

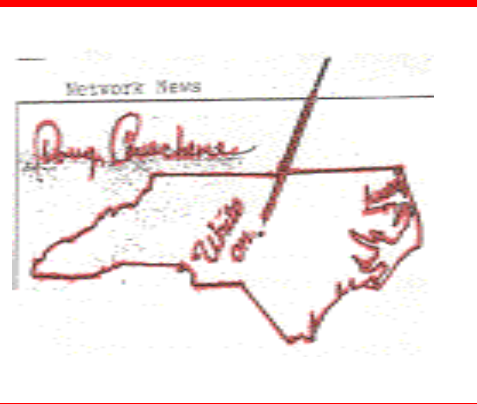


RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS' QUARTERLY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

July-September 2003

“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>



A Gathering of AF Pioneers and Retired Fire Chiefs<http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees.htm>



“A Gathering of Retired AF Fire Chiefs/Pioneers” will occur at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Dallas, Texas, August 22- 23, 2003. Your QNN and HQs Air Force Fire Protection Staffs have been busy finalizing the agenda

for this event. Admittance to the ICHIEFS “Fire Rescue International and Expo Hall” opener on August 22, 2003, is by free passes available upon your arrival at the Adam’s Mark. Pioneers Day, August 23, 2003, starts with a Continental Breakfast 0800-1000 (courtesy of **Mr. Ray Porter** of the Safeware Fire Services Corporation), followed by a Fallen Fire Fighter Ceremony at 1000. Heavy hors d’oeuvres & refreshments will be available (1230-1330), (courtesy of **Mr. Tom Smith** of the Fisher Scientific Fire & Emergency Service and **Mr. Ben Parton** of the Lion Valley Industries). Session will end at 1700. **Thanks to Ben, Ray and Tom for the Partnering** to make this

gathering a memorable event. Visit the DoDFire Web Site for more details by double clicking on this link, <http://www.dodfire.com/Retirees> i.e.: registration form and hotel booking. Rooms are available at the Govt rate of \$89.00 per day. Your room should be booked as early as possible to assure availability at the Adam’s Mark. A credit card is needed to hold the room, but only one credit card a room. Those sharing the room will have to work out the finances. Charges are not activated until 11 August 2003. Cancellations can be made without penalty, if made prior to 17 July 2003.

Chief Milt Puckett is the Retirees point of contact (POC) with the Air Force. Contact Milt at helmilpuck@comcast.net or any of the editors for help. Editor’s comments: I will arrive Dallas 21 August and depart early 25th. Check with hotel desk for Pioneer messages. The QNN Staff will be working on registration bags for Pioneers. Lots of good mementos and surprises are in store. See you there, **Chief Bob Barrow**

**THIS IS WHO HAS REGISTERED FOR 22-
23 August @ DALLAS 2003 GATHERING:**



Doug & Evelyn Courchene, Bob & Nan Barrow, Milt & Helen Puckett, George & Pat Cannode, Wayne & Ann Adlesperger, Ken & Lori Spicknall, Ralph & Kitty Shelton, Don & Gwyneth Smith, Bill Ryan & friend Brigitta, Charlie & Linda Richardson, Ben & Bernice Parton, Tom Smith, Ray Porter, Vic Robinson, Gene Courtermanche, Lennie Blau, Joe Jarrell, Donato Jaso Jr., Jimmie McKay, Sandy Sanchez, Jim Deal, Bobby Flanagan, Hamp Cayson, Fred Elkins and L. Harper. Verbal confirmation, but not registered as of this writing Ted Taipalus, Curtis Dunn, Jerry Garrett, Bill Beniker, Ed White, Bob Smith, Jack Bol, Larry Adams, Frank Denny, John Cook, and Charles Peters. See P. 7

Quarterly Network Newsletter (QNN) is a work in progress.

Doug Joseph- doug.joseph@acartus.com, a **Great-Grandson of Fire Chief Frank Joseph** that retired from MacDill AFB in the mid – 50s, and **Mike Hodgden-** hodbod@comcast.net, a son, of **Fire Chief Michael Hodgden Sr.**, who retired from Eglin AFB in the early 70s as a TSgt, emailed me recently inquiring about their deceased family members. Both young men would like to hear from anyone that knew of them. QNN stories will be forthcoming on these two outstanding Fire Pioneers. Send comments to: QNN Editor, 126 Clements Street NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 or email chief.one@cox.net

Stamp Fund Contributors: Mr. Clarence Monaco-service@monaco.com; Chief Douglas Courchene - dougecourchene@aol.com; Chief Ed Davis-Fairdale, WV; Chief Art Hill Jr.-Lompoc, CA; Chief Leo McCarty-Wilmar,AZ; Chief Jim Deal-Colorado Springs, CO. *The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. They are most appreciated. Email addresses are used whenever possible to promote networking.*

TAPS



We express our sincere Condolences to Chief Rodney Winningham, CMS USAF Retired, upon the death of his

dear wife, **Dimple P.** (66). Dimple succumbed to a courageous battle with cancer, May 26, 2003, at the Bay Medical Center in their hometown of Panama City, FL. Dimple's body was interned in Jamestown, TN, where her father, Lucian E. Poore, lives nearby. In addition to Rodney, his son, Olen D. of Nashville and daughter, Kimberly R. and husband, John Luther, of Keystone Heights, FL, survive.

Fire Pioneer, **Wando Holt**, answered his Final Alarm, April 21, 2003, at his home near Nashville, TN. Mrs. Jane Holt, wife of Fire Chief Wando Holt, CMSgt, USAF Retired, wrote: "Wando was buried in the Tennessee Veterans' Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee on April 25th, 2003. He enjoyed the DoDFire Club pages and checked most days to see who had been added to the list. It gave him many happy moments of remembering good times and good comrades. We looked forward to attending the Pioneer reunion in Texas this year but Cancer had other plans for him. He had been in good health until last April and we had hoped the doctors had removed the cancer that was found last July. He was doing fine in February, but the tests on March the 20th revealed the cancer had returned. I wish to thank all those involved with the DoDFire web pages for the pleasure you are bringing to your fellow firemen and their families. I will be keeping Wando's e-mail address, ChiefFireball@aol.com as many of our friends still reach me by it. May the Lord continue to bless you and all those that endeavor to keep us safe from harm. Sincerely, Mrs. Wando Holt." Editor's comment: I was saddened to learn of the cause of Wando's passing. I know he is in our good Lord's care now. I enjoyed the phone calls, correspondence and his love of the Fire Service I shared with Wando. We had shared many of the same bases and friends throughout our long and rewarding careers. He had related his plan of the two of you attending our gathering in Dallas this coming August. With your permission the Retired Chiefs would like to honor Wando's life in our Fallen Fire Fighter's Tribute during the opening of The Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs/Pioneers Ceremony. Retired Fire Chief Douglas

Courchene, CMSgt, USAF, (our founding editor) will conduct tribute. Chief Courchene will be contacting you for your approval and additional information and a photo of Wando. On behalf of the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs, we offer our deepest condolences upon the passing of a dear friend and comrade. He was a true Fire Pioneer.

Note from Chief Courchene: I will respectfully eulogize Chief Wando Holt in Dallas, 23 August 2003. Chief Holt is the 16th Chief to pass away since our 2000 meeting in Dallas. I'm aware, as more chiefs are added to my list, I may need more time on the program. I'm editing and rewriting to shorten papers without taking away from each one of the sixteen.

More Pioneer Accounts: Fire Chief Donato Jaso, 5006 Merritt Dr, Austin, TX 78744

Chief Donato Jaso's 46-year Fire Service career has provided him with some good stories. Chief Jaso, pronounced "Haso", enlisted in the US Air Force, June 18, 1951. He retired as a military fire chief, October 1, 1971, and again as a civil-service fire chief on May 31, 1997, at Ellington AFB, Texas. The last QNN featured his story of a 1954 multiple F-86 crashes at Toul Rosieres Air Base, France. Here is another good story of Walker AFB, Roswell, NM, a series of B-52 "BUF" mishaps in the mid 1960, that taxed the



Base's Crash Fire Rescue (CFR) crews' resources. SSGT Jaso reported to the Walker Fire Department from Torrejon Air Base, Spain, in June of 1961. Base Fire Chief "Pappy" Greer was also in the process of reporting in from a SAC base in New England (Westover AFB,

Massachusetts, maybe!). Assistant Fire Chiefs were Rogers, Woods and TSgt George E. Williams. Donato was assigned to the Training Office, with an additional duty of NCOIC of the Squadron Training Office. In late 1964 a B-52 receiving open fuel cell repairs, exploded in a big



ball of fire on the airfield ramp, parked in front of a maintenance nose-dock and about 150 feet from a large hangar that could house up to eight B-

52s. The fuel cell repair crew was attempting to purge the open fuel tanks with nitrogen, however, the purging lines were found hooked to oxygen source, instead. Talk about a disaster in the making, when the 100% oxygen was forced into the open fuel cell, finding an ignition source of volatile JP-4 fuel fumes, a violent explosion occurred instantaneously. First arriving CFR crews found a running fuel fire with the aircraft fully involved. The B-52 main landing gear was on fire and the rear set of tandem tires had exploded, blowing the wheels backwards from the aircraft. A P-2, three O-11As and an O-6 Cardox Fire Truck agent loads were emptied on the fully involved B-52 without extinguishing the 3-dimensional fires. Two of the Fuel Cell Repair Team members working in the wheel well area, were DOA on arrival. The team's leader working in the cockpit, managed to



bailout of the pilot's side window and walk to the Base Dispensary on his own, even though medics found he had broken his back from the impact on the flight line's tarmac. About this time (1230 hours) both JP-4 tip tanks ruptured dumping more fuel on to the fire. I had been at the Squadron Training office when the emergency was rung-out. Upon arriving at the Fire Station, I made ready a 530-B Pumper with the help of an off-duty Fire Fighter for response. Upon arrival at the fire scene, a 2&1/2 fire hoseline was laid in to protect the Nose-Dock exposure. We used a straight stream to direct the fuel runoff away

from the Nose-Dock. The first in CFR crews had reservised their trucks with agent and were able to extinguish the fire with the 2nd load of fire extinguishing agent. Mop-up was completed and no damage was found to exposures. The winter of 1964 was extremely harsh in the Roswell area. 1 to 2 inches of ice covered the flightline and runways. Snow was piled on top of the ice everywhere. Base Ops needed a plan to clear the taxiways and runways quickly to launch mission sorties. An ingenious plan was pressed into action. A B-52 "BUF" was used to slowly taxi around the airfields' taxiways and runways blasting hot exhaust gases from the 6 large jet engines. To be expedient the aircrew was ordered to throttle up and brakes applied to get rid of the snow and ice quickly. After some good success in clearing the launch routes, suddenly the hot left side brakes caught the wheel and tire area on fire. As the CFR crews approached the left side of the B-52, they noticed the tires ballooning out almost twice their original size. Foam fog of AFFF agent was applied to cool and extinguish the fire quickly without farther incidence. Weapons were safe-tied and overhaul completed. Maintenance crews replaced the tires and wheels and towed the aircraft back to the parking area. Had it not been for the quick response and fast actions of the CFR crews, this B-52 could have been the most expensive snow blower in history. Editor's comment: Classic stories, just proves "never under estimate the ingenuity of the GI brain when it comes to mishaps or snafus".



The Joe Jarrell Story. After High School at the tender age of 18, Fire Chief Joe Jarrell (USAF Retired) firechief6736@yahoo.com reveals some interesting ways he served the United States of America. Upon completing a comprehensive 17 weeks of combat Infantryman's training course at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas, his class reported to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation for a 42 day zigzag/sea sick trip across the Pacific Ocean to Darwin, Australia. In early 1945, he was assigned to join the 41st Infantry Division, nicknamed "The Fighting

Jungleers", on Mindanao Island, the second largest island of the Philippines for the first major U.S. land offensive against Japan's occupation in World War II. His duties were as a first scout with Company C 163rd Infantry Regiment. Immediately his company boarded Navy LCIs (Landing Craft Infantry) and made a combat beach landing south of Zambonaga (the capitol city of Mindanao). Joe recalls this landing as "The first day of the rest of my life". As a result of his exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy during World War II in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre of Operations, Joe earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (EXPERT w/ wreath), a combat campaign star to the Philippines Liberation Ribbon and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

In Oct '45, the 41st Infantry Division arrived in Japan as part of the Army of Occupation. Our Commanding General, M/G Jens A. Doe, planted the Division's "Setting Sun" flag in front of the Emperor's Palace with a sign, "The Setting Sun Replaces The Rising Sun". The sign was there for one full day. This was in honor of the 41st Division's long fought trek, island by island, from the jungles of New Guinea to Tokyo. The 163rd Infantry Regiment occupied the former Japanese Kure Naval Base as its "home" base, 15 miles North of Hiroshima. A 1stLt, Buck Sgt and PFC Joe Jarrell were the first Americans to enter Hiroshima after it was destroyed by the first atomic bomb used in air warfare (60 days after the bombing August 6, 1945). Our mission was to check residual atomic radiation energy in and near Hiroshima. No special individual protective gear was issued. Joe drove the jeep and the Buck Sgt recorded the Geiger counter readings taken by the Lieutenant. Neither inhabitants, nor structures in a city of 300,000 occupants remained standing in the middle of this complete destruction. Back at Kure, the radiation monitoring report was taken to the Division's S3 and that was the last ever heard about the mission. My next move was to Camp Hood, Texas to await discharge (my ruptured duck) from the U.S. Army and ponder my future. Editor's comments: Great story Joe and a special thanks to all the WW II combat veterans who

defended our nation's freedom. Looking forward to the story of your Air Force career in the next QNN edition and welcoming you personally in Dallas at the "Pioneer Day Celebration", August 22-23, 2003.

SICK CALL:



Chief Bill Wilson, USAF CMS Retired of Fort Walton Beach. Bill's recovery has been nothing short of miraculous. But on June 1st he suffered a set back and was admitted to CCU for 6 days, before moving to Room 355 in Ft. Walton Bch. Medical Center. As of this publication

Bill was improving, but no discharge date had been set. He still requires a lot of help. Son, Ronnie is his major caretaker and lives with Bill at home. He loves visitors and hopes to be able to go home soon. I check on him often, as do many others.

Fire Chief Glenn Cockerell- gecocherell@cybertron.com (SMSgt, USAF Retired). Glenn is recovering at home from a recurring bout with cancer at home. Esther, Glenn's wife, and he would like visitors, but please call 850 862 5004 first due to the trips to see his doctors are several times a week.

Fire Chief Ed Sams - rosened2@concentric.net and **Fire Chief Bob Vreeland** of Riverdale, CA are both under doctors' care for heart conditions. Say a prayer that these brave chiefs and their families for the Lord's gracious care and comfort during this time. There is strength in numbers when one truly believes in Him.

"A Fire Fighters World" by **Lt. Ronald McDonald**, Collinsville, IL, Fire Fighters Local 2625 I think it would be an appropriate time to reflect upon the fire service, to suggest that maybe Fire Fighters do not live in the same world as everybody else. The real world is made of people that are born, grow up, go to school for an education, try to earn a living, get

married, raise children, save for retirement, and try to get some enjoyment along the way.

But from the very first day a Fire Fighter comes on the job, he lives in one small corner of the real world. In that small corner all of life's tragedies are bundled together. All the destruction, mishaps, accidents and sadness in the larger real world are pushed together into a small corner in which the Fire Fighter must live. With the added responsibilities of emergency medical service comes the realism of mangled bodies, the sick, the injured, the over- doses, the abuse cases the infectious diseases. It is a corner of the world where there is joy knowing that sometimes you make a difference and save a life, but with that come the heartaches. It is a corner of the world that despite your best efforts is the high-tech areas of IVs, heart monitors, defibrillators and anti-shock garments, sometimes you have to watch as life drains out of someone who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is a corner of the world where an elderly person just wants to hold your hand as the inevitable happens.



In a bad week a Fire Fighter sees more tragedies and destruction than most people see in a lifetime. And, when he finishes his shift, he cannot get out of that corner of the world. The experiences are forever imprinted in his mind. When he goes home he may be irritable, moody, or depressed and never realize why. It is a corner of the world where the divorce rate is three times the national average. Life expectancy is nine years less than that of the real world. It is a corner of the world where a Fire Fighter looks his buddies in the eyes and wonders who will beat the odds and who will not; where, when he is alone, reflecting on past experiences, tears flow from his eyes, but he cannot admit it because Fire Fighters are "the bravest of the brave." It is a corner of the world where he watches with joy as a fellow Fire Fighter retires with his health intact, knowing that his comrade can finally get out of that corner and join the people in the real world. He then wonders if he will be lucky enough to stay safe and healthy to do the same. It is a corner of the world where the general public may not understand this letter, but

surely those people living in that small corner will understand.

Editors' comment: Fire Fighters are the "unsung heroes". They go about their job of saving lives and protecting valuable resources without seeking fan fare. Unfortunately, this often-violent response to emergencies takes a slow insidious toll on the Fire Fighters' body. Health related residuals reveal themselves decades later in the form of some crippling disease. I can speak with some authority after retiring with 42&1/2 years of military firefighting experience. I would not have changed much in my career, for saving lives and service to others has been very rewarding. I would, however, take better care of my body. Best regards and God bless our Fire Fighters. Wrote: Retired Fire Chief Bob Barrow - 100% Disabled American Veteran due to fire related/military service connected injuries.

Hail & Farewell – Fire Chief Paul Giles completed a 3-year tour at Andersen AFB, Guam, and has reported to Ramstein AB, Germany, as Fire Chief just as German/American relationships have cooled. It has to be better than the major storm damage encountered at Guam. Since retiring as CMSgt, USAF, Paul has had his traveling shoes on. Starting civil service at Vandenburg AFB as Fire Chief, then an inter-service change to NAS Lakenheath, before heading to Andersen AB. That is 14&1/2 years of double dipping, but seems like yesteryear "1989" Paul, when then Chief Ted Taipalus and then CWO4 Bob Barrow met at Tyndall AFB. Paul still has the picture to prove, yes the Air Force had Warrant Officers and in Fire Protection, too. That photo has won him a few bets... **Fire Chief Charlie Cain** said farewell to Ramstein AB and hello to Randolph AFB, Texas. Good to have you back in the USA, Charlie. Did you ever see Fire Chief Bryce Mason while there in Germany? I am still trying to locate him since his retirement at Ramstein AB in 2000.

Nomads Corner: Chief Doug Courchene wrote. Evelyn and I just completed a trip to coast for a

little R&R in our RV during April. We have reloaded at the home 20 and hope to make it as far as Texas in June. Then back home and get ready for Dallas in August. While home in May we had a pleasant

surprise. **Fire Chief Marty Jester** USAF (Retired) of Miami, Florida, and his new

signature model Harley Davidson motorcycle "rolled in" at our home in Mount Olive, NC. Marty was on his way to a Harley Davidson "Roll By" in Washington, D.C. He was riding



his bright new red Harley Davidson's signature model for Fire Fighters. The welcome mat was out at the Courchenes' home for an overnight stay, but Marty was trying to beat the rain forecast. So, after a short pit stop, he was headed North on I-95, again. Go Marty, you are looking good!

See you in Dallas, Marty for Pioneer Day 22-23 Aug 03.

The QNN's for email readers back issues can be read or downloaded at DoDFire.com. For those Retired AF Fire Chief readers without computer access to reserve their Adam's Mark Hotel rooms, see the information on the back page.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, groundbreaking ceremony for a new \$3.9 million dollar **Consolidated Fire Station** was on May 16, 2003. Your editor had the honor of attending with many other retired area Fire Fighters. The NASP Fire Department served an on-site lunch following the ceremony that was a big hit under a beautiful sunny sky. **Congratulations to Fire Chief Carl Thomann and his staff.** email william.thomann@cnet.navy.mil.

AGENDA

Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs/Pioneer Gathering @ Dallas, August 22-23, 2003 *(Pickup Welcome Pack & wear Conference Badge. FREE bus to Convention Center)*

22 Aug –

- 9 to 11 Attend IAFC Opening Ceremony. Keynote Speaker
- 11 to 12 Lunch @ Convention Center. Try to be seated as a group.
- 12 to 4 EXPO 2003 Fire Exhibits in Conference Halls A thru E.
- 4 to 4:30 FREE bus to Adam's Mark Hotel-Registration Desk til 6:30

23 Aug -

- 8 to 9 Registration, Continental Breakfast & Roll Call Retired Chiefs
- 9 to 10 Catering closes. Welcome & Introductions by Chief Barrow
- 10 to 10:20 Pioneer Day Opener. Fallen Fire Fighter Ceremony, CMS Podolske
- 10:20 to 10:45 Eulogize Lost Fire Chiefs by Chief Courchene
- 10:45 to 11 Chief of Air Force Fire & Emergency Services Opening Remarks
- 11 to 11:30 Keynote Speaker, Lt Col Adelsperger, USAF, Ret
- 11:30 to 12 Military Fire Fighter Heritage Foundation by DoD Fire Academy
- 12 to 12:30 Intermission during Banquet set up
- 12:30 to 14 Pioneer Banquet Buffet, Invocation by COL Worrell, USAF
- 14 to 14:15 Pioneer Group Photo. Please be on time for CMS Podolske, USAF
- 14:15 to 14:30 Book Discussion "Pioneers With Intent" by Chief Courchene
- 14:30 to 15:30 Hqs AFCESA Fire Update by CMS Podolske, USAF
- 15:30 to 16:30 Door Prize Drawing, name & ticket number to match.
- 16:30 to 16:40 Closing Remarks by Chief Barrow
- 16:40 to 17 Hero's Tribute Presentation by CMS Podolske, USAF. Followed by, Retire the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial.
Benediction by Chief Legg – Retire the Colors by Honor Guard
- 17 –18 Socializing by Pioneers and guest

Location of meeting room(s) will be announced and posted at hotel. The agenda above is subject to minor change. A more detail agenda will be in your Welcome Package. Welcome Packs should be available upon arrival.

Associate Editor change: **Chief Ed Sams** has taken over duties from **Chief Gus Hunter** as one of QNN's Associate Editors position. Gus filled this position since 1990. Gus' wife, Arlene's medical conditions require weekly office visit and Gus' personal attention. Thanks for your many years of service Gus. May, Arlene and you enjoy some quality time. Chief Ed Sams, earned his new title. He has edited every QNN that I have published since January 1, 2002. Ed and I have worked as a good team. Thanks Ed and warmest regards to "Rosie".

Congratulations upon retiring to **Chief Dick Duncan** <tduncan106@yahoo.com> @ Air Force Academy Fire Department with more than 43 years fire service. Dick and Tommie have retired in the Panama City, Florida area. Also, congratulations to **Chief Duane Morgan** <Firechiefone@aol.com> and wife, Barbara. Duane retired @ Scott AFB Fire Department with over 40 years fire Service. Duane and Barb will remain in the area.