
	<p><b>RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS' QUARTERLY NETWORK NEWSLETTER APRIL-JUNE 2002</b></p>	
	<p>Bob Barrow, Editor "<a href="mailto:chief.one@cox.net">mailto:chief.one@cox.net</a>" Associate Editors Gus Hunter "<a href="mailto:dandahunter@aol.com">mailto:dandahunter@aol.com</a>" &amp; Douglas Courchene "<a href="mailto:dougecourchene@aol.com">mailto:dougecourchene@aol.com</a>" <a href="http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm">http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm</a></p>	

**WHAT'S IN A NAME!** I believe our group is named about right "THE RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS". Each member has served as an Air Force Fire Chief. There is an "Active Division" for those Chiefs that have retired and continue to serve in some other area of the Fire Service. Of those still on active-duty, many are serving World Wide on the front lines of our nation's defense. The Quarterly Network Newsletter (QNN) denotes the main theme "Networking-Helping One Another". Many Chiefs have written, expressing their appreciation to Doug Courchene, our founder, on the historical value and significant accomplishment in holding this group together the past 11 years. **MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

**Chief Jim Goodbread-** "<mailto:jamesgoodbread@earthlink.net>" -wrote: I am thrilled that there is a way to keep a historically closeknit group of people together. If, I can be of any help please let me know. **THE IMPACT "DOUG" HAS HAD ON THE HISTORICAL VALUE OF AIR FORCE FIRE PROTECTION IS YET TO BE DETERMINED.**

**Chief Bruce T. Sincox-** "<mailto:SincoxBT@state.gov>" -Fire Protection Specialist, U.S. State Department wrote: "Doug" is a true Fire Protection Pioneer (joined Fire Service in 1946) he has done it all. I am happy to see this group is sticking together. The I.D. card is a great form of identification. Please stay in touch. *EDITOR'S note: Thanks Jim and Bruce and to the other Chiefs and the Chiefs' widows that wrote of a personal friendship they have had with Doug.*

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**QNN STAMP FUND CONTRIBUTORS:** Chief Doug Courchene forwarded \$544.37 Stamp Fund in his possession as of 31 December 2001, plus his fifteen bucks towards the New Year. Other generous contributors for this quarter are: Chief Dan Nevins & Mary Nevins- Ms. Iris McWhirter (Chief Frank Joseph's widow)- Chief Art Hill- Chief Ben Partin- "<mailto:Bpartin@erols.com>" - Chief Charlie Richardson- "<mailto:clardb@n-jcenter.com>" - Chief Sandy Sanchez- "<mailto:bigfiredog@att.net>" - Chief Richard Zelonis- Chief Fred Elkins - "<mailto:Felkins26@aol.com>" - Chief Jim Deal- Chief Ed Sams - "<mailto:rosened2@concentric.net>" - Chief Gene Courtemanche- "<mailto:Genecourt@webtv.net>" - Chief Hugh B. Akers - "<mailto:hbakers@knology.net>" - Chief Roy D. Johnson- "<mailto:Smokie@amigo.net>" - Chief Frank Denny- Chief Bob Remel- Chief Jimmie Watson- "<mailto:jimmie.Watson@hurlburt.af.mil>" - Chief Larry Adams - "<mailto:lwadams3@prodigy.net>" - Chief Don Smith-

["mailto:Donchief@swbell.net"](mailto:Donchief@swbell.net) - Chief Stephen Mook- Chief Curtis Dunn-Chief Irvin R. Brown-Chief Leo McCarty-Chief Joe Jarrell and Jim O'Regan-  
["mailto:Joregan657@aol.com"](mailto:Joregan657@aol.com) . *EDITOR's note: Thanks everyone for this needed support. Publishing and postal services do cost; I will strive to meet Doug's standards. Thanks Doug for the mentoring. Also, thanks to the Chiefs for including the cost of their I.D. cards. The I.D.s have been mailed and hope you are happy with them. If not let me know.* \*\*\*\*\*

**NYC Fire Chief Peter J. Ganci Jr** who made the ultimate sacrifice when the 2nd WTC Tower collapsed 9-11-2001 has been honored by the Air Force, by using his name to designate an in-theater deployed site in Kyrgyzstan. This high Air Mobility Transport airfield supporting "Operation Enduring Freedom" was named The Peter J. Ganci Air Base on 3-14-02. Since 9-11 people are more appreciative than ever of the risk and heroism FFs display every day on the job. Fire Departments everywhere are essential to our "HomeLand Defense" terrorist countermeasures. We salute all FFs for the professionalism they have displayed in saving lives and reducing resource impact damage...

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**MORE MEMBER COMMENTS:** Chief Ed Sams, Retired Edwards AFB Fire Chief ["mailto:rosened2@concentric.net"](mailto:rosened2@concentric.net) -wrote: Hi Doug - You have done a terrific job of editing and publishing the newsletter over the past years. I am afraid I have not done much to contribute to the Retired Fire Chiefs during that time. Once retired, my life became so enmeshed with other activities, that my fire service days were largely overlooked. Now, 25 years later, I have exceeded the anticipated actuarial tables for "old firefighters" and only the Lord is keeping me going to finish the projects on my agenda. I notice that many of the names of my contemporaries are missing and one of these days I will go to join them. Remember that I was a Johnny-come-lately, having served seventeen years with the Marine Corps fire department at Camp Pendleton before going to Castle AFB as Assistant Chief with Chief Glenn Mullins. For me, Glenn was the best, but after seven years with him, I had to move on to Alaskan Air Command. It was a sad day for me when I delivered Glenn's eulogy in the early nineties. Most of my time the last three years has been writing two church history books--one a 60-year anniversary book and the other, a 40th anniversary book. Not sure which was the most difficult. The 60th was a large church (ministers to 20,000 parishioners each week with 15 pastors) in which I was a charter member and had been a member for the sixty years. The other was a small church here in Yreka (ministers to about 100 each week with one pastor) and we have been here four years. Since finishing the last book in November, I haven't done much. Our motorhome mostly sits in the back yard, exposed to the environment. I still keep it insured, licensed, fueled, and polished, w/a Good Sam sticker and Emergency Road Service. Just like an O-11A at Edwards AFB. But Rosie is sure that we will get out there on some southwest desert highway and I will have a heart attack and she will have to drive that big old thing. Well, after nearly 62 years with her, she probably knows best. Thanks, again Doug, for your dedication and service and may Evelyn and you enjoy the New Year. *EDITOR's note: Never met Ed, but I feel I know him and have really enjoyed conversing via the WEB. You were at Edwards when I was selected Eglin AFB Fire Chief, 9 Oct 1970. Both bases were under the Air*

**Force Systems Command (AFSC) and telephone conversing was via the AUTOVON, then. Hope you and Rosie get back on that SuperSlab real soon. Remember, keep the shiny side up and your nose between the ditches or you'll have the dirty side up and that's not good.**

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QNN Format: email addresses are used when possible, to promote "Networking" with one another. Contact the Editor if more detail info is needed. Constructive comment/suggestion on the QNN format are welcomed.

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**Chief Gus Hunter, Retired HQ SAC Fire Protection-**

**"mailto:dandahunter@aol.com" - wrote: Doug good to see you relaxing and turning it over to the younger troops. I promised you that I would contribute something for a change. I tried to think...and suddenly realized that I had been "out" of the inner circle for over 12 years. Doug's newsletter enabled me to keep abreast of where and how us "old folks" are doing, but I have been a bit distant from what the "active fire guys" are putting up with these days, pre 9-11 and post 9-11. If there was some way to encourage Headquarters to enlighten us through the retiree's newsletter, wouldn't that be great. EXAMPLE: We hear about the budget squeeze in the Armed Forces, but I would relish in knowing how it has affected our Air Force FireFighters. Just what is the manning situation now? Are other commitments tapping our bases? How many are authorized per major crash truck? How low can manning go before we curtail the flying operation? Is there anyone left in Tech Services or is it Fire Prevention, again? How many bodies on a first-out structural pumper? What is the FFs and Staffs workweek and how many hours? Twelve years ago when I departed P-15s and P-2s were the biggies supplemented by converted F-6 tankers for aircraft crash fire rescue. AFFF was our prime extinguishing agent, with CB/HALON backup. What are we using today? Live fire drills, aircrew extractions during rescue exercises and of course structural drills were required for each FF. Presumably, those are still being accomplished. It would be very interesting to have an update on the best firefighting organization in the military and probably the whole world. Of course I am not looking for any classified info... Also, as an "old engineer" any new fire suppression system for hangars, telecommunications, high value storage, etc would be most interesting. Guess I've just been "out of touch" to long, that does not mean I'm not interested in the problems our Forces are facing and handling today. Perhaps if we're better informed, we old fellers could bring to bear some pressure on our congressional representatives to help overcome any difficulties our people are facing today. Would appreciate hearing from any of the Chiefs, active and retired on suggestions as to how the Retired Chiefs could help and how we might get updated. Of course I'm assuming other "retirees" feel the way I do. *EDITOR's note: Gus, I know many Retired Chiefs have many of the same feelings. I am fortunate to still live close enough to Eglin, Hurlburt and Tyndall to visit their Fire Departments. They invite local Chiefs to many of their training exercises and staff briefings, plus they are always willing to bring us up to date on unclassified or non- sensitive items. In turn we invite them to our Retiree functions. There are 60 retired FFs in this area that meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat for breakfast and fellowshiping. It is always interesting and approximately 10 Active Duty Chiefs and at least that many wives attend. The best update I have had in a while was at Dallas 2000 Pioneer Day, held in conjunction with the Air Force WorldWide Fire Protection Conference. Air Force Headquarters and MAJCOMs welcomed Pioneers to sit in on there workshops, which I found by using their schedule to be every informative. All 52 Retired Fire Chiefs left Dallas pumped-up and ready to reenlist for another hitch. There are 32 in the group photo with their names***

*included in this QNN issue. Most of the Retired Chiefs would like an invite to the Fire-Rescue International 2002 at Kansas City, MO in August 2002. Even if it was on a limited basis, like a good senior room rate...*

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**Director's Message, Ramey AFB Historical Association - Fire Chief Joe Cherniga**  
"mailto:JOESKIPP@aol.com" wrote from the former Ramey AFB, now the Rafael Henandez Inter'l Airport for San Juan, PR on 3-4-02. Joe was assigned there as a young FF, Dec 59 to Jun 63. He remembers this as one of the most rewarding assignments in his long Air Force career. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism for actions taken in a major fuel storage tank farm fire while at Ramey. While serving as a Fire Inspector, I helped with the Annual NFPA/8th AF/SAC Fire Protection Competition for Major Installations in 1960. That year Ramey had a clean sweep of the 1st Place Award in all three categories. I believe this achievement still stands as the most Top awards for a major installation in a given year... I served with Chief Hugh Swift, "mailto:HUDON@bitstreet.com" and some of the best hardest workers I had the honor to know. Anyone interested in more information on the association can contact me. I know that CMS Raplh Sanborn and CMS Leroy Osbourne were at Ramey later and I would be most interested in corresponding with them or any former Ramey alumni. We meet once a year at Ramey for our reunion. Call Joe @ (850) 862 3370\*\*\*\*\*

**MORE CONTRIBUTORS COMMENTS:** Chief Art Hill Jr, 1000 E. Tangerine Ave, Lompoc, CA 93436-3556 (no email). Bennie and I are doing well. We just returned from a 7day cruise and enjoyed it very much. Wishing everyone continued health and happiness in 2002. Jim O'Regan received an Honorary I.D. card, number H-1. Jim said he was most honored to be included with the USAF greatest. He served in the Army Air Corp 1943 – 1945. After getting his “Ruptured Duck”, he worked with Rockwood International Government Division. Jim and several of the engineers formed FEECON, when Rockwood cut back. A wonderful association with Air Force Fire Protection developing fire systems was a highlight enjoyed by FEECON. Chief Jim Deal, 3795 Knoll Lane #1, Colorado Springs, CO 80917 (no email) Liked the I.D. card concept and I need to thank Chief Sandy Sanchez- "mailto:bigfiredog@att.net" -for tipping me off. Congratulations, Bob on the new position as “EDITOR”! I know you will do a good job. If you need any snow, I can accommodate Nan and you a couple of buckets full. I remember how you two loved snow (a private joke) at Memphis in 1967. Ms. Iris McWhirter, 4600 I8 Avenue N. St Petersburg, FL 33713 (no email). Thank you for taking over the Editor's position for the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs newsletter. We need you. Know that Doug appreciates your expertise and past assistance. I enjoy your style of writing, for sure and request that you keep me on the mail list. Nan and you are invited to call me next time you are in the Tampa Bay area to set up a visit. Sincerely, Iris McWhirter. Chief Gene Courtemanche- "mailto:Genecourt@webtv.net" - Thanks, Bob for keeping me posted on this fine publication and thanks for assuming the duties. I'm here if you need help. Chief Hugh B. Akers- "mailto:hbakers@knology.net" -Chief Bob, my I.D. card looks good. Chief George Godward and I were at the Fire School together 1967 – 1969 and he was a dear friend of mine for many years, EDITOR's

*note: See TAPS section.* Chief Sandy Sanchez- "<mailto:bigfiredog@att.net>" - Bob, congratulations are in order for accepting the challenge. Maureen and I have decided to join the computer world. During our 'SENIOR' years, of course being more mature, we thought we might be able to handle the frustration that comes with the electronic era. (HA! HA!) Chief Charlie Richardson, Jr- "<mailto:clardb@n-jcenter.com>" - the I. D. card looks great. I see the digitized photo I emailed worked out good. Please let me know when help is needed. Chief Ed Sams - - can you use this photo transmitted by email? Should I have a copy of the photo made of the appropriate size and send that to you? Let me know the details. If there is anything else you need to know, please let me know. *EDITOR's note: Dear Ed your email photo will work great. Size is not important since the computer will size and paste the photo onto the I.D.* Chief Fred Elkins - "<mailto:Felkins26@aol.com>" - Congratulations Bob. As our new EDITOR let me know of any way I can help. Enclosed, something for the "Stamp Fund" and cost of my I.D., which I think, is great idea. Chief Ben Partin- <mailto:Bpartin@erols.com> Good start Bob. I just sent you some \$ for stamps & ID. Anything I can do let me know. *EDITOR's note: the offer of help and \$ much appreciated. I am very fortunate to be able to carry on the job that Doug created to keep the Retired Chiefs in touch with each other. We all owe Doug a vote of thanks!*

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**EDITOR WRITES: Chief Val Allen, CWO USAF Retired**, 12503 Eagle Nest Dr, Buda, TX 78610-2445 (no email). WoW what a walking history book Val is... Enlisted October 13, 1939, Army Calvary and transferred to the Army Air Corp when WW II broke-out. MSGT by 1942 and selected for the "Flying Sergeants" Flight Training Program. Call went out via Carswell Daily Bulletin.. for a senior NCO at the Post Fire Station. Since, Val was waiting on a Flight Class to open and was filling in at Flight Ops, he walked over to the Post Fire Chief's Office (next door). The Chief was having problems with "8 ball" assignees. A rough mixture of misfits that never held the end of a 2 ½ inch fully charged playpipe. Val whipped the misfits into a well organized fire crew in record time and in the process found a love for Fire Protection. While working temporarily for the Fire Chief, the Flight Program was up graded to Flight Warrant Officers and Val got his Blue and Gold Flight Warrant Officer bars for Chief Warrant Officer W-2, the top rank back then. It was not until near the end of WW II that four WO grades of WOJG W-1 and CWO W-2. W-3 and W-4 were considered. CWO Val Allen spent most of his time as a Crash Fire Rescue Officer and Assistant Base Fire Marshal, responsible for Airfield Field Fire Protection until his Superintendent AFSC 95X00, later changed to AFSC 57X00, was given to the new SuperSergeant E-8 and E-9. Fire Protection CWOs Val, Tony Bamer, our good friend Lou Garland and I had to scramble to find Officers AFSC jobs between O-1 to O-5. This in effect drove many WOs out of the service. When that happens, their ManPower position became an Officers position, not additional manning for the E-8s and E-9s. Air Force still dances around this issue when pinned down "why doesn't AF have

WOs like the other Services W-1 to W-5 (W-5 was added in 1992)”?

**EDITORS comment:** The real answer is the Air Force is not willing to decrease their Officers Corp to make room for WOs. Val and Tony both took an early out to pursue other interest. Val accepted a Civil Service position as Deputy Fire Chief at Bergstrom AFB working with his good friend Base Fire Chief Leslie L. Hiene. Lou Garland went on to be the SchoolMaster for the Air Force Fire School. Under Lou’s long tutelage many new and improved courses were added and a unified DoD Fire School was established. For me, after being forced out of Fire Protection, I found slots in Safety and Disaster Preparedness, until a loophole was found, that stated I was improperly forced out of Fire in 1959. I should have been given an AFSC 55X0 “Staff Civil Engineer” as a Fire Protection Engineer, which I kept until retirement in November 1992. This helped in making me the last of the Air Force WOs to serve on Active or Reserve Duty. I know of a lot folks that have won bets on this fact and it was a question on the Senior NCO Academy students’ exam. That is enough history for now. Val is enjoying life on the range and still getting together with his buddies like Chiefs Glenn Cloud and Joe Jarrell. His son is a computer guru and I am hoping he will email a “mug shot” and some pictures of Val with the Kids and Grand Kids. Thanks for the past mentoring Val and I’m ready for further instructions... Chief Doug Couchene said it best “when we were in the military- ASAP was a way of life for most of us”.

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**SICK CALL:** Chief Richard Zelonis "<mailto:razelonis@msn.com>" 3527 Broadway Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109. Richard is now at home recuperating from a stroke that rushed him to the Cleveland Medical Center approximately 2 weeks before Christmas. He sounded good (speech) over the telephone, said he was doing well with (PT) and was regaining most of the lost functions. Wanted to let Doug Courchene know that he was doing much better. Also, thanks to his good friends Chief Wally Armstrong and Chief Larry Lowman for checking in on him. I am sure cards will be appreciated at this time from all of Richard's friends. Chief Guy J. Wills Jr <mailto:chiefwills@aol.com> local doctors have found liver cancer that will required extensive treatment. Guy will have treatment at Tampa’s Moffitt Cancer Center in early April . Cards and prayers will be appreciated. Guy had just completed 3 years cancer free from a previous surgery while working full time as Ocean City-Wright Fire District Chief. \*\*\*\*\*

### **9-11 TERRORIST Bring Out The Best in America’s FIREFIGHTERS**

Mayor Rudy Giuliani said: “Our NYC FireFighters helped save more than 25,000 lives on September 11, 2001- the greatest single rescue mission in America’s History”. “They knew what they were up against” said Giuliani “but they went into the World Trade Centers anyway. That’s what Heroes do”. 343 FireFighters perished there doing their dangerous job. From the oldest veteran (First Deputy Commissioner William Feehan, was 72 years old with the department 42 years) to the youngest rookies like 23 year old

**FF Christopher Santora. Winston Church paraphrased it best concerning Heroic efforts of this magnitude- "the few have given so much for so many". Yes, it was the FireFighters, those valiant warriors on a flame-filled vertical battlefield who took up the mantle that legends are made of. An estimated 3,000 civilian lives were lost that day, in addition to 60 Police Officer, 34 Port Authority Officers and 2 Fire Department Paramedics. *EDITOR condensed this recent FDNY report.* Retired Lt. Colonel Tony Kern, USAF, an Air Force Academy professor is on target with his historical view of 9-11. Complacent America is in it for a very long run. Who would have ever thought about taking everything American made to destroy our own twin towers and impacting the Pentagon. These terrorists are smart. A smart arsonist will use what's on site to destroy a building. He'll not take anything to the building to destroy it. He uses what's already there. The terrorists brought simply knives; everything else was provided and used for maximum destruction. I hope we don't let our guard down anytime soon. Everyone I've talked to in the past few days has shared a common frustration, saying in one form or another "I just wish I could do something!" You are already doing it. Just keep faith in America, and continue to support your President and our military, and the outcome is certain. If we fail to do so, the outcome is equally certain. God Bless America and our 1st Responders,**



TAPS:

**Chief George E. Godward** had his Final Alarm May 18, 2001 due to a heart attack. Wife Irene - "<mailto:petzez@mail.com>" - wrote of her husband's passing January 7, 2002 when she returned the QNN and asked that no more mail be sent to their address. George spent many years at the Fire SchoolHouse teaching advance courses. While Eglin Fire Chief, your EDITOR attended Chief Godward's Technical Service Course as his student in 1974 at Chanute AFB. I was very pleased with his course of instructions. Know many of the Chiefs knew George personally. George was at the DALLAS 2000 Pioneer Day and had his picture in this group photo taken that day. Please note the asterisk by his name and the name of **Chief Douglas McMurphy** (CMS McMurphy answered his Final Alarm this past summer, see QNN Jul-Sep Issue). Ms. Cheryl R. Dillion, PO Box 2002, Acworth, GA 30102 wrote that **Chief Paul Dillon** was taken 30 July 2001 due to liver cancer and that he is saluting the "Biggest Chief Of ALL" aboard that big Harley that he loved to ride...Cheryl stated "God Bless the Chiefs and continued success in our efforts and that it was a pleasure to receive the Retired Fire Chiefs Quarterly". She knew how proud Paul had been to be part of the Air Force Fire Service. Chief Doug Courchene made this comment concerning these three comrades "it has been said that life is a grindstone, and whether it grinds a man down or polishes him up depends on the "stuff" he's made of. **George, Paul and Murph were made of good stuff**".

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The Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs' membership is a widely diverse talented group of men and women as I have ever had the pleasure to serve. Editor for this group is a real perk. Although, I have never met many of you face to face, I feel I do know you from the many letters, emails and calls received in the past 3 months. The FIREFIGHTER BROTHERHOOD is alive and well in our group. We are made up of the young & the old, the active & the retired and from many different backgrounds. The common thread is your interest in bettering the Fire Service and preserving it's rich history. **Bob Barrow**

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**The Air Force Fire Chief Donald Warner** "<mailto:Donald.warner@tyndall.af.mil>" I'm happy to report that the AF fire and emergency services program is in excellent health. AF fire fighters are scattered throughout the free, and not so free, world protecting lives and property. Sometimes I marvel at the things our people are capable of. I honestly don't think there's anything they can't do. Air Force fire fighters are, without any doubt in my mind, the best of the best. And, they are better now than at any time in our history. They're smarter, better trained, better



equipped, and more professional than any other fire fighters in the world. I am extremely proud of them and I am honored to be associated with them. I am thankful to God that he has given me the opportunity and high honor to represent Air Force fire fighters!

The capability we have today did not happen overnight or in a few years. It started even prior to the existence of the AF by a few people that later came into the Air Force. From what I understand, the fire service really wasn't supported until the AF was born. With the concern for aircrew safety and the frequent aircraft fires and incidents, the leadership was very interested in having a highly capable fire service. This interest still exists today. Much of the capability we have today was borne decades ago. AF fire fighters have always led the world in aircraft fire protection and today we see much of this work reflected in national consensus standards that the entire world uses as their standards. The readers of this newsletter can be very proud of your accomplishments and you should stand up and take credit of much of it. You made a difference and we are in your debt. I will make sure that our young, bright fire fighters understand that they are an Air Force fire fighter, because of the path you cut and by the Grace of God.

When I came in the AF in 1965, I arrived at Pope AFB, NC just a couple of months after the first P-2s had arrived. They were 1964 models and I believe the numbers were 64L-411 and 64L-412. Along with the P-2s we had two 1953 model 0-11s. Two were needed in hopes that one would start. We also had two P-6s, and a homemade runway foamer, later called an F-7. A 1958 model 0-6 Cardox that I saw dumped twice in the fire station and a 1954 model R-2 rescue truck that we didn't really use very much because we didn't have a dedicated rescue crew at the time – that came along in the late 60s/early 70s. The R-2 would get up to about 35 miles per hour downhill – it was a sorry excuse for a fire truck. For pumpers, we had a 1953 model 530-B which was indestructible. The 530-B was the first run pumper because people could actually drive and operate it. We also had the ugliest fire truck ever built – the 750-A pumper. The 750-A was a good pumper but it was a bear to drive. The manual transmission, lack of power steering, cab-over design where the driver sat forward of the front wheels, made the vehicle a real challenge. I still have scars on my knuckles from trying to shift it. There weren't many people that were good 750-A pumper drivers...there were a few. Ironically, the 750-A (in 1953) provided our first fully enclosed cab pumper – but we didn't know what to do with it. It came without a tailboard and that should have been a hint. But the Chief didn't get it and sent the truck to the welding shop and had a tailboard welded on for people to stand on. I don't ever recall anyone riding in the back seat of the cab. Almost 50 years after the 750-A, we're trying to get fully enclosed cabs for everyone. Funny how things like that happen, isn't it?

I hope you've enjoyed this little bit of history and trip down memory lane. I'd like to see more like this from our very early members – those that served in the 40s and 50s. Don

**Editor's comment: Thanks Don, the challenge has been issued. We know you will be a good representative and great leader for Air Force Fire Protection.\*\*\*\*\***

## PIONEER DAY – RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS

26 August 2000 – DALLAS, TEXAS

Front Row Kneeling:

*\* denotes deceased*

FRANK DENNY--CHARLES PETERS--JIM DEAL---HENRY CHOUINARD--TOM SMITH

Standing: CURTIS DUNN margin cut off not shown--FRED OWENS—JERRY GARRETT--TOM HINSON--DON SMITH-- JOHN STOKES--RALPH SHELTON--HUGH ACKERS--LENNIE BLAU--ENZOR FIELDS--RAY PORTER--DOUG McMURPHY\*--GEORGE GODWARD\*-- LARRY ADAMS--JIM O'REGAN--GENE COURTEMANCHE

2nd Row Standing: Partially shown, RICHARD ZELONIS, behind Tom Hinson in red shirt

Top Row: BEN PARTIN—LARRY LOWMAN-- --DOUG COURCHENE--BOB BARROW--SANDY SANCHEZ--"J.K." SCHMIDT---IRVIN BROWN--MILT PUCKETT --Fred Elkins



**EDITOR's note: Photo will be sent under separate cover to those identified above. Due to proposed Postal Rates the QNN is being sent out prior to 1 April deadline...**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Faye Stephens** ["mailto:Fstep@aol.com"](mailto:Fstep@aol.com) of Memphis, Tennessee. She was named "The Mid-South Fair's Senior American for 2001. Faye rode an antique fire pumper at the Germantown Christmas Parade to receive this distinguish honor. Faye's husband, Chief Ross Stephen, who answered his "final alarm" in 2000 is remembered by many for his pioneer efforts in Air Force Fire Protection. Faye reports that she helped her "mom" celebrate her 92nd birthday on December 18, 2001. Keep up the good work Faye and give "mom" our best wishes from the Air Force Fire Chiefs...

**INFORMATION REQUEST** ["http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm"](http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm) please open this outstanding website. Before you start browsing, click on "retirees" and fill out the Log Book survey. Fill out all blanks and be sure email address is "exact". As Editor I need this info to update my QNN files. This is especially needed if you have not done so within the last 30 days. Reason is my computer crashed and I have been rebuilding a databank of names, addresses and emails since then. The crash was due to my fault, but it still takes your breath away. Thanks to many of you that resend e-files, plus backup disc the new files will be better than the originals. Thanks Bob. P.S. past QNNs are available through this website. Check the Fire Truck Library, too....

**Sincere "thanks" to those contributors that wrote articles that appears in this issue.** To paraphrase my mentor Doug Courchene, "Write on" and keep up the great work. A wise Chief once told me "an individual who consistently writes to a specific audience will sooner or later reveal the true nature of his personality". I hope that the foot in the mouth disease will not prevail to often in my QNN writings. We all have different writing skills and interests. We all enjoy traveling down memories lane to revisit your past stories with you... Your stories bring us all closer to the FireFighters Brotherhood that lives on from generation to generation. Sincerely yours, Bob Barrow, 126 Clements St NE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548 (850) 243-1274 [chief.one@cox.net](mailto:chief.one@cox.net)