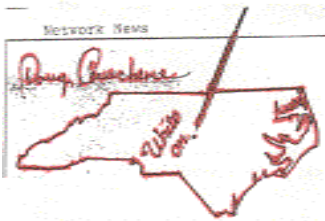
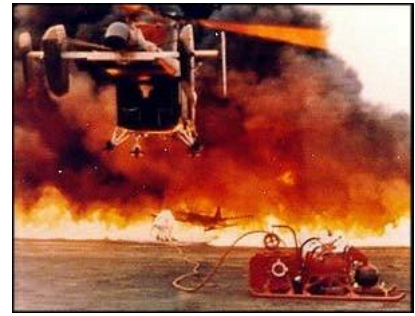




**RETIRED AIR FORCE  
FIRE CHIEFS'  
QUARTERLY NETWORK  
NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2002**



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*for QNN copies & more*

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



**Air Force sweeps DOD firefighter awards @ KC 2002**  
<http://www.af.mil/news/Aug2002/83002203.shtml>



Air Force firefighters received all but one Department of Defense annual firefighting awards and shared top honors in this year's Heroism Award. Click on the AF News link [above](#) for the full story. In a departure from the past, where the awards are split up among all the Services, 5 of 6 DoD Fire & Emergency Services Awards went to the Air Force. Fire Chief "Sandy" Sanders-[Sandy6T5@aol.com](mailto:Sandy6T5@aol.com)- of Luke AFB said it best: "Members of the Luke Fire Department feel honored to represent Air Force Fire Protection as the DOD Fire Department of the Year. It does not by any stretch of the imagination mean we are better than any other Air Force Fire Department. We represent each Air Force Fire Department collectively. I am sure some of the firefighters in the Luke Fire Department will be in some other Air Force Fire Department soon. Additionally, some of the Firefighters in other Air Force Fire Departments will be in the Luke Fire Department soon. That is what makes us one big Fire Department. And we at Luke are representative of that big Air Force Fire Department. We have a great heritage in Air Force Fire Protection and we are fortunate to have plenty of firefighters today doing great things and continuing to make history for themselves. I am just proud to have been part of it." The 56th CES fire department at Luke AFB, Arizona, in addition to being named DOD Fire Department of the Year, took best in AF Education Command and best in Air Force. Chief Sanders observed, "We old timers need to spend more time with the young firefighters. They can teach us much if we are willing to learn. I am proud to serve as their Fire Chief here at Luke AFB. These young men and women want careers as a Firefighter and are willing to work for them. They are smart, educated, and well prepared to do the job. Sure we have some that do not fit into this picture, however, most do, and we need to recognize and give them credit. Being selected as the DOD Fire Department of the year recognizes all the hard work our folks did. I feel like the water boy providing water to a world-class team. They are in

the game and making the plays. They are formulating programs and processes, which make things better and more fire-safe for the Air Force community.” **EDITOR’s comments: Sandy and I go back a ways and I am proud to have served with him. If you would like to see Sandy and others accepting these years’ awards at KC, click on this link...** <http://www.dodfire.com/graphics/Graphics.htm> **Best regards to all the AF & DoD Award recipients.**

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**PIONEERS MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR NEXT YEARS EVENT @ DALLAS 2003**

The Air Force is planning to honor Fire Pioneers at The 2003 Air Force Fire Emergency & Services Conference in late August 2003. That is you and I! Planning details will be in the next QNN Jan-Mar 2003 issue. Your commitment to attend will be asked for in the QNN Apr-Jun 2003 issue. Retired Air Force Chiefs, Wives or Honorary members desiring to be on the “Pioneer Day” agenda please submit an outline and time needed for your presentation as soon as possible but not later than December 1, 2002. Agenda suggestions are solicited, also. **Mail to: QNN Editor, 126 Clements Street NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 or email [chief.one@cox.net](mailto:chief.one@cox.net)**

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**TAPS:** [Click on O-10...](#)



Fire Chief Joseph K. Schmidt (91) @ McAllen, Texas, on July 8, 2002

Fire Chief Clifford Skeen (79) @ Clovis, New Mexico, on August 31, 2002

MSgt Morris J. Harrell (62) @ Panama City, Florida, on August 11, 2002

SSgt Henry E. Richardson (73) @ Crestview, Florida, on August 31, 2002



This has to be my toughest job as QNN’s Editor. Especially, when all four were good friends and working associates. Thanks to the QNN network, notification came within the first 24 hours, giving time for an immediate QNN Alert. Prompt notification aids family and friends in many ways as is evident in the QNN obituaries to follow.

**Fire Pioneer J.K. Schmidt, 91, answered his Final Alarm, July 8, 2002,** at his home in McAllen, Texas. J.K.’s request was to have his body cremated and sent to Fruitland Park, Florida for burial in the "Shiloh Cemetery Family Plot" with his Mother, Father and wife "Josephine". J.K. served with the U.S. Army Air Corp's Fire Protection in 1937 and was instrumental in the development of many of the Aircraft Crash Fire Rescue systems and operating procedures. He was a Firefighter, Fire Chief and Command Fire Protection Engineer. He retired in 1970 from U.S. Civil Service at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He came to Eglin AFB in the 1940's as the Air Proving Grounds Command Fire Engineer. Eglin’s APG was absorbed by the Air Force Systems Command in the mid 1950’s, and J.K. was placed in the Fire Chief's position until his retirement. At the **Interment Services August 3, 2002,** the Fruitland Park Volunteer Fire Department performed Honor Guard duties. The Fruitland Park VFD was alerted of this request through a QNN alert. Chief Jim Manser, USN Retired-[manser@lsbg.net](mailto:manser@lsbg.net)- a Fruitland Park VFD Training Chief was emailed by Chief Bill Beniker, USN Retired-[wrbeniker@cox.net](mailto:wrbeniker@cox.net)- a QNN member. Thanks Jim and Bill, your actions are proof the FireFighters Brotherhood is alive and working. Chief Jim Manser, Retired Navy Fire Marshal Program Administrator called me one evening last week and profusely thanked me for forwarding the information. He has been in contact locally with Frank Bloodworth, Jr.-[fbloodworth@bop.gov](mailto:fbloodworth@bop.gov)-, J.K.’s grandson to work out the details. Jim is also the Fruitland Park Volunteer Fire Dept., Asst Chief for Training and Administration. Jim made sure that the fire department not only had their equipment at the services, but also that all of the volunteers who participated were in full dress uniform. Just thought you might like to know... **Doug Courchene wrote:** One of the most revered pioneers has left us. His legacy will live on. The Air Force Fire Protection Family is deeply saddened by his passing. According to Gwen, Chief

Schmidt daughter, he kept all the quarterly "QNN" newsletters dating back to 1990. Besides newsletters, I often communicated by mail especially when "Jo", his wife, was so ill. J. K. was a loving caregiver to "Jo's" end. I'm so glad we had the chance to honor Chief Schmidt at Dallas 2000 Pioneer Day, a day I will always remember sharing the podium with him, Fred Elkins, Milt Puckett, Bob Barrow, James O'Regan and others. The family has requested donations in "J.K.'s" memory be made to The Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs' Stamp Fund for support of the Quarterly Network Newsletter (QNN). "J.K." dearly enjoyed receiving and reading the newsletter. His final QNN arrived the week before his passing. He had saved every QNN since started by Retired Fire Chief Douglas E. Courchene. Donations may be mailed to: QNN Editor, 126 Clements Street NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. To date \$75 dollars has been received for the "stamp fund" thanks to the James O'Regan, Hugh Akers and Bob Barrow families.

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**Fire Chief Clifford Skeen died August 31, 2002, in the High Plains Regional Medical Center at Clovis, New Mexico.** During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater. He went to work as a fireman after the war in the Clovis AFB Fire Dept. The base was later renamed in 1957 to Cannon AFB. Funeral service will be at the First United Methodist Church in Clovis Tuesday September 3, 2002. *Editor's comments:* Chief Ken Wardlaw-kenwardlaw@earthlink.net- email notice of Chief Skeen's death was received on 31 Aug 02. Chief Skeen was a friend and companion TAC Fire Chief of mine. We went back to the mid 50s at the Memphis FDICs and Air Force Fire Conferences. I visited him several times at Cannon over the years. One time was to help judge the best in TAC Fire Program with the winners being forwarded to Air Force and the NFPA for judging. If memory still serves me correctly Cannon's program was Judged #1 by TAC, AF and NFPA... Chief Skeen ran a good operation and fire prevention program. On behalf of The Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs, our deepest sympathy and condolences to Mrs. Skeen and family. I will remember "Cliff" and his lovely wife with him on the Memphis trips. Chief Ken Wardlaw emailed back, how much the families appreciated the kind words concerning Chief Skeen. He, also, said that my memory was indeed very good. Under Chief Skeen's direction Cannon AFB stayed on Top. TAC, Air Force and NFPA consistently judged them during those years of competition in the Top Five.

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**MSgt Morris J. Harrell, USAF Retired, 62, of Panama City, Florida, died on August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The funeral service was in Panama City, August 15, 2002, at Southerland Funeral Home. Chief Bill Godwin-Billinportstjoe@webtv.net- wrote that "Mo" was a retired Air Force firefighter. After his military career, he worked in Saudi Arabia for several years, working for ARA at Tyndall AFB between assignments in Saudi. In Saudi Arabia, "Mo" worked at PCA headquarters in Jeddah with Chief Roy Sellers -HRoySellers@cs.com-. Chief Hugh Pike -Hugh.pike@tyndall.af.mil- attended "Mo's" funeral and commented that it had been his pleasure to serve with "Mo" on several tours of duty. *Editor's comments:* I, too, had the pleasure to work with "Mo" in the 70s when he was assigned at Eglin AFB as a MSGT in fire operations. He was an outstanding NCO and FireFighter. My last contact with him was August 2000 in Dallas, Texas at the Air Force World-Wide Fire Emergency & Services Conference.

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**Veteran FireFighter, "Rick" RICHARDSON, 73, of Crestview, Florida**

has answered his final alarm at 0550 hours, August 31, 2002. The McLaughlin-Aultman Funeral Home preformed the cremation. The families request no flowers and no graveside services. Post 75 of The American Legion, Crestview, Florida, held a “special memorial service” in honor of this fallen comrade, at 1300 hours, Saturday, September 7, 2002. Approximately 100 family, friends, firefighters and legionaries attended. Born in Mississippi, Rick served in the USAF military as a Fire Protection Specialist from 1947 until his retirement in 1967 at Eglin AFB. He quickly secured a U.S. Civil Service FireFighter position at NAS Sauffley Field in Pensacola, where he served until 1974. He then transferred back to the Eglin AFB Fire Department where he remained till his 2<sup>nd</sup> retirement in 1989. From 1958 to 1962 he served on a HH-43B “PEDRO” Crash Fire Rescue Team at Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina. He always looked upon this service with fond memories. Rick was known for his love of the military, the fire service and his quick wit. *Editor’s comments: Rick had been in and out of the hospital and rehab centers this past year due to late on-set of diabetes complications. His wife, Pat, was at his side when he succumbed to kidney failure. He was under hospice care at time of death. Pat and Rick loved their home in Crestview. Rick flew “Old Glory” each day with pride, in their neatly kept yard. They loved to entertain neighbors and friends on their large back porch. Nan and I will remember Rick fondly that way, telling stories of our youth, sipping a cool drink and enjoying the cool breeze. I was Rick’s Fire Chief for 10 years and close friend for twice that long. Friends of Rick are encouraged to stop by and visit with Pat. Her phone number is (850) 682-5935, please call first.* \*\*\*\*\*

**‘PIONEERS WITH INTENT’ by FIRE CHIEF DOUGLAS COURCHENE, is Pending!**  
Doug starts writing his book on The Army Air Corp/Air Force Fire Protection with the Fire Pioneers in 1937 and closes in Chapter 5 with the Fire Chiefs’ Wives and Widows. What more fitting conclusion than to end a book that covers over 30 years of Aircraft Crash Firefighting Rescue than with the distaff side that has supported our long careers. A publishing date is hoped for by year’s end. Many of us have been looking forward to reading this account of our firefighting history by a writer and fire chief of Chief Courchene’s experience and vast research knowledge. QNN will keep you updated... **Doug Courchene is not one to “toot his own horn”, but sometimes he slips up.** CMSgt Billy Norman, USAF Retired-BGCNORMAN@aol.com- had served with Doug, but they had lost touch. The following excerpt came from Doug’s update to his friend Billy. “My hobbies oil painting and writing take up most of my time. I do a lot of volunteer work in Mount Olive. I serve on the Westbrook City Park Board. The park is for kids. People ask me what are you doing that for? I simply answer: "I do it for the kids, they are the future and I want to embrace the future." Doing for the kids got me named Senior Citizen of the Year for Mount Olive, last year.” How many of you knew this?  
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**QUARTERLY NETWORK NEWSLETTER (QNN) is a work in progress. A 50 Year Friendship Rekindled.** The QNN email listing includes 274members at last count. Another 100 mail listing for snail mail, exist. Most of these listings include phone numbers and a brief “bio” of past and present status. Thanks to the website “Retirees Survey” <http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm> for this rapid growth. Please complete this survey if you have not done so, or have a status change. The reason this is mention, almost weekly a request is received from someone looking for someone else. Tom Beal- [Tbear70906@aol.com](mailto:Tbear70906@aol.com)- a non-member stated he had seen his old friend Chief Pat Jolicoeur-[CaptBligh31@aol.com](mailto:CaptBligh31@aol.com)- name in one of the QNNs. They had been stationed together in England at RAF Brentwaters in 1952 and had met their wives (Marina Jolicoeur & Ruth Beal are both from the town of Ipswich) and were married there. Tom was my best man. The wives were good friends before the weddings. Tom called Pat and B-I-N-G-O a beautiful friendship was rekindled with them and their wives. Use these email listings to communicate with one another. In most cases it is as easy as clicking on the

email listing. Let your QNN Editor know if someone needs locating...

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**Feast or Famine – The San Antonio and Texas Hill Country Areas**

were suffering from severe rainfall storage prior to July when a monsoon deluged the area with over 40 inches of rainfall in a very short period of time. Much of the area was declared a disaster by the State and FEMA due to the flooding. The good news, according to the QNN's Texas connection, is that our Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs and their families living in the area suffered little damage. Many of them saw the water rise quickly in their yards, uprooting trees and shrubs.

Chief "Red" Rainey-[Raineyron@aol.com](mailto:Raineyron@aol.com)-, San Antonio and Chief "Mickey" Butler of Sequin both had water rise within inches of their homes. Chief Curtis Dunn's family of San Antonio had to work around the clock to keep flooding to a minimum in their garage area. Chief Curtis was recuperating from open-heart surgery during the flooding. Chiefs Val Allen of Buda, Glenn Cloud of New Braunfels, Joe Jarrell and Donato Jaso, both of Austin, reported no flood damage. Chiefs Jarrell and Jaso that both had had precautionary surgery with both receiving good reports.

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**Yesterday is history. Tomorrow a mystery. Today is a gift.  
That's why it's called the present!**



**SICK CALL: Chief Guy J. Wills- [chiefwills@aol.com](mailto:chiefwills@aol.com)- Ocean City-Wright Fire District Chief. Guy's chemo treatments are showing positive improvement. Chief Jim Cooper's- [fdchief1@cox.net](mailto:fdchief1@cox.net)- wife, Phyllis, has completed her chemo treatment with positive signs of remission. Hats-off to these two close friends and God Bless their speedy recovery. Retired Fire Chief Val Allen, Buda, Texas was transported by EMS September 3, 2002. The South Austin Medical Center kept Val a few days to conduct tests to determine the reason for chest pains. I've talk to him and he is feeling much better. Angioplasty Test indicated a need to repair the heart valve and improve blood flow to his legs. Val will have open-heart surgery 9-17-02. Chief Bob Barrow's wife, Nancy, was hospitalized for chest pains in August. Tests have pointed to the gall bladder as the cause for discomfort. Nan is scheduled for surgery in late September to correct the problem. Editor's comments: The power of prayer in numbers and faith in the Heavenly Father works miracles. Let us pray for the sick and their families, for "His" blessing. A wise person once said, "...you gotta know what sadness be yours and what be somebody else's..."**

**STAMP FUND CONTRIBUTORS: Chief Rod Winningham-110 Spruce Ct, Panama City, FL 32404-8833; Chief Jim Carroll- Glenn Cloud-439 Stone Gate, New Braunfels, Texas 78130; Chief Jack Bol- [Jrbol@hotmail.com](mailto:Jrbol@hotmail.com); Chief Ray Munn-[Bowbelle33@aol.com](mailto:Bowbelle33@aol.com); Chief Ernie Shores-[es4fire@gnt.net](mailto:es4fire@gnt.net)- EDITOR's comment: The QNN is privately funded by members contribution's. They are most appreciated. Email addresses are used when ever possible to promote networking.**

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**EDITOR's CONFESSION Continued: The 75<sup>th</sup> Air Depot Wing Association held their Annual Reunion September 26, 2002, in San Antonio, Texas. Fifty years ago the 75<sup>th</sup> departed Kelly AFB for K-10, Korea with myself and 3,500 other Airmen aboard Troop Ship, USNS General W.H. Gordon. I arrived at Kelly AFB, March 1952, to join the 75<sup>th</sup> ADW in training and preparation for an overseas shipment. Firefighting training lasted almost 10 months complete with a full compliment of fire vehicles-Classes 110; 125; 135; 150; 155 and Type 0-10 CFR apparatus and a Class 500 structural pumper. A separate ship was used to transport the Wing's vehicles and equipment to Korea. Training was 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. Two nights a week was spend in the Fire Station while at**

**Kelly. Emergency responses were made only if it did not interfere with training. Needless to say, the 42 FireFighters assigned were a well-trained coordinated team. During off-base aircraft crashes we**



**easily beat the Kelly Fire trucks to the scene and had control established. The Wing arrived at K-10, Korea, December 30, 1952. All told the fire teams were together over 21 months. That's me in back. "Doc" our Korean Mascot is squatted down on the front row. No resemblance!**

1953 K-10 FireFighters w/ Mascot "Doc"

**Great long lasting friendships developed among the 75<sup>th</sup> ADW FireFighters. Through the miracle of**

**the Internet, over 20 of these FFs have been located and communications established. Due to medical reasons, Nan and I were unable to attend the San Antonio 2002. Perhaps next year! The time spent during my 1<sup>st</sup> hitch, which almost half, was with the 75<sup>th</sup> ADW had a big impact on my decision to make Fire Protection my livelong vocation. Next issue return to the States in December 1953. PCS at New Castle County Airport Air Base, (ADC), Delaware.**

<http://www.politicsandprotest.org/>

**This is a 7MB file, it will take awhile to load...But it is a MUST see! There will probably be a lot of photos you have never seen before? If you have speakers, it will add a lot to this presentation. Click or paste above WebSite to open.... Thanks to Chief Hugh Ackers -[cmshakers@aol.com](mailto:cmshakers@aol.com)-**

**Thanks to Chief Hank Howard-[HAZMATKING@aol.com](mailto:HAZMATKING@aol.com)-for "CinC" story. SALUTE TO THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF! Lt. Col. Rick Jones, a career U.S. Air Force officer presently stationed at the Pentagon. The event he experienced occurred in a Pentagon**



**cafeteria on 9-10-02 is as follows: I just witnessed something I don't think I'll ever forget. I was down near the cafeteria in the Pentagon for lunch and I see a very large crowd of people inside. I walk in and soon find myself standing less than three feet away from our Commander-in-Chief, right beside the Secretary of Defense and a bunch of Secret Service folks. President Bush was walking around shaking hands and thanking all of us for what we do. He kept saying to people "Don't Worry"-as if to say, I've got it under control. He must have shaken 1000**

**hands or more. What particularly struck me was his presence - not a particularly large man in stature, but he had an aura of a giant - a smile on his face, yet you can sense he was a man on a mission - a man of purpose and conviction - there was just this feeling that he is THE MAN, and he is in charge - he had a quiet confidence that was deafening! Then, a group of folks just behind me started singing God Bless America and, in no time, the entire**

room - which was packed - was singing the song. It was enough to give anyone goose bumps. If there was a dry eye in the place, I couldn't see it (probably because my eyes weren't too dry). It was just one of those once-in-a-life-time experiences that I shall never forget. After God Bless America, there were a few chants of "USA-USA-USA," followed by a lot of applause. When President Bush finally made his way toward the entrance, he turned with his confident smile and waved at everyone, and the room just erupted in cheers and whistles and applause. I've been to professional football games where the noise wasn't that loud. It was just such a wonderful experience and it made me: 1) So very happy that George W. Bush is our president and Commander-in-Chief. 2) So proud to be an American. Just thought I'd share. "Lt. Col Rick Jones". **Editors Comments: I, too, was so proud of President Bush visits to 9-11 Remembrances, televised throughout the USA. This President is real and has the respect of our military and veterans. How about NYFD & their Mayor!**

**September 11, 2001 Remembrance: 9-11 has forever changed our lives .... Fire Departments, their Fire Stations and FireFighters across this great nation paid homage on 9-11-2002 to those 3000 lives lost to acts of cowardly terrorism just one year ago. We are deeply saddened by this loss, but encouraged by the stories of acts of heroism that continue to surface. The renewed spirituality with our Eternal Father and Savior Jesus Christ has been wonderful and much appreciated as our nation focuses on punishing those responsible. We are now better prepared for response to threats or acts of terrorism. Our FireFighters and other first responders are our first line of homeland defense. They need our individual support and that of our nations' leaders. United we stand. God bless America.**

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**Nomads Corner: Chief Doug Courchene wrote.** Evelyn and I will be pounding the highways and by-ways in September in our RV. Since both our doctors have given us good bills of health we hope to make it as far as The Grand Canyon National Park Campgrounds for a few spectacular sunsets.



I have my latest copy of QNN's member listings to go with us, so we can contact some of our friends along the way. It was pleasing to note the big increase in 2002 membership. Especially those with computers that receives their newsletters by e-mail. Bob, you are doing a great job as QNN Editor, looking forward to the next issue. **EDITORS comments: Watch out for those "SnowBirds" it time for them to be heading South. Would like to hear from some of them. Have a safe journey...**

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**"SAC FireFighter Reunion" @ Vandenburg AFB, 25-28 September 2002.**

Chief John C. Eliseo- [homesafe@best1.net](mailto:homesafe@best1.net) - thanked QNN for publishing the reunion dates and promised to give some details when he gets back home. There will be a slight delay, however, John is scheduled for surgery 9-30-02. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, John.

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**CONGRADULATIONS TO CHIEF ED WHITE-[eewhite25@cox.net](mailto:eewhite25@cox.net)- AND CHERI.** Ed just finished his last job as Johnson Island Fire Chief and back home with Cheri in Warner Robins, Georgia. How many retirements does that make?

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**My sincere thanks to those Contributors that wrote stories in the past and/ or sent money for the "Stamp Fund." Everyone enjoys traveling down past's memory lane and true some write better than others. However, don't let that stop you. Your stories are important. They help the Retired and Active Chiefs bridge the generational gap. Remember this "QNN Train" won't run down the track without you. Your letters, emails and phone calls make my day. Thanks, Bob Barrow**

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**My deepest appreciation to Retired Fire Chief Ed Sams for proof reading this QNN.**