

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>



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Founded – 1990 by Doug Courchene

January – March 2008



TAPS

**Chief Robert "Bob" Lincoln Smith, SMSgt,
USAF (Retired)
12 Feb 1931 to 1 Nov 2007**

Chief Bob Smith, former Fire Chief at Norton AFB, San Bernardino CA, died on Thursday, November 1, 2007 during an emergency cardiac surgery. On Monday October 30th he experienced a heart attack and had an emergency



catheterization and shunt placed in his arteries.

Bob lead an active life and was a retired SMSgt. He was Fire Chief at several locations in his military tours at RAF Welford, GBR, Wiesbaden AB, DEU and Beale AFB CA.

He was appointed GS -12 Fire Chief of Norton AFB in 1974 and remained as their Chief until the base closed in 1999.



Prayer given at the Memorial: *We pray for Helene, his wife; for Kelli and Heidi, his daughters; for Jarrett and Christopher, his grandsons, and for Ron, his brother here present, that they may have and always know the comfort and strength in the love and memories of their husband, father, grandfather and brother.*

Lord, together with Bob's family, bless this gathering here of love and support from friends. We have come from many places and great distances, all because each one of us was touched in some way by Bob's life, his dedication to service, and his great (and sometimes strange!) sense of humor. Let us share our stories and laughter with one another, for it is in these memories that we celebrate Bob's life the way he would have wanted us to do. Lord, hear this prayer said aloud, and the prayers and thoughts held in our hearts. May Bob's soul and all the faithful departed rest in peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Chief Hamp Cayson, SMSgt, USAF (Retired)
28 Apr 1931 to 25 Feb 2007**

By Chief Donald Warner

It is my sad duty to report the death of Chief Hamp Cayson and designate the appropriate honors in his memory. Chief Cayson was a Charter Member of the United States Air Force coming into the Air Force from the Army Air Corps in 1947. He retired as a SMSgt in 1970 then returned as a civil servant where he is well known for his contributions and leadership at HQ Air Mobility Command, culminating in his retirement as the Command Fire Chief. Chief Cayson passed away on 25 Feb 08 of natural causes. Honors in his memory were provided throughout the Air Force as follows:

Conduct a full Moment of Silence and Last Alarm Ceremony at roll call/shift change on 28 Feb 08

Fly the fire service flag (if available) at half staff for 30 days beginning on the 25 Feb 08.

Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge 1 Mar 08.

Funeral will be private for the family only.

Please pass on the condolences from the Westover Firefighters. You may or may not know, but Chief Cayson was the Fire Chief at Westover for a short period of time. I was told by Chief Longworth that it was during the change over to AF Reserves in 1974. I've attached a picture (above) from 1974 that I think Chief Cayson is in. I thought the family might like it. I can also print it with a higher definition if they like.

Chief Charles Van Gordon
charles.vangordon@westover.af.mil

Note: A link to his obituary and guest book is posted at dodfire.com.

**Herbert "Lefty" Lefkowitz
13 Feb 1927 to 29 Jan 2008**

Herbert "Lefty" Lefkowitz, 80, of Rantoul passed away at 9 a.m. Tuesday (January 29, 2008) at Heartland Healthcare Center, Paxton IL. Links to his obituary and guestbook are at dodfire.com. Lefty was a Fire School instructor at Chanute AFB IL for many years.

**Richard J. Mrowinski, SMSgt, USAF
(Retired)**

Milwaukee, Wi. Richard J. Mrowinski, retired from the Air Force in 1963. He was assigned at Chaumont Air Base from 1962 – 1963 as Base Fire Chief. He passed away Saturday, January 26, 2008 at a nursing facility in Milwaukee. Richard had open heart surgery in June. According to his sister, Irene, he never regained enough strength to care for himself at home. He was 87 years old. Irene said that Richard passed away peacefully in his sleep.



**Stamp Fund
Contributors**

The QNN is privately funded by contributions.. Past quarter, contributors

are: Chief William Ryan chfchf2@comcast.net; Lakewood, WA and Chief Bill Moore William.Moore@hickam.af.mil. E-mail address is used to promote “networking” where possible. Contributions are greatly appreciated and needed. Postage is going up to \$0.42 for regular mails. Donations help defray postage and publishing costs, and they are voluntary as no membership fees are charged. Contact the Editor for more information.

E-Mail Updates

George Cannode gpcannode@gmail.com; Chuck & Mel Hemper hemper@suddenlink.net; Ted Endy chiefno1@verizon.net; Duane Morgan thegoatroper@earthlink.net; Hamp Cayson’s son, Quin Cayson Quin.Cayson@scott.af.mil. We appreciate the updates.

**SICK CALL – PRAYERS URGENTLY
NEEDED**

Chief Steve Moak h43husky@libby.org the Editor of **PEDRO NEWS** is back home in Libby, MT recovering from major back surgery



performed in Settle, WA. Best wishes Steve, for a speedy recovery. Hope you can make the **PEDRO** Reunion this year. Steve experienced a Spinal Cord Injury on the 24th of October. The V.A. had him flown by Air Ambulance from his home town of Libby, MT to Harbor View Trauma Center in Seattle, WA where surgery was performed. The injury initially left him with the inability to stand or walk but that has changed. After his health issues were dealt with, he was transferred to the Puget Sound Health Care System (V.A.) Hospital for rehabilitation.

I (chief.one@cox.net) have had my pre-testing done at Tampa General Hospital’s “LifeLink” for kidney transplantation from a living donor. They found me to be a good candidate for the surgery. However, heart defects found during a heart catheterization must be fixed first. I am scheduled open heart surgery late February, 2008 at Pensacola’s West Florida Regional Medical Center to have an aorta valve replacement and four bypasses. Due to these pending surgeries Chief Sandy Sanders has agreed to be the Acting QNN Editor until I have recovered from the open heart and kidney transplantation. Most know that I have been on dialysis since March 2007 due to Stage 5 Kidney failure. With the good Lord’s will, a new kidney and heart tuneup, I hope to be able to enjoy life. Being on dialysis is not fun...

Chief Barrow wrote the article above just before entering the hospital for the open heart surgery. The surgery went

well and the Chief was doing well for the first hours after. Then there were complications. As I complete this QNN, the Chief is fighting for his life. An apparent blood clot blocked the blood supplying his intestines and caused a section of them to die, which surgeons have successfully removed. Pray that there will be no more complications and he'll fully recover so he can have his kidney transplant...which was the point of all this effort in the first place.

Chief Barrow is a firm believer in the Power-of-Prayer and asks for each of you that share this faith and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ to pray for his healing.

“Most Holy and Mighty God, Lord Jesus, just as Your grace has saved me, I beseech You to extend Your grace to spare Your servant, Chief Bob Barrow, if it be Your will. I ask this in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.”

Chief John Meek (meekdaddi@aol.com) nursing a sore foot has fallen. The fall caused several bruised ribs and a sore tailbone. Hope “MeekDaddy” gets well soon and can keep the good emails coming.

Chief Joe Jarrell (firechief6736@yahoo.com) and his wife, Ruth are recovering from surgery at their home in Austin, Texas. Ruth had a heart tune-up with two stints and is feeling fine.

Honoring our Pioneers

By Donald W. Warner

We now have the final rules you need to prepare packages to nominate individuals to be honored by naming an AF award in their honor. I keep the rules a simple, one page format so you don't have to spend your entire life working on it. You will submit your packages directly to me

and I'll be your sponsor to the Fire Panel. For those that may not know, the fire panel is the MAJCOM fire chiefs. The instructions are at the last two pages of this QNN. The next fire panel meeting is at the fire conference in August so I'll need your packages no later than the middle of July 08. Remember that there are only eight awards to be named so you need to get any nominations you have to me as soon as possible.

Networking in Progress

PEDRO Reunion this year contact Chief Steve Moak (h43husky@libby.org).

Chief James Davis (r11@maui.net) a member and Historian of WW II Fire Fighting Teams is reconstructing the activation of the Army Engineer Fire Suppression School on 1 June 1943 at Camp Pontchartrain LA. This includes fire fighting teams for both the Army ground and aviation forces. Anyone assigned to these teams or have knowledge of the Army Engineer Fire Suppression School at Camp Pontchartrain should contact Jim.

Chiefs Doug Courchene (Dougecourchene@aol.com) and Tom Smith (lennaboggs@tomsmithfire.com) attended Chief Roger Miller's Fort. Bragg retirement ceremony. Roger served in both the Air Force and Army. His department took top honors in 2007 by winning DoD's best large fire department of the year!

Doug, reestablished contact with the late Chief Jasper W. Patterson's Family in San Antonio TX through Larry Dixon (lvdixon5407@yahoo.com), son of the late Chief Jim Dixon, CWO, USAF (Retired). Chief Patterson's family has agreed to turn over Jasper's artifacts to the Heritage Foundation at the DoD Fire Academy. Story below for Dixon connection



Picture taken at Fort Worth AAF in 1947 with Class 150 and Class 155 Fire Trucks proudly displayed. Corporal Doug Courchene, 1st row 3rd from L. and Staff Sergeant James R. Dixon (Station Chief), standing 3rd on R. Most of the Firefighters are “slick-sleeve” Privates. Doug drove The Class 150 “CARDOX” Sterling with 6,000 pounds of low pressure CO2, kept under refrigeration. Doug and Jim Dixon transferred over to the newly created U.S. Air Force on September 17, 1947.

Doug retired as CMSGT and Jim Dixon as Chief Warrant Officer in Fire Protection. Doug mentioned there was not much money or anyone with a car back then. Just about everyone lived in the barracks. This made for instant recall and a ready response in the event of a major crash alarm. The B-17s, B-26s and B-36s kept them busy! Others in the photo (A shift) are: Monteith, Tomawski, Emmot, Sheridan, Barreca. Maxwell, Wittek, Much, Nelson, Petroff, Woods, Newman, Normand, Massingale, Sheperd, Smith, Osborne, Dixon, Montablio. Lucas, Dowdy, Clerveraze, Courchene, Huffman, Reynolds, Bennett, Golden, Quinla and Gazra.

Editor's comment: Jim Dixon's son, Larry Dixon (lvdixon5407@yahoo.com) lives in the San Antonio Tx area. Jim passed away in June of 1997 at the age of 80. I remember your Dad and other

CWOs, that Chief Courchene and you named. I was an Air Force Warrant Officer from 18 June 1958 to October 1992. I joined the military Fire Service on 3 January 1950 and was honored to be the last Warrant Officer to retire from the USAF. I presently serve as Editor-in-Chief of the QNN for the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs. I am always interested in stories about our Fire Pioneers and their families to publish in the QNN. My son, Frank, is a Deputy Fire Chief following in his Dad's footsteps. If you have a story about “Dad”, I would like to see it. Please let me hear from you. Best regards, Bob Barrow, CWO4, USAF (Retired) (850) 243-1274 chief.one@ccox.net.

War Stories

Mr Hamp Cayson

...by Chief Sandy Sanders

I want to share some experiences I had with Hamp Cayson.

Shortly after arriving at Tyndall AFB and beginning work at the "Center," Lt Col Robert Allen, Director of Fire Protection, briefed me about the contacts within each of the Major Air Commands. To name a few: Mr Tony Bamer HQ PACAF, Mr Billy Ferrell HQ ATC, Mr Ben Partin HQ TAC, Mr Gus Hunter HQ SAC, Mr Bob Malin HQ MAC, Mr Ken Wollers HQ AFLC. I recall very vividly Col Allen saying when it comes to discussing large frame aircraft firefighting issues you need to talk to Mr Hamp Cayson, who was with Bob Malin at HQ MAC. During the fielding of the P-15 it became clear Mr Cayson was the "go to guy" on large frame aircraft firefighting tactics and strategy. During my tenure at Tyndall the Air Force unfortunately did suffer several fires involving large frame aircraft. Numerous meetings and workshops were held to review appropriate training for firefighters supporting large frame aircraft operations. Further, a total review of our equipment and procedures for fighting large frame aircraft fires was accomplished. HQ MAC, HQ SAC and HQ ALC played vital roles in this review. What struck me during these meetings and workshops was how everyone listened intently when Hamp Cayson spoke. The results of these meetings and workshops provided positive direction for Air Force firefighters to cope with large frame aircraft fires. I personally believe Hamp Cayson was the catalyst leading the way and providing sound input. Not only was the Air Force dealing with these type incidents but our sister services, Army, Navy and Marine Corp were also having similar problems. To this end a meeting was held at Emmitsburg Maryland on the campus of the National Fire Academy. Mr Cayson and I attended this meeting. We were tasked to provide crossfeed to fire protection representatives from each of the DoD and Federal components as to the direction Air Force Fire Protection was taking concerning large frame aircraft firefighting training, tactics and strategy. What a blessing it was for me to have Mr Cayson there to handle all the hard questions. When asked a question I could just say "That is not my

area I will let Mr Cayson answer that" As you can guess, Mr Cayson took most of the questions.

Some time later after a major fire involving a C-5 at Travis AFB, the MAC Civil Engineer directed his Fire Protection Staff to conduct an assessment of fire fighting capability at every location that supported MAC large frame aircraft. I accompanied Mr Cayson to some Army locations in the CONUS as well as Air Force locations on the West Coast and Alaska, and DoD locations throughout the Pacific Theater. Hamp Cayson took the lead and made a difference. During these workshops, meetings, and traveling to accomplish numerous firefighting assessment visits, I developed a deep respect for Mr Cayson's knowledge and ability to look at problems and facilitate a common sense approach to solve them.

On a more personal note, while we were at Andersen AFB Guam, Mr Cayson asked me to drive him to the remains of an old airfield Northwest of Andersen. An old runway and parking aprons were still visible as we drove around quite a while just looking at a jungle growing over what looked like some old World War II buildings. Mr Cayson suddenly said "Sandy Stop." We got out of the car and Mr Cayson stopped and stood looking into the jungle at an old building that was falling down and was barely visible through the vines and jungle growth. After some time Hamp said "this place has some meaning to me. I was stationed here many years ago (1947) and I lived in the building we are now looking at and I recall celebrating my 18th Birthday there." Mr Cayson was a Charter Member of the United States Air Force coming into the Air Force from the Army Air Corp in 1947. I appreciate the professional relationship we developed and the friendship we shared for these many years. I had the honor of being the first Fire Chief for Mr Cayson's son, Quin, at Clark Air Base Republic of the Philippines during the 1980s. Quin is now a CMSgt with the Air Guard, and I am sure his promotion to Chief was a proud moment for Hamp. I appreciate what Mr Hamp Cayson contributed toward the betterment of the United States Air Force Fire Protection Program. Additionally, I appreciate the sacrifices his family made as he served the Air Force and our Nation. God Bless Hamp, wife; Mary and his Family

Process for Naming Air Force Fire Fighter Awards

1. **Purpose.** This document establishes the process to name the Air Force Firefighter of the Year awards. Specifically, it establishes criteria designed to recognize only individuals who have exemplified the ability, character, dedication and leadership attributes worthy of having an Air Force-level award named for them.

2. **Discussion.** Eight additional Air Force Fire Emergency Services (FES) awards listed below were created to match DoD Fire & Emergency Services awards. This presents an opportunity to honor AF FES heroes, pioneers, and members who made significant contributions to Air Force FES. Contributions may have occurred during a single event or over a lifetime/career. This document establishes the eligibility criteria and the process for identifying past members of the fire emergency services profession to be honored by re-titling, over time, the following awards in their honor:

2.1. Small Air Force Fire Department of the Year.

2.2. Large Air Force Fire Department of the Year (CMSgt Ralph B. Sanborn Award already established).

2.3. Air Force Military Fire Fighter of the Year.

2.4. Air Force Military Fire Officer of the Year.

2.5. Air Force Civilian Fire Fighter of the Year.

2.6. Air Force Civilian Fire Officer of the Year.

2.7. Air Force Fire Emergency Services Heroism Award.

2.8. Air Force Fire Service Instructor of the Year.

2.9. Air Force Fire Prevention Program of the Year.

3. Eligibility.

3.1. With the exception of the Air Force Heroism Award, candidate must have served in Air Force FES positions for a minimum of 25 years.

3.2. Living candidates must not have been an employee of Air Force Fire Emergency Services in any capacity for the previous 5 years.

4. Nomination Process.

4.1. The nomination period is open until all awards are named.

Attachment 1

Nomination for Naming AF FES Awards

1. Nomination packages shall include a cover memorandum that includes the name of the candidate, a complete mailing address (if applicable), and is signed by a current member of an AF Fire Emergency Services (FES) organization. Memorandum is addressed to the appropriate command fire chief. In turn, the Command Fire Chief submits the package for Civil Engineer Fire Panel (CEFP) consideration at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled CEFP meeting.
2. Nomination narratives are a maximum of 30 lines on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and:
 - Times New Roman font
 - 12-pitch font size
 - One-inch margins
3. Packages for candidates nominated based on lifetime/career contributions to AF FES may use bullet or narrative statements to show candidate accomplishments and specific results. Place these statements under the following headings:
 - Career synopsis
 - Air Force Fire Emergency Services Impact
 - Specific job accomplishments
 - Leadership ability
4. Packages for candidates nominated because of a specific act will be in a narrative format similar to a military medal nomination package using criteria in paragraph 2 above.