

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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Founded by: Doug Courchene, CMSgt, USAF, Retired

July-September 2014

EDITOR. Hi All. It's been a long summer here at the Richardson household. Linde suffered a stroke on June 1st. After many doctor appointments and tests, she was found to also have parathyroid problems. The best place in our area for that is Tampa General Hospital. After several months of trying to get her in, she was finally give a September 5th date for the surgery. Everything worked out fine, and she is on the mend every day. She has no lasting effects from the stroke and surgery.

We were not able to attend the ANG/USAF Fire Chiefs Reunion in Boston; but, from what I have been told, it was a great success. The next reunion is being planned for early October 2015 in Tucson AZ. More on that in upcoming issues.



TAPS

CHIEF GERALD JEWELL

September 1, 1930-September 25, 2014

Gerald "Jerry" Jewell, 84, passed away on September 25, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

He was born on September 1, 1930, in Belleville, New Jersey. On August 15, 1953, Gerald exchanged wedding vows with Grace Imogene Reid at St Peter's Catholic Church in Belleville, New Jersey. He stood by her side for 56 years until she passed away in



February 2009. They were blessed with four children: Beth (deceased), Kathi, Tom, and Mike. Another blessing for Gerald and Grace was the gift of ten grandchildren, Jerry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on his 18th birthday serving until 1952, seeing action in the Korean Conflict where he landed in the Inchon Invasion and received the Purple Heart for wounds received during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. After serving his commitment, he returned home to New Jersey to marry Grace and start his family. After endeavors in driving a city bus and as an auxiliary police officer, he found his calling as a firefighter in the Belleville and Newark area. Firefighting brought him back to federal service with the Navy and Army in New Jersey and finally with the Air Force in 1974 when the family moved to Altus, Oklahoma. His career with the Air Force would take him

to Germany, Hawaii, and Guam with the final stop being back at Altus Air Force Base where he took over as the Base Fire Chief in 1985, serving there until his retirement after 33 years of service in 1989.

**JEFFERY DAVIS, CMSgt, USAF (Retired)
July 29, 1950-September 22, 2014**

Jeffery (Dave) Davis was completely healed on September 22, 2014, when he passed into his eternal life after a long illness. Jeff hailed from Detroit MI but finally settled in Yorktown VA after having served around the world during his career as a US Air Force firefighter. He was a consummate



professional in every respect and served in the field as well as major command and Air Staff positions. After his military career, he returned

to his calling as a Fire Protection Specialist at Air Force Reserve Command. He served there until his medical retirement. Jeff will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery as soon as arrangements are finalized. More information will be posted here as it becomes available. Those wishing to send condolences to the family, please email me at dww@dodfire.com, and I'll send you the mailing address. Rest in peace my friend!



**Looking Back and Remembering with
Respect**

**CMSgt Hugh (Hamey) Pike
Part #1**

Hugh Pike, CMSgt USAF Deceased. I would suppose anyone who was ever associated with or crossed paths with CMSgt Hugh Pike will have a "Pike Story" to tell. Lately I have been thinking of the numerous friends and co-workers who have passed on. We all, at their passing, pause and reminisce the times we spent with them or occasions whereby we may have just met them in passing or heard of them through comments of others. So, I thought I would put some words together about some professional colleagues and personal friends who have passed on whom I served with during my forty-five years of service in the United States Air Force Fire and Emergency Services community.

My first endeavor is to put words together concerning my friend CMSgt Hugh Pike. My association with Chief Pike came about in a very odd way. I was Assistant Fire Chief for Training at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, around 1977 when the Aircraft Crash Rescue Field Assistance and Evaluation Team (ACRFAET) made an unannounced visit. At the time of their visit, I was TDY to Chanute for school. The Training Element I was responsible for did surprisingly well with the exception of a couple exercises that did not go well at all. I will not go into details, but suffice it to say the overall Fire Department rating was not good. The 9th (I believe) Air Force Commander directed all fire chiefs in the command to come to Holloman for the outbriefing. At that time Holloman was in Tactical Air Command. CMSgt Ben Partin was assigned to HQ TAC

Fire Protection and, I am sure, will remember well the "Dark Days" at Holloman. My being TDY certainly was a blessing because there was quite a bit of bloodletting during the outbriefing. We were then facing a follow-up visit and not sure who the Chiefs would be during the next assessment visit. When they did return, the two Chiefs were CMSgt Dan Long and CMSgt Hugh Pike. Shortly after the inbriefing, Chief Long and Chief Pike called me for an up close and personal session concerning the Training Element. In 1977 smoking was allowed in federal buildings. I was struck by Chief Pike smoking a pipe and using a golf tee to pack the tobacco. At the time I was a TSgt in the room with these two Chiefs who were well able to intimidate me, and I must say it was somewhat disquieting. Disquieting may not be the right word to describe the session; however, in this article I will just leave it at that. I did observe during the visit how Chief Pike could bring to bear the intimidation factor when it was necessary.

For those who never experienced an ACRFAET visit, the practical training exercises were always quite extensive. At the completion of each exercise, the Team would huddle privately and using a very detailed checklist scrub the exercise from start to finish. After the first exercise, Chief Long and Chief Pike came to me and told me to come with them into their meeting. I am not certain if this was their standard operating procedure or not, but it was certainly an eye-opening experience.

As I sat in their internal critique of the exercise, I was impressed with the depth of the evaluation process and the knowledge of fire ground tactics and strategy which the two Chiefs brought to the table. Being able

to attend the meeting was enlightening, but what happened next was quite a surprise. Chief Pike turned to me and said "you attended our meeting, here are the evaluation notes for the exercise, now you will brief the department on our findings and rating." With a note of encouragement Chief Long said "no problem, you will do well, only the Holloman fire folks will probably string you up after we leave." I did in fact have to debrief all subsequent exercises during the visit. What a great learning experience this was for me. Little did I know this experience would serve me well in the not too distant future. Chief Pike and Chief Long made a lasting impression on me by the effort they put into the evaluation process of a Fire Department in an attempt to make it better. Suffice it to say, the Fire Protection folks at Holloman stepped up and did extremely well during the follow-up ACRFAET visit.

A few months after they departed I received a short-notice assignment to Osan, Korea. I thought this was strange since I had come off a short tour (Alaska remote) to Holloman. I called assignments at Randolph and complained and was told "Sergeant you are going to Korea, understand." I later learned Chief Pike and Chief Long had "arranged" my move. I became the Deputy Fire Chief working for CMSgt James Legg, Fire Chief. Being the Deputy for Chief Legg was a "significant emotional event" but was short-lived. Chief Legg departed Korea for a family emergency and did not return. Note: I never knew what the nature of the emergency was or if, in fact, there was an emergency. As a young MSgt, I just followed the rules relating to a CMSgt. Rule #1. The Chief is always right. Rule #2. If you think the Chief is wrong refer to Rule #1. Who am

I to question a Chief? Therefore, I became the Fire Chief--a MSgt in a CMSgt position. Before leaving Korea Chief Legg told me "when you are asked to forecast for a return assignment to the states don't worry about it, Chief Pike and I have worked it out." Being a MSgt in a CMSgt Billet, I felt sure some CMSgt would be tasked for a short-notice assignment to Osan as the Fire Chief. By this time Chief Pike had moved from Tyndall to the HQ Pacific Air Command Fire Protection Office at Hickam. Unknown to me, Chief Pike and my commander cut a deal where I would serve the rest of my tour at Osan as the Fire Chief. The next ten months were quite a learning experience. Chief Pike became my tormentor with a vengeance. For about two months I put up with it; then, I began to fight back. Examples; He would call all hours of the day and night, and I would hang up on him. I would tell him "no I am not going to do that nor are the fire troops at Osan going to do that." He loved to call on Saturday evening Osan time and tell me he needed some kind of information off a fire report or some off-the-wall thing, and I would tell him I would call back Monday and quickly hang up. Those who knew him will understand what I am talking about. He threatened me with every kind of bodily harm known to man up to and including public hanging at the main gate. Through all this a solid professional relationship was established as well as a lasting friendship. When he began goading me about being a hillbilly from Calico Rock, Arkansas, I knew we had broken some kind of barrier between us. I did some research and reminded him that Calico Rock had 757 people which is several more than Strawberry Plains TN where he grew up. Recognizing his torment as being a method

of leadership development for me certainly served me well in future assignments. Chief Hugh Pike made a lasting impression on me, and I owe him much for all the behind-the-scene support he gave me. In Part #2 I will tell about how Chief Pike saved my life. CMSgt (Retired) Hoyd "Sandy" Sanders Sandy6T5@comcast.net

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 \$1323.23. The cost of printing and postage for the last QNN edition was \$31.53. Stamps from earlier purchase were still on hand. Donations by Sandy Sanchez, James Legg, Doug Courchene, and Michael Murphy totaled \$155.00--leaving a total of \$1447.70. I will keep the total posted in each edition so you know where we are on fiscal issues.

PEDRO'S CORNER

Charlie, I will not be able to do an item for the QNN this time. Had a great Pedro Reunion in Colorado Springs CO; but when I returned, I suffered congestive heart failure with fluid around my heart and lungs. I

spent six days in the hospital but am now home and resting. I will do an article next time around.

Len Shults, Pedro's Corner.

YOUR WORD

Charlie, you and your associate editors have undertaken a tremendous role to keep the fire community together through the Quarterly Network News. I salute the founder of the QNN, Chief Doug Courchene for pursuing such a task to keep us abreast of new and old issues. Hope that you and Linde are doing well. Me, recovering from hip replacement.

Sandy Sanchez, bigfiredog@msn.com

Hi Guys - I thought I would take advantage of Gene's email message to hit reply all so I can tell my old friends and mentors what is going on with me. I have been sick my friends and just got out of the hospital yesterday. I lost 42 pounds in less than 30 days with my ulcerative colitis flaring up real bad. I think I am headed in the right direction now, but I will be out of work until at least the first of the year with other treatments and I need to get my strength back. I went from 214 pounds to 172. The steroids they have me on have me all jacked up so not getting much sleep; so I figured I would look at my computer and respond back to you. Still having trouble focusing so I will have to keep this short. Work is not my priority right now--my health is. My dad is here visiting from Boston and will be here for a few months. I still can't get my mom to travel. I visited both of them in Boston at the end of September before going on travel to NATO HQ in Brussels to give a briefing. Just wanted you guys to know what was going on with me without having to put it on

Facebook or some other public forum. Take care; and yes I can use all the prayers in the book, but I worry about some of you guys praying for anyone based on your past indiscretions. :0)

Mr. Jim Podolske, GS-14, DAFC

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Charlie: A few dollars to support quarterly newsletter. You, Milt, and Helen are doing a superb editorial and review of the publication. It's time the newsletter staff is recognized for its performance. Readers enjoy receiving and reading publication. It's time for them to say thank you. Looking back at my files showing the names of large numbers of contributors supporting early newsletter makes me feel proud and thankful for having so many interested friends. It was difficult at first, but everyone realized the need to communicate. Everyone got involved and made the newsletter a success story. Today, the newsletter has flourished judging by increased readers. The staff has brought newness and freshness in print. That's what it takes. Get their attention and hold it with each publication. I hope Linde is doing well and improving. Evelyn and I have so many doctor appointments--four in August, two more in September. I had diarrhea for six months. Milk and cheese caused the problem. Placed on Metamucil and adjusted meal plan. Now, all is well in that department. Glaucoma higher pressure reading justified stronger eye drops. I've had lens implants, laser too. Diabetes for many years has affected kidney

function so that's another issue. I have doctors' appointments at 4-6 month intervals. Evelyn has fewer health issues. Her main concern now is recurring cancer at top of head. But that's improved the past three months . . . NO sign of cancer. Her back surgery last September made her back weak. Her walk is unsteady but slowly improving. Always careful not to fall. That's way too much about health. The letters received from Chief Glenn Cloud and daughter Mary and mailed to you may be material for newsletter. May need to paraphrase for newsletter, if used. You and Milt be the judge. Just hearing from Glenn made me feel good after so many years. I'd say, Glen, 95, is doing very well.

Best Wishes,
Doug & Evelyn dcourchene@nc.rr.com

Bridging the Generation Gap. During my school years I was fascinated by psychology, or the study of the mind. I must admit there were mundane portions of the course, but one session in particular helped me improve my communication skills, especially relating to divergent age groups. Most psychologists agree that we start to establish measurable values and standards by the time we reach age seven. Elements that drive these guiding principles are: the period, culture, and location where we are brought up, money, religion, music, significant events, education, family, just to name a few. Now to drive home the point regarding the importance of these principles, let's apply them hypothetically to a manager who spent the formative years during WW II in the 40s-50s. The person generally associates the period with winning, a tight economy, short hair, a religious belief, rock and roll, strict

parents, rules and responsibility, and is taught to move slowly and get it right. Now fast forward to the 60s-70s: Vietnam, Cuban missile crisis, conflict and losing, upswing in the economy with money more available, permissive parents, diluted religion, a variety of anti-establishment/anti-war music and sentiment, long hair, the hippie movement, Woodstock, and a philosophy of doing things now. Only 20-30 years separate the two, but using the values and standards hypothesis they are virtually polar opposites. Now the payoff: If individuals of differing generations (ages) take a minute to consider the reasoning/logic behind each other's values and standards (based on the above) they can better evaluate and understand (not necessarily accept) the other's position on specific issues. And as a result, they can communicate more effectively and differ, but negotiate, with a newfound understanding and respect. At the risk of sounding narcissistic, I always took pride in being all inclusive, listening to each input with the goal of improving the organization. I challenge young managers give it a try.

Ben Partin bpartin@cox.net

Hope you get this message. I want to send some money to the Publisher but don't have an address. Would you please send address? Message on the computer telling me where to send it or mail it snail mail to James Legg, 3308 E. Baldwin Road, Panama City FL 32405, along with the name you want on the check. Thanks in advance. Thanks for keeping the Newsletter going.

Sincerely,
James Legg jameslegg0802@comcast.net

Charlie, I apologize for my lack of input to the QNN. My battle with health issues has

overtaken the vast majority of my time. I just had treatment 35 of radiation this morning. I go Monday thru Friday and get the weekends off. I am feeling good about the outcome, and am looking forward to getting back to our winter home in Virginia Beach. I am also looking forward to a couple of months in the Largo region of Florida and a bit of in-state travel to visit some old friends, good Lord willing.

I am happy to let everyone know that Margo and I have decided to get married, likely next summer when we return to our place in Maine. Don't know whether to look for a new home nearer to the schools or not, LOL! We have really enjoyed the fall leaf peeping season this year. Beautiful color and warm temperature make afternoon rides a real pleasure.

Kudos to Tom Vieth for keeping the Pingers site going and active on Facebook. The site is a lot of fun for us old timers wanting to keep the old brain a bit active. In addition, it is a great place to renew old acquaintances and keep tabs on what is happening with folks you knew 40-50 years ago. Anyone not currently on the site can go to USAF Fire Pingers and join. The more the better.

For anyone unaware, there will be an all Air Force firefighters reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton Ohio in May of 2015. I do not have the particulars at hand, but they are on the internet.

On a sad note, Retired MSgt DK Evans passed away on the 14th of October. DK, (Donald) was a former civilian firefighter as well at Dover AFB for over 20 years after his retirement from active duty. I had the pleasure of working with him while I was assigned as the fire chief at Dover. He was a great mentor to all the younger military and civilians who arrived there. He often would

come into the office and just talk for a while when we could. If you really listened to what he had to say, somewhere in the conversation there were constructive criticisms of how we, as managers, are doing something. He normally was right in his assessment. I will miss him! I offer condolences and prayers of comfort for his family, friends and the members, past and present, of the Dover AFB fire department.

Charlie, hope this helps just a bit. My prayers still coming your way for Linde's continued recovery

Ray Porter afchief911@yahoo.com

Burn pit exposure? Sign up now in VA Registry. Smoke from these pits and other airborne hazards during deployment contained substances that may have health effects. By Doré Mobley, Communications Specialist, Thursday, October 30, 2014 Marine Veteran Rebecca Crawford was so concerned with returning from her tour in Iraq with "two arms and two legs" intact that she didn't give much thought to the fumes she was breathing while performing her routine job duties. Tasked with providing base support, Rebecca's duties alternated between sitting in a foxhole for 12 hours a day—securing the perimeter—to churning unknown mixtures of refuse, chemicals, and human waste in open burn pits. The use of burn pits was a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside the United States such as in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smoke from these pits contained substances that may have short- and long-term health effects, especially for those who were exposed for long periods or those more prone to illness such as individuals with pre-existing asthma or other lung or heart conditions. - See more at:

<http://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2014/October/Burn-pit-exposure-Signup-now-in-VA-Registry>.

EDITOR'S NOTE. Interesting article, I'm sure they will find a way to exclude firefighters from this hazard. I'm not saying that we burned the same things BUT most of us never knew what we were burning.

Charlie clardb@att.net

Hello old friend,

Lord, it is good to hear from a friend from the old school. I hope your health is good and you are enjoying life. I am O.K., so my doctor tells me, and I am enjoying life. The only thing, I lost my soul mate in 2004. She had been in the nursing home for almost two years. She had three strokes. I lived about

10 years by myself, then I became unstable on my feet. I would fall and could not get up. I now live in an assisted living facility. I enjoy it very much.

I asked my daughter and son-in-law to sell our house and car and have an estate sale. I asked my daughter to take over and manage everything just like her mother did. I just live in my apartment; play bingo, penny ante, blackjack, Texas 42 and Mexican Train; watch movies; and do exercises.

My phone number is 1-830-627-8000

Chief Glenn E. Cloud

1750 Hwy 46 West #406

New Braunfels, TX 78132

P.S. I worked for Chief Butler at Bergstrom AFB and attended his funeral.

