

Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs' Network
QUARTERLY NETWORK NEWS



*Legendary Pioneers Who Reminisce About the Past
But Focus on the Future*

Editor: Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders, Sandy6T5@comcast.net
Associate Editor: Charlie Richardson, clardb@695online.com
<http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees.htm>



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Founded - 1990 by Doug Courchene

April-June 2008

What a quarter this has been! When I agreed to fill in for Chief Bob Barrow to work the QNN, I could never have imagined events would transpire like they have. Little did I know when I talked to Chief Barrow about temporarily working the QNN while he was in the hospital that I would be continuing the work today. I am open to anyone who has a burning desire to take on the task of replacing me as Editor for this valuable information tool. Please bear with me as I struggle in my attempt to maintain the standard set by Chief Doug Courchene, Founder and initial Editor, and Chief Barrow, previous Editor.

Chief Barrow's passing was certainly an emotional time for his family and friends. Discussions with him prior to his surgery were upbeat and positive. He had such a desire to get through the "tough parts" and get back to doing those things he loved best, spending time with his family and friends. It was a shock and terrible disappointment when we were notified of his passing. Additionally, several other Fire Protection Folks have been taken from us over the last quarter. They are recognized in this issue. (Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders Sandy6T5@Comcast.net)



During the early morning of April 17, 2008, BOBBY FRANK "BOB" BARROW, age 77, passed away at West Florida Regional Medical Center in Pensacola, Florida. Bob was born August 9, 1930, to Henry Franklin Barrow and Girtherl Elizabeth Barrow in Mayodan, N.C. Bob loved life and believed nothing was more important than family and friends. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Nancy Carol Barrow; son, William Frank Barrow; daughters, Ginger Lee Dahlquist, Barbie Carol Barrow, Bobi Gail Barrow, Brenda Lynn Bernt; sons-in-law, Kent Lee Dahlquist and Andreas Bernt; grandchildren, Erika Dahlquist, Robin Dahlquist, Bobby Dahlquist, Brandy Bernt, Nikolaus Bernt, and Trista

Barrow; sister-in-law, Polly Higgins; brothers-in-law, Jimmy Clapp and Jerry Higgins; niece, Abby Higgins; and nephew, Donald Higgins. In addition, Bob loved everyone he ever met, especially firefighters and members of the military.

He always found the time to stop and talk to anyone. Bob has so many friends throughout the United States and around the world, too numerous to mention here, but know that he thought about you up until the end of his life, and he is still looking over us now.

Bob grew up in Severn, Md., where he first became a volunteer firefighter and fell in love with the fire service. He became a civilian firefighter with the United States Army at Fort George G. Meade, Md., in 1950. In November 1951, Bob joined the United States Air Force and completed basic training at Sampson Air Force Base, New York, in January 1952. He participated in the Korean War Campaign at K-10 with the 75th Air Wing. Bob remained in the USAF Reserves after the Korean War and was promoted to warrant officer junior grade as a crash rescue officer in 1958. "Mister" Barrow was stationed at Andrews AFB, Kelly AFB, Pope AFB, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Tyndall AFB. He was an active participant in the Cold War, Berlin Crisis, Cuban Crisis, Grenada Crisis, and Operation Desert Storm.

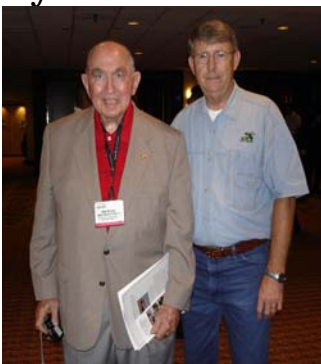
As a civilian firefighter, Bob was the fire chief at Fort Lee, Va.; Pope AFB, NC; and Eglin AFB, Fla., before retiring as fire chief of Eglin AFB (1984) and as the last chief warrant officer-4 in the Air Force (1992).

Bob touched the lives and careers of many public servants and laypersons and remained active after retirement. In 2002, he assumed the duties as editor of the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs' Quarterly Network News.

Bob was a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), past president of the North Carolina Fire Service Instructors Association, a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and a member of the Eglin-Hurlburt Firefighters' Group.

Editor's Note:

How does one find the right words to say goodbye to Chief Bobby Barrow. As I try to formulate something by use of words, I am overcome by emotion. Having worked with Chief Barrow for several years, we became friends and shared a close professional camaraderie. He was continually demonstrating mentorship whether it was in casual conversation or during professional meetings. His first love was his family. During periods of time that we traveled together working Air Force research projects, his thoughts were continually of home and family. He loved Air Force Firefighters both active and retired. As Editor of the Quarterly Network News, his priority was to keep people informed and to develop a bond of brotherhood. Chief Barrow served his nation with honor, served the Air Force with dignity, honored the Fire Protection community with his deep respect, and truly loved his wife and family. Chief Bobby Barrow certainly established landmarks, and his legacy will long be remembered. I am a better person for having known Chief Bobby Barrow. (Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders Sandy6T5@Comcast.net)



Retired military Deputy Fire Chief LARRY L. HOPKINS died at home, 24 February 2008. Larry was a firefighter with the Air Force for 22 years, then served another 17 years with Civil Service. He was a member of the North Carolina Firemen's Association. He was an avid outdoorsman--loved deer hunting the most. I knew Larry as a consummate leader who was skillful and dependable at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Fire Department. The young military firefighters advanced under his guidance. He led by example; they followed with pride. He was one of the finest deputy chiefs ever to serve at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. *Chief Doug Courchene, (ret)*, 104 Meredith Street, Mt. Olive, NC 28365 (919) 658-0802 dougecourchene@aol.com

Editor's Note; I had the privilege of working with then SSGT Larry Hopkins, 1965-1966, at Clark Air Base Republic of the Philippines. I agree with Chief Courchene that he was certainly a professional and made every effort to take care of the troops. Not only was he a great leader, he also was an awesome volleyball player. I always wanted to be on his side of the net. If not, I knew when he spiked the ball it was going to look like a rocket coming at me. We had some great times, and I am sure his family misses him very much.

ALFRED S. NOWELL, 90, a longtime resident of Alamogordo, died Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at his home. Mr. Nowell was born April 9, 1917, in Greenville,



Texas, to W.D. and Eva (Simms) Nowell, the second oldest of nine children. The family moved to Tularosa in 1933 when Alfred was 16. He married the love of his life, Nolene Bennett, on June 19, 1937. Together they raised six children. During World War II he served in the Navy. Following his military service, he became a firefighter at Holloman Air Force Base and retired as fire chief in 1972. During his long life, he held many jobs: photographer, carpenter, mailman, fireman, butcher, school bus driver, and farmer, to name a few. He was a member of First Assembly Worship Center. Some of his passions in life included family, friends, fishing, hunting, golf,

crossword puzzles, and babies. Alfred loved people and would entertain company with his jokes and childhood stories. He touched so many lives, and his positive outlook on life was an inspiration to all. The world is a better place because of his time here. Those who knew him will miss him dearly. Survivors include three sons, Lloyd "Buster" Nowell and his wife Margo, of Tularosa, Kenneth Nowell and his wife Frances, of Bent, and Dwayne Nowell and Diane Sealander, of Alamogordo; two daughters, Betty McNoldy and her husband Larry, of Eckert, Colo., and Nelda Bishop, of Alamogordo; a daughter-in-law, Sherri Nowell, of Oak Harbour, Wash.; 16 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Ann Kamees and her husband Sam, of Alamogordo. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Nolene; a son, Raney Nowell; a son-in-law, Danny Bishop; two daughters-in-law, Diane Nowell and Marcia Nowell; four brothers; and four sisters.



CMSGT, US AIR FORCE, RET. CLINTON CARR, JR., 73 passed away on Thursday, April 10, 2008, in Alamogordo. He was born on Oct. 1, 1934, in Macon, Mississippi, to Clinton Sr. and Curtis (Holly) Carr. Chief Carr had a long and distinguished military and Civil Service career. During his military career, he served in all capacities of the fire protection field from tailboard of a fire truck to a fire protection manager in a major air command. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, and two Air force Commendation Medals with many other awards and decorations. Chief Carr retired from the Air Force in 1983. He began his Civil Service Career in 1984 as Assistant Fire Chief at Holloman Air Force Base, where

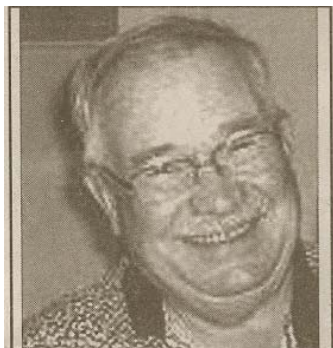
he worked for ten years. Survivors include his wife Edna of the family home; son, Rodney Carr; sisters, Pearl Brown of Jackson, MS, And Delores Petty of Seattle, WA; a host of nieces and nephew; one Aunt and a godchild, Kenisha Bowman. He was preceded in death by his parents and parents-in-law.

CHIEF WILLIE A. BELL was born in Quitman, Georgia, on 9 August 1934. Shortly after birth, his family moved to Cairo, Georgia, which became his home of record. Chief Bell left high school on 16 September 1951 to enter the United States Air Force, where he later completed his high school education. On 12 September 1955, he married Delores C. Scott of Cairo, Georgia. They have three children: Dino, Stephenia, and Debra. They also have five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. During his illustrious career he received the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; Vietnam Campaign Ribbon; and a Presidential Citation. His many assignments consisted of Walker AFB, New Mexico; United Kingdom; Palm Beach Florida; Paris France; Walker AFB, New Mexico; Plattsburg New York; United Kingdom; Dyess, Texas; Danang, Vietnam; Andrews AFB, Maryland; Takli, Thailand; and Travis AFB, California. After being promoted to CMSgt in 1974, he received a staff position assignment at HQ USAFE, Ramstein AB, Germany. His last assignment was humanitarian to Castle AFB, California, where he later retired on 1 Oct 1978 after more than 27 years of active duty military service. Chief Bell's Civil Service career began 1 April 1979 as Fire Chief at Hanscom AFB MA. In June 1979, he was offered a position as Fire Chief at Edwards AFB CA, which he accepted on 13 June 1979. Several firsts in Air Force Fire Protection began under his leadership: supported the first shuttle landing; first with state and federal hazardous materials response capability; first to provide full Civil Engineering Service Call; first to provide all required HAZMAT training to base populous; first to identify health hazards associated with next-generation aircraft; i.e. F-22 and B-2; first to successfully convert a hydrocarbon live-fire training facility to a propane system via self-help; first to implement E-911 system; first to develop best practice business plan; first to be in 100% compliance with NFPA 1500; Firefighter Health and Safety Program; and first to



test and develop a rescue tool that penetrates titanium. During Chief Bell's tenure as Fire Chief at Edwards AFB, he received hundreds of letters of appreciation from visiting dignitaries, Wing, Center, and Headquarters Commanders. However, the awards he was most proud of were the Air Force Civilian Meritorious Service Award in 1985, MAJCOM Senior Civilian Manager of the Year Award in 1983, the "First" CMSgt Ralph E. Sanborn Award for the Best Fire Department in the Air Force in 1993, and a superior rating on all annual performance appraisals during his entire civil service career. His retirement on 3 January 1997 commemorated more than 45 years of service to his country.

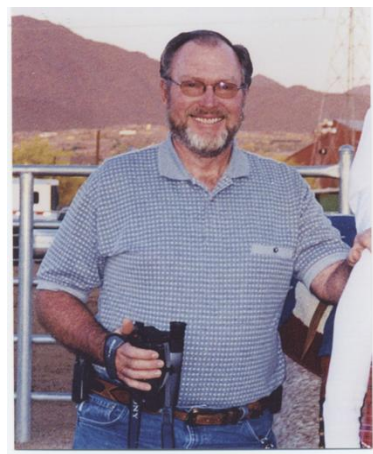
JEROME THOMAS O'NEIL, SR. passed away suddenly Saturday, March 29, 2008, as the result of injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Born 24 July 1939 in Livingston, MT, he was raised in Clyde Park, MT. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Karen, four children, Susan (Mike), Mindy (Rick), Jerome Jr., and Megan (Jeff); five sisters; numerous nieces and nephews. Jerry was the retired Fire Chief at McChord AFB, where he had served most of his distinguished career as a firefighter. He loved golf, reading, a good political conversation, and making pancakes for his grandchildren, who were the light of his life: Justin, (Shawna), Brett (Briita), Taren, Amie, Brian, Sabrina, Joey, Ashton, Makayla, Peyton, Garrett, and Thomas, as well as four great-grandchildren: Charlie, Alexia, Collin, and Katie. He was a beloved husband, Dad, Grandpa, and friend. His sense of humor and welcoming grin will be missed by many.



Chief Jerome T. O'Neil, Sr.
(RET)

He was a beloved husband, Dad, Grandpa, and friend. His sense of humor and welcoming grin will be missed by many.

JOHN EDWARD SMITH, 64, of Peoria, Arizona, passed away on 26 May 2008. John was born in Phoenix, Arizona, to Edward and Enema (Pace) Smith. Prior to his retirement in 1998, John served as Assistant Fire Chief for Operations at Luke Air Force Base. He is survived by his loving wife Angelia; daughters Alicia Jenness of San Diego, CA and Adona Smith Lofano of Scottsdale, AZ; son Shane Smith of Queen Creek, AZ; stepdaughter Yolanda Treves of Phoenix, AZ; stepson Sean Treves of Phoenix, AZ; sisters Judy Lombardo of Diamond Bar, CA, and Patricia Wilson of Gilbert, AZ; grandchildren Bria, Domnick, Jacob, Sophie, and Jonah.



Editor's Note: When I arrived at Luke AFB, Arizona, in October 1996, one of the first people to greet me as the new Fire Chief was Assistant Fire Chief for Operations, John Smith. He told me "Chief I am here to do the best job I can and I promise you my support." John did just that. He took care of the troops on his operational shift and held himself accountable for those things for which he was responsible. He was a mentor for the younger firefighters and was especially valuable in providing Fire Officer training for NCOs coming into the Operational Element of the department. John was a sound fire officer and had a keen foresight on the fire ground

to head off problems before they became catastrophic. My fondest memories of Assistant Chief Smith are the many hours we spent together talking on Friday nights (my 24-hour shift day). His favorite topics were his family, horses, religion, politics, and fire ground tactics and strategy. John Smith was a good man and I was fortunate to have him as my friend. (Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders Sandy6T5@comcast.net)

****COMMENTS RECEIVED CONCERNING HAMP CAYSON****

Chief Cayson was certainly a memorable person. During his visit to Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, he was truly fascinated by the number of television antennas on the huts and houses off base. His sense of humor came easy for him.... Benjamin Reese Benjamin.Reese@tinker.af.mil

Sandy.. So sad to hear about Hamp Cayson. Hamp took on some mighty challenges during his watch--many resulted in positive influences on how we conduct our business as well as ourselves in life. George F. Hall CMSgt (Retired) IAFC@cox.net

Sandy, Like many Air Force Fire Departments, we did a moment of silence ceremony with the traditional five rings on a ceremonial bell in honor of the sacrifices and contributions Hamp Cayson made to our Nation, the United States Air Force, and Air Force Fire Protection. It certainly is fitting to recognize his service and the commitment he made to make things better for us all. Rodney Coleman, CMSgt Rodney.Coleman@dover.af.mil

Thanks Sandy for the update about Hamp Cayson. Our prayers will be with his family during this time of grief. Wade H. Grimm CMSgt (Retired) Wade.Grimm.CTR@Hanscom.af.mil

Hey Chief. I attended a memorial ceremony for Hamp Cayson at Scott AFB Fire Department this morning . The Fire Chief and firefighters did Hamp proud. They conducted an appreciation ceremony at roll call for his service to our country. Additionally, Scott AFB Fire and Emergency Services folks are collecting money for a brick at the Fire School. Duane W. Morgan Fire Chief (Retired) thegoatroper@earthlink.net

MEMORIES DUANE W. MORGAN, FIRE CHIEF (RETIRED)

Memory takes me back several years. I was stationed at Otis AFB, Mass, from 5 March 1962 to 5 March 1966. While there I had some serious medical problems, and for three years I was in and out of the hospital. During this time I did not receive an Airman Performance Report (APR) because I did not work for the same supervisor for 90 days without another trip to the hospital. My lungs collapsed 13 times. I was operated on to repair my left lung in 1963. During the blood transfusions I contracted hepatitis and had to spend nearly three months in the hospital. During the recovery from this disease, my right lung collapsed seven times. After I gained strength, surgery was performed on the right lung. My records met a medical board, and my doctors saved my Air Force career by meeting the board and convincing them that once I had adequate time to recover

I would be as good as new. During the following year I was chauffeur for the Fire Chief (Chief Cahoon) for 90 days, a fire alarm communications center operator for 90 days, then back into operations as Crew Chief on an O6 Cardox. Barb and I were married when we arrived at Otis AFB, and while there two of our children were born on Cape Cod. Additionally, I was promoted to A1C just prior to departing Otis AFB for an assignment in Japan. SMSgt Charlie Grant was the Deputy Fire Chief at Otis. He and the Superintendent of Grounds Maintenance had one stripe to be given for promotion to Airman First Class (A1C). SMSgt Grant told him "let's promote Morgan this time and your man next time" and that's how I made A1C.

Our family did not enjoy being stationed at Otis Air Force Base; however, while there the AF doctors saved my life and saved my Air Force career by supporting my return to duty against the wishes of the Medical Board. With my medical condition cleared up, my Air Force career really gained some traction. I received an assignment to Tachikawa AB, Japan. I reported for duty on A-shift working for TSgt Francis McClain. Our Fire Chief was MSgt Austin Eddins. Family housing in Japan was on base only at Tachikawa, Momote Village, Grant Heights, or Green Park. (No one wanted Green Park because it was one huge building where 750 military families lived.) I had to wait assignment of a house before Barb and the children could join me. After two months I was assigned a house in Grant Heights (Thank God). Our assigned quarters had been involved in a fire at Christmas time and had been totally upgraded. What a nice place it was. Military Personnel requested a port call for Barb and the children. We waited and waited; however, no port call. I complained to Personnel to no avail, so I made an appointment with the First Sergeant and Commander. The First Sergeant made a phone call to someone, don't know who, but four days later my family arrived at Tachikawa Air Base. An Airman in a staff car from Grissom AFB, Indiana (closest base to where Barb was living), delivered her and the children's orders which gave them two days' notice to travel to Japan. Thank God for great First Sergeants. Grant Heights military family housing was 16 miles of bad road from Tachikawa Air Base and driving to and from work was a chore to say the least. An Assistant Fire Chief for Operations position became vacant, and I was selected to fill the job over many SSgts and other A1Cs. What a pleasure it was to work for MSgt Fred Wall and TSgt Clint Carr, two great mentors in leadership of personnel and fire protection management. Shortly after becoming A-Shift Assistant Fire Chief for Operations (2 each 530-A and 2 each 530-B pumpers) with 16 Japanese firefighters and an interpreter (I could not speak a word of Japanese), we had a kitchen fire in military family housing. It was located approximately one block from the fire station. We responded and the crews deployed a 2-1/2" supply line and 1 1/2 "attack lines. The driver operator connected hoses and was standing waiting for water from the hydrant. I went to the engine and pulled the dump valve. He was shocked as I stood there screaming why do we have 500 gallons of water on the truck and don't use it. You can guess I could not speak Japanese, and he could not speak English. Needless to say, over the next few weeks we had some serious classes and exercises through the interpreter on quick attack procedures. There were many memorable moments, while we were in Japan. We had a child born in Tachikawa Air Base Hospital, visited Tokyo tower, had family days with wounded troops passing through from Vietnam, raced our cars on Yokota Air Base taxiway, had many barbeques, made many lasting good friends, and

survived a typhoon.

Barb and I have many memories of our 44 years with the best of the best. We would do it all over again if we could. God bless our firefighters, retired and active. "There are no equals." *Duane W. Morgan* Fire Chief (Retired) thegoatproper@earthlink.net



**Hurlburt
Field FL
Fire
Department
Visit**



What a great visit I had recently with firefighters of the Hurlburt Field Florida Fire and Emergency Services Flight! Fire Chief, CMSgt Tim Segal, and the great firefighters of Hurlburt Field are working hard while supporting deployments to fight the war on terrorism. Further, they are committed to making sure there is no loss of capability in support of the Air Force Special Operations Command Mission. Hurlburt Field firefighters are motivated and excited about what they do. We can all certainly be proud of the service they are providing our Nation, the United States Air Force, and Fire and Emergency Services. *Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders* Sandy6T5@comcast.net

******Stamp Fund Contributors******



The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. Past quarter, contributors are: Chief Doug Courchene dougecourchene@aol.com Contributions are greatly appreciated and needed. Donations help defray postage and publishing cost and they are voluntary as no membership fees are charged. We have several retirees and widows who do not have e-mail and a hard copy of the QNN is mailed to them via the US Postal Service. Contact the Editor for more information or any assistance you would like to provide. *Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders*, 110 Kensington Court, Dothan, Alabama 36303, (334)792-3521 Sandy6T5@Comcast.net .

Editor's Corner; Here I sit in front of my computer at one thirty in the morning trying to make sense of all the losses we have suffered over the past quarter.



What a remarkable group of Senior Fire Officers they were. The contributions each of them made will not soon be forgotten. Having worked with many of them I can say they have had an impact on me.

As I begin the task of formulating the Quarterly Network News (QNN) each quarter, I need your help. The QNN is not about me. It is about you and things you have accomplished or things you know about that would be of interest to others. I need input to make this a document that will be well read and folks will look forward to receiving each quarter. As of this moment, I

do have some articles in the hopper for next quarter. However, I need more. I am sure there are interesting events or memorial occasions which you could share with us all. Please feel free to send them E-mail or hard copy by way of the United States Postal Service. Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders 110 Kensington Court, Dothan, Alabama 36303, (334)-792-3521 Sandy6T5@Comcast.net
