

Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs' Network
QUARTERLY NETWORK NEWS



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

<http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees.htm>

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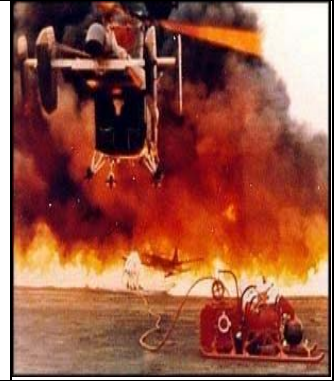
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Founded by: Doug Courchene, CMSgt, USAF, Retired

October-December 2012

FELLOWSHIP MEETING. Our fellowship program at Panama City Beach FL was attended by the following: Ray Porter, Jerry Garrett, Don Warner, Fred Terry, Jim Podolske, John Smith, Milt Puckett, Marty Jester, Charlie Richardson, Ernst Piercy, Joe Rivera, Jeff Davis, Pete Dickerson and Dick Duncan. A good time was had by all. The gathering was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag via video. Opening remarks by Charlie Richardson; Mr. Podolske and crew presented the fallen firefighter ceremony. Chief Puckett recapped our fallen fellow fire chiefs since our last meeting in Atlanta. Mr. Warner was introduced and gave a talk on his likes and dislikes during his tenure as the Air Force Fire Chief. Charlie Richardson presented Mr. Warner with a token of appreciation for his continued support of the QNN and Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs. Open discussion followed. It was agreed that we should meet at least once a year. Our next meeting will be in North Carolina the first part of August 2013. More to come on that later. It was also discussed that we should explore the possibility of opening up the organization to all USAF Retired Fire Chiefs, Deputy and Assistant Chiefs.. With the closing of many bases and consolidating of others as " Joint Bases" the pool of Air Force Fire Chiefs is getting smaller and smaller. We would like to hear your thoughts on this subject. Please call or email myself or one of the associate editors as we really need your feedback before we make a decision. We also talked about the need for a roster, several

different types were passed around to find one that would be appropriate. None was agreed upon. So again what kind of roster/directory would you like to have? Please let us know so that we can start on it. The next day most attended the retirement ceremony for Mr. Donald Warner. (See ceremony on page 8.)

The QNN staff and attendees thank Chief Tom Smith for his generous contribution that covered the cost of our meeting room and the coffee that all enjoyed. We also thank Tom for the beautiful Firefighter helmet that was used in the "fallen firefighter" ceremony and later was the premier "door prize." Tom, you were there in spirit.



TAPS

Joseph J. Cherniga
23 June 1927-8 September 2012

Former Air Force Fire Chief, Senior Master Sgt. (retired) Joseph J. Cherniga, 85, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., died Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 8, at home in the loving care of his family and hospice. He was the husband of the former Nancy R. Clark of Falmouth,

Mass., and would have celebrated a 60th wedding anniversary this coming January. "Skip" was born on June 12, 1927, in Beaver Meadows, Pa., to Slovak emigrant parents, John Cherniga and Elizabeth (Sofranko). He was preceded in death by his sisters, Mary Ann and Theresa (Sr. Mary Emerita); and his brother, John, all of Olyphant, Pa. He is survived by his wife Nancy; and two sons, attorney Michael and wife Terry, of Tallahassee, Fla.; Air Force Col. (retired) John and wife Joan, of Satellite Beach, Fla.; granddaughter, Kara Cherniga of Boston, Mass.; and grandson, Pfc. Patrick Cherniga and wife, Pvt. Amanda, of Fort Bragg, N.C. He is also survived by his sister, Helen Cherniga, of Olyphant. Joe owned Safety Service Company on Walter Martin Avenue. He loved watching football and golf, and in his younger days enjoyed photography, model building, and playing football on local community teams. He is most remembered as a long-time usher with wife Nancy at St. Mary Catholic Church.



Larry J. Lowman
23 September 1937-7 November 2012

Larry Joe Lowman, 75, of Connelly Springs, passed away Wednesday November 7, 2012 at his residence following a period of declining health. Larry was born on September 23, 1937 in Burke County to the late Llwod Waiclell (Buzz) and Zelder Ray Franklin Lowman. Mr. Lowman served twenty seven years with the United States Air Force and retired in 1984. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, skeet shooting, and playing pool. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by one daughter Michelle Lowman and one brother Jay Van Lowman. Survivors include his daughter Martha Corneatzer and her children Matthew and Rachel all of Orlando FL, his loving companion of thirty years Maureen Thompson of the home, her



children Richard Thompson and wife Neelie of Valdese, Linda Rivers and husband Ed of LeClire, Iowa, Julie Deroushie and husband Dick f Sloan, Iowa and several grandchildren. Also surviving are one brother Howard Lowman and wife Ann of Glenn Alpine, one sister Lorena Tatter and husband Roy of Lenoir, one niece Andrea Tatter of Lenoir, one nephew Michael Tatter of Winston Salem, and one great nephew Thomas Tatter, and special friends Wayne Huffman and family.

JOSEPH MARVIN JARRELL
2 September 1926-23 November 2012

Known by wife as "Marvin," to his children as "Dad," to his mother, father and 13 brothers and sisters as "Marvin," to his nieces and nephews as "Uncle Marvin," to his grand children and great-grandchildren, son-in-law and daughter's in-law as "Big Pop," his friends call him "Joe," and comrades call him "Chief Jarrell." Marvin was born in Knight LA. to Johnny and Laura Jarrell in 1926. He married the "love of his life" Ruth Marie Dupree Jarrell on June 2, 1950. They were married for 62 years. He is survived by his wife Ruth and their four children: Mike Jarrell and wife Lisa; Linda Kellam and her husband Anthony; Debbie Zajicek; and Kathy Campbell and her husband Brian. There have been six grandchildren: Michael Jarrell, Jr. and his wife Lori; Donna Moore and husband Michael; Jamie Kellam and wife Selene; Jeremy Kellam; Tanya Pierce; and Jana Zajicek. Four step grandchildren; Drew and Blake O'Neal, Chris and Rebecca Campbell. Nine great-grand children; Pamela, Katie, Cody, Clay, Kimberly, Ashley, Courtney, Cheyenne and Zoey. Also 3 bonus step great-grand children; Cheyenne, Jordan, and Katelynn plus a step great-great-grandchild Zane. Joe joined the United States Army in 1944. He served in the Philippine and Japanese islands as a 1st scout with Company "B", 163rd Infantry Regiment during World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor during action against the enemy in the Philippines. After WWII, Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force where



he served for 20 years. He has been a firefighter, Fire Training Officer, First Sergeant and Fire Chief throughout his career. Joe received numerous citations, Letters of Commendation and superior performance ratings for his leadership, dedication, and knowledge in firefighting principles. In addition to the Bronze Star Medal received in World War II, Joe was awarded: Army Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Ribbon. Army of Occupation Ribbon, United Nations Service Ribbon. Korean Service Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon-with 5 Attachments (knots). Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. Dad traveled the world with the USAF and his family. Living in places such as the island of Okinawa (Japan); Izmir Turkey; Royal Air Force Base (RAF) Sculthorpe England (just north of London). He also served with distinction at several bases in the United States and retired from active duty at Selfridge AFB in Michigan in December 1964. He moved back to Austin, Texas with his family after retirement. He worked at the Steck Company (a printing/publishing company) of North Austin before the company moved to Dallas in the mid 70s.

Daniel Coben, Sr.

5 October 1919-2 December 2012

Longtime Alaska resident Daniel Coben, Sr. passed over to the Lord Sunday, 2 December 2012. He has resided in Alaska since the mid-1940s and considered Alaska his forever



home. He was born in Nashville TN on 5 October 1919 to John and Maude Coben. He was one of four children. Dan is survived by his wife of 42 years, Irene; and three children, one daughter and two sons: Roxie and husband Kevin

Knight, Paul and wife Debbie Coben. His grandchildren are Keri, Allen, Jennifer, Kristine, Andrew, Janet, Michelle, Donna, Brian and Ginger. His great-grandchildren are Jeriah, Jacob, Haley, Aspen, Brian, Nicholas, Kiely, Kamron, Emmy, Seth,

Hannah, Alexander, Jazmine and Lindsey. Great-great grandchildren are Ashton and Dustian. Other survivors include many nieces and nephews throughout the states. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Maude Coben; his first wife, Emmy Lou; and his siblings, Eva, John and Gene. As a young man of 20, Dan enlisted in the Army and served from 1940 to 1944. This was during WWII, and he served in Europe for part of his tour. He was honorably discharged in 1944 with the rank of 2nd Lt. In a conversation with a military friend, his interests turned to Alaska and the adventures the state had to offer. He came north and worked as a truck driver for the Alaska Road Commission, later to become the Department of Transportation. He joined the Fairbanks Fire Department in approximately 1947 as a firefighter. After a short stay, he took a job as the assistant chief in Barrow and oversaw the Dew Line for a time. Deciding that he wanted family closer, he went back to the states and moved his wife and young son to the Fairbanks area. In 1952, he was hired as the assistant fire chief at Eielson Air Force Base, moving to the rank of Chief, which he held until his retirement in 1971. During his time at Eielson, he helped with the perfecting of the light water that would be used to coat the runways in an emergency landing for cold climate areas. After his retirement from Eielson, he became fire chief at the Fairbanks Fire Department from 1971 to 1974. During his years as chief, he served as president of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association as well as being instrumental in the organization of the Interior Firefighters Association and presiding over the meeting that created the Cook Inlet Chapter of the ASFA. Also during this time, working with a local physician, he coordinated training for the first paramedics for the fire service in the Interior. He is a lifetime member of the Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association. After his fire service years, he decided to go into farming. He and Irene purchased more than 300 acres in the Moose Creek Agriculture Project and resided there for the next 25 years. He grew various crops that many people said could not be grown in the state because of the short growing season.

Just as in many aspects of his life, he proved them wrong. During the years the fields were full of canola, sunflower, canary seeds, brome hay and much more. He served on the Fairbanks Farm Service Area Committee. Throughout his life, he was struck by Alaska's endless frontier spirit and was always looking out for the minerals that were plentiful. Therefore, he owned many mines throughout the state of Alaska. His philosophy was "to the end of the road and another 20 miles beyond was better." This gave him his reason to fulfill his passion for flying. He was a seasoned pilot from the early '60s and logged more than 20,000 hours in his 185 and 206. Dan was a member of Polaris Court No. 2 Order of the Amaranth and of Tanana Lodge No. 3 of Fairbanks.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Where is Raymond P. Porter GS-13



(Ret)? Well, George Hall has always been a hard act to follow, but let's give it a whirl. As an associate editor of the QNN now, I

would first like to thank Charlie Richardson for picking up the gauntlet of leadership as Chief Editor for the QNN. This newsletter has become the best conduit to our retirees and allows all of us to maintain relationships forged over many decades. I could not be prouder to call the QNN staff my friends, both those serving now and the founders. Doug Courchene was correct when he named our predecessors "Pioneers With Intent". I was most fortunate in my career. I served my active duty time in the USN, and within months of my discharge a great Pioneer in USAF fire protection, Chief Lewis Libby, Loring AFB, hired me as a firefighter trainee. I had been serving as a volunteer since I was just 12 years old, (different rules in those days), and could not believe someone was going to pay be to do something I gladly did for free! I received the absolute best training you could get anywhere in the world. With that outstanding foundation, I was able

to go forward, serving as fire chief at three installations, eventually becoming the Command Fire Chief at two separate commands. First at HQ MAC, Scott AFB IL, when Hamp Cayson had his health problems, and for almost four years at HQ USAFE at Ramstein AB Germany, replacing the infamous Tom Smith. Who would have ever thought that an old country boy from Winterport, Maine, would be that successful and blessed. Well 14 years have already passed since I hung that white shirt up for good, although it seems like it was just a minute ago. Funny how much faster time goes as you begin putting 6s and 7s in front of your age. When I got home from the retirement ceremony, I found the most comfortable chair I could find in the living room and turned on the T.V., determined to live out my life leisurely and with a cold beer in my hand. Do you know, you can watch talk shows from 0900 until 1700 Monday thru Friday week after week? Well you can, and it sucks! After two months of the good life, (LOL) I decided it was time to shake the fog out of my head and find an honorable way of supplementing my income. Well maybe not honorable, but a lot of fun. I went to work for Lion-Vallen Industries as the V/P of Military Sales. We became only the second company to win a DLA Supply Sales and Services contract. We began ramping up all aspects of the Prime Vendor contracts mandates of the Clinton/Gore "Reinventing Government Procurement and Procedures" policy. It was a lot of fun setting up a new program that aided all of the DoD fire departments around the U.S. and around the world. The absolute best part was visiting all the installations around the Globe. I had the good fortune of visiting bases in every state in the Union as well as traveling back to Europe, Africa and the Orient. Every trip was a joy, as I was able to visit with old friends and make so many new ones along the way. After three years, and a management downsizing, I opened Porters Protective Equipment Inc. (PPE Inc.) and started doing the same work for a while. Soon thereafter a company called Safeware Inc, made me an offer I could not refuse. I left my company in the capable hands of my oldest

daughter, and off I went back to world of DoD contracts. After a few years I had had enough traveling and bid adieu to DoD contractors and relocated back to Maine for some hunting and fishing. Ill health befell me a few years ago and I decided I would come back to Virginia where the weather is much more agreeable. After a couple of major back surgeries, I am retired for the most part. I still do some consultant work to equipment providers and still have PPE Inc. and from time to time make a few sales that fall in my lap. I remain amazed at what a wonderful life that the USAF Fire Protection family provided me. Not many people can say that they were happy everyday to go to work. I am one of the blessed. I cannot imagine not having had this life. So many wonderful friends made, opportunities to impact so many lives and careers. I look at the roster of CMS's and Civilian Fire Chiefs and see how many I worked with in the early stages of their careers and my chest swells with pride. I firmly believe we old folks have left the future of our beloved Fire and Emergency Services in very capable hands. For those in those positions, I say, "Pay it Forward," teach the young ones well, and we will continue having the greatest firefighters in the world! For those of you passing through Virginia Beach, or local area, come on down, The fishing is out of this world, the sun shines and the birds sing, and the sandy beaches have wonderful scenery. Call me and stop by. We might even get the Harleys out for a little time in the wind!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH DEPARTMENT FROM AROUND THE NET

From AF Times 5 November 2012 edition. (TRUE STORY) If global holocaust hits survivors will have many pressing challenges to face. Among them : Will bottled beer still be OK to drink? Science historian Alex Wellerstein, who writes the nuclear secrecy blog Restricted Data, recently unearthed a 1957 U.S. government study that addresses that very question. The study was done in conjunction with two bomb tests in Nevada in 1956. Bottles and cans were placed at various

distances from ground zero, the closest less than a quarter -mile away. After measuring subsequent radio-activity, the answer was . . . drink up. Bottles closest to ground zero were, in fact, radioactive, but only mildly so, and the contents were "well within permissible limits for emergency use". Wellerstein's conclusion: the next time you stock up on beer, remember that it might not be just for a weekend. "It might be for the end of days."

War Time Memories Are Awakened by Jim Carroll

I was stationed at Pleiku Air Base, RVN from Dec 1966 to Dec 1967. I recently received the Jan/Feb edition of the Vietnam Veterans of America "The VVA Veteran" magazine. This edition's feature story was on the battle of Dak To, and it brought back some memories of long, long ago. Dak To is located in Kon Tum Province of Vietnam which lays across from the triborder region—the intersection of



Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam. To counter the buildup of the North Vietnamese Army, the US Army was building up forces in the Dak To area and staging them through Pleiku Air Base during the summer and fall of 1967. Then as the battles raged on in the area, the results could be seen by the air evacuations of the wounded and casualties through the Air Base. Dak To airfield was like any other forward operating landing strip, the only fire protection afforded was from wheeled or portable fire extinguishers. On the morning of 15 Nov 1967, a barrage of mortar rounds hit the airfield, where several C-130s were loading elements of the ARVN to return to Saigon. One plane was set on fire and

another C-130 blew up. A third plane survived, backed away by two crew members during a lull in the bombardment. Another C-130 was landing and immediately took off again. A desperate call went out for fire protection help and it was decided to send a truck and crew from Pleiku Air Base. Three personnel were volunteered, SSgt Arlie Raber, Sgt Robert Stead, and myself, Sgt James Carroll. We responded with a modified 1500-gallon water tanker. After arriving in Kontum City an escort was provided for the long 65-mile journey upcountry. When we arrived on the base at Dak To, we were not allowed to perform any operations until EOD cleared the area of explosives. Late that afternoon while we were waiting to do our duty, the barrage resumed and seventy-eight more mortar rounds fell on Dak To. This time shells hit the ammunition dump, igniting a fire that spread from bunker to bunker. During a lull in the barrage, we attempted to fight the fire in the ammo dump and were succeeding somewhat until shrapnel went through the pump engine radiator and the pump froze up. Note: an Army sergeant, who was using a hand line, had his leg shattered from ammo exploding. All the remaining ammo on the base was on a convoy. We evacuated with it off base when the ammo dump started to really cook off. Almost 1,300 tons of ammunition and 17,000 gallons of fuel were destroyed. Shrapnel from the fire rained down on us more than a mile from the base, so we evacuated even further. Bob Stead and I were assigned guard duty along a perimeter to protect the convoy (there is more to that story, but I won't go into it here). Just before sunrise, it was determined we could attempt to return to the base after it was cleared of possible visitors. On the way back down the hill to the base, we came under attack and had to return to our previous location. At daybreak, we attempted to return again and were successful. We were fed one of the best breakfasts I had ever had in Vietnam (it was our only meal we had). Then we went back with the convoy and attempted to gain access to our truck to see how much damage was done to it. EOD said we would have to wait until they could clear us a path. While we

waited in an open area by the airfield, we came under mortar attack again. Some shells landed within 6 feet of us while we lay on the open ground. Shrapnel hit my flack vest and someone whispered in my ear that it was time to move. I grabbed the shrapnel for a souvenir and started high tailing it for cover. My cohorts quickly followed. It was evident the North Vietnamese Army was after the convoy, so they started moving it to a different location.



During a lull, we were cleared to return to our truck. We found it full of holes, windshield broken, two outer rear tires blown out, and our rear brake lines were sheared by shrapnel. We made the necessary repairs and joined a convoy back to Pleiku. All in all, we only spent 30 hours in the Dak To area, but they were pure hell. Additional reading and info: <http://www.vva.org/veteran.html> <http://www.twirlonup.com/dakto/photo/671115/index.htm>

Other organizations you may be interested in:

Armed Forces Top Enlisted Association
P.O.Box 90030
Washington, D.C. 20090-0030

Veterans of Foreign Wars
406 W. 34th St,
Kansas City, MO 64111
www.vfw.org

Air Force Association
1501 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22209-1198
www.afa.org



PUBLISHING AND MAILING FUND

The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. All donations are strictly voluntary as no membership fees are charged. We started off last quarter with a total of \$1320.64. The cost of printing and postage for the last QNN was \$86.73. Leaving a total of \$1233.91. During the past quarter a total of \$145.00 was donated by Chief William Ogletree, Chief McCarty, Chief Kyle and Chief Bill Moore for a new total of \$1378.91. I will keep the total posted in each edition so you know where we are on fiscal issues. If you wish to contribute to the stamp fund, please send to Charlie Richardson, 5473 Landis Ave., Port Orange FL 32127-5525.

PEDRO'S CORNER

I am Leonard "Len" Shults, SMSgt. USAF A57170 Retired. I served 6 years in the Naval Reserves, 2 aboard ship '54 - '56. I entered the Air Force in '58, was assigned To Crash/Fire Rescue (OJT) Charleston AFB, SC. In '60 I was sent to Taipei Taiwan Shu Lin Ku Air Station. Later that summer, I became the station Fire Chief, I was E4. Our Staff Sgt. was transferred to the US. I was the only Fireman who had a clearance and could go into the compound. A security Communications center. So, I became Chief. This was the 6987th Security Service Command, now Electronic Security. We had One 530A Pumper, a water tanker. Twelve assigned firefighters. We Were supplied with the language fellows, who lost their clearances, for short periods. I was transferred in the fall of '61, sent to Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama. In '62 I was one of the first four 571xo's to be Selected Fire/Rescue crewmembers on



the HH43B. I went to school with the pilots of Det. 10, at Stead AFB, Reno Nevada. In July '64, our unit was called up and sent to SEA. Serving there until Feb. '65, returning to Maxwell. We did support the Selma to Montgomery march, and the William Tell Exercise at Tyndall AFB. In the summer of '65 the requirement for monthly flying for pilots who were in school, was lifted. This resulted in Maxwell losing the aircraft the pilots used. Thus, the HH43 detachment was assigned to another active flying base. The Fire/Rescue members reverted back to the fire department. In the fall of '65 I left the active AF and went to College. In 1972 I was encouraged to enlist in the AF Reserve. I served the 908 Airlift Command, C-7 aircraft then, later became a C130 aircraft unit. I was the Chief Admin and First Sgt. For the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for 9 years. Then I was asked to become a part of the 'IMA' program. This is a one on one for active duty folks, when a person has to be away/out for some time. The IMA is called upon to fill that void. I was assigned to AF Intelligence/Defense Intel Agency. Serving 15 years, with duty in many DIA departments, the last 4 being with the Defense Intel College. Retiring in 1994. Chief Sanders, put out a plea for a helper. I said I would do what I can. My time in the Navy, in Communications/Crypto, and my career in the AF in Crash/Fire/Rescue, and the Intel field, gave me many experiences. Now, the Pedro Corner, is to provide the reader with information about the doings of the Pedro Rescue Helicopter Association. Our small group meets every other year. In the off year many attend the 'Jolly Green' reunions. Or the Air Rescue Assoc. Reunions. We have open membership to all who have served or were associated with the HH43's at anytime in their career. You can contact Neil McCutchan, the secretary, njmcc33881@gmail.com, or me Len Shults, at: sugardaddyfor1@gmail.com. We can send you the application via e-mail. Our dues are \$10.00 a year. Our reunion in June 2014 may be at the Air Force Academy. We are looking in to having another monument made and placing it at the AF Academy. We have one at

Maxwell/Gunter, (Gunter annex) Enlisted Heritage Hall Museum. The 2012 reunion was held in Seattle, Washington at the Double Tree Hotel. A good turnout, and we traveled to the Boeing Aircraft Plant and Museum. As well as the Olympia Air Museum, Air Show. We had our own tent area on the tarmac near the runway and the hanger where one of the last known flyable HH43's is housed. This is the property of the Olympia Museum, and we were guests for the day. It was a cloudy, damp, and cold day. But we were all excited at being able to see a part of our past up close again. So, when it was pulled out and parked, hooked up and the crew, began to start it up, as soon as the sounds of the Huskie, 'Pedro' coming to life again, everyone was taking pictures and crying at the same time.. As it lifted up and rose, the familiar sounds lifted our spirits, we were awed at the sight and sound of it flying around... We were allowed to gather for pictures around it not in it, but just to do that was enough. So, the highlight of our reunion was the Olympia Air Show. Our annual banquet was outstanding. We invited John Flournoy's son, who was the Base Commander at Travis AFB, and had just been selected BG, due to this he was unable to come. John Christianson, our President, did a great job, and was elected President again. He was very happy to have his family attend and they enjoyed the banquet too. Steve Mock, was dressed most of the time as our 'Pedro' welcoming guests and others. He makes a reunion fun.. You are welcome to attend our reunions, just contact me or Chris, we will provide the necessary information. Since our reunion, our Vice President, James Taylor, a crew chief, passed away. October 12, 2012 of Hepatitis C, contracted while serving in SEA. James was the designer of our monument that is at the EHH Museum. We will miss Jim, his son, Chris is currently our Treasurer. The photo below is of our attendees at the Olympia Air Show. June 2012. Our wish is that the year 2013 be a great year for everyone and good health. Len Shults



YOUR WORD

I asked Chief Courchene when he first started the QNN. The following is his response (Charlie Richardson clardb@att.net)

July 1990. My first contact 41 retired AF Fire Chiefs. Some early response from Chief Harold Voight, Chief James Dixon, Chief John Keyes, Chief Robert Strang, Chief Charles McIntire, Chief Garland, Chief Ed Sams, Chief Bob Malin, Chief Gus Hunter, Chief Darrold Sauls, Chief Val Allen, Chief Henry Patrick, Chief Bob Vreeland, Chief Ben Partin, Chief Ross Stephens, Chief Golden Simmons, Chief Terry Platts, Chief Wade Baumgardner supported the quarterly newsletters. The readership grew to 178 Air Force Retired Fire Chiefs. My success story and proud of it.

From: dcourchene@nc.rr.com

Thanks Charlie. How's Sandy? I always enjoy the QNN. I served from 1968-2005 (Air Force) on both active duty and reserve without a break and am now enjoying the military retirement monies that Uncle Sam has so graciously bestowed upon me. I am currently still employed with the Army and am lucky enough to be a Fire Chief at Military Ocean Terminal, Concord Ca. Coming up on 44 years in civil service, counting the break in service. It was rough to find a job in 77. I count Ralph McHenry (Mac)(sorry for his passing) and Hoyt Sanders(Sandy) as my main mentors and some of the best people that I ever met. Hugh Pike, Jim Podolski and a few others are looked up to also. Served at

Homestead in 68, Osan in 71, Travis in 72, and Hickam in 74. Did Fire and flight Medic duties in the reserve from 77 to 05, retiring as A SMSgt. Life is good and I have a good gig, but Peg and I are planning for retirement in a few years. I spend more time enjoying the four grandsons and just doing stuff than I used too. Anyway, I have no idea what possessed me to write, just a thought about old times, the O-11B, O-6, 530-B, Pedro, and some old friends of the past. Keep sending the QNN, sure does help. Thanks for the memories. Give a call some time.

R/ George.... GEORGE F. DAY
FIRE CHIEF FEDERAL FIRE, MILITARY
OCEAN TERMINAL CONCORD

BEYOND PIONEERS. No longer a rarity for fire chiefs to write and share their experiences. The manual typewriter, word processor--antiquated. Their zest for life and saving of life and property remembered. Ernest PaPa Hemingway: "And it is only the details of how they lived and how they died that distinguishes them from another." The computer age is simplification of the printed word. Global communication is at their finger

tips. Seems everything at electronic speed, unsure whether all good. Firefighters known to protect life and property now face saving their own lives. In times of war starting with Korea, Vietnam, Iran and Afghanistan the past ten years, firefighters exposed to mortar attacks, grenades and gun fire. My first gun-fire experience was 66 years ago. At that time, firemen were shot at during race riot at Lowry Air Force Base Colorado. That resulted in the Army at Camp Carson, Colorado called and quelled the riot. How times change. . .No longer firemen, but firefighters. . .no longer fire department, but Fire and Emergency Services. Fire truck traditional red to lime yellow, camouflage and back to red. For a while red and lime yellow prompted General Creech to standardize to ugly lime yellow. P-4 painted lime yellow, \$1,400.00. Multiply that throughout the Air Force equates to wasted taxpayers \$\$\$\$.

More Recent Change; On 24 August 2012 Oshkosh Tactical Fire Fighting Truck (TFFT) described as "mammoth." I dare not ask the cost! I can't imagine though this rig stateside. Chief Doug Courchene, (ret) 104 Meredith St. Mt Olive, NC 28365

RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR MR. DONALD W. WARNER

December 28, 2012, 1000 Hours
NCO Academy Tyndall AFB



PRESIDING OFFICIAL: Col Dave Reynolds
NARRATOR: Mr. Jim Podolske
AIDE: MSgt Ogletree
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
Arrival of Mrs. Connie Warner, Family and Guests
Welcome and Introductions
Arrival of Official Party Col Dave Reynolds/
Mr. Donald Warner
Play the National Anthem
Invocation by Mr. Fred Terry
Remarks by Col Reynolds
Presentation of the Outstanding Civilian
Career Service Award
RETIREMENT CEREMONY
Certificate of Service
Retirement Pin
OSD Letter of Appreciation from Mr. Bowling
AF/A7C Letter of Appreciation from Maj Gen
Byers
AFCEC Letter of Appreciation from Col
Reynolds

Spouse's Certificate of Appreciation
Spouse's AF/A7C Letter of Appreciation from
Maj Gen Byers
Spouse's AFCEC Letter of Appreciation
Spouse's Gift from AFCEC/CXF Staff
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
Play the "I Did It My Way" Presentation
Former AFRC Fire Chief - Mr. Jeff Davis
(Fireman's Prayer Figurine)
AFRL – Mr. Steven Wells (Music CD & T-
Shirt)
AFSOC Firefighters – Chief Mike Blakely
(Fireman's Prayer Coin)
Tyndall Firefighters – Deputy Fire Chief
SMSgt Chris Raynor and the Training Chief
Mr. Bobby Richardson (Brass
Speaking Trumpet)
AFMC & Eglin AFB Firefighters – Fire Chief
Mark Giuliano (Replica of the Wright Flyer)
USAF Academy Firefighters – Chief Ernst
Piercy
DoD Fire and Emergency Services Working
Group – Mr. Allen Roush (Axe)
A7CX Staff – Mr. Allen Roush (Picture &
Coin)
CMSgt Retired George Hall (Fire Helmet)
AFCEC/CXF and AFRL – CMSgt Kevin
Matlock (Table)
AFCEC/CX – Lt Col George Petty (Antique
Horse Drawn Fire Truck)
AFCEC Deputy Director – Col Reynolds
(Cookout Utensils)
Remarks by Mr. Warner
Departure of Official Party and Honored
Guests
Reception at NCO Academy