

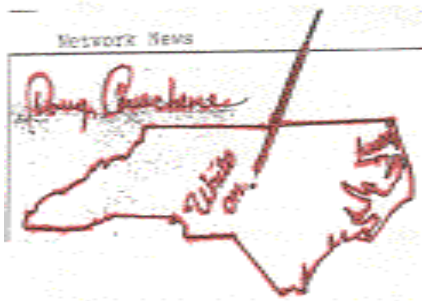


# RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS'

QUARTERLY NETWORK  
NEWSLETTER (QNN)  
January-March 2004

"LEGENDARY PIONEERS WHO  
REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST,  
BUT

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE"



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for QNN copies click on

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

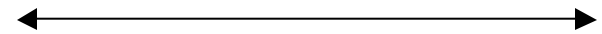


## The QNN Welcomes in the New Year 2004 and Bids 2003 Fond Memories.

Nan and I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a prosperous and Happy New Year. 2003 was a good year for the Barrow Family. 2004 begins my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as QNN Editor and it has been an honor and pleasure to bridge the gap between the Retired and Active Fire Chiefs through their stories. Please send the stories of your fire service accounts for everyone to enjoy. No story is published until they are polished (edited for spelling and language mistakes) and then only with your final content approval. The QNN Staff - Chiefs Doug Courchene, Ed Sams and I - take pride in the coordinated publishing of quality stories. We are very appreciative of Chief Don Warner's final cosmetic appearance of the QNN posted to the DoDFire Web Site that he maintains as the Web Master. DoDFire

is a virtual history of past and present military fire protection, more specifically USAF history. It is my favorite website, click on this link: <http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm> and start browsing.

Numerous QNN readers sent holiday messages wishing everyone goodwill and that the QNN was doing a good service of networking, that was much appreciated. Space limitation does not allow publishing of these comments, but they are most welcomed. Keep in touch and "write-on," from the QNN Staff. Bob - Ed - Doug



## Air Force's Last CWO Addresses Inaugural Firefighters Ball

The last chief warrant officer to retire from the Air Force visited Goodfellow AFB as the guest of The Louis F. Garland Fire

Academy the week of 2003 Fire Prevention Week, October 7 – 11, 2003.

As the Ball's Grand Marshal sponsored by the Military Firefighters Heritage Foundation's first ever Ball, CWO-4 Bob Barrow addressed a jammed pack ballroom of Goodfellow representatives and participants dress in their fineness military



uniforms and appropriate civilian attire. Every military service was represented, plus many firefighters from the Schoolhouse and

Base Fire Department. I was particularly proud to be associated with the military and fire service members present, with their gracious partners, in this most festival setting.

My duty as the Balls Grand Marshal was to welcome everyone and see that everyone had fun. My duties during the rest of the week were equally fun for this old fire warrior.

Mr. Randy Moore, Academy Course Director and President of the Heritage Foundation briefed my son, Battalion Fire Chief Frank Barrow, U.S. Navy, and I on the Academy and Foundation missions. Mr. Moore and TSgt Roderick Vega, Course Supervisor and Foundation Board Member, gave Frank and I the grand tour of their impressive facilities and training programs.

The Lou Garland Heritage Park with it's 8 restored past fire fighting vehicles displayed under lighted pavilions appeared inspection ready as we made our way through the park's broad walkway. The memorial is designed so that course graduations may take place there. The same walkway is

traveled by the DoD Apprentice firefighters each morning and afternoon as they march to and from their barracks to school.

Along the walkway is located a beautiful FF Memorial Area with brick pavers of remembrance of past and present Firefighters. Individual bricks may be ordered by contacting Mr. Moore via the internet [milfireheritage@dodfire.com](mailto:milfireheritage@dodfire.com) or by phone (915) 654-4382 or DSN: 477-4382. What a great way to remember a loved one or special friend.

Donations to the foundation are used for a most worthy cause - to restore/rescue more DoD antique fire trucks. Each vehicle's cost to showcase is approximately \$34,000 and there are several vehicles waiting funds for restoration.

Another worthy project is a Fallen Firefighters Memorial honoring all that have died in the line-of-duty. Sixty-two military firefighters that paid the ultimate sacrifice, names have been collected; some as early as 1948. If you know of others please submit their names along with Line of Duty facts.

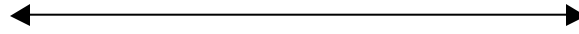
Airman Lowery, one of AF's newest firefighters, and I had the honor of cutting the cake for 250 participants at the Ball. Airman Lowery requested that I pin on his firefighter badge at his graduation, prior to his first Base assignment in Germany.



I was impressed by the quality of inter-service firefighter training offered in the apprentice and advance courses at the academy. Lt Col Glenn Pollick, School Commandant, and CMSgt Terry Ford,

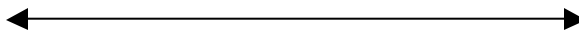
School Superintendent have a dedicated Staff to preserve the vision of CWO-4 Louis F. Garland. That vision included a military firefighting organization with the best firefighters in the world. Lou would be very

proud of the Fire Academy that bears his name. Fire pioneers everywhere can be proud of today's military and civil service firefighters! See the last page for a copy of the write-up in the base paper.



### Stamp Fund Contributors

The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. They are most appreciated. Email addresses are used whenever possible to promote networking and reduce the cost for snail-mailing the QNN. The following individuals have made donations to the postage fund since the last QNN: Chief Douglas Courchene - [dougecourchene@aol.com](mailto:dougecourchene@aol.com); Chief Bill Beniker, US Navy Retired - [wrbeniker@cox.net](mailto:wrbeniker@cox.net); Chief Hamp Cayson - [squirrel@papadocs.com](mailto:squirrel@papadocs.com); Chief Joe Cherniga - [JOESKIPP@aol.com](mailto:JOESKIPP@aol.com); Chief Joe Jarrell - [firechief6736@yahoo.com](mailto:firechief6736@yahoo.com); Chief W.A. York, Staples, TX; Chief Rodney Winningham, Panama City, FL.



### Field Reports by Chief Doug Courchene



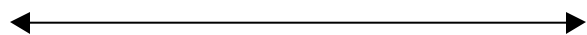
Mrs. Gracie Odell wrote November 8, 2003: Dear Evelyn and Doug, received my copy of your "Pioneer With Intent-Memories

of an Air Force Firefighter" this Saturday. This was the nicest surprise I've ever received and so timely since Paul's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday would have been this coming Thursday, November 11, 2003. How he would have loved reading your wonderful book. He did so regret that his health had failed so badly that he just wasn't able to contribute... He was not able to remember the past few years and lost interest in practically everything and everybody. In reading this book, my family and I can enjoy reading the history Paul loved so dearly. Thanks for your thoughtfulness...I've read the book from cover to cover over this weekend. So many familiar names and faces that bring back so many happy memories. I've decided to stay here in Florida, since this has been our home since

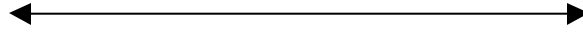
1979. Most of my friends and doctors are here. The family enjoys coming to Florida on special occasions. Our other home in Colorado Springs will be sold and our daughter, who was our caretaker and living there, has bought a lovely townhouse nearby where I can stay when visiting the area. I will be there over the Christmas holidays for a family reunion. This will be a happy trip as opposed to the one in December 2002 for Paul's memorial service.

In closing, I appreciate your thoughtfulness so very much and will treasure it... How Paul loved reminiscing about his life in Air Force Fire Protection when he was in good health. Evelyn and you have been and are wonderful friends. Love, Gracie

*Chief Courchene comments: As you can see. I have been rewarded many times over for publishing my book at no cost to pioneers and their widows.*

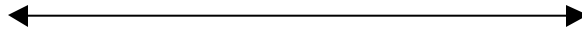


Seymour Johnson AFB will soon have a new fire station to replace the one built in 1956. SJ's Fire Chief James Hawley retired in October 2003 and the chief's position will be converted to a military chief.



Chief James Davis - [r11@maui.net](mailto:r11@maui.net) assigned to the 1204<sup>th</sup> Engineering Fire Fighting Platoon that fought their way through the Pacific in WW II and now lives in Maui, Hawaii, has done a superb job on researching and rebuilding WW II fire fighting equipment. His study can be found on the web at <http://www.dodfire.com/History/History.htm> under the heading of WW II History.

One of our own Pioneer Fire Chief Bob Vreeland commanded the 2967<sup>th</sup> Engineering Aviation Fire Fighting Platoon that formed and trained at Camp Pontchartrain LA during WW II. The platoon was re-designated to the 2010<sup>th</sup> while at Oxford, England, Airfield Kingston Baguize on December 10, 1943. Bob's unit landed at Normandy, France, D+6, and battled their way through France and Belgium. Bob retired as a Captain in 1951 and 3 days later signed in as Command Chief of SAC Fire Protection. He served as Base Fire Chief MacDill AFB FL before retiring with over 30 years of fire service. Check out Bob's, Paul Odell's and many others' careers in Doug's book. Also check out <http://www.dodfire.com/History/Academy.htm> for history of Fire Schools. If readers are interested in early military history, they will not find much concerning the fire departments. Fire Chiefs prepared Fire Incident Reports AF form 278 (structural) and AF form 282 (aircraft) and Fire Journal Reports AF form 1528. Chief Fire Inspectors dealt with AF form 1487 and basically, that was it. Most forms did not require much writing. Mostly "X" the blocks and denote the "\$" signs. The comment space was about this long on the forms.



## Value of Accredited Training Programs

There are over 25,000 DoD firefighters in today's SAMS (soldiers-airmen-marines-sailors) Fire and Emergency services. This total includes military, civil service and contracted firefighters. The DoD Firefighter Certification System is managed by HQ AFCESA/CEXF, Tyndall AFB FL.

It wasn't until 1993 that the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accredited DoD fire training programs. In June 2003, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) also accredited DoD training courses. With both IFSAC and Pro Board accreditation, the DoD Firefighter Certification System is the largest accredited agency in the fire service.

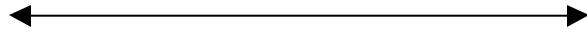
What does this mean to Firefighters today? Graduates of the accredited courses are issued certificates of accreditation allowing interchangeability with most states and fire training institutions. Additionally, accredited courses are granted college

credits. A SAMS firefighter completing DoD Fire Academy's 13 week Apprentice course, leaves with five certifications; Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Airport Firefighter, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. They also receive separate First Responder, and CPR certification. Advance course graduates earn specialized certificates.

Mr. Donald Warner, Chief of Air Force Fire & Emergency Services, will continue to monitor those few states that do not have an accredited training system and is therefore not interchangeable with the DoD Firefighter System. Interchangeable training is a major cost benefit to the DoD.

How many DoD firefighters prior to 1993 remember the difficulty they had to have their training recognized even within DoD, from one installation to another? I could paper the walls of my house with mine and still have some left over. Those that stayed past 1993 were grandfathered, based on past training, experience and position held.

I know that CWO-4 Lou Garland must be smiling, as I was during my visit to the Louis F. Garland DoD Fire Academy, about the quality of instruction and superb firefighter graduates of today. Chief Pat Jolicoeur - [CaptBligh31@aol.com](mailto:CaptBligh31@aol.com) and wife, Marina, have a grandson attending the academy about now for the basic course. I Hope they can make his graduation



## Retirements & Assignments

Congratulations to Chief Charles Peters - [cpeters@nsams.navy.mil](mailto:cpeters@nsams.navy.mil) on the eve of his retirement, February 1, 2004. "Pete" is a charter member and faithful supporter of our fire group. His retirement marks a distinguishing fire service career of 57+ continuous years in the military as well as civil service. First as an Air Force CMSgt and then as a Base Fire Chief for the Air Force and Navy. Hope that you and Betty enjoy many more years of happiness, especially since your open-heart surgery in September turned out well.

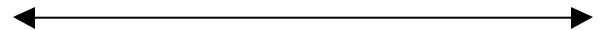


Congratulations to Deputy Chief Jimmy Watson on his retirement, October 20, 2003 at Hurlburt AFB FL. and wife, Jennifer - [a72vettegirl@hotmail.com](mailto:a72vettegirl@hotmail.com). Jimmy recently secured a contract position as Base Fire Chief in Iraq. Jimmy's email in Baghdad - [a61jimmiewatson@hotmail.com](mailto:a61jimmiewatson@hotmail.com) See Bits & Pieces story below.

CMSgt Randall Keen - [randall.keen@eglin.af.mil](mailto:randall.keen@eglin.af.mil) reported as the Eglin Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief, December 11, 2003. Chief Keen has been working as a Senior Enlisted Advisor/First Sergeant the past 8 years. His last

assignment was Hurlburt Base Civil Engineering Squadron's First Sergeant. Congratulations, upon returning to the fire service Randall. I know you will have fun and bring your management expertise to the Air Force's largest Fire Department. Seven fire stations and 240 personnel covering a 724 square mile reservation.

Congratulations to Deputy Fire Chief Mike Blakely as Jimmy Watson's replacement at Hurlburt AFB. Mike, a former Eglin AFB firefighter, had return rights following his civil service tour in Germany. The move worked perfectly.



## TAPS



No deaths reported for last 2 quarters. Thank you Lord

Mrs. Stanley J. Mateunas of San Antonio, TX notified Chief Joe Jarrell and I in October 2003 of her husband's death on April 2, 2003. She was not aware of our retired fire group until going through "Mattie's" personal papers found an article by Chief Jarrell in the July-September 2000 issue of QNN concerning her husband's military and fire service careers.

Mattie flew 37, B-24 Liberator, WW II combat missions over the European Continent as a command pilot. His "bird" was so severely damaged by enemy fire that an emergency landing at Manston Air Base, England was necessary instead of returning to his home base. At the end of WW II, downsizing action to stay in the Army Air Forces (AAF) took effect and *Major Mateunas became MSgt Mateunas* in the AAF Fire Protection Service.

Joe was stationed at Manston AB when MSgt Mateunas entered the Fire Station and announced that he was the new base fire chief. It seemed most appropriate that this

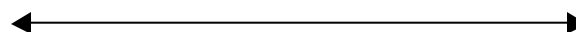
former bomber pilot that had crashed his aircraft on more than one occasion at Manston AB should return to this base. Chief Mateunas' exceptional devotion to duty, loyalty and professional skills were a credit to himself, his unit and the newly created United States Air Force.

After his discharge, he remained with the Air Force Reserves as a Major on flying status and joined civil service as a Fire Chief at K-8 Air Base, Korea. While at K-8 he was recalled to active duty by Presidential citation to pilot a modified B-26 against North Korea and their Chinese allies. Mattie retired in the rank of Lt Colonel, USAFR, and remained in civil service as a Fire Chief.

*I never had the pleasure of meeting Mattie, but did know of him by reputation as a good and fair Fire Chief. I served in Korea at K-10 during 1951-52 campaigns at the same time that Mattie was flying the B26. The blackbird B-26C "INVADER" and later model B-26K (a special counter-insurgency variant) were staged out of K-10 Air Base while I was stationed there as a Crash Fire Rescue (CFR) specialist. The Blackbird Aircrews were very hush-hush; they only flew night missions and stayed to their self, for the most part. I don't ever remember talking to any of them in the year I was at K-10. We provided airfield stand-by for take-offs and landings. Some of the aircraft had battle damaged when returning from North Korea missions, but they would fix them up to fly again. For you WW II types, this B-26 is not to be confused with the WW II B-26 Medium Bomber fame. This B-26 was a smaller sleeker night fighter version, reminiscent of an Attack Bomber with a three-man crew. The firepower was awesome, for back then, eighteen 12.7mm guns and up to 4,000 pounds of bombs. Six of the machine guns were fixed in the nose, eight under the wing/fuselage cheek pouches and two each in remotely controlled barbettes. I suspect then, LtCol Mateunas,*

*USAFR, was a pilot on one of these warrior aircraft. It would have been nice to have a chance encounter with "Mattie" while we were there in Korea. We could have traded some fire/war stories.*

*A copy of this QNN and future copies will be sent along with our condolences to Mrs. Barbara [Mateunas-katbabe41@yahoo.com](mailto:Mateunas-katbabe41@yahoo.com), as do other Chief's widows that receive the QNN. Chief Doug Courchene started this custom and I am proud to continue the tradition.*



### Sick Call

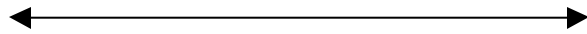
Chief Val Allen Jr., CWO, USAF Retired, Buda TX, is at home recuperating from open-heart surgery preformed at Wilford Hall. Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery will be with Val. Check DoDFIRE for updates.

Thanks to Chief Joe Jarrell - [firechief6736@yahoo.com](mailto:firechief6736@yahoo.com) and his son, "Mike", a retired Lackland fire Captain, for keeping Doug and I updated on Val's progress the past 6 months.

Chief Jarrell's wife, Ruth, is recovering from intestinal surgery requiring more than 40 days in the Austin General Hospital. Ruth received a doctor's pass on December 19, 2003 to rest at home until March 2004 when she will return for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the surgical procedure. Joe reports Ruth's spirits and condition have steadily improved from the time she arrived home for the Christmas Holidays and having her loving family around. I would like to add that Christ's Spirit is there, also. Joe, please do Doug and I a big favor and tell our "Texas connection" friends we appreciate their support so very much.

Also recuperating at home in Fort Walton Beach FL are Chiefs Bill Wilson and Glenn Cockerell - [gecockerell@cyberton.com](mailto:gecockerell@cyberton.com). Chief Guy Wills-[chiefwills@aol.com](mailto:chiefwills@aol.com) is back on chemo treatments but still working as the Ocean City-Wright District Fire Chief.

*Say a prayer for the Lord's gracious care and comfort during this time for these brave chiefs and their families. There is strength in numbers when one truly believes in Him.*



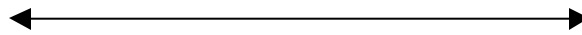
## Bits & Pieces

Chief Ken Spicknall - [KS4FIRE@aol.com](mailto:KS4FIRE@aol.com), has signed on with Texas A&M to teach their specialized firefighter courses on campus and their traveling team. He just completed on-site courses at Barksdale and Nellis Air Force Bases. Ken said that any retired chiefs with DoD IFSAC certificates for Officer IV, Instructor II, Inspector II, Hazmat Incident Commander may send their applications to Texas A&M for overseas contractor employment in Iraq and other Middle East and central Asia projects. Also email your resume to [scott.jordan@halliburton.com](mailto:scott.jordan@halliburton.com) for

consideration. For more information please call our Employment Hotline: 1.866.308.5239.

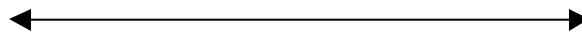
Chief Jeff Turkel- [jturk@gci.net](mailto:jturk@gci.net) has been asked, and has accepted the position as Chief of Fire Training at the Department of Defense Coalition Command working for the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior in Baghdad. The position is for one year-unaccompanied. Jeff says Janice & Anna will stay in Alaska. He will be working in Baghdad and areas throughout the country. His family covets your thoughts, and prayers. They are excited about the opportunities that lay ahead.

My Christmas present came a little early this year, a new computer being used for this QNN. It is nice with most of the bells & whistles; however, with different software and operating system, there is a new learning curve. Hope to get better soon, but if you have any problems in reading this format or receiving email please let me know. Should your email address change, I need to know hopefully before the change occurs. The editor's desire is to promote networking between active and retired chiefs.



Email addresses exists for 376 subscribers to the Retired AF Fire Chiefs-Quarterly Network Newsletter (QNN). Of these, 36 email were returned as "unknown or due to an error" during the last QNN mailing on 27 Dec 03. About 50% of these bad emails had military addresses and the other half were individual addresses.

An update solution is to use DoDFire <http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees/pioneers.htm> An electronic form is provided for updating or signing up for QNN which is free of charge. Small donations are accepted to defray operating and mailing cost for readers without computers. Please use this DoDFire link to update your profile for the Editor, Chief Bob Barrow!



Happy New Year to all the readers! May you be prosperous, healthy, and kept in the palm of God's hand during the coming year!

# GOODFELLOW MONITOR

Angelo, Texas

Vol. 45, No. 39 ★ Oct. 17, 2003

## Air Force's last chief warrant officer attends inaugural firefighter ball

★  
BY AMN BROK MCCARTHY  
*Public Affairs*

The last chief warrant officer to retire from the Air Force visited Goodfellow Oct. 11.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer Bob Barrow presided as grand marshal of the 2003 inaugural Firefighter Ball Oct. 11.

Mr. Barrow retired Oct. 9, 1992, after 42 years of working for the Department of Defense as a firefighter.

Mr. Barrow began his career in January 1950 at Fort George G. Meade, Md., as a civilian firefighter in the Army.

As the Korean War began to heat up, Mr. Barrow decided to become an active duty military member, he said. In 1951 he left for Air Force basic military training.

"I joined the Air Force, not to be a firefighter, but just to get in," said Mr. Barrow. "My first choice was to be an air crew member, but at the time they had a need for cooks and air police."

While at BMT, Mr. Barrow said he realized the base firehouse was just across the street from his barracks. He went to the firehouse, where he spoke to the fire chief and asked about becoming a firefighter.

*Retired Chief Warrant Officer Barrow speaks about his firefighter experiences Oct. 11 during the Firefighter Ball here.*

"(The fire chief) said he'll see what he could do," said Mr. Barrow. He returned to his barracks, where he received a phone call.

"I was told to report to the fire chief immediately," he said. He soon became a firefighter in the Air Force.

After four years as a firefighter, he separated from active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve.

As a reservist, Mr. Barrow earned the

rank of technical sergeant, and became a fire chief. He then met the two requirements to test for warrant officer: to hold the rank of staff sergeant or above and be in the highest position in his shop.

Although it took a year for Congress and the president to approve his promotion, Mr. Barrow became a junior grade warrant officer in June 1958.

In October of that year, the ranks of senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant were created to fill the superintendent positions.

The creation of the two ranks caused the warrant officer program to end and also made all warrant officers take on more responsibility, said Mr. Barrow. Warrant officers filled the positions normally reserved for officers up to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

During Operation Desert Storm, Mr. Barrow was relieved from his duties as a fire chief, and he became a chemical defense officer. He taught people how to properly wear chemical warfare suits and how to recognize chemicals in an accelerated course. Soon after his duties as a chemical defense officer were over, he retired as the last warrant officer.

"I had fun because they let me stay and be an officer," said Mr. Barrow, "and I did the job very well."