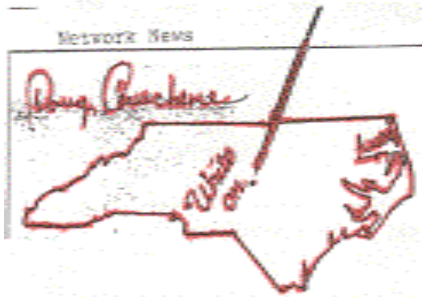




RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS'

QUARTERLY NETWORK
NEWSLETTER (QNN)
July-Sept 2004

“LEGENDARY PIONEERS WHO
REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST, BUT
FOCUS ON THE FUTURE”



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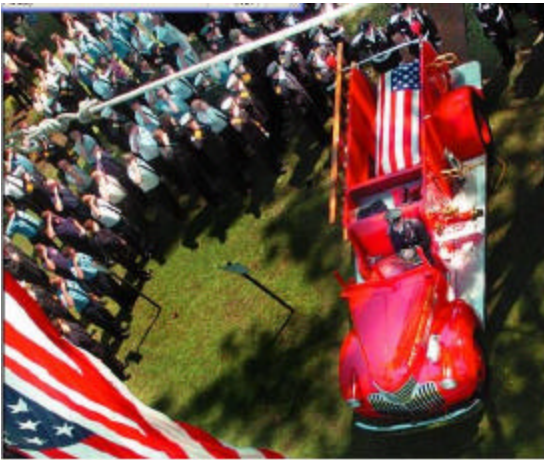
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“A Fire Chief Laid to Rest”



Chief Guy Wills
honored with a
Farewell Salute as the
US Flag flew above a
pumper that carried
him to his final
resting place at FWB
Memorial Cemetery, 7
May 04

Chief Guy J. Wills Jr. died June 3, 2004 after long battle with cancer. He was 70 years old. He served his country and his community as a Fire Chief & FireFighter for 52 years.



Antique fire pumper pass OC-W FCD Fire Station, 7 May 04. Ocean City-Wright and Fort Walton Beach FFs' hold salute. Chief Wills was the OC-W Fire Chief at the time of his death. He had worked full time, up to the few months in 2004.

Last Alarm!

Chief Master Sergeant Guy J. Wills, Jr., USAF (Retired) and Fire Chief of Ocean City – Wright Fire Control District (OC-WFCD) was accorded full honors by the OC-WFCD Honor Guard, the

Hurlburt Field Air Force Honor Guard, area firefighters and those friends and family from near and afar...OC-WFCD Deputy Fire Chief said it best... Randy Brown quotes “He was a chief’s chief and a man’s man”.



Randy was promoted June 1, 2004 to Chief. Mrs. Kimi Wills pinned on a new Fire Chief's badge, purchased by her late husband, during the promotion ceremony. Randy affirmed his commitment to carry on Chief Will's work. He was extremely proud of the personal and professional commitment exhibited by OC-W FCD.



Mrs. Kimi Wills comforted by son, Col. Guy J. Wills III USAF during graveside services. Also shown, brother, CMSgt Ronald "Chill" Wills USAF Retired, (wife Evelyn not shown), grandchildren Steven (10) and Katie (10) Wills. Col Steve "Chief" Wills USAF and wife Bonnie not shown

Other family members attending: Col. Guy Wills' wife, Judy Wills, Lt Col USAF retired, granddaughter Cassie (7) Wills, brother Richard Wills and wife, Michelle of Dallas, TX and two sisters from Guy's hometown of Philadelphia, Margie Tarasiewicz and Shirley Hildebrand now of Franklin, NJ. Col. Guy Wills III quote during the church service described his father as an "M&M candy, he was hard on the outside, but soft in the middle," post quote. His father was silent about many of his emotions, vocal about his opinions, even bullheaded at times — but very dedicated to his work. He left school early to support his family "to become a man." "He joined the Air Force to stay out of trouble," his father knew from day one that people were the keys to success. "He had standards and expected you to give 110 percent," Col. Wills said. "he also had his opinions and wasn't afraid to share them." Rev. Bill Reese, Pastor of Shalimar Baptist Church quote "Guy is in heaven today, hang on, he's got a job waiting for you," Reese jokingly

reminded the firefighters who knew Wills' determination and work ethic. "There's a God in heaven, but now there's a chief, too." *Editor's comment: Guy will be remembered as a dear friend and for his professionalism in the Fire Service and U. S. Air Force. Condolences were pass on to the family in behalf of the many Chiefs and FFs throughout the world that have called or emailed upon learning of Chief Wills passing to be with our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. A special thanks to Chief Don Warner and his DoDFire.com website for sharing this news in a timely manner and to all the others that spread the word so quickly. The Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs are truly committed to networking.*



OC-W FCD Honor Guard and Department Chaplin Bill Reese in the Crew Chief seat and in Command. SHARP!

SMSgt Morris Eidson, USAF (Retired), age 71.



Chief Eidson died of a heart attack in his sleep, June 12, 2004, at his home in Goldsboro, North Carolina, wrote Chief

Doug Courchene who was asked to be a pall bearer. Morris was buried with full military honors at the Military Cemetery in Jacksonville, NC adjacent to the Beirut Memorial near Camp Lejeune USMC base. Morris was the recipient of a Bronze Star medal while in Vietnam. Doug and Morris were close friends and firefighting comrades for 52 years, starting at Carswell AFB Fire Department and reuniting at Seymour-Johnson AFB twice.

Doug was the Chief at Seymour Johnson AFB and Morris was his Deputy Fire Chief both times. Morris graces the cover of Doug's book,



Firefighter Morris Eidson with crash hood in hand is located in center foreground. Base Fire Chief Oran L. Hackett's Firefighters saved exposed B-36 Bombers while A/C maintenance teams evacuated nearby aircraft. Outstanding performers all!

“Pioneers With Intent”. A story of the photograph taken during a mop-up operation immediately following a B-36 ramp fire/explosion at Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico in 1952, is found on page 32 of the book

Stamp Fund Contributors

Chief Glenn Cloud of New Braunfels, TX enjoys reading the QNN about all the places he has been to and people he knew. Note Glenn's picture below in the Texas Connection Gathering. Chief Bob Borges-beckborges@cox.net and wife Linda Beck live in Wichita, KS and they enjoy knowing about the where-a-bouts of some of the good people they have met throughout the Air Force. Chief Peter Brock-CFP708@aol.com is a Fire Captain in the Raleigh FD. He collects historical and statistical data on the US Air Force Fire Protection and appreciates any info that Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs could send. Editor's comment: Glenn, Bob & Pete's most generous donation to the "stamp fund" really came in handy as the kitty was getting low. The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. They are most appreciated. Address checks: Bob Barrow, 126 Clements St NE, Ft Walton Bch, FL

32548. Email addresses are used whenever possible to promote networking. Thanks, Bob

The Texas Connection

Chief York and wife, Bonnie hosted the group's gathering at their home. The group plans to make this a more frequent event, time to time, since everyone had a good time catching up on past and current events. Also, Chiefs' Donato Jaso, Val



Part of the Texas Connection-April 15, 2004 photo L to R: Chief Lennie Blau-lennieblau@aol.com, San Antonio, TX; Chief Glenn Cloud-New Braunfels, TX, Chief John Paul Meek-meekdaddi@aol.com, Quitman, TX; Chief Joe Jarrell-firechief6736@yahoo.com, Austin, TX; and Chief W.A. "Bill" York of Staples, TX.

Allen and Curtis Dunn had to cancel their plans to attend due to medical commitments.

Widows Of Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs

Chief Doug Courchene, founder of the QNN, made sure to keep in touch and send a copy of the QNN newsletters to all that would accept and wanted them. When I assumed editor duties, the same custom was kept in practice. In the past months Doug and I have written personal letters to the widows that have records, asking them to contact us to tell how they are doing and to share a story of some memorable or humorous event. Some of the letters were returned unopened -unknown at this address. This causes concern and the feeling of hopelessness. Wives falling in this category are: Edith Allen; Laverne Duke; Lina Sanborn; Esther Parker and Gloria Garland. Anyone knowing their

status please let Doug or I know. Chief Gully @ Offutt AFB, Nebraska wrote that Lina Sanborn, CMSgt Ralph Sanborn's wife, had died on 7 Feb 04. Some of the wives apparently receive the letters without making a reply and that is OK - we understand that it is sometimes hard to write or call.

Kathleen Rushin of Montgomery, AL called to say how much she enjoys sharing the QNN with her grandson, Bob (named after his grandfather) who is a firefighter/EMT in the Prattville FD, just as she and Chief Bob Rushin did so many years ago when they lived in Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Iris McWhirter, widow of Chief Frank Joseph, IV, replied with a story of an event that happened 61 years ago, but still keeps her laughing at herself as the years go by. "In the summer of 1943, my first husband, an Aviation Cadet, was training in Arkansas to be a fighter pilot for the U.S. Army Air Corps when he was killed in an airplane crash. Soon after that, I realized I would have to go to work to support my three-week old daughter and myself. My first inclination was to apply for a job at Drew Field, an Army Air Corps Base in Tampa, Florida. When I applied for the job at the Base, the Director of Personnel told me that the Fire Chief needed a secretary. So I applied and was told to report the next morning, 0800 hours, sharp, to the Fire Chief's office at Headquarters Fire Station #3. In those days, we used car pools for most transportation. On my first day on the job, I was dropped off in front of the HQS Fire Station at 8 A.M. Wanting to make a good impression I tried to hurry into the Chief's Office, only to find the big front doors securely closed. I thought I would go around the back of the station to look for an entrance. Little did I know the back door, which was unlocked, led directly into the bunk house! I proceeded to walk in only to find myself confronting undressed, some sleeping, some awake, and very disturbed firefighters, who were startled upon seeing a woman walking through their bunkroom early in the morning unannounced. Men were scurrying all over the place! I told myself to keep walking straight ahead, eyes forward, until I reached the door that I

could see leading to the front of the station. When I reach the door, to my surprise, I came face to face with the Fire Chief who was very concerned about the disturbance and confusion going on in his bunk house. In amazement at seeing a woman in this area, he asked, "who are you?" "And, where on earth did you come from?" "And what are you doing here?" I simply replied, 'I am your new secretary.' 'I came around the back way because I couldn't get in the front doors.' I was so embarrassed, after wanting to make a good first impression. For months afterwards the firefighters never let me forget my first day as Chief Frank Joseph's secretary." *Editor's comment: Thanks "Iris" for a great human-interest story. To clarify for those that might not remember what the old bunk houses looked like, they were not pretty. No partitions just a large open space, no air conditioning, over crowding requiring some double bunk beds, one on top of another. Drew Field (now Tampa International Airport) was the predecessor for MacDill Air Force Base. Chief Joseph moved his Fire Headquarters to MacDill at the end of WW II. Chief Joseph, a retired NYC Fire Officer, was commissioned in 1940 by the U.S. War Department Office of Personnel Management to organize Fire Protection for all Army Air Corps Bases and Fields from Waycross, Georgia to Avon Park Gunnery Range, Florida. His service is well documented in Chief Courchene book "Pioneers With Intent" an early account of Army Air Corps and the Air Force Fire Service. Chief Joseph lost his first wife in a tragic event in 1945, leaving him a young daughter and son, William Joseph. "Iris" who had admired the qualities and strength of her boss felt his loss and realized that she might help return the empathy and courage to him in marriage. He had been so sad since the loss of his first wife. After their marriage in late 1945, Iris gave up the Chief's secretary job. They lived happily together until Chief Joseph's death, April 5, 1966. Iris still in her 50s and now a widow for the second time met and married Mr. William "Bill" McWhirter. They live in St.*



Petersburg, Florida. I have had the pleasure of their company while visiting the Tampa Bay area. They are a most gracious host and a lovely couple. Our best regards to "Iris and Bill". Bob

Sick Call – Prayers Needed Urgently .

SMSGt Hugh Martin of Crestview, FL was recent diagnosed with stage 4 cancer following surgery. "Marty" was my Ops Chief and later Deputy Chief at Eglin AFB in the 70s. He retired from Maxwell AFB as the Deputy



Fire Chief in the mid 80s. Marty is resting at home, surrounded by wife, "Markey" and family. He would like visitors but please call first (850) 682-9682.

Also recuperating from long term illness at home in Fort Walton Beach, FL are Chiefs Bill Wilson (850) 244-4591 and Glen Cockerell-gecockerell@cyberton.com. Both have shown improvement.

Also, several Chief's wives have been under doctor's care this past quarter. Mrs. Phyllis Cooper continues with weekly rounds of chemo treatment and is doing well. Mrs. Nan Barrow is schedule a gall bladder removal in a month or so.

The Texas Connection Report by Chief Joe Jarrell-firechief6736@yahoo.com: Mrs. Ruth Jarrell is at home recovering from surgery and is scheduled for phase II operation in October 2004. Chief Donato Jaso-donato.jaso@tlc.state.tx.us had an eye injury while visiting in Houston, TX and will be delayed there for follow up medical care. Mrs. Barbara Matenaus-katbabe28@iwon.com of San Antonio is under medical care for a series of test. Chief Val Allen Jr., CWO, USAF (Retired), Buda, TX, is home doing well. He is recuperating from open-heart surgery preformed at Wilford Hall. Chief Bill York received a good report from his recent hospital stay. Bill and wife Bonnie are

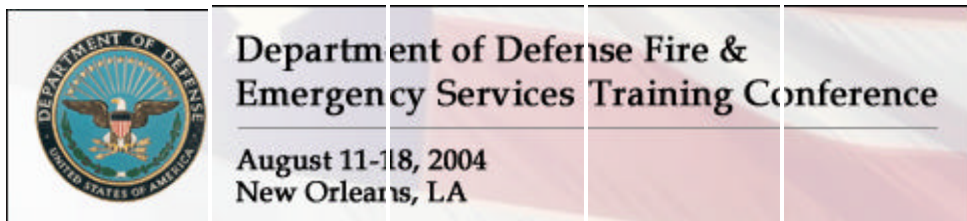
heading for a long vacation in Colorado. Chief Curtis Dunn and wife, Dorothy received good reports from their hospital visit.

Chief Ed Sams-rosened2@concentric.net, QNN Associate Editor has asked to be relieved due to continuing health problems. OK, Ed, with my appreciation for the support and editing help the past 2 ½ years of excellent service. Your name has been removed from the QNN heading as associate editor. I have enjoyed the association and will be praying for the Master's healing and blessing of good health. Give Rosie my best.

Ed wrote: My calendar stays filled with medical appointments mostly. I am lined up for a colonoscopy, which should be a real fun procedure next week. Before that, I'll visit the urologist for a follow up from the new CAT SCAN check of all my vitals. Two large bottles of "barium" liquid must be consumed before all the pretty 3-D pictures in color are captured for the world to look at. In spite of all the upcoming tests, shots, medications, blood withdrawals, etc., the doctor says I should be up a running by August. Well maybe not running but able to at least hobble down the aisle for my sons' wedding (his third wedding at 50 some years old). He is into golfing and plans to be married on the 18th tee of the Pebble Beach Golf Course, Monterey, CA. I am to walk the bride (her 1st marriage) down the tee, I mean aisle, as her parents are both deceased. This ought to be interesting! Fortunately, Rosie is in good health, and takes good care of me. The Lord has been good to me, also, but I think He has plans to take me home soon. I still have so much I want to do until then. Trust Nan and you are doing well, if you are in California let us know and stop by. Best regards, Ed Sams.

2004 Fire Conference

There are no planned activities for the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs at this year's Air Force function set for August 11-18, 2004 in New Orleans, LA.



Use this link for more detail information: <http://www.iafc.org/conferences/dod/index.asp>. Those Retired Chiefs planning to attend for other reasons are: Chief Ken Spicknall - KS4FIRE@aol.com and Chief Brian "Stoney" Stoneback - stoney77@gtcom.net. I know there will be many other Retired Chiefs attending; however they have not been in contacted with Doug or I yet. Best wishes to all that do attend and we would appreciate your feedback. The next scheduled "Pioneers Day" gathering will be in August 2006.

Sharing Your Experiences And Talents:

Chief Doug Courchene, Retired, 104 Meredith Street, Mount Olive, NC, 28365 poses the question, *Why Not Volunteer?* I may be retired, but I'm not too tired to do something else. I volunteer like so many retirees receiving their just



reward for the group's labors. My last major project was to help build a 30'x40' concrete-block restroom at the City of Mount Olive, North Carolina Westbrook Park. Volunteers who donated materials and gave of their time at no expense to the Town of Mt. Olive gave unprecedented support. First, the forms for pouring 6" concrete slabs, plumbing, electrical, water and sewage connections had to be completed. Then, six-inch rafters for a hip roof covered by a metal roof were put in place. The unsightly port-a-johns

of the past are now gone! In there place a new restroom at the City's Kid's World, complete with a play-ground built by 600 volunteers in five days, costing \$130, 000.00, four years ago. Friends of the Park raised the \$130,000. Volunteers also, constructed picnic tables, bike racks, benches, gazebo and a handicap ramp. Friends of the Park meet monthly to discuss future projects to enhance an already beautiful park for the kids. The next big project is to have a contractor build 1/4 mile asphalt 8' wide walkway inside the park, costing \$28,000. Volunteers did not have an asphalt plant, but they did raise the money. People often ask me why I do all this? My answer is simple. "Our kids are the future, why not embrace the future." *Editor's comments: Very commendable use of your time. You are truly an Inter -generational Volunteer, Doug. Understand the carpentry business is hard on the body. Especially the fingers... This photo was at Pioneer Day 2003.*

Note bandaged fingers on Doug's left hand from hammering.

Networking...

Each quarter there is good networking activity by Retired and Active Fire Chiefs. Here are some reported by email, snail-mail and phone calls.

Change in email addresses were: Chief Ralph Shelton-chiefshelton@cox-internet.com; Chief Ed Sams-rosened2@rosened2.cnc.net; Chief Chuck Hemphill-hemper@3lefties.com; Chief T.J. Hill-tjfuss@woolcom.com; Chief Bob Crevisour-rrcrev@yahoo.com; Chief Ray Porter-rporter@safewareinc.com; and Chief Tony Rabonza-Anthony.rabonza@march.af.mil.

Chief Bill Goodwin-Billinportstjoe@webtv.net wrote: I am having a problem receiving the QNN. The heading/credits with the color picture came out o.k. but the text is coming through as black on the black background making it impossible to read.

Editor's comment: The QNN was transmitted in a different format and came out OK for Bill. Please let me know when the QNN is not readable, however, reading the QNN on the DoDFire.com Web Site is the best and safest way from viruses. The newsletter is posted at the beginning of each quarter. If all else fails, I'll snail-mail you a copy but you have to let me know. Link to the electronic (on-line) version is <http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees/pioneers.htm>, just click on this link to bring the document up. You can read it on line or you can download the paper version in PDF format and print it if you prefer. Don't print the read-on-line version – it will be really ugly.

Chief Ronald "Red" Rainey, San Antonio, TX stopped by for visit while traveling to Central Florida. Red and I served together in Korea in '52-53, He introduced my wife to me when they were stationed at Army Edgewater Chemical Center in 1955. Red noted the "TAP's" article on **Fire Chief Albert L. Wise** in the



**Nan & Bob Barrow
September 2, 1955**

QNN April-June issue and realized this was his Fire Chief at the Chem Center/Proving Grounds Airfield, operated by the USAF Detachment. He was with Chief Wise again at RAF Chelveston in the 1960s. Red backed up the QNN comment, that Chief Wise was a respected leader in fire protection and a fine NCOIC. Red was sad that they had lost contact, during all these years since England. That is the important reason for the QNN and the Networking with one another. Each of the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs, their wives and those we have given "VIP" status due to their contributions to the USAF Fire Service, are important to each of us as a group.

Senior Citizen Exercise

This is therapy for older people only. It is designed to build up your arms and shoulders. Three days a week – begin by standing straight with a 5-lb. potato sack in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them as long as you can – try to reach one minute. Then relax. After a few weeks, move up to 10-lb. potato sacks, and then 50-lb. potato sacks, and eventually try 100-lb. potato sacks in each hand and hold arms straight out for more than a full minute. After you feel comfortable at that level, you can start placing a couple of potatoes in to the bags. Repeat process... LoL.



Preserving Our Past – Encouraging the Future

A Military Firefighters Heritage Foundation Certificate of Appreciation has been issued with an actual photograph of the brick (below) purchased by the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs in support of the foundation. For information use <http://www.militaryfirefighterheritage.com/>.

The brick (s) will be placed in the memorial walkway for all visitors and students attending the CWO-4 Louis F. Garland Fire Academy to see. An additional brick was purchased for me. How about a friend, yourself or a favorite group of yours?

The Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation is a Non Profit 501(c)3 organization that was formed for the purpose of preserving the history of the military firefighter and passing it on to future generations of military firefighters. Located in West Central Texas at Goodfellow AFB, the home of the Department of Defense Fire

Academy, the Foundation has preserved several one-of-a-kind and last-of-kind firefighting vehicles. These vehicles are displayed



alongside the troop walk, and the future firefighters must pass them everyday on their way to class. These vehicles and the memorial walkway are a constant reminder of those that came before them. See the foundation's web site for a visual picture.

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or persecution or not having food and clothes, or danger or even death? It is written, ‘We are in danger of being killed at all times for you. We are like sheep that are going to be killed.’ No, we have even more than victory in all these things, through Him who loved us. This is because I know and do not have any doubts that death, or life, or angels, or evil spirits, or things that are present, or things that will happen in the future, or powers, or things above, or things below, or anything that is made, will be able to separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:35-39