



THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

October - December 2003

Groundbreaking for Alabama Fire College Memorial

The Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission and the Alabama Joint Fire Council held groundbreaking ceremonies for the Alabama Fire Fighter Memorial on October 15, 2003. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the dedication of the Alabama Fire College as the Dr. W.L. Langston campus. The new fire fighter memorial will include an original bronze work of art consisting of a life-size fire fighter in full protective gear, and a "Walk of Honor" to include the sponsorship of personalized bricks to allow fire fighters, families and friends of Alabama's fire service to be recognized and become part of the memorial. It will be located on the beautiful campus of the Alabama Fire College across the street from the school's main administration building.

Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony were key dignitaries: Alabama Fire

College Executive Director Dr. William Langston, Personnel Standards Commission Chairman Ron Howard, Alabama Joint Fire Council Chairman Dwight Graves, Senator Phil Poole, and members of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Alabama Fire Chiefs Association, Alabama Fire Fighters Association, and Professional Fire Fighters Association. Lt. Jeff Kelly of the Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Department gave the invocation.

The groundbreaking is significant for several reasons. On June 11, 2003, the House and Senate of the Alabama Legislature passed a joint resolution designating the Alabama Fire Fighter Memorial as the official fire fighter memorial for the State of Alabama. The memorial will serve as a symbol of gratitude to the men and women of the fire service who risk their lives every day to protect the people of Alabama.

"There could not be a more appropriate memorial commemorating those who honorably served our state," noted Alabama Fire College Executive Director Dr. William L. Langston, a retired Alabama fire fighter. "The Alabama



Joint Fire Council, members of Alabama's Fire Service, and all those who have donated goods and services, purchased bricks, and contributed in many ways to make this Memorial a reality are to be commended in their efforts."

Architects for the project are P H & J Architects of Montgomery, and the original artwork comes from The Van Bergen Company of Charleston, South Carolina. The Alabama Fire College is hoping that the Memorial will be ready by the summer of 2004. The memorial is designed to fit into the landscape of the campus and will offer visitors an opportunity for quiet reflection and peaceful solitude.

The Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission annually trains in excess of 22,000 students in areas that span the entire spectrum of emergency response, including hazardous materials, anti-terrorism, as well as traditional fire-fighting.



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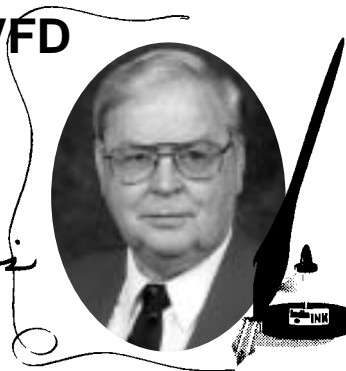
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FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

Johnny Dennis



In the October 5, 2003 issue of the Time's Daily newspaper, the headline read, "Think it's bad now? Riley: Wait a year or two." Governor Riley warns the legislature to brace for severe cuts in education and the general fund for next year. For the year 2004, funding provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission to the volunteer fire departments was cut as a non-state agency. With the help of many members of the legislature, this funding was restored to approximately 50% of last year's budget. To some departments the loss of these funds will not be so devastating as to close the doors of their department. However, to others the loss of one to two thousand dollars from their annual income will have a major effect on their ability to operate. Insurance costs and fuel costs are getting higher each year and equipment replacement, on average, is increasing in price as well. Where does this leave

departments whose income is only enough to survive, much less purchase equipment, build stations or replace fire engines 30 years old. Not knowing when or if these funds will be restored, I suggest departments that have inadequate income look for local revenue for future funding. Unless our legislature and the people of our state are willing to face reality, people will continue to lose jobs, people who should be in prison will be walking the streets and many volunteer fire departments will not be able to do their job. After all, our responsibility is to protect and save the lives of the people we serve.

Update on Alabama's AED Program

At the time of this article, Governor Riley has not appointed the remaining two Cardiac Arrest Survival Commission personnel. Once this commission is in place, a meeting will be called to approve the placement of over one hundred and thirty units now in storage at the Alabama Fire College. Departments that did not qualify in phase one of this program can receive AEDs under phase two. If your department has substations and responds to medical calls, your department will qualify for a second or third unit. If your department has not submitted a request for additional AEDs, do so as soon as possible. Funding for this program was cut from the 2004 budget but could be replaced for 2005. Each request will be reviewed by the CASC and granted or rejected based on the need that must be outlined in your request. If you have any questions, call the AAVFD office 1-888-972-2833 or contact me by email at: Jden42@aol.com or call 256-766-4707.

2004 AD&D INSURANCE

It's time to renew or sign up for the 2004 AD&D insurance. Insurance renewal forms were mailed to all AAVFD member departments in September. It is very important that the insurance enrollments/applications for 2004 be sent to the Montgomery office as soon as possible. Coverage of the current policy will expire on December 31, 2003.

This is one of the least expensive policies that can be purchased for volunteer firefighters. Cost for the insurance remains \$12.00 per year for \$10,000 fire related death benefit/\$50 per week disability and \$20.00 per year if you choose to have coverage of \$20,000 fire related death benefit/\$100 per week disability. In the event a firefighter is disabled and his/her paycheck stops, this policy would provide some financial assistance to the family in paying bills.

As an extra benefit, each policyholder will receive a quarterly issue of "The Volunteer". "The Volunteer" keeps members informed on the latest fire service news in the state, as well as national events.

Coverage begins January 1, 2004, or if mailed after January 1st, coverage begins on the day that your insurance enrollment is received in the AAVFD office. If, for any reason you do not receive your department's insurance packet, please notify the office.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Fire department membership notices for the year 2004 were mailed in September. If your department joins through the county association, the notice was sent to the county president. Annual membership dues are payable January 1,

2004 and are delinquent on January 31, 2004.

Dues are \$35 per fire department for departments that are members of a county association, provided that every member of the county association joins and pays dues at the same time. Departments that join as individual members pay \$40 per department.

If you are not a member, contact the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833, and we will be glad to send you information on the benefits associated with AAVFD membership, such as eligibility for our AD&D insurance coverage, student scholarships and the Alabama Volunteer Firefighter credit card. If you do not belong to a member department, associate membership is available to anyone who is interested in the purposes, goals and activities of AAVFD. Associate membership affords you the same benefits as general membership, except the right to vote.

2004 AAVFD SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2004. Four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded. Each scholarship is given on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications.

Applications may be obtained from the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or 1-888-972-2833. Completed applications must be mailed to AAVFD, Attn: Roy Adamson, Scholarship Chairman, 660 Adams Avenue, Suite 345, Montgomery AL 36104 and post marked no later than March 31, 2004.

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3714 Hargrove Road E. Suite B, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Phone: 205-556-0607 Fax: 205-556-0208

1-800-406-7149

E-Mail: tfe@networktel.net



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1977 Pierce

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\$28,000.00



1973/84 Pierce Pumper

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1993 F 350 Diesel

Service Truck
\$5,200.00



1985 E-One Custom Pumper

Diesel Automatic, 1500 GPM/500 Tank
\$40,000.00

FEMA KICKS OFF PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE FIRE DEATHS OF BABIES AND TODDLERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today a campaign to raise awareness about the increased risk of fire death for young children, and to teach parents and caregivers how they can avoid the tragedy. The campaign's message emphasizes installing smoke alarms, securing lighters and matches, and developing a fire evacuation plan under the theme: "Prepare. Practice. Prevent the Unthinkable."

"A baby or toddler under age five dies nearly every day in a residential fire," said Homeland Security Under Secretary Michael D. Brown. "These young children have a disproportionately higher risk of fire death than the rest of the population. They depend on their parents and caregivers to keep them safe, to prevent residential fires from starting, and to increase the chances that the entire family can escape a fire quickly and safely."

From 1989 through 1998, U.S. children younger than age five were twice as likely as the rest of the population to die in a residential fire; in that decade 5,830 children died in fires in this country, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, part of FEMA and the initiator of the campaign.

"No child -not a single one- should suffer such an awful death, a death that can be prevented by parents who take the necessary precautions," said Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "Every parent and every caregiver with young children depending on them must take a few simple but important steps to prevent this tragedy. Even toddlers can be taught how to quickly respond in case of fire and adults need

to know how they will escape with infants."

The Fire Safety Campaign for Babies and Toddlers includes four national partner organizations that have pledged to spread the message to parents and caregivers, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, ZERO TO THREE, National SAFE KIDS Campaign and the National Fire Protection Association.

The campaign materials include a print public service announcement, an educational video on fire safety for babies and toddlers, posters, brochures and fact sheets. The media, parents and caregivers can access the information, in both English and Spanish, at www.usfaparents.gov or can order materials through the U.S. Fire Administration's Publications Online Catalog, at www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/.

The U.S. Fire Administration has a mission to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support. It is the federal leader in public fire education and awareness, fire service training, fire-related technology and data collection.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

New EPA Backyard Burning Brochures Available

The Environmental Protection Agency is taking action to reduce the open burning of household waste, often referred to as backyard burning. In addition to being a fire hazard, backyard burning is a source of dangerous pollutants, including dioxins, particulate matter, lead, mercury, and hexachlorobenzene. Since stringent controls have been placed on municipal, medical and hazardous waste incinerators, backyard burning has become the nation's largest quantified source of dioxins.

The Agency has established a Web Site: www.epa.gov/msw/backyard, containing information, links, brochures, presentations and other outreach materials for governments to use with their residents. The brochures can be customized to include local information for residents. The first brochure, State and Local Governments Are Key to Reducing Backyard Burning, encourages state and local government officials to take action to reduce backyard

burning in their jurisdictions. It describes the dangers of backyard burning, and provides information on what some jurisdictions are doing to provide waste disposal alternatives and outreach to residents, and to restrict backyard burning through regulations.

The second brochure, The Hidden Hazards of Backyard Burning, is aimed at residents, and can be distributed by local fire fighters in their efforts to discourage backyard burning. EPA also developed a brochure for tribal leaders and one for their residents - Tribal Leaders Are Key to Reducing Backyard Burning and Reducing Backyard Burning in Indian Country.

To order brochures, contact the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) by phone (800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190), or via email at: ncepimal@one.net.

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Don's Perspective

by Don Shield
Alabama Firefighter

The Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) was organized in 1977 to provide common ground for the interests of the volunteer fire fighters in the state and to have a means for putting those interests forward to the public and interested agencies. The general membership each year elects their officers (6), and the districts elect their representatives (20), these twenty-six elected officials are now considered the AAVFD Board. These elected officials have the responsibilities and governing authority of the AAVFD for the year of their terms.

Along the years of AAVFD history, a membership category of Life

Membership was instituted. This was to recognize individuals who had contributed above and beyond to the AAVFD. This award is bestowed by your board of Directors.

When becoming a life member you are also given the right to vote on any matters coming before AAVFD Board and General Membership meetings. At the last AAVFD Board meeting, it was also pointed out that if a Life Member was also an elected official of the board, that individual would have the right to cast two votes on any matter coming before the board. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that your elected Board of

Directors could, if the desire were there, be over whelmed by the voting powers of the Life Membership on matters coming before the board.

There are individuals in our ranks that say I'm not for having life members, "That's not true." I'm saying that there are individuals that deserve the distinction of Life Membership, but the decisions made by this board should be reserved to the individuals that have been elected by the General Membership.



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view

HUD inside
view



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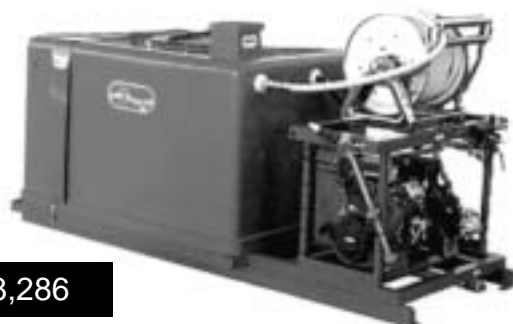
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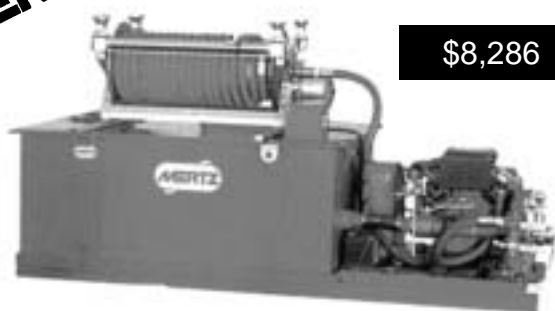
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From Here and There

News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama

THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS statewide continues to pay off in improved ISO ratings. Listed below are changes in ratings.

DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING	DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING
Effective August 1, 2003				Effective October 1, 2003			
Goodway	Monroe	8/9	7/9	McCalla	Jefferson	7/9	5/9
Pleasant Hill	St. Clair	-	6/9	Phil Campbell	Franklin	8/9	6/9
Macedonia	Cleburne	9/9	8/9	Quad Cities	Calhoun	7/9	6/9
Effective September 1, 2003				Roanoke	Randolph	6	5
Red Oak	Covington	9/10	7/9	Samson	Geneva	7/9	5/9

Congratulations to these departments and their hard working members! Improved ISO ratings are what we are often measured by and it's obvious that Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments measure up!

Fire Prevention Week was observed October 5-11, 2003. This year's theme, "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" underscored a simple lesson. Because fire can grow so quickly, every second can mean the difference between life and death. Advance planning is essential. You can obtain more information at the NFPA website www.nfpa.org.

Linden VFD, Marengo County, took delivery of a 2003 Freightliner built by Crimson Fire and within hours answered a 4:00 am call for a gas spill.

Clarke County Firefighters Association and EMA hosted a Bomb Threat Response Awareness course conducted by Instructor Fred Patterson, retired Captain of Department of Public Safety Bomb Squad.

Marengo County Fire Association and EMA hosted Railroad Tank Car Safety Training: Pressure and Non-Pressure Valves Course conducted by Instructor Bill Gleason, CSX Railroad Safety Coordinator.

Oak Ridge VFD, Morgan County, has completed a 160-hour Certified Volunteer Firefighter Class.

Sylvania VFD, DeKalb County, held open house at their new station on September 14th.

The Walker County Firefighters Association presented Tunney Markham, Forest Ranger/Technician with the Alabama Forestry Commission, with the Raymond "Gilder" Kelley Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award. This award recognizes a fireman for outstanding work and contributions to the fire service in their community.

Monroe County hosted a weather spotter class for their county and surrounding counties emergency services on September 23rd.

The Wiregrass Violent Crime and Drug Task Force conducted a Clandestine Lab Safety Workshop for Pea Ridge volunteer fire

and law enforcement personnel in Shelby County.

Congratulations to Chief John Hill, Snow Hill-Furman VFD, who was honored as Wilcox County Firefighter of the Year. Senator Hank Sanders presented a proclamation honoring Chief Hill. A letter from Congressman Artur Davis praised the Wilcox County Volunteer Firefighters for their untiring dedication to duty without compensation.

Pine Hill VFD, Wilcox County, took delivery of a 2003 International, 2,000-gallon tanker on August 29th.

Warrior River Fire & Rescue, Jefferson County, held an Open House/Dedication Ceremony on September 27th.

Montevallo VFD, Shelby County, held their annual Fire Prevention Week Parade on October 4th.

On October 5th, North Shelby Fire District, Shelby County, celebrated 25 years of providing fire and EMS protection to the communities that they serve.

Frisco City VFD, Monroe County, along with Sparky the fire-dog, sponsored a puppet show teaching fire safety during Fire Prevention Week.

Lauderdale County hosted their annual Fireman's parade on October 11th. Also, a participant in the event was the 2nd annual Kids Fire & Life Safety Day. Other events included the Kids Fire Safety House, Air-Evac Life Team, Police fingerprinting, Bicycle safety course, CPR classes, Fire & Life safety seminars, and Child Car Seat inspections.

Fulton VFD, Clarke County, held Open House commemorating the 25th anniversary of the reorganization of their fire department.

Pine Mountain VFD, Blount County, celebrated 25 years of community service on October 19th with open house and a special recognition program.

Continued on Page 10

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park and "Walk of Honor"

Work is underway to create a National Memorial Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to honor all firefighters. When completed, the National Memorial Park will be the first permanent park in the United States honoring all members of the fire service. Since 1981, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park is home for the official national monument to all firefighters. Congress designated the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in 1990 as the official monument to all fallen firefighters. Plaques around the monument bear the names of over 2,700 firefighters who have died in the line of duty since 1981.

The park features a brick "Walk of Honor" that will connect the monument, the historic Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and memorial plazas. Each brick on the walkway will bear a personal inscription.

The first 12 sections of the Walk of Honor are now in place. Starting at the national monument, the walkway now has over 3,500 inscribed bricks. The walkway is laid out with numbered sections to help donors and recipients locate their special

bricks. Bricks can be inscribed with a name or short message. Fire departments and fire service organizations have created special sections to honor their members or those who have answered the final call. Others have used bricks to say "thank you" or to remember a loved one.

You can help make this park a reality through donations to the park expansion fund and through sponsorship of bricks on the Walk of Honor. Proceeds from the sale of these bricks are helping to finance construction of the Park. Over half of the planned walkway is now in place and includes space for over 10,000 more inscribed bricks.

You can sponsor a brick on the Walk of Honor. The recommended donation levels for your tax-deductible donation are as follows: Fire Departments, \$500; National Fire Academy Class, \$250; Fire



Companies/Stations, \$150; Individuals, In Memoriam, In Appreciation \$100. Send to:

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
PO Drawer 498
Emmitsburg MD 21727
firehero@erols.com
Phone: 301-447-1365
Fax: 301-447-1645

From Here and There (continued from page 9)



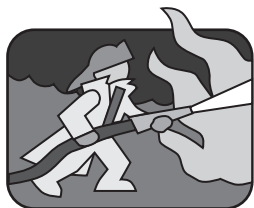
Winterboro VFD, Talladega County, (shown above) took delivery of a 1980 Mack pumper in July.

Congratulations to Frank Wilson (shown right), who was honored for 27 years of service to Lawley VFD and Bibb County, as the 2003 Bibb County Firefighter of the Year.

Volunteer firefighters give back to their communities. The hard work of many departments across our state has brought hope to many who depend on helping hands. Firefighters and MDA are working together to extinguish neuromuscular disease. Creola

VFD, Georgetown Fellowship VFD, Semmes VFD, St Elmo-Irvington VFD and Wilmer VFD in Mobile County, Burnt Corn VFD in Conecuh County, Elba VFD in Coffee County, Enterprise VFD in Chilton County, Foley VFD, Loxley VFD, Perdido Beach VFD, Lillian VFD, Elberta VFD, Seminole VFD, Spanish Fort VFD and White House Fork VFD in Baldwin County, Frisco City VFD in Monroe County, Georgiana VFD and Searcy VFD in Butler County, Lee-Chambers VFD in Lee County, Notasulga VFD in Macon County, Opp VFD in Covington County, Samson VFD in Geneva County, and Crenshaw, Elmore, and Escambia County's fire departments collected \$60,982.67 for MDA.





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NEW, USED AND REFURBISHED FIRE APPARATUS

Volunteer fire departments from across the state competed in the 19th Annual Fire Fighter Appreciation Day Competition Events

on Saturday, September 27th, in Thomasville. *The winners are listed below:*

TEAMSCOREPOINTS

AIR PACK RELAY

East Limestone	114.5.....	10 pts
Fulton	123.56	7 pts
Thomasville	128.09.....	5 pts.

OBSTACLE COURSE

Fulton	108.88.....	10 pts.
Thomasville	121.81.....	7 pts.
East Limestone	122.69.....	5 pts.

HOSE LAY II

Johnson Crossing	58.09	10 pts.
Fulton	58.38	7 pts.
Thomasville	102.00.....	5 pts.

OVERALL

Fulton (Clarke County)	24 pts.
Thomasville (Clarke County).....	17 pts.
East Limestone (Limestone County)	15 pts.

COOKING COMPETITION

CHILI

First Place	Angie Chambers, Vinemont-Providence VFD, Cullman County
Second Place	Loria Morgan, Range VFD, Conecuh County
Third Place	Dennis & Hazel Haskew, Fulton VFD, Clarke County

CAKE

First Place	Loria Morgan & Marie Phillips, Range VFD, Conecuh County
Second Place	Heather Sullivan, Wagarville VFD, Washington County
Third Place	Diane Wilson, Piney Woods VFD, Walker County

BRUSH TRUCK COMPETITION

FEPP BRUSH TRUCK

Class 1:	Wagarville VFD, Washington County (Refurbished by Dept.)
Class 2:	Fulton VFD, Clarke County (Refurbished by Contractor)

OPEN BRUSH TRUCK

First Place	Baileytown VFD (Cullman County)
Second Place	Magnolia Springs VFD (Baldwin County)
Third Place	Vinemont-Providence VFD (Cullman County)



Firefighter Appreciation Day Competition



Air Pack
Relay

Obstacle
Course



Hose Lay
II

Brush Truck
Competition



FULTON VFD - CLARKE COUNTY
First Place – Overall



THOMASVILLE VFD - CLARKE COUNTY
Second Place – Overall



EAST LIMESTONE VFD - LIMESTONE COUNTY
Third Place – Overall



BRUSH TRUCK WINNER – CHARLIE LOTT
SEMME'S VFD, MOBILE COUNTY
*Congratulated by RCFP Steering Committee Chairman John
Hendricks and RCFP Chief Roy Mott*

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19th Annual VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY

Roy Mott, RCFP Chief

The Clarke County Firefighter Association hosted the 19th Annual Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day in Thomasville, Alabama on September 27, 2003. The Alabama Forestry Commission Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee sponsors the event annually.

Master of Ceremonies at the Friday night banquet was RCFP Chief Roy Mott. Event Coordinator Charlie Dixon welcomed the guests. The AAVFD South Honor Guard presented the colors. Special guests included Commissioner David Long, Alabama Forestry Commission, Thomasville Mayor Sheldon Day, Clarke County Probate Judge Becky Presnall, Clarke County Commissioner Jesse Robinson, and Representative Thomas E. Jackson. Former Fire Chief LaVerne Mott entertained the banquet guests with stories of humorous events and memorable firefighters of bygone years; then, completed his remarks recognizing the accomplishments of the Thomasville Fire Department today. Following closing remarks by Thomasville Fire Chief Mark Sims, guests were entertained by local country music band Dixie River.

RCFP Chief Roy Mott presented the RCFP Steering Committee Awards. Commissioner David Long congratulated each recipient, along with RCFP Steering Committee Chairman John Hendricks, who also presented the Governor's Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day Proclamation to the Clarke County Firefighters Association. Representative Thomas Jackson presented a proclamation recognizing the Clarke County Firefighters for their service.

Greg Angus and Brian Balch were recognized for their innovative fire education program, Kids Fire and Life Safety Education.

The Ray Tucker Memorial Award was presented to Roger Wilson, Piney Woods VFD, Walker County, who was recognized by the Steering Committee for his dedicated years of service, leadership and commitment as a member of the RCFP Steering Committee.

The Walter Vest Award was presented to Newbern VFD in Hale County. The RCFP Steering Committee recognized this



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**RCFP Chief Roy Mott
Lauderdale County
Manager Steve
McEachron, Greg
Angus, Brian Balch &
AFC Commissioner
David Long**



ROGER WILSON, DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE

*Outstanding Steering
Committee Member*



**NEWBERN VFD,
HALE COUNTY
Outstanding Volunteer
Fire Department**



**RANDY KINMAN
CLARKE COUNTY
Alabama Forestry
Associate of the Year**

department as the Outstanding Volunteer Fire Department of the Year.

Each year the RCFP Steering Committee recognizes two Alabama Forestry Commission employees for their outstanding work with volunteer fire departments.

Associate of the Year Award was pre-



**CHUCK QUINN
CHOCTAW COUNTY
Alabama Forestry
Supervisor of the Year**

sented to County Ranger Randy Kinman, for his outstanding leadership in Clarke County.

County Supervisor of the Year Award was presented to Chuck Quinn, County Manager, for his outstanding work with the volunteer fire departments in Choctaw County.



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*"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee,
but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8*



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Semmes Volunteer Fire Department

Editor's note: This story and pictures appeared as a feature published in the Lower Alabama Volunteer Newsletter September/October 2003 Edition, authored by David Edwards.

The Semmes Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1975. Over the past 28 years, this department has grown into one of the best in the area. Currently Semmes has 40 members. Semmes covers an area of 241 square miles and responds to a population of more than 25,000 people. Semmes is one of the fastest growing areas in the lower Alabama region and the department is keeping up through hard work and dedication. In 2002, Semmes responded to over 300 calls.

Chief:

N.L. "Rat" Dearmon, Sr.

Department Motto:

"Because We Care"



The Shelby County EMA has taken delivery of five HazMat Decon Trailers from Tuscaloosa Fire Equipment. Each trailer is fully equipped to assist with Level B decontamination and hazardous spill containment and will be strategically placed throughout Shelby County to assist in any HazMat incident that may occur. These units were funded through the Homeland Security grant program. For more information, call Mike Mitchell at Tuscaloosa Fire Equipment: 1-800-406-7149.

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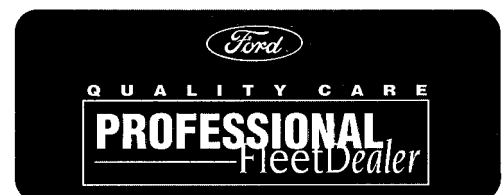
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NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Bruce F. Spaulding, Volunteer**
 Department: **Bourbonnais Fire Protection District, Bourbonnais IL**

Date of Death: **4/26/03**

Cause of Death: **Reportedly cutting department's lawn in area of an incline when he fell or the lawnmower overturned causing a head injury. He was airlifted to a regional medical center where he died a short time later. An autopsy is pending.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter/Fire Police Harding Wentzell, Volunteer**

Department: **Mexico FD, Mexico ME**

Date of Death: **5/5/03**

Cause of Death: **Suffered apparent heart attack causing car crash while enroute in his private vehicle to establish a nearby traffic control point at scene of residential kitchen fire.**

Name/Rank: **Fire Explorer Anndee Huber, Volunteer**

Department: **Newcastle VFD, Newcastle WY**

Date of Death: **5/22/03**

Cause of Death: **Died when she was ejected from cab of tanker truck and trapped underneath when driver lost control of vehicle.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter Jason Lee Ellis, Volunteer**

Department: **Loretto VFD, Loretto TN**

Date of Death: **5/24/03**

Cause of Death: **Died one week after he was critically injured when he fell from back of pick-up truck and hit his head on road while traveling from training grounds after week-end training exercise at TN Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy.**

Name/Rank: **Lieutenant David L. Carbonneau, Sr., Volunteer**

Department: **Maytown East Donegal Township FD, Maytown PA**

Date of Death: **5/26/03**

Cause of Death: **Became ill while riding in fire department vehicle and later died of apparent heart attack after being taken to hospital**

Name/Rank: **Fire Police Officer Donald Schreckengast, Volunteer**

Department: **Logan Fire Company, Bellefonte PA**

Date of Death: **6/14/03**

Cause of Death: **Collapsed while directing traffic at annual Bellefonte Cruise Parade and later died in hospital.**

Name/Rank: **Lieutenant Trent A. Kirk, Career**
 Department: **City of Memphis FD, Memphis TN**

Date of Death: **6/15/03**

Cause of Death: **Died of injuries received when he became trapped inside of burning Family Dollar store.**

Name/Rank: **Private Charles Zachary, Career**
 Department: **City of Memphis FD, Memphis TN**

Date of Death: **6/15/03**

Cause of Death: **Died of injuries received when he became trapped inside of burning Family Dollar store.**

Name/Rank: **Firefighter/EMT Randy G. Utley, Volunteer**
 Department: **Grayson FD, Grayson KY**

Date of Death: **6/16/03**

Cause of Death: **Died of injuries received enroute to emergency call when his private vehicle hydroplaned, leaving roadway and striking billboard sign post.**



Written by
 Barry J. Campbell, Firefighter
 Tharptown Volunteer Fire Department

A FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

Please bless me in my calling, God
 To serve my fellow man
 In my short walk upon this earth
 To obey your great command
 To love my neighbor as myself
 And never turn away
 But stand strong and sure and confident
 That you are beside me all the way
 Help me perform my duty, GOD
 With courage and with power
 For when we serve and give of self
 It is our finest hour
 Bless those who work beside me
 Pushing back the flame
 They are good men and women, GOD
 Their goal and mine the same
 To lend a hand and save a life
 And maybe calm some fears
 And when nothing else can be done
 To wipe away some tears





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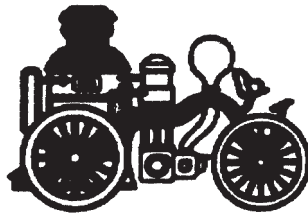
Volunteer fire departments, county associations, and other non-profit, fire-related organizations can advertise in the "Items For Sale" column for free. Businesses and other for-profit organizations may advertise here for \$22.50 per column inch, per issue.

VERLON LEMASTER, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Members of the Grant Fire Department and the Grant Police Department would like to establish a Verlon Lemaster, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund for the students at Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant, Alabama. This can be realized if every firefighter and police officer in the state will donate \$1.00. The fund will be established at Peoples State Bank, 5399 Main Street, P. O. Box 100, Grant, Alabama 35747 with all donations being made directly to said bank.

A three-member board will be established comprised of the city clerk, the president of Peoples State Bank and the DAR High School counselor. The police chief and the fire chief (whoever they may be now and in the future) will be joint administrators of the account and all checks will require both signatures. The scholarship board will work through the school counselor to obtain the names of students who excel in academics and have a need for scholarship money. Depending on the money received the board will award two (2) \$500.00 scholarships per year.

Remember this would only be a one-time donation of \$1.00 from every police officer and firefighter in the state to make this possible. Please help us accomplish this for a great man, friend and mentor to most of the young people on Grant Mountain.



THE BELL TOLLED

Chief Ronnie R. Brown, Copeland VFD, Washington County, and Past-President of the Washington County Association, passed away May 9, 2003.

J. D. Rogers, Sr., Millry VFD, Washington County, passed away June 8, 2003.

Charles Smith, Stewart-Havana VFD, Hale County, passed away August 3, 2003.

Chief Freddie Kornegay, Eoline VFD, Bibb County, passed away August 11, 2003.

Verlon LeMaster, Jr., Grant VFD, Marshall County, who was also Police Chief, was killed while serving a warrant on August 15, 2003.

Gilbert Greenbaum, Priceville VFD, Morgan County, passed away August 16, 2003 after an extended illness. He also served on the Board of the Morgan County Association.

Chief David Stacey, Finchburgh VFD, Monroe County, died September 1, 2003.

Former Chief Kenneth Holly, Crossroads VFD, Baldwin County, passed away on September 23, 2003. He served as chief of the department for 25 years and was a member for over 30 years.

Shelby Jean Clark, Oak Grove VFD, Mobile County, passed away 10/1/03.

Vance Gordan Geist II, Cotaco VFD, Morgan County, died in a one vehicle wreck on October 6, 2003.

Euah Kinney, Rock Creek VFD, Morgan County, died October 15, 2003.

Roy Whittington, Lottie VFD, Baldwin County, passed away October 18, 2003

Let us pause a moment to pay our respect to these firefighters for whom the bell tolled that one last time as we offer our prayers and condolences to their families and friends.

If any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night. Johnny Dennis- (256) 766-4707 or Dave Davis (334) 366-4490; or Clayton Cobb, Sr. (251) 578-2855; or Don Shield (256) 776-9760.

A copy of the booklet "Death In Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or www.aavfd.org.



About The Volunteer: The Volunteer is issued 4 times a year: in Jan, April, Jul, and Oct. Articles, information, and advertisements for the newsletter must be in Montgomery not later than the 15th of the month before publication.

Articles & Information: Submissions of articles, letters, and information for inclusion in this newsletter are greatly appreciated and encouraged. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous material will be published. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections, and style.

Other AAVFD Information: ALL Membership information, Insurance information, changes of address, and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery office.

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2nd VP Clayton Cobb, Sr.
3rd VP Don Shield
Secretary Mary Jane Sells
Treasurer Rhonda McKissack

Newsletter Editor:

Johnny Dennis
Don Shield
Sandra Mott

Office Staff:

Johnny Dennis/Sandra Mott

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