

## Retired Air Force Fire Chief's Network

# QUARTERLY NETWORK NEWS



Legendary Pioneers Who Reminisce About the Past but  
Focus on the Future

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



Volume 3, 2006

Founded – 1990 by Doug Courchene

July – September 2006

### A Gathering...

A gathering of Air Force Retired Fire Chiefs/Pioneers is set for 15-16 September 2006 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Dallas, Texas, near the Dallas Convention Center. You may review past events in 2000 and 2003 at: <http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees/Retiree.htm> (a picture is worth a thousand words).



For our opener on 15 September 2006, retirees will be admitted FREE to the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) "Fire Rescue International and Exposition Hall." Your passes will be available on your arrival or if you need them before then send a self addressed envelope with 1<sup>st</sup> class postage to the Editor for return by USPS.

Our Pioneer Day Gathering will be on 16 September at the Adam's Mark Hotel in a Conference Room (to be determined). A tentative schedule of events is at the end of this QNN.

Chief Puckett, [helmilpuck@comcast.net](mailto:helmilpuck@comcast.net), is the Retirees' point of contact (POC) and liaison with the Air Force. Air Force and DoD Fire & Emergency Services activities are planned for 12-16 September 2006. The Air Force Awards Luncheon is \$45.00, 12 September at 1130 to 1300 hours. The DoD Awards Banquet is \$65.00, 15 September at 1700 to 2100 hours. Mark your calendar for 15-16 September 2006 and contact your QNN editors for help if needed.

Also anyone who can donate unique door prizes found in your State, please contact the Editor: 126 Clements Street NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 or email [chief.one@cox.net](mailto:chief.one@cox.net).

A corporate sponsor "Monaco Alarm Systems" will defray some of the costs of the food provided during the Pioneer Day activities on 16 September 2006. Chiefs Tom Smith, Ben Partin and Ted Taipalus will officiate in presenting special prizes and the door prize drawings for the Pioneers/Retired Chiefs. Be sure to hold on to your registration stub number which will be exchanged for the prize. One prize per stub!

Room rates for USAF Fire Pioneers at the Adam's Mark Motel, Dallas, Texas have been established at \$95.00, plus tax for single or double occupancy. Helpful hints to cut down any confusion on the agreed price with Adam's Mark. Register only ONE occupant for a SINGLE \$95 room then let me know so I can make sure you will have two beds. Example for my son and I: Bobby Frank Barrow – USAF Fire Pioneers – Single Room \$95.00 (number of beds will be adjusted by Adam's Mark). My Arrival 9-12-2006 – Departure 9-17-2006 – Request handicap access and No Smoking room, etc.

International Association Fire Chiefs (IAFC) controls all motel rooms for their Fire Rescue International (FRI), 11 Sep to 17 Sep 2006 in Dallas the Air Force alone estimates over 1,000 attendees.



Pioneers must register through J. Spargo & Associates on-line [www.iafc.org/DoD](http://www.iafc.org/DoD) or by phone 800-934-1957. Have your credit card information ready. The card is not charged until 21 days before your arrival. **REMINDER: If you are sharing a room with another pioneer, make sure only one of the occupants register for a SINGLE, \$95 room. Then, notify the editor to make sure you have a room with two beds.**

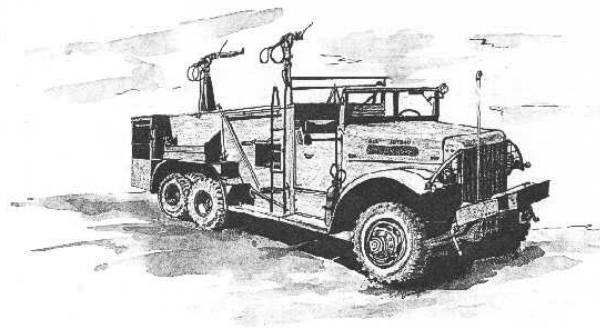
The follow Chiefs and their wives/family have indicated they will attend:

- Bob Barrow and son, Frank
- Lennie Blau
- Ben Partin
- Gene Courtemanche
- Jerry Garrett and wife, Toni
- Wayne Kee;
- Milt Puckett and wife, Helen
- Charlie Richardson and wife, Linde
- Jim Carroll and wife, Diane
- Jim Deal
- Tom Smith
- Sandy Sanchez
- Ted Taipalus
- Ken Spicknall
- Larry Gregory
- Joe Jarrell and son, Mike
- Paul Meek;
- Donato Jaso, Jr.
- Freddie Harper
- Bob Flannigan
- Bryce Mason and wife, Tina
- Vic Robinson.
- Larry D. Taylor
- Phillip Boyer and wife, Gayanne

Others planning to attend need to send their registration form (last page) to Chief Puckett as soon as possible for planning purposes.

During Pioneer Day, a Fallen Firefighter Ceremony will be conducted in remembrance of Air Force Fire Chiefs who died since our last gathering in 2003. This year there are 27 Chiefs so far to be eulogized. The list below shows names and dates of birth and death:

- Stanley Mateunas: 20 May 26-2 Apr 03
- Albert Wise: DOB unk-27 Feb 04
- Louis Libby: 1 Oct 34-7 Apr 04
- Guy J. Wills Jr.: 3 Dec 34-5 Mar 04
- Morris Eidson: 1933-12 June 04
- Valton Allen: 31 Jan 21-15 Jul 04
- Bill Goodwin: 21 Sep 26-22 Jul 04
- Glen Cocherell: 19 Jun 30-31 Jul 04
- Thomas Williams: 15 Aug 25-21 Sep 040
- Fred Elkins: 8 Oct 29-13 Nov 04
- William W. Thomas: 16 Jul 28-13 Nov 04
- Curtis L. Dunn Sr.: 8 Feb 29-18 Dec 04
- Harold "Fred" Belt: 1934-23 Dec 04
- Don Smith: 27 Sep 33-21 Jan 05
- William A. York: 26 May 21-31 Jan 05
- Kenneth L. Erwin Jr.: 5 Aug 30-10 Mar 05
- Richard L. Waller: 2 Jun 20-22 Mar 05
- Charles E. "Ed" Chedd: 9 May 16-6 Apr 05
- Irwin R. Brown Jr.: 28 Apr 25-12 Jun 05
- Keith Moser: 11 Jul 42-24 Jul 05
- Robert W. Vreeland: 24 Jun 14-10 Aug 05
- Robert A. McAllister: 1936-10 Nov 05
- John C. Eliseo: 29 Mar 33-21 Nov 05
- Charles E. Tanner: 29 Nov 35-25 Jan 06
- Hugh E. Martin: 5 Nov 30-16 Mar 06
- Ed Dickman: 14 Sep 24-7 Apr 06
- Chuck Risinger: 17 Nov 42-14 May 06



Surviving family members are invited to attend this ceremony. Captain Randall W. Erwin (USAF Chaplain and son of Kenneth Erwin) and Fire Lieutenant Curtis L. Dunn, Jr., will attend.

Captain Erwin will give the Invocation and the July – September 2006

Benediction at the gathering. Lieutenant Dunn, with the Arlington Fire Rescue Services, will offer his appreciation to our group for coming to the Dallas Metropolis. Other family members who would like to attend should notify the QNN editor and be in attendance at least for the "Pioneer Day Gathering" at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 16 September 2006, from 0800 to 1700.

Family members of deceased Chiefs who have elected to attend so far are: Wills, Dunn, Smith, York, Erwin, Dickman, Waller and Brown families.

## ***State Firefighters Fairness Act and proposed Federal Firefighters Fairness Act needs our support***

State Firefighter Fairness Act recognizes that firefighters are exposed on a daily basis to stress, smoke, heat, and various toxic substances. As a result, firefighters are far more likely to contract heart disease, lung disease and cancer than other workers. In recognition of this Act, nearly 40 States have enacted "presumptive disability" laws, which presume that cardiovascular disease; certain cancers, and infectious diseases are job-related for purposes of workers compensation and disability retirement unless proven otherwise. No such law covers firefighters employed by the federal government.

Under the proposed Federal Employee Compensation Act, federal firefighters must be able to pinpoint the precise incident or exposure that caused the disease in order for it to be job related. A Federal Firefighters Fairness Act has been submitted in this year's 109th Legislative Congress that would amend the Federal Employee Compensation Act to create a refutable presumption that cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and infectious diseases are job-related for purposes of workers compensation and disability retirement. Contact your Congressional representative to support this legislation for our firefighters.

Firefighters and others covered by the Federal Employee Compensation Act, i.e.: police, tower operators, etc. know of the injustice caused by OPM retirement specialist when they retire for disability work related causes. Your editor

recently discovered a US Merit Systems Protection Board's Case Report- DE-0842-05-0280-1-1, dated May 30 2006 (law) that allows a Firefighter Disability Retirement for Fire Fighters below the minimum age of 50, if they meet the other requirements of the law. A recent FF appeal to OPM decision for this before winning this Case...



## **U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board**

Note for Firefighters. Please have OPM recalculate the appellant's monthly annuity in keeping with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. §§ 8452(d) and 8415(d) and the court's holding in *Pitsker*.

Persons who are covered by FERS and who retire on disability before meeting the age and service requirements for an enhanced annuity under 5 U.S.C. § 8412(d) may nevertheless qualify for enhanced retirement benefits, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 8452(d) and 8415(d). Also provide a copy to your Congressional Representative for a Congressional Inquired.

OPM has testified before congress that they treat FFS and policemen fairly. However, Pitsker, a policeman and Atkins, a Firefighter had to appeal their cases over an over through OPM, before winning with the Board's Case decision. These young men deserve our thanks, for during this work for us.

The reason I discovered this injustice was a recent decision by OPM to retire my son-in-law, a firefighter with similar disability retirement requirements that firefighter Atkins had submitted. OPM has still to recognize the law in his case.

That is why it is important that we contact our Congressional representatives to support legislation for our firefighters.

## ***STAMP FUND CONTRIBUTORS:***

The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. Most members have good intentions to feed the kitty, but they sometimes forget the last time they sent a



donation. During the past quarter contributors are: Chiefs Jim Deal; Ernest Lykins and Larry D. Taylor, all of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Also, Chief Glen Cloud, Austin, Texas and Chief Winfred Berry, Crestview, Florida their support is very much appreciated.



## TAPS

**Charles "Chuck" Warren Risinger, CMSgt,  
USAF (Retired)  
17 Nov 42 - 14 May 06**

Chuck was born on Nov. 17, 1942, in Odin, Ill., where he lived until joining the Air Force in 1961. He served his country faithfully for 26 years as a firefighter to becoming a fire chief for the U.S. Air Force. Upon his retirement as a chief master sergeant in 1987, he worked in fire research for Tyndall AFB. Moving to Mexico Beach in 1992, he became active in city politics, first joining the Planning and Zoning Board, then was elected to the City Council in 2001. In 2005, he was elected mayor of Mexico Beach. He is survived by his wife, Connie; son, Chuck Jr. of Mexico Beach; daughter, Billie Dawn Risinger of St. Louis, Mo.; stepson, Dr. Bill Trainor of Bowling Green, Ky.; stepdaughter, Laura Carter of Melbourne, Fla.; a brother, Jim Risinger; a cousin, Arthur Lee Rains of Salem, Ill.; and his beloved grandchildren, Michelle and Megan Knollhoff, Colton Devilbiss, Zoe Trainor, and Joshua, Caitlin and Ian Carter. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 18, 2006, at with full military honors at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Mexico Beach,



with the Rev. Jim Lambert officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Mexico Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

### **Chief Edward W. Dickman - 1921-2006**

*Chief Sandy Sanchez of Colorado Springs, Colorado wrote:*

“I think Ed started his firefighting career at George AFB, CA. I do know he was at USAFE Headquarters and ADC Headquarters ADC is where I first met Ed. The late Charlie Kuhns was Chief of Fire Protection for ADC after Ken Wohlers left for Wright Patterson. Ed was selected from USAFE. I didn't know Ed was ill. Quite a surprise when I read the Obits this morning. My wife, Maureen, called Ms Anna Brown. She said, ‘Ed had a blood disorder and was hospitalized several weeks ago. He was having blood transfusions every two weeks then recently changed to once a week. That wasn't doing any good so his wife, Irene, took him home where he passed away April 7, 2006’.”

Here is the Obituary:

*Sept 14, 1924 - Apr 7, 2006*

*Mr. Edward W. Dickman passed away at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Mobile, AL.; to Mary and Dale Dickman. He was a proud Army veteran who stormed Omaha Beach with the 5th Ranger Battalion during D-Day invasion of France. He then worked for 32 years in civil service for the Air Force in Europe.*

*He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Irene; daughters: Petra and Susanna; sons-in-law: Shane and Terry; and four grandchildren: Shannon, Christopher, Katie and Amber; a brother, Siegel; sister-in-law, Marlene; and sister, Mary Lanzing; nieces, nephews and many close relatives in Germany.*

*His family was his life and he devoted himself*

*to them. We will miss and love him forever.*

*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation, 825 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Suite 600, Colorado Springs, CO., 80903.*

P.S. Ed always spoke highly of all the Military that worked with him at USAFE Headquarters. I think Dan Long, Art Hill and Jim Legg are three of the several through the 32 year tour.

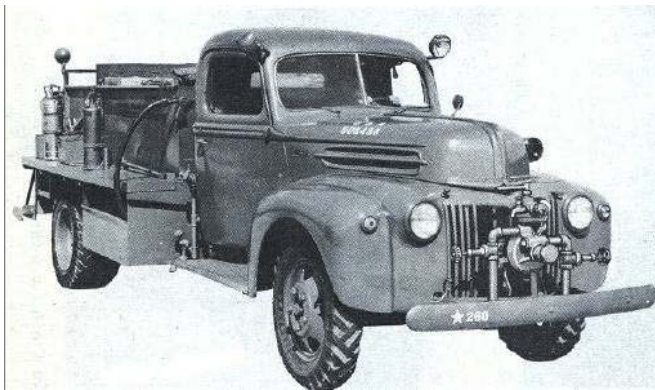
*My Memories of Chief Edward W. Dickman: By CMSgt Dan Long (Retired)*

Soon after HQ USAFE was relocated from Wiesbaden Air Base Germany to Ramstein Air Base, I joined Ed (in Jan 1973) for a duty assignment at the Headquarters Fire Protection Office.

On my first day of duty, I met a tall lanky gruff type of individual who I would learn had a crisp and clear style of operation/management. Ed was the Command Fire Chief at USAFE for over 30 years.

Ed Dickman was one of the more capable persons in fire protection I have known. Most significant, was Ed's communicative skills, both oral and written. And during staff and other special meetings his rich and deep voice would always command attention and he spoke with special intelligence, knowledge and authority on each subject. He had the understanding and a special knack for staff work. And often he would be asked by others to assist with special attention correspondence. Ed was well respected within HQ USAFE for his many talents.

A somewhat embarrassing and an early lesson I learned from Ed: Shortly after my arrival to work, Ed took a much deserved and long overdue weeks vacation. Well, early in



the week this message came in to the office and I spent overtime writing/re-writing our answer (getting it perfect, I thought) and on Ed's return to work I had my draft answer on his desk for review. Shortly after the work day begin, Ed called me into his office and said nice answer/good work, however, one thing you must learn for effective Headquarters work: Read your messages! This one plainly indicated in the heading, for information only, no answer required.

Ed would not discuss to any depth his past Military Service, but it was documented that as a 5<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger, he participated in the D Day invasion of France as well as other major/special operations during his military service to our country. Decorations should have been many.

Ed was a devout family man and will be eternally missed by his loving family and many friends.

To my regrets, I had no personal contact with Ed since we worked together in USAFE and did not know of his illness in recent times.

## ***SICK CALL – PRAYERS URGENTLY NEEDED***



My son-in-law, **Firefighter Andreas Bernt**, at MacDill AFB, FL, was taken ill 8 December 2005 and rushed to the Saint Joseph Hospital ER, Tampa, FL, where he was admitted due to a fast acting cancer..

After his last treatment a check was made for cancer and none was found. However the cancer paralyzed his nervous system from the chest down. He is responding well to physical therapy and showing slow, but daily, improvement to the lower body. He was discharged in May and receiving treatment as an out patient. Last report is that he is walking with the aid of a walker. Praise the Lord, the Power of Prayer is working. Please keep him and his family on your

prayer list.

Chief **Bill Wilson**, has moved to the Savannah area in a nursing home located in the suburbs of Pooler, GA. Bill's eyesight is very poor, and he is very weak from his dialysis treatments - three times

weekly for the past three years. The decision was made to move Bill to a nursing home in Savannah, GA so he would be close to family. Bill, now age 73, was born in Savannah. Request Bill be included in your prayers.



*Ask and it shall be given unto you...for everyone that asketh receiveth... If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Matthew 7:7-11*

*Offutt AFB NE Fire Station...2005*



*Offutt AFB NE Fire Station...1952*



**PIONEER DAY GATHERING TENTATIVE AGENDA  
14-17 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs at Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, Texas  
(Pick up Welcome Pack & Wear Conference Badge. FREE Bus to Convention Hall)**

- 14 September**            **Travel Day, Hotel Check-In, & Conference Registration**
- 15 September**            **Registration opens 0730 until 0800**
- 0800-0815**            **Board Bus at Adam's Mark to IAFC in Convention Hall**  
**0830-1030**            **Opening Ceremony at Fire Rescue International (FRI)**  
**1030-1130**            **Lunch in Exhibitors Hall. Try to be seated as a group in**  
**1130-1800**            **the Exhibitors Hall open until 6 PM. Optional is below:**  
**1200-1600**            **Tour Dallas Firefighters Museum, 3801 Parry St. \$4 admission**  
**1600-1700**            **Return to Adam's Mark (Another option to Dinner)**  
**1700-1800**            **DoD Banquet "No Host Social" \$65. for both**  
**1800-1900**            **DoD Awards Banquet. Pioneers welcome but must register**  
**NLT 14 September 2006**
- 16 September**            **Registration opens 0730 until 0800. Coffee available. Roll**
- 0800-0830**            **Call of Retired Chiefs. QNN Staff Announcements.**  
**0830-0900**            **Retired Chiefs review Door prize rules.**  
**0900-0920**            **Pioneer Day Opener, Opening Prayer, Welcome Families of Past Chiefs.**  
**0920-0930**            **Fallen Fire Fighter Ceremony led by CMSgt Jim Podolske, USAF Retired.**  
**0930-1020**            **Eulogize Past Fire Chiefs by Chief Milt Puckett**  
**1020-1040**            **Chief Donald Warner, Hqs Air Force Fire Emergency Services**  
**1040-1130**            **Iraqi In-Theater Crash Fire Rescue Operations, Joint Services**  
**(Operation Anaconda- Air Force Rescue Air Mobility Squads)**  
**1130-1200**            **Military FF Heritage Foundation by DoD Fire Academy**  
**1200-1230**            **Intermission during setup**  
**1230-1330**            **Pioneer Lunch, Invocation by Chaplin Randall Erwin USAF**  
**1330-1400**            **Pioneer Group Photo. Please be on time.**  
**1400-1440**            **Hqs AFCESA Fire Update by CMSgt Jim Podolske, USAF Retired**  
**1440-1530**            **Door prizes by the 3 Amigos. Name & ticket numbers match.**  
**1530-1540**            **Closing remarks by Chief Bob Barrow**  
**1540-1630**            **Hero's Tribute Presentation by CMSgt Jim Podolske, followed by Retiring the**  
**Fallen Firefighter Memorial. (Benediction by Chaplain Erwin, USAF Captain).**  
**1630-1700**            **Socializing by Pioneers and guests.**
- 17 September**            **Travel day for those not living locally. God bless and safe journey.**

**Hope to do this again in 2009. Until then, happy networking.**

*-QNN Staff-Chiefs Bob Barrow and Milt Puckett; Sergeants at Arms - Chiefs Ken Spicknall and Larry Gregory*

