Sam Trujillo said he was asked about the death of retiree Richard Padilla. He came into the fire department in March 1973. Sam asked if anyone knew Richard or information about his death. Eddie said Bubba Martin and I were academy classmates. Sam said if anyone has any information, please let me know.

Christmas Dinner Eddie provided the plan for the Christmas dinner, there are 3 different times to purchase tickets. Starting at tonight's meeting, and Saturday December 07 here at the Union Hall from 10AM-1PM and if unable to buy in person, you can contact John Barnum for ticket reservations. Social Hour starts at 6PM which we urge you to attend snacks will be provided, dinner at 7PM, and of course cash bar for your cocktails.

Museum, we have cowboy boot spurs from Killer and will be placed at the museum.

Raffle, Donny Sanchez said Local 244 donated 4 tee shirts and the Honor Guard donated Christmas Dinner tickets also TLC Donated a polo shirt. A total of 8 winners were awarded.

Good Matters for the Association Kerry said update, last meeting I reported that Adolf Zubia led me to believe that an Ann Green had a plan on the PERA 350 million to help with COLA. In a 45-minute conversation with Ann Green she has no plan. She attends

meetings and passes out pamphlets about retirees not getting COLA, which we already knew. Kerry said an update on the Windfall Elimination Act, there were 2 people in Washington DC working on a plan to give retirees something back that affected their social security. On election night, Federal House and Senate "TABLED" it. Now a new group is trying to revive it, not sure if it will happen with such a large price tag. At the least even if the ACT is eliminated it would be good for future generations. Ron Herrera turned in his paperwork for retirement, his last day is at the end of December. He started his career in 1973 so he will have 53 years of service. We will encourage Ron to attend our meetings. Sam Trujillo said, "I have been in contact with PERA to check on some of our retirees who may have fallen through the cracks as far as them being deceased They were Leland Bond, Tony Armijo (there were 2 Tony Armijo one was a painter} and Joe Archuleta. PERA confirmed the three were deceased. Closing Prayer by Morris Gutierrez Meeting Adjourned

Jose L. Maldonado, it is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Retired District Chief Jose ,age 95 He passed



away on Sunday January 26, 2025. He joined AFD on August 8, 1953, and after serving over 30 years with the department he retired on September 1, 1983. Although he was of short stature, Chief Westerfeld waived the height requirement of 5 feet, 8 inches and hired Joe because of his strong muscular physique. Firefighters usually have nick names, and we called him "Little Joe," which he graciously accepted. In 1956 he was promoted to driver, and he served several years as Chief Westerfeld's personal driver. When the department formed the first rescue squad in 1956 long before paramedics, Joe was assigned to rescue one. In 1959 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was sent to the rescue squad at station eight where he served several years. In the spring of 1964, the

department opened the new station thirteen adjacent to Winrock Shopping Center on Indian School Road NE. Joe was promoted to Captain in early 1964 and was assigned to open the new station. He was then promoted to Assistant District Chief in December 1966. Shortly thereafter he was appointed as director of the Fire Academy. During his tenure he renamed the training tower, the "Albuquerque Fire Academy." A few years later he was reassigned back to the firefighting division as a District Chief. In late 1983 he retired from the fire department. When the retired firefighter's formed in the year 2000, he was one of the first members. He served as a good and faithful member of the retiree's association for over 25. Years. We have many fond memories of our brother Joe Maldonado. He will be greatly missed. Again, our sincere condolences and sympathies are extended to the Maldonado family.

Eugene Baldonado – It is with sincere regrets that we announce the death of our brother retired



firefighter Eugene Baldonado, age 83 who passed away on Tuesday January 28, 2025, after a long-term illness. "Baldy," joined AFD on March 9, 1964, and Was part of the sixth fire cadet class. After serving over 22 years of dedicated and Faithful service to the community and to the department he retired on December 30, 1986. He was promoted to driver on September 9, 1968, and served as the Chief's Driver at station one for nine years. After his promotion to Lieutenant during March 1977 he served at all the stations on the west side of town. He spent most of his Career at station one and was well respected as a leader and fellow firefighter with all his peers. He was always given high praise by his Chief officers; He had a quick Smile and was of easy-going nature. He is remembered for his sense of humor and loved to joke with his



brothers. He was a member of the AFD Retiree's Advisory Board and served there for 25 years. He will be greatly missed. Sincere condolences are given to the entire Baldonado family.

Ross Aranda It is with deep regrets that we report the death of our brother firefighter, retired Deputy Chief Ross



Aranda, age 85, who passed away on February 3, 2025. He was a United States Navy veteran. Ross joined AFD on June 29, 1961. After spending over 24 years with the department he retired on December 31, 1985. He served in the following ranks. Driver, February 1967, Lieutenant, November 1970, Captain, 1974, District Chief, 1980, Deputy chief, 1980. During his service he served for five years as Deputy chief under the administration of Fire Chief Leonard Ortega. When he joined the department cadet classes were not numbered. Ray Kuhn was the training chief, and he took basic training at the old fire academy downtown adjacent to the zoo. Marty Aranda, Ross's brother also Served as a firefighter with AFD. Ross's grandson is a firefighter with the Las Cruces fire department. Sincere condolences are extended to the entire Aranda family.



Minutes, December 2024 (December 11, 2024)

AFDRA 292nd meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. by President Kerry Horton. Kerry asked the retiree body to uncover, stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Opening prayer by Morris Guterrez. Notice of Last Alarm. Kerry said, since our last meeting everyone is still above ground. AFR Chiefs Office was contacted by the family of Anthony Smith who was an AFD firefighter, however no one knew who he was. Apparently, he worked only 6 years from 1960-1966. Kerry said we had to tell his family we were unable to accommodate any services. Kerry asked for a moment of silence for Anthony Smith and all other deceased Fire Retirees. Kerry asked, "did anyone know a Anthony Smith?" Herman raised his hand and Kerry said we knew if anyone did know him it would be you, Herman. Herman said yeah, I knew him, he had his own personality. We both worked at the base and one day he borrowed my car and did not return it, when I found it, he had trashed it out. A few years later I was in the fire department, and he also joined the fire department. Roll call of Officers President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez (MIA refereeing a game) Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop, President Emeritus Sam Trujillo. Advisory Board present, Pablo Garcia, Morris Gutierrez, Ogee Lucero, Fred Teupell, Anthony Nunez, Vince Holcomb, Tom Romero

President's Report, mark your calendars, January 6th at the fire academy, Governor Michell Grissom will be there to honor and name the auditorium the Sam Trujillo Auditorium. He is being honored for all his hard work in the paramedic program and so much work in the creation of our retirees' association. Sam said it's been an honor to serve 24 years in AFD. Herman said Sam tell us when you talked about an angel that came to see you. Sam said I was in the hospital recuperating and late at night, I was awoken by a vision or maybe dreaming, I didn't know. I saw a lady in a white dress. Oh no I thought maybe it's time to go, and an angel came for me Sam said, it turned out it was Governor Grissom she had her driver stop off at the hospital to check on me and she had on a white dress. [Kerry] The Kitchen Table is up and running we have team leaders Morris, Anthony and Tom. We may have just one more meeting this month with the holidays here. I will get together with Pat McKinney to schedule more meetings for the upcoming months. Update of the social security Fairness Act, it's waiting for senate approval. Our two senators, Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan, it is important that you contact the senators and ask them to support the Fairness ACT, they need to know that you were a fire fighter, and it affected you and you did not get your fair share of social security. I will post in my minutes and send you their contact information. It does appear our two senators are backing it. One estimate would be social security give back 196 billion over a 10-year period. The Fairness Act would rescind the Windfall Elimination Act. Local 244 is having their Christmas Party at Sandia Casino on December 20th. I could not keep a secret and told Herman that he would receive an award from Local 244, which they do once a year. By show of hand, how many are going to our Christmas Dinner tomorrow? This is the first time that AFR has responded to our invitation to attend. We will have to reserve a table just for them with their family members. Question from Sam Trujillo about Kerry's wife surgery, Kerry said she had surgery and had complications but responded well.

Vice President's Report Vice President MIA

Secretary's Report Eddie Abeita read Novembers minutes. Motion to accept minutes. 1st by Donny Sanchez (who just snuck in) 2nd by Morris Guterrez. Motion Passed.

Treasurers' Report Mike Fox said We had money last month and we have more money this month. Sam immediately said, "I make a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Kerry said Mike worked hard for 5 minutes to put it together so we will give him a chance to read his report. Mike gave an overview of expenditures, deposits and donations made. Donations received from Carmen Gonzales, Earl and Darla Gleason, Pat Mckinney Ray Sedillo trailer rental, raffle, and \$5.00 from Honor Guard. [Kerry] Motion to accept treasurer's report, Sam Trujillo my motion still stands. 2nd by Ogee Lucero, Motion Passed.

Historian's Report Herman Bishop said, "Merry Christmas", "thanks" Mike you turned the newsletter upside down with a big change to what I did before. I ran across an old report about our aerial ladder that is on display at the academy. I want to thank Pablo Garcia and his associates for doing all that work. The report mentioned that the fire department made a request to purchase a ladder truck with a tiller-man in 1915, 5years later in 1920 the ladder was purchased and delivered at a cost of \$20,000.00. Pat Mckinney wrote a great newsletter article about sleep. Now that I am retired, I sleep good at home, but I have dreams about being late to work and no one to call to tell them I will be late. THE ROOM LIT UP WITH DISCUSSIONS ON WORK RELATED DREAMS, Mike Fox said I dream the chief called me to go to work I show up and no gear, I am sweating. Back in the day late at night while in the bunk, if an alarm was dispatched all fire stations would receive the dispatch and that meant the bunk room lights would come on. Herman said at that time they would not say who the responding units were. The address was given and if was close to the boarder of your running district the fire trucks would respond at times a lot of equipment would show up. Herman said I did a story on Horacio Quintana, who spent most of his career in the alarm room. He had a story about a man that called to report a fire but sounded like he was an electronic being, Horacio thought this is a joke being played on me. But to be safe he dispatched the alarm assignment, and it was a fire. Turned out he had throat cancer and had an implanted device in his throat to help him talk. Funerals Sam reports, The Ignacio Perez family sent us a "thank you card", with an additional message from his son who is a firefighter at White Sands Fire Department. The son said he was so honored for allowing him to ride on the Last Alarm Truck with his father. Sam said he had reported previously about the possible death of Richard Padilla, Sam said it was confirmed he did die, that makes 232 retirees lost in the last 24 years. Our average retiree life span is 75.6 years, a few of us have beat the odds. Sam said, I would like to get a picture of "ALL" honor guard members Last Alarm Truck, with the background of a cemetery, park something fitting to identify ourselves with. When I go out and ask for donations in supporting our Honor Guard, it would be nice to give them something back in

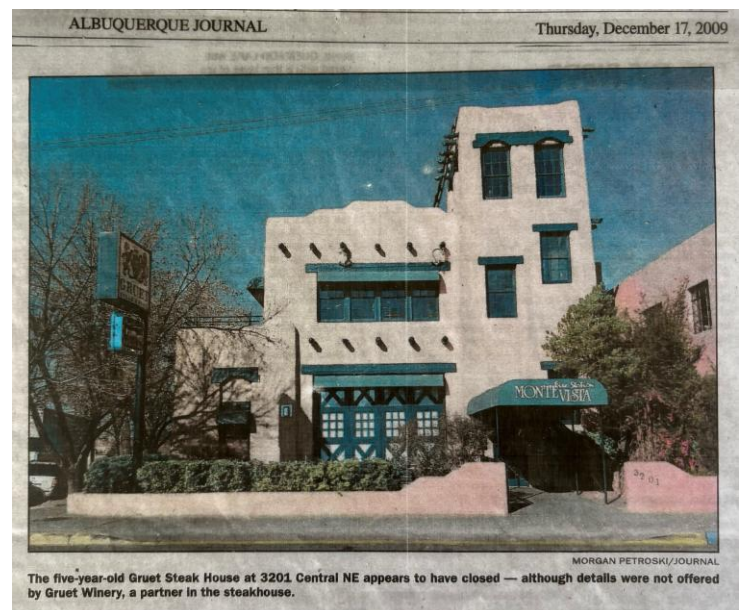
appreciation. They may display our picture. [Kerry] it would be nice to wait until Elizebeth has her uniform. [Eddie] I have sent out sympathy cards to the families of our deceased brothers, I have only had 3 returned, no forwarding address. Kerry said we may receive more funds from the state toward mechanical work on the Last Alarm truck. Max at City Maintenance was to fix the air brakes that have been bleeding down. AT Phil's funeral they bleed down, and we had to wait for about 6 minutes for the pressure to build up. The initial request for funding was \$100 K we received 78K, so we will not get a lot of funding. All this funding is coming our way because this governor supports firefighters. Christmas Dinner Vince Holcomb said we are on track for the dinner, the menu was changed from last year, no chicken and will have steak and shrimp. The steaks are larger than what the Moose Lodge ordered so we are coming out ahead. Eddie said, we decorated the Christmas tree in which Anthony and Emiliano proved to be good tree climbers. Remember if you can come tomorrow, we need your help to decorate, Roberta Abeita will be giving all the directions. Social Hour is at 6m but come a little earlier. Raffle, \$55.00 ticket sales Donation Box \$75.00. Prize Winners, Mike Fox, Richard Sanchez, James Parra and Anthony Nuanez.

Matters Good for the Association [Kerry] Two weeks ago a "static hearing" was held on the wrongful death of our brother Phil Garcia. A good thing happened; Kerry referred to him as a criminal, the body had other names. Or as Kerry stated AKA Sena changed his plea to NO CONTEST, which is about the same as GUILTY and will go to Sentence Hearing to be held on March 11, 2025, we need to pack the court room. The judge has allowed 2 hours for sentencing in which the Garcia family will have up to 1 ½ hours to speak primarily about their loss of Phil and what it did to their family. When the judge was scolding him, he did look back at Patty, maybe trying to show the judge remorse. The Sena family will have 30 minutes to talk. It did not appear of any Sena family members in attendance for the hearing. This was Sena 3rd reckless driving incident when he killed Phil he was awaiting his 2nd hearing. The judge could sentence him to the maximum of 6 years in prison and 2 years' probation. If he gets the maximum sentence, he can be credited for time already served which is about one year. Sam Trujillo asked Kerry if he could speak on behalf of the retirees, Kerry said I believe it is for family. Sam said "but we are his family, Kerry said unfortunately the court defines family in a different manner. The trial was going to last 4-5 days which would have been hard on the family. So, with going to sentencing, it will be easier on the family. This would have been their first Christmas without Phil Anthony Nuanez said David Garcia just had cancer surgery. Mario Rosato's brother Aaron was struck by a motorist on the interstate, with no updated information on his condition. Closing Prayer Morris Guterrez, Meeting Adjourned.

Monte Vista Fire Station (by Mike Fox)

Fire station number three was built with \$60,000 from Works Progress Administration funds. The station included brass poles for the firefighters to use when responding to calls, and a three-story hose tower to dry hose after fires. It was put into service in 1936, under Fire Chief Art Westerfeld and designed by Albuquerque city architect, Ernest H Blumenthal, who also designed the old Albuquerque Municipal Airport building in 1939. The fire station is listed in the New Mexico State Registry of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. The building design is pueblo style, sometimes referred to as imitation pueblo style. The Mona Vista Fire Station is the city's third oldest surviving fire station after the AT&SF fire station built in 1920, and the old AFD/AFR Station 2 on the corner of High and Silver opened in 1926. When it was put in service, it brought the city's staffing up to 36 with a total of 3 fire stations. It was staffed originally with 6 firefighters headed by Captain Harry Savage. The building served as a fire station for the city of Albuquerque until 1972 when it served as the Unification Church, a business called new world enterprises, the Firehouse theater, a satellite TV network and most recently, the Mona Vista Fire Station Bar and Restaurant.

In 1972, a new fire station 3 was built at 141 Gerard Blvd. NE with a cost of \$150,654. The fire station served a response area of 4.5 square miles with 10 firefighters per shift.



2024 Christmas Dinner and History (by Eddie Abeita)

Although Food is Important, the Paramount thing - Retirees Getting Together

Our Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees (AFDRA) Christmas Dinner was held Thursday December 12, 2024, at the Moose Lodge 2020 Edith Blvd NE Albuquerque NM; by all accounts it was a great dinner. The Committee chairperson was told by retirees and invited guests that the dinner was great and enjoyable. The chairperson thanked them and said the *people that are involved make it happen!* Retirees, spouses and significant others help as much as they can but sometimes their time is limited, because of other commitments.



The one important thing in planning for the Christmas Dinner is to ensure that you have a facility available for a particular date and time. That may sound a little abstract, however remember no place, no dinner. The size of the facility and seating capacity is also a paramount factor. You need to ensure the number of people who may attend are in a comfortable setting, mainly not crowded. With December being in high demand for holiday parties the rental cost citywide is at a premium, with Friday and Saturdays being the most expensive times. This is also a reason why Thursday has been a good time for our dinner. At the first dinner announcement approx. 9 years ago about the dinner being on a Thursday, a few retirees thought a Friday would be better because they or their spouse were still employed and would have to go to work the following day. AFDRA President Sam Trujillo was vocal and said *just go and you will have a good time.* Over the years Sam has reminded all retirees that any gatherings with our brother and sister retirees are important. Before AFDRA was established our early Christmas functions were held at the Fireman's Club located at Ceder and Coal SE. The firemen had Christmas parties for children with HH Chavez being Santa Clause, he would pass out Christmas stockings to the kids. Christmas dances for adults were also held at the hall. The dance would include posole with onions, oregano, crackers and sometimes a tamale. Halfway through the dance the food was served, which was perfect timing after a few drinks. Also New Years Eve dances were held at the fireman's club with the same food menu as Christmas. Members of the Fireman's Club would use the club for birthdays, graduations and even baptismal receptions.

The hall was used for Union meetings, however the most important function held at the firemen's club, our Local 1455 Union, went on strike in 1973. The Fireman's Club became the headquarters and staging area for our Union and Local 624 who were also on strike. The fireman's club was an older building known as Masonic Temple. The firemen put a lot of time, talents and their own personal material to remodel the building to place it in a useable condition. The first construction project was to build a bar, although it was small, the big thing, drinks were cheap, and the brotherhood was there. Immediately, the next was to get the hall ready for music and dancing. Some of the firefighters were members or had friends that were members of other fraternal organizations. With some items needed the firefighters were able to get items donated by other fraternal organizations.

The building also had an auditorium with fixed seating, one of the club members said, hey guys we could make this room into a big bar. We could remove the seats level out the floor, get some tables and chairs and maybe a pool tables. Your families could come here and have a good time. It was hard work, but it was all done by the members.

As years passed, a new Fireman's Club was built at a different location. Foundation problems occurred the floor slab cracked and sunk the building was red tagged with signage as not to enter building. With no income

or borrowing value the fireman's club was closed for good. So, as we knew it, Firefighter's gatherings were a thing of the past.

At the start of Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association (AFDRA) some retirees would reminisce of the good old days of holiday functions at the fireman's club. The thought and conversation of a Christmas party was moving quickly with a don't talk about it, let's do it attitude. The first Christmas Parties were potluck held at the Fire Academy 11,500 Sunset Gardens SW, where the association conducted its monthly meetings.



After a few Christmas parties, the fire academy's auditorium was getting a little crowded. So, Eddie Torres was able to reserve the Town of Bernalillo's Community Center, Eddie being a community leader was able to have any charges for use of the center waved. On the day of the party, the AFDRA trailer with tables and chairs were taken to the community center and completely unloaded and set up. After the party was over it was time to reload the trailer and return the trailer to Eddie's Torres house a few miles away for storage. Any pots or pans you brought collect them take them home and wash them. It was not unusual to be missing a serving spoon, potholder or ending up with someone else's cookware. Then the ladies started making phone calls to give back or inquire about their items.

The association was able to provide some funds toward food and gifts for Santa Clause to hand out to the children. Leroy Barboa took the honors of being Santa Clause. Food donations were still needed so it remained a potluck affair. With the party's growth in numbers and physical demand and diminishing help, a change to the celebration was being considered. AFDRA President Sam Trujillo asked Eddie Abeita to chair a Christmas Party Committee with a different venue.

A Christmas Committee was organized, and the committee brainstormed different ideas, with Louie Trujillo's strong words, we need a "Christmas Dinner" not a party. Instead of retirees cooking and cleaning make it a sit-down dinner. Vince Holcomb noted we had Santa Clause handing out Christmas stockings to kids, heck our kids are all adults unless retirees started having babies at 50 years of age. Fred Casias said just tell me where and when and I will print tickets followed by John Serino who said a restaurant I know can seat 30 people so the first 30 who buys a Christmas ticket can go to the Christmas party.

The initial plan by the Christmas Committee was to find an entity that would fit our needs mainly what we could afford. Restaurants, Casinos, Fraternal Orders and Kirtland Air Force Base were contacted about providing a sit-down dinner. They all welcomed our association, but the money was always the main issue, which we did not have. Also, KAFB has strict regulations on how civilians are allowed on base and its government facility. Some of the businesses were a little flexible, however the cost was still high. To negotiate or plan with all these entities they required a deposit or sign a contract.

Vince Holcomb mentioned that he and wife Linda attended a function held at the Moose Lodge which he thought this entity would be something we should consider. A meeting with the *Administrator Anthony of the Moose Lodge* was held and all the particulars were discussed including, dinner menu, cost per dinner plate and hall rental. With no upfront money, no contact to sign and the facility being in a centralized location of the city, it was a no brainer to go ahead and book this facility.

The previous year's menu was chicken breast and chicken fried steak, this year it was changed to sirloin steak and shrimp with all the trimmings including dessert. Moose charged the association \$21.00 for each plate they would serve based on the total number of tickets sold including guest tickets. The day of the dinner the vendor delivered the steaks to the Moose, Eddie Abeita was shown the steaks, the vendor made a mistake and brought larger steaks than the Moose ordered. Anthony of the Moose told Eddie with a smile you guys came out ahead with the better cut, the steaks looked the size of a ribeye.

Roberta Abeita coordinated the decoration of the hall with retirees, spouses and significant others who always make the hall *look nice*. New tablecloths and center pieces were purchased. The older tablecloths showed wear and tear and in previous dinner years the center pieces were given away as door prizes. However, it was decided to keep the centerpieces and use them for upcoming dinners. On paper the cost seemed a little high, however these purchases do not reoccur annually.

Merry Flores donated dessert plates, meatballs and queso, Roberta Abeita donated lemonade, tea, peanuts, salsa and chips. Theresa Barboa donated olives, Linda Holcomb donated bottled water and coffee provided by our association. Mike Fox and Patricia Toya donated handmade items, TLC Inc provided 8 door prizes. The Retirees Association provided 15 door prizes and one cash prize. The dinner activities started with a social hour which has become a popular part of the evening function. There were a lot of hand shaking, hugging, chit chat, reminiscing and just visiting with one another. The snacks were enormous. Moose had cocktail service available.

Mike Fox coordinated ticket sales, payments and provided gratuity to the young volunteer food servers. John Barnum handled telephone reservations; Vince Holcomb was liaison with the Moose. The schedule started with ticket announcements and asking for help including when the Christmas Tree would be raised and taken down and hall decorating. Ticket Sales started at the November Retiree monthly meeting followed by final ticket sales held on a Saturday at AFR Union Hall.

AFDRA President Kerry Horton extended an invitation to Albuquerque Fire Rescue (AFR) Chief Emily Jaramillo. Kerry noted that the fire chief and some staff would attend, this was the best response we had from AFR including any of the previous fire administrations. Kerry also extended the invite to AFR Local 244 Union President Miguel Titman. Committee Chairperson Eddie Abeita provided a written invitation to AFDRA perpetual supporters, Rio Grande Credit Union and TLC Inc.

Eddie Abeita said, "I was visiting the Moose lounge when one of the Moose members greeted me and brought up the Christmas Dinner. He said we have been talking about how nice it is to cook for your fire retirees. Please keep your dinners here at the Moose. Other people close by either nodded or said thank you. Eddie said it is important we keep our camaraderie intact. Retirees who enjoyed our picnics and dinners over the past 24 years, many of them have perished, however we keep them in our hearts and our memories.



Christmas Dinner Committee

Front Row - Roberta Abeita, Linda Holcomb, Theresa Barboa, Mike Fox, Jim Tuma, Second Row, Leroy Barboa, Vince Holcomb, Fred Teupell, John and Debbie Barnum. Not Pictured - Merry Flores, Patricia Toya, Emiliano Chavez, Anthony Nuanez, Kerry Horton, Eddie Abeita







Minutes, January 2025 (January 08, 2025)

AFDRA 293rd meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. by President Kerry Horton. He asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez gave the opening prayer. Notice of Last Alarm - Since our last meeting we have lost brother Raymond Sanchez, who died December 21. Moment of Silence for Ray and all our deceased brothers.

Kerry said, "I will turn this part of the meeting over to Sam Trujillo who will read the 2024 list of our deceased brother retirees. Sam Trujillo said this past 2024 was the busiest year of retiree deaths, we lost 25. Evie Marquez January 17, Sebastian Mirabal January 19, Phillip Garcia March 09, Bob Martinez March 13, Bill Busick March 17, Jose Martinez March 22, Brandon Moss April 14, Derrick Pino April 15, Hilario Chavez April 16, Jose P Montoya April 18, Johnny Elwell April 19, Charles Valdez May 03, Abel Coronado May 12, Dale Noblitt May 14, Marcus Byrne May 18, Gilbert Escarcida May 26, Frank Cisneros May 29, David R Herrera May 30, Carlos Dominguez July 10, Richard Padilla August 16, James R Baca September 08, Francisco E Ulibarri September 23, Phillip M Candelaria October 06, Ignacio Perez October 29, Raymond Sanchez December 21st. Sam said after reading all these retirees' names, I don't know why but I think of Joe Pete Montoya's funeral when Tom Romero fell into the grave twice. I still wonder about some retirees, Frank Cisneros, I guess there were no services for him. Carlos Dominguez, we knew nothing about his services. However, June was a good month, NO Deaths.

After Phil Candelaria's funeral Sam said, I did my 2-month check, his wife did not know that Phil had paid-up life insurance with the city. We have lost 233 retirees in 24 years. If you consider their age that equates to an average life span for retirees of 75.6 years. Some of us beat the odds. Also, our Honor Guard is unbelievable at any service or function, Thank You Guys for Your Service. **Roll call of Officers**, President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo

Advisory Board present, Anthony Nuanez, Pablo Garcia, Louie Trujillo, Morris Guterrez, Eulogio Lucero and Fred Teupell. **Guest**, None **Retiree First Meeting**, Micheal Flores. Micheal is working at Presbyterian Westside as a paramedic supervisor.

President's Report, Social Security Fairness Act passed and signed by President Biden. What it means, if you have enough quarters, you will get social security benefits. The Windfall Act by Reagan took away about ½ of your benefits. Spouse survivor benefits, when your spouse passes you get some of her benefits. I have an informant, Bob Hartley, who went to the social security office to inquire when we will receive the new social security benefits, they told him it will take time. This affected approximately 3 million people, you won't have to do anything, it will be automatic when implemented. Give it about 3 months than you may want to check with social security. Sam said make an appointment at Rio Rancho social security office, it's not so busy and they are friendly people. It's close to Santa Anna Star Casino. Not like the downtown office with hard-to-find parking. Pablo said so sorry to tell you, but it's closed. Sam said I will check and find out if it's open I will put something out. Herman said in our early days we paid NO social security, the union questioned firefighters to see if we wanted to contribute to social security but because we had our retirement in place PERA, we said no, not to join social security. When I became fire chief in North Carolina they took out social security, I wondered why? When I inquired about the social security deduction, they said "don't you know what social security is? When Reagan came out with the Windfall Elimination ACT, people praised Reagan, I feel he did bad to first responders and others. Sam said some retirees were under the wire like Sam Mirabal he was getting about \$150.00 from social security. Kerry said you need 40 quarters for full benefits, you can check online to see how many quarters you have. If you missed it, it was a great day, Sam Trujillo's dedication Kerry said. The auditorium at the fire academy is now Sam Trujillo Training Auditorium. Sam said Thank everyone for your support, the news media said I started the Paramedic Program, which is not true. Kerry said they also said it was a memorial. Sam said this is all a group effort, long after I am gone, I tell younger firefighters, make it better. Herman said I told the governor you are Sam's Guardian Angle. Kerry said there are four Kitchen Table sessions this month, The dates for January's Kitchen Table meetings are January 9 and 23, starting at 6:30 pm at 4004 Carlisle NE, south building. January 13 at 10 am at 2721 San Mateo Blvd NE, which is at Morris Guterrez business and on January 27 at 10 am at 4004 Carlisle NE. Pat McKinney and I met with the AFR Chief Jaramillo, we will open our Kitchen Table to active-duty personnel. AFR has a similar type of program however It seems that active-duty firefighters may want to go outside the AFR. The AFR_Chief would like to start a program to create a link between active duty and retirees starting with breakfast at one of the fire stations. The fire chief is not sure when this may start so don't show up at the station and say where's my breakfast. Kerry said they may cook egg whites and almond milk still not sure what they would cook. Kerry said I think we may be better cooks, maybe we will cook for them. Sam said, it will be neat to meet the younger firefighters, they need to know our history and understand how to be strong and make things better. We did lose some things I remember having 5-person or a minimum of 4 persons on a pumper. The rescue had 3 persons, and the field chiefs had a chiefs driver. Retirement, insurance and wages we fought for nothing was free. So again, I say to younger firefighters, Be cautious if someone would say let's try this be strong you might lose what you have and you will never get it back.

Vice Presidents Report, no report Donny said just move on with a loving smile.

Secretary's Report Eddie Abeita read the minutes from December 2024. Motion to accept First Ogee Lucero 2nd by Louie Trujillo. Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report, Mike Fox said " We started with a lot of money, we had a good time and now Not a lot Left". *I guess I need to explain that.* Mike gave an overview of AFDRA financial transactions with Rio Grande Credit Union including deposits and payments. A donation of \$50.00 from Earl and Darla Gleason was deposited. The books are always open for your review. said Mike Fox. Motion made to accept, 1st by James Parra 2nd by Skip Navarette. Motion Passed. Mike said we need to purchase a new Honor Guard uniform cost is about \$1,000. To make it up, I would like to make a \$100.00 challenge to everyone to match my \$100.00, to purchase an Honor Guard Uniform.

Historian's Report, Herman Bishop said I have stories to tell, they may sound like bullshit. I need to tell you about my Christmas experience. I get my gas at Sandia Casino's gas station, because it is about 40 cents a gallon cheaper. They have several gas pumps, one day each pump had several vehicles lined up waiting. There was a person also waiting. He had a cap on it with an ARMY emblem on it. Another army veteran said to him thanks for your service, I also responded and thanked them both and said I am also an ARMY veteran. So, we made Army buddy friends at the pump. The vehicle that I was waiting for finished and drove off, an unexpected knot head pulled right in front of me. I said hey, I was next in line, he said SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? My new army friend said you get the heck out of here if you don't move, we will move you. The guy said you guys are sore old guys. The army guy said if you don't move, we will show you what sore old guys can do, so he drove off. Strange as it sounds, I was ready to back my ARMY buddies. Sam said it was an honor to receive the award, the fire chief and governor gave great speeches, and I know a lot of it Kerry wrote. The governor has been a big supporter of firefighters for many years indifferent political offices she held. We need to thank the governor and Diego for all their help with our Last Alarm truck Sam said. Herman said when I came into AFD I thought it was their department, now I feel it's our department. Herman said the Union invited Carmen and me to their Christmas party. Where I was given an award, I was so touched that I repeated over and over like I was bragging. Then I remembered the old baseball coach Yogi Berra who said, if it's the truth, it's not bragging. Kerry noted at the party, question by M.C Miguel Tittman; *who been married the longest? Some active duty said 10, 15, 25 years, Herman said 65 years. After that the question became "except for the RETIREES who? Herman said we went to Ray Padilla's funeral, and he taught me a lot. He did things back in the day on the rescue that were not taught, he had common sense to treatment. Herman said one more thing I saw the kitchen table schedule and I was wondering where TBA was, so I called Kerry to ask what TBA was?*

Committee Report

Funeral, at our last funeral Kerry noticed the Last Alarm truck started to leak antifreeze. The driver took the truck back in for repair.

Christmas Dinner, 117 dinner plates @ \$21.00 were prepared by the Moose Lodge. The total guest tickets were 21. Thanks were given to Roberta Abeita for her hard work. Kerry noted this Christmas Dinner is a give back to the retirees.

Elections, this is the odd year for upcoming elections the seats are for Vice President, Treasurer, and Historian. At the March meeting I will appoint a nomination committee chairperson. Why the smile at Louie, Eddie said. **Museum**, the retire flag at the academy is in good shape however the United States flag needs replacement, it will be replaced. This spring we need a dedication ceremony. A yes nod from Morris. **Raffle Winners**, Richard Sanchez, Louie Trujillo, Skip Navarette

Matters Good for the Association Graduation for the 103rd AFR cadet class will be February 27, 1PM at the Balloon Fiesta Park. This has been a tuff class, 37 started the class now down to 15 cadets. We hope there are some left for graduation. Most likely our Honor Guard will be needed to support AFD Honor Guard.

New Business Pablo said, I have been in contact with Lisa Keffer her husband retiree Steve Keffer died about 2 years ago. Upon retirement from AFR the family moved to Arizona and Steve continued to work in wildland firefighting. Lisa was hoping to get any type of AFR or AFD tee shirts for her and their kids. Pablo said I had some shirts and got help from TLC. So, I sent 14 tee- shirts, Lisa was so thankful and happy with the shirts. WE say, Big Thanks Pablo! Closing Prayer by Morris Guterrez Meeting Adjourned

OATH OF OFFICE

I, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and that of the State of New Mexico; that I will obey the laws and ordinances of the City of Albuquerque, familiarize myself with and be obedient to the rules, regulations and orders of Albuquerque Fire Rescue In the discharge of my duties as a firefighter, to the best of my knowledge and ability, so help me God.

AFDRA Honor Guard Little Known Facts (by William Raupfer)

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Honor Guard has come a long way from the start, when 4 retired firefighters wanted to do more at funerals, than just show up and pay respect for a fallen firefighter. Many hours of research and thought went into the purchasing of a uniform. The uniform is the same style as the active duty firefighter, with a few changes to reflect a difference between the active duty firefighter and the retired firefighter.



The retirees' Honor Guard uniform is the same dark blue as the on-duty dress uniform of the color guard. This is where the changes come into effect. The coat or dress blouse is single breasted or single buttoned down the front. The department wears a double-breasted or double button down the front. This single-breasted dress blouse reflects the uniform as part of the fire department but being part of the retirees association. The uniform shows no rank, the silver buttons and badge is of a firefighter, so as to not outrank the deceased.

The white gloves are to show total respect for the fallen. Wearing the white gloves shows that your hands are clean and pure, to not lay open hands on the casket. The last thought and touch are for the family. When the Honor Guard is standing vigil over the deceased, they are at attention with crossed hands in front of them, with the right hand over the left at the head of the casket or urn and left over the right at the feet. This is not the time for others to try to talk, or to shake hands or bump knuckles with the Honor Guard, they are on duty showing proper respect. They do not talk or show emotions. This is the time for the family, and the family is watching every move the Honor Guard is doing. Many comments, and talk along with pictures are taking place at a funeral, from family and friends about the Honor Guard. This in itself shows how much the Honor Guard is looked upon; the Honor Guard gains more and more honors in standing as a first class Honor Guard.

The patches on the uniform are different also, the Albuquerque Fire Rescue patch is on the right shoulder of an on duty firefighter. The retired Albuquerque Fire Department patch the Honor Guard wears is on the left shoulder, with the AFDRA Honor Guard patch on the right shoulder. The only medals worn are the silver wreath pin representing the Honor Guard then the silver flag bar representing the country, and the silver name tag. These pins are worn in a pyramid shape on the left side over the heart representing a silent salute for the deceased. The white Aiguillette with silver tips worn on the left shoulder denotes respect and dedication or commitment to the honor guard.

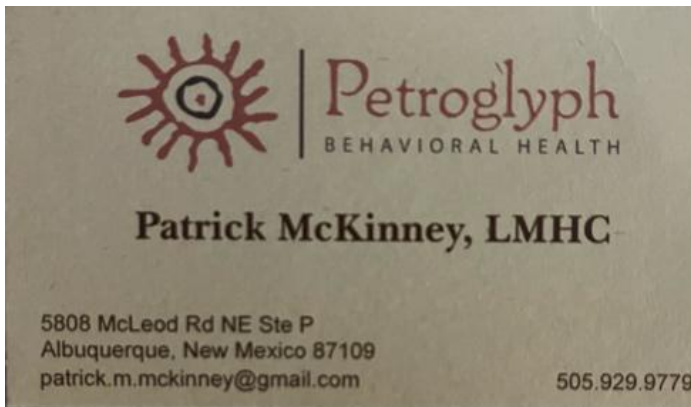


If a flag needs folding and presentation to the family, the Honor Guard will do this. If there is a need for pallbearers the Honor Guard will fill in, the same for when the color guard needs help. The duties of the Honor Guard sometimes just come up. The Honor Guard has never declined a duty. It is said that no two funerals are alike, this is what makes the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association Honor Guard first class and above other Honor Guards. The duty of the Honor Guard is to give respect to a fallen firefighter and show respect to the family of that fallen firefighter. I watched them closely and am very proud of what I see. When I see them standing tall striking the four fives it brings a tear to my eyes. I am very proud to have stood the Honor Guard and now knowing that I will someday have the honor bestowed upon me and my family. The Honor Guard stands vigil now with axes in hand, something new that was recently added. I like the added touch the axes give, I commend the Honor Guard for attention to this detail, the appearance of the axes adds to the overall appearance the Honor Guard represents. Some time goes into the preparation of the uniform before the funeral this is something I look at at each funeral I attend. All in first class order down to the shine on the shoes period well done Honor Guard!

William Raupfer, AFDR January 8th, 2025



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS!!

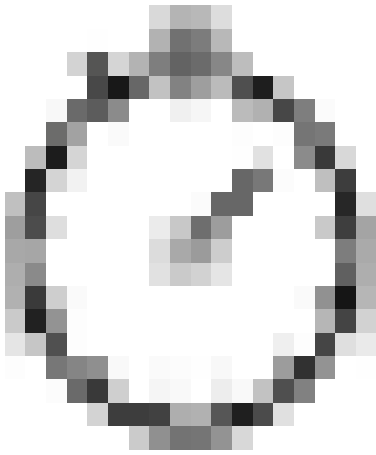


A special thank you to Steve Ortiz at Sharp Industries for all of his assistance to the AFDR, including his hard work on the pads for the memorial flagpole.



President's Message

By Kerry Horton



Hello everybody, it looks like spring is right around the corner and winter is, well, we never really had a winter this year. There's about 3 more weeks left in this year's legislative session and it looks like there is not much of a chance to increase our COLA's this year. Senator Liz Stefanics made an effort in presenting Senate Bill 30 that tried to give retirees over the age of 65 a yearly 2% COLA, but the bill only funded the increase for state employees and left funding for municipal retirees up to the cities to fund. The Bill has had a couple of amendments but is currently sitting in Senate Finance Committee waiting to be discussed, and it seems that most just

favor another round of 13th checks more than a 2% COLA. I'll keep you informed if anything new develops on this issue.

On February 27th AFR graduated the 103rd Cadet Class, and one of our own was honored with a Special Recognition Award. Emiliano Chavez was recognized for his dedication to the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association, his work as an Honor Guard member, and his fundraising efforts for our Retiree Assistance Program. It was a well-deserved honor, and we are thankful for all that Emiliano does to better our association.



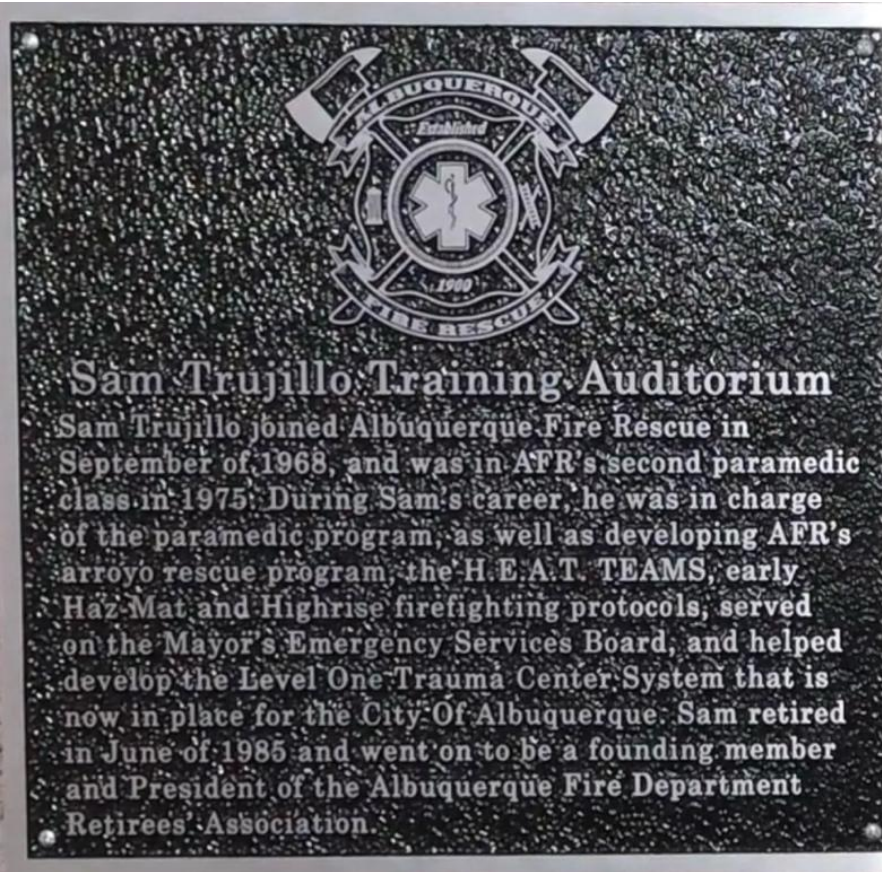
AFDRA Leadership

President, Kerry Horton	(505) 934-2969
Vice President, Donny Sanchez	(505) 228-3286
Secretary, Edward Abeita	(505) 250-7895
Treasurer, Mike Fox	(505) 385-7292
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	(505) 294-7165
President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo	(505) 899-1500

ADVISORY BOARD

Eulogio Lucero, Morris Guitierrez, Pablo Garcia Jr. Santos Abeyta, Vince Holcomb, Fred Teupell, Louis C. Trujillo, Tommy Romero, Bill Raupfer, Anthony Nuanez, Jose Salaz

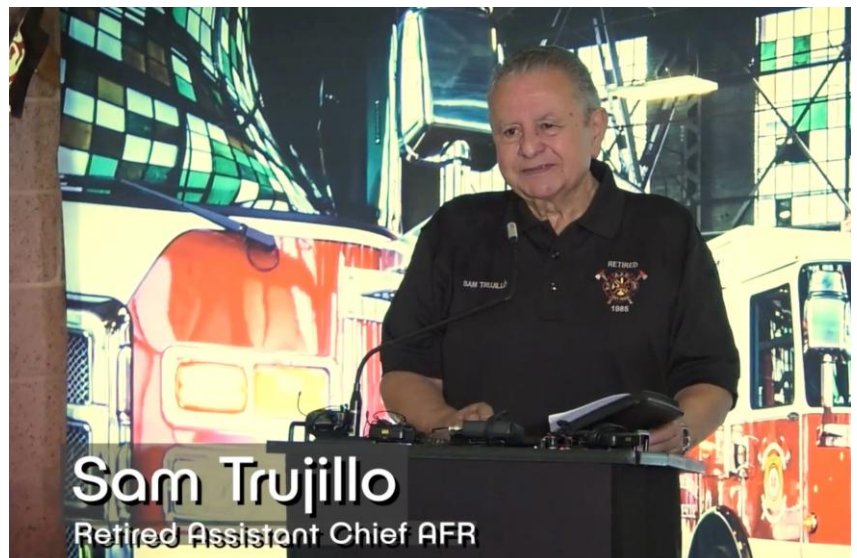
A Tribute to Sam Trujillo (By Kerry Horton)



On January 6th, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller, and AFR Fire Chief Emily Jaramillo paid high praise to our brother Sam Trujillo. On this day, the AFR Academy training auditorium was renamed the Sam Trujillo Training Auditorium

in honor of Sam's service and dedication to AFR's Active and retired fire community.

Sam Trujillo joined Albuquerque Fire Rescue in September of 1968, and was in AFR's second paramedic class in 1975. During Sam's career, he oversaw the paramedic program, as well as developing AFR's arroyo rescue program, the H.E.A.T. TEAMS, early Haz-Mat and High-rise firefighting protocols, served on the Mayor's Emergency Services Board, and helped develop the Level One Trauma Center System that is now in place for the City of Albuquerque. Sam retired in June of 1985 and went on to be a founding member and President of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association.



During the ceremony Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham also cited Sam's work on the Governors Veteran Affairs Board and his work in advancing benefits for the state's veterans. The event was attended by city and state dignitaries, AFR Deputy Chiefs, and Sam's family and friends. We are all proud of our brother Sam Trujillo for his tireless efforts in advancing firefighter and veteran interests and benefits. It was a great ceremony and a much-deserved tribute our great friend.

