

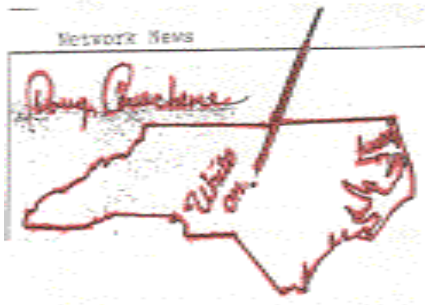


RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS'

QUARTERLY NETWORK
NEWSLETTER (QNN)

Oct - Dec 2004

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



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QNN Founder 1990

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“5 Fire Chiefs Laid to Rest in this Quarterly”



Fire Chief Fred Elkins, SMSgt, USAF (Retired)
(CMS Selectee)

October 8, 1929 - September 30, 2004



Last Alarm!

Mrs. Helga Elkins reported that her husband and my good friend Chief Fred Elkins answered his final alarm about 10:40 P.M. Thursday, September 30, 2004 in the Grand Strand Regional Medical Center following surgery for a double hernia repair. The family has requested cremation with a plan to intern his ashes in the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

His obituary read: Fred David Elkins, 74, husband of Helga Kruger Elkins of 50+ years, died Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004. He was born October 8, 1929 in Bedford, Ind., a son of the late Thomas Carl and Mabel Swank Elkins. He was also preceded in death by all of his brothers and sisters.

Chief Elkins retired after twenty years of service to his country as a Senior Master Sergeant in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War. He then retired again in 1990 after twenty years service

as Fire Chief with the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

Fred achieved success and lived well, he laughed often and loved much. He gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children. He left the world better than he found it. He never lacked the appreciation of beauty in all things. He looked for the best in others and gave the best he had. His memory is a benediction. Memorials may be made in the name of his beloved Yorkshire Terrier “Korky”, to Humane Society of the Grand Strand, 3241 10th Ave. N., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. An online guest book is available at <http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?Id=LS02672612X>.

Chief Elkins served as my Military Deputy Fire Chief, Pope Air Force Base in the 60s and accumulated a total of 40 years of dedicated service to his nation, community and others.... He enlisted in the Air Force Fire Department in 1948 and was shipped to Templehof Air Base, Germany in time to support the “Berlin Airlift” Operation caused by the Russian blockade of West Berlin. It was also where

Fred met Helga and carried on a world-wide courtship lasting almost two years before gaining Air Force permission to marry. In October 1949, then PFC Fred Elkins, AFSC 1383 FireFighter, later to be AFSC 95130 as a Corporal, transferred to Tulin AB, Langelebarn near Vienna, Austria. Assigned to the 7360th Base Complement Sq, at this hush-hush Base he developed lifelong friendship with locals and Base personnel. Once a friend was TSG Pete Semanick, Fire Chief psemanic@swcp.com, later civilian Fire Chief of Kirtland AFB. Fred’s friends from Tulin met annually in a reunion in Vienna or the USA. He last met with the Tulin AB Group in 2003. Fred loved reunions. He was the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs Group “Sergeant of Arms” at our “Pioneer Day” celebrations from 1967 in Memphis, TN to 2003 in Dallas, TX. No, Fire Chief could have wanted for a better friend or Military Deputy than Fred Elkins. On behalf of the USAF Fire Service our deepest heart felt condolences have been given to Helga and Family.

- Chief Bob Barrow, CWO4 USAF (Retired), Editor



Fire Chief Glen Cocherell, SMS
USAF Retired 1930 - July 31, 2004

Mrs. Esther Cocherell reported that her husband and my good friend Chief Glen Cocherell answered his final alarm at 2:30 P.M. Saturday, July 31, 2004 at his home while under hospice's care. He had battled cancer since November 1999 with some success, however, this past year the cancer spread throughout his body. The family has requested cremation with a plan to bury his ashes in Glen’s hometown of Bonaparte, Iowa. A Memorial Service was held at Fort Walton



Beach 1st Presbyterian Church on August 3, 2004. The Ocean City-Wright Fire Control District’s Honor Guard performed the Fallen FireFighter’s Last Rites. Chief Cocherell was Fire Chief of Hurlburt AFB at the time of his retirement in 1987. He served as my Military Deputy Fire Chief at Pope and Eglin Air Force Bases in the 60s & 70s and accumulated a total of 36 + years of dedicated service to his nation, community and others . - Chief Bob Barrow



Goodwin

WILLIAM ROBERT GOODWIN

Civil Service Fire Chief Retired William R. Goodwin, of Mexico Beach, Fla., born Sept 21, 1926, to the late Harry and Corrine Goodwin in Kansas City, Mo., passed away on July 22, 2004, after an extended illness. Bill was a career firefighter, rising through the ranks during his career to the status of fire chief at Richards Gebaur AFB, Mo., and Tyndall AFB, Fla. From 1982 to 1986, he was the fire services administrator and contract monitor at the new international airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He held the same position from 1989 to 1992 at

the new international airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. His life was devoted to helping his family and others. He served in the Merchant Marines and Marine Corps during World War II. Bill is preceded in death by his son, John Robert; sister, Joan; and Brother, Larry. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Lue of Mexico Beach, Fla.; and daughters, Karen Shoemaker and husband, Keith, of Jacksonville, Fla., and Cathy Bougan of Panama City. He has two granddaughters, Kristin Shoemaker and Kimber Bougan; two grandsons, Derek Bougan and Patrick Kelly and wife Christina; and great-granddaughter, Trinity Kelley. He is also survived by three sons in Kansas City, Mo., Kurt, David, and Jon Goodwin and their families. Surviving are four sisters: Sybil, Jackie, Sandra, and Sharon; and two brothers, L. E. Goodwin and Ron Goodwin and their families. Special thanks go to the staff of the Panama City Dialysis Center and especially to Dr. Minga and Dr. Rafai who were so kind and caring during Bill's last illness. The family wishes to thank the staff of MICU at Bay Medical Center which took such wonderful care of our loved one. A memorial honoring Bill is being planned and the exact day, date, and time will be announced in the Wednesday News Herald. Expressions of sympathy may be submitted and viewed at our online obituaries link at www.southerlandfamily.com.

LAST ALARM - SMSgt Thomas "Tommy" Williams, USAF Retired, age 79, died Tuesday September 21, 2004 in the Saint Mary's Hospital, Evansville, Indiana. Chief John Eliseo-Homesafe@best1.net- of the SAC Retired Firefighters Association was notified by Tommy's brother, Art- Williams-arw@seligsealing.com. Chief Williams enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and served aboard the destroyer, USS Lofberg (DD759). After WW II he joined the Air Force, rising through the ranks from a Firefighter to Fire

Chief as a Strategic Air Command military member. Following his retirement from the military service he served as Fire Chief of the A.L. Bowen Children's Center, Galatia, IL from 1966 to 1977. Tommy was known for his generous heart, infectious sense of humor and strong opinions. He will be missed by a loving wife of 54 years, Laura, a daughter, Geneil, 2 granddaughters, 3 brothers and 2 sisters. He was buried at the Webber Cemetery with full military honors.

LAST ALARM - Chief Valton "Val" Allen Jr. -
January 1921 – July 2004

He enter Active-Duty service October 13, 1939 and retired at Bergstrom AFB TX on January 7, 1972.

Chief Valton "Val" Allen Jr., Chief Warrant Officer-3 USAF (Ret) answered his Final Alarm at age 83. Val, a widower, was found dead inside his locked ranch home in Buda, Texas on July 15, 2004. A close friend, Mrs. Esther Stover, suspected something when there was no answer at his door. She called the Hays County Sheriff's

Department to conduct a search of the property. Upon forced entry into the home they found Val dead. He had a nasty concussion to his head from an apparent fall to the floor and appeared to have died there in the earlier part of the week. Chief Joseph Jarrell USAF (Ret) might have been the last to talk to Val on the phone, Monday, July 12th. Val had said that "he was feeling well and had just mowed the yard (ranch size) and was resting". Val had open-heart surgery October 13, 2003 at the USAF Williford Hall Medical Center-. He had been hospitalized several times in 2004, not heart related. Val joined the US Army Calvary, October 13, 1939. Entered the "Flying Sergeants" program at Carswell AFB in 1942 as a Master Sergeant; He was promoted to Flight Warrant W02 upon completion of flight training. Sent to Europe in time for the Normandy invasion as a glider pilot. Flew fix-wing & gliders during the Battle of the Bulge and was shot in the back (Purple Heart). While at Carswell he worked with the Post Fire Chief to organize and train Crash Fire Rescue crews. Assigned as a Crash Warrant W-3 after WW II. Helped in organization of the newly created US Air Force Fire Protection program in 1948. Organized and served as Commandant of the first USAFE Fire School, Erding, Germany and served as Commandant twice. Military retired in January 7, 1972 at Bergstrom AFB. Base Fire Chief Leslie L Heine hired Val as the civilian Deputy Fire Chief following his retirement. Val was a State of Texas A&M University Fire Service Instructor and a State of Texas Veterans Service Officer. He spent hundreds of hours training Texas Firefighters and accumulated more than 25,000 hours helping over 5,000 veterans receive their VA benefits. He was awarded the coveted "Texas Medal of Honor" for the outstanding volunteering and patriotic service rendered. Burial was at the Fort Sam Houston

National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas on Tuesday, July 20, 2004. Officiating the Full Military Honors ceremonies was Mr. Bob Galan, FSHNC Staff Officer. Mr. Robert Allen (son) preformed the eulogy. Fire Officers attending were Lackland AFB Fire Chief Jerry Ball, Retired Fire Chiefs Lennie Blau, Joe Jarrell, Dontato Jaso, Ronald Rainey and Fire Captain Mike Jarrell. Val's close friends attending were MSG Dale Marshal, Mrs. Diane Fowler and Mrs. Esther Stover. Chief Doug Courchene's book "Pioneers with Intent" has some good stories about Val's earlier service live. Two recent QNN publications have feature stories on Val: [QNN Jan-Mar 2003](#) and [QNN Apr-Jun 2002](#). These stories and others may be viewed on DoDFire Retirees and Pioneers link <http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees/pioneers.htm>. [My Tribute to Chief Val Allen, Jr.](#) Val's life touched many not only in Air Force Fire Protection, but beyond his profession is that of a public servant and humanitarian. Early in the newsletter publication, Jul-Sep 1990, Val wrote about the "QNN" newsletter, "The idea is well and good but, I'm up to my eyeballs representing the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, VFW, NCOA and VAVS Chairman. Doug, you are committed and not a procrastinator. Keep up the good work. Letter to Val from Nicholas A. Acosta, concerning his father, a deceased WW II veteran wrote Val and said "You will never know the happiness you brought to my family especially my mother by obtaining from the U. S. Army my father's WW II Bronze Star and Campaign ribbons." Another wrote: "Val, you have helped anyone struggling to survive like widows, widowers, students, disabled, active duty military, stroke and heart victims, paraplegics, Masons, and their dependents, the young as well as the old."

“A Last Alarm Poem” to Val Allen

It is with a sad and a heavy heart,
We bid a farewell today.
To one whose life has been well spent,

Protecting others from come what may.

Val was an early pioneer of sorts,
He roped and wrangled but with hose.
His noble steed a 500 or even an 0-10,
Or so the story goes.

Stern yet compassionate as he trained his young men,
To insure the job was done right.
They trained for that fire they one day might face,
Yet hoped they would not have to fight.

Training them all to be leaders themselves,
Instilling safety, hard work and desire.
Then seeing the young ones whose nostrils now flare,
When they first feel the heat of the fire.

Men like Val whose courage blazed a trail,
And whose footsteps we chose to follow.
Deserve our respect and honor that is due,
To give less would just seem so hollow.

Smoke like some memories was once fresh in our minds,
As we recall some deeds that were done.
Some memories have now faded like shadows on the wall,
While still others burn bright as the sun.
Memories of friends we keep close to our hearts,
Names spoken often and in love.
Never really leaves us at all don't you see,
They watch over us all from above.

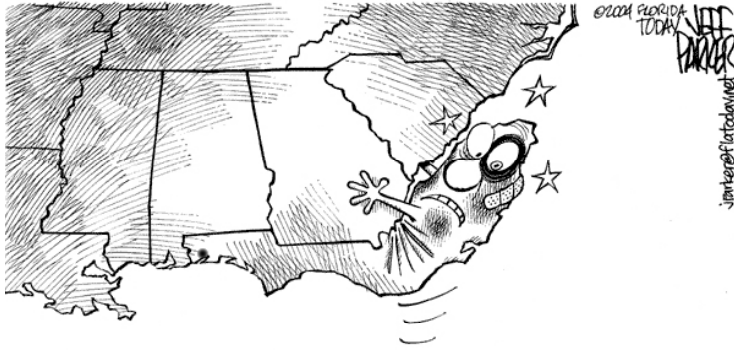
Someone once said, "There are no firefighters down there",
They're God's chosen and of this there's no doubt.
If ever there were any sent into the flames,
They'd just try to put the thing out!

In time honored tradition we now say God-speed,
For a brother, a comrade and friend.
"Val" Allen has now answered his last alarm,
Yet his memory shall endure to the end.

© 20 July 2004 Michael W. Jarrell Capt. (Ret.)
Lackland AFB Fire Dept Jan 77-Dec 01
fire_plug_1@yahoo.com

Editor's summary: Thanks to everyone for their patience and networking. Hope you and your families are surviving. Especially those affected by the storms and/or loss of a love one. The loss of my dear friends has been the hardest for me. God bless you & God Bless America. Sincerely, Bob B.

September 15-16, 2004



Florida Sentiments Exactly - After 4 Hurricanes Back to Back. Your prayers very much appreciated - Bob in Ft Walton Bch.

Hurricane Ivan roared passed my home for 12 hours with my family batten down inside. The family survived without power, telephone, TV, and internet for 5 days. Home is still structurally sound, but needs a lot of fixing. Repaired and re-shingle roof, replaced central air handler inside/outside unit. Now painting and carpeting the inside of home due to water (not Flood) damage. The home is now livable and getting back to normal thanks to the help of friends, prayers and lots of networking. Family appreciated the emails and phone call expressing their concern for our safety. Ivan was the biggest storm in my 34 years along the Northwest Florida coastline of the Gulf of Mexico. Our prayers are with those in

South/Central Florida and the neighbors North and West of us. Ivan impacted so many.

STAMP FUND CONTRIBUTORS: Chief Ted Endy-chief@borg.com- and wife, Kiyoko, enjoy reading the QNN about all the places and people they knew. Editor's comment: Thanks Ted and Kiyoko for your donation to the "stamp fund" really came in handy, as the kitty is low. With almost 500 members now subscribing FREE, their should be more Chief Endy's donation in 90 days. In a perfect world should everyone donate a few bucks at least once annually their would be plenty for the QNN operation and a little extra for an emergency and our Pioneer Day Reunion. *The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. Most members have good intentions to feed the kitty, but like the Editor who is getting older and some forgets the last time they send the kitty anything. There have been 12 contributors in 2004, 36 in 2003 and 39 in 2002. That is a grand total of 87 donations in almost 3 years or less then 20% of the members paying for the other 80%. Kitty does not need much, but cost of stamps, printing ink/paper and publishing cost add up to about \$100+ each quarter. That does count for my time or my equipment which is FREE. I actually enjoy what I am doing. Especially the interfacing with others. Donations are most appreciated, however; it is hard to operate when not appreciated. Address checks: Bob Barrow, 126 Clements St NE, Ft Walton Bch, FL 32548. Thanks, Bob*



SICK CALL

-PRAYERS URGENTLY NEEDED-



Chief Don Smith-donchief@swbell.net- some of you may know that a couple of weeks ago I was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. It is an aggressive cancer, and they have now also found it in my liver. My oncologist is Dr. Becerra at UT Southwest in Dallas. He was my "second opinion" doctor, and the only one who has been positive and given me any hope. I will be going to Dallas next week to get set up for all the chemo and radiation treatment. I am trying to keep positive and will put up a good fight, with the help of Gwyneth and all my family. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Don and Gwyneth Smith. Editor's comment: Come on Chiefs, know that you know "PoP = Power of Prayer".

Chief Bill Chilson, SSG USAF Retired was hospitalized October 5, 2004 with heart problems. His last attack about 1989 resulted in a heart-by pass. Bill retired from the Air Force at Selfridge AFB in December 1964 and had served at Kelley AFB, TX and K-10 Korea during the conflict 1952-53 with yours truly. Get well cards can be sent to his home at, 41254 Fieldview Dr., Sterling Hgts., Michigan 48313. Thanks to Chief Joe Farrell-firechief6736@yahoo.com- who severed with Bill in the Selfridge Fire Department and both WW II veterans retired on the very same day. Prayers are needed for Bill and his family.



Castle AFB 1963 Fire Prevention Week Campaign Results Best In The Air Force. Photo below, courtesy of Chief Ed Sams-rosened2@concentric.net- then Chief of Technical Services. Also pictured, Chief Glen Mullins, Fire Chief. Chief Ed Sams went on to be Chief of Fire Protection of the Alaskan Air Command and finally Fire Chief of the Edwards AFB

Complex/Air Flight Test Center before retiring. Chief Sams still looks back fondly upon his years with Chief Mullins as some of the best of his distinguished career. Appreciate so much what Ed has done for the QNN publication. Please give "Rosie" our love. Rosie and you are in our prayers in your latest battle against old age with a worn out heart, osteoporosis, and compressed vertebrae. That alone would indicate that you have probably slow down a little. Your latest report of severe diverticulitis and pain associated with that condition will test your remaining endurance and patience. Thanks for reminding me that October 3 - 9, 2004 is time for everyone to check their fire/smoke/Carbon Monoxide alarm detectors and change batteries as necessary. Also, an opportunity to offer best wishes to all DoD Fire and Emergency Services for a successful 2004 Fire Prevention Week activities.

Any one interested in Crash Fire Rescue Truck Reproductions, read on and let the QNN Editor know. I own an advertising agency in Greenwood, Mississippi and am in the process of completing the fourth of a series of limited edition crash truck prints. These are all original illustrations with one or more action photos along with text covering the specs on the vehicles. I originally was commissioned to do these as part of a project for the city of Greenville, Mississippi. They retained my firm to design and build an exhibit about Greenville AFB. As you may remember, for a period in the 1960s, GAFB was the official fire school. I have in my collection, a number of photos which we obtained after the exhibit was finished. I produced three illustrations for the exhibit, including an O-10, O-11A and a P-2. I recently completed a Chevy 110 series. I am attaching a

reduced quality image of the O-10 print. Give your QNN Editor your thoughts on this and if you think there is a market for these items. I am contemplating an O-6 as my next project. Best regards, Allan Hammons-<mailto:allan@hammons.com>



U.S. Army Air Corps - Class 110 - High Pressure CO2 Aircraft Crash Fire Truck
 Manufactured by Chevrolet during World War II



November 11, 1944 - A B-24A noses up after a single gear landing at Greenwood Army Air Field, Mississippi. The field's crash crew responded with Class 110 and 135 trucks. During a formation takeoff at an auxiliary field, the aircraft struck a tractor killing the driver.

The class 110 was mounted on a 4X4, 1-1/2 ton chassis. Gross weight was about 10,000 pounds when loaded with 250 gallons of water and equipment. With its two handlines operating, the water volume was 100 gpm., maximum pump pressure 100 psi. The truck was equipped with either a rotary or single centrifugal mid-mounted pump; pressure gauge and throttle were located at the side of the vehicle.

Equipment for the "110" included six 50 pound CO2 cylinders, four of which are mounted on the truck, and two kept in reserve. Other fixtures included a carbon dioxide discharge horn, 100 feet of 1/2 inch rubber-covered hose for the CO2 handlines, two 100 foot 1-1/2 inch cotton rubber-lined fire hoses, two 1-1/2 inch foam producing nozzles and a miscellaneous assortment of other equipment.



Type O-10 Aircraft Fire Fighting Truck
 Manufactured by American LaFrance in 1952 - 1953



The O-10 had a primary extinguishing agent capacity of 600 gallons of water-foam, and a secondary agent capacity of 20 gallons of chlorobromomethane (CB). The truck chassis was a 6X6 cab-forward design powered by a main engine of 225 HP, while the fire pump, 300 GPM capacity, is independently powered by a four cylinder air-cooled 110 HP engine. This combination enabled the truck to traverse rough terrain at relatively high speeds and provided the capability to start fire extinguishing operations immediately upon reaching the fire scene. It required a crew of four fire fighters for maximum capability although the vehicle and its primary agent system can be employed effectively by a single fire fighter

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