



Honor Guard Turns 25

The Raleigh Fire Department Honor Guard celebrates a quarter-century this year. The organization was formed in July 1984, to honor the passing of Lt. Harold Faison. The first members included Keith Fredericks, Tommy Gattis, K. D. Harris, Shelton Price, Robert Rodgers, Carmelo Sanchez, and Buddy Scarboro. Since that time, the Honor Guard has been a sturdy, silent presence at funerals, ceremonies, and other special events.



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Two Alarms on Blount Street



Two alarms were struck at 1316 S. Blount Street, at an early morning fire on Friday, June 12. Engine 1 arrived at a one-story, wood-frame, 6,200 square-foot commercial warehouse building inside a fenced area with heavy smoke showing. Inside the structure, crews found heavy fire and were soon withdrawn. Defensive operations included deluge guns, and aerial streams from Ladder 1 and Ladder 20.



Water pressure problems required multiple hydrants, and several streets were closed by supply lines. Apparatus access was also challenged by parked vehicles. The 1930 building had been used by a towing company. The fire was controlled in about 90 minutes. Command was provided by Battalion 2, and then Car 5. Crews remained on scene into the day. "B" shift was working. See more photos of the incident from Lee Wilson at www.raleighfirenews.org. ❖

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Sixteen members comprise the guard, which is led by Capt. Kevin Coppage as Honor Guard Commander. Three squads, one per shift, are led by Capt. Dan Haines (A), Capt. Shelton Price (B), and Capt. Damon Chapel (C) as Squad Commanders.

The remaining current members are Lieutenants Reggie Hocutt and Paul Witmer, and Firefighters David Burcham, Joseph Callendar, Robert Coughter, Glenn Todd, Donnell Hunter, Tarmel Kennion, Patrick Marks, Jeff Neal, and K .D. Harris (retired). Firefighter Gershon Lee was added as a bugler in June. Members train twice monthly at the training center or Station 3.

Former members have included Famious Allen, Clarence Briley, Bill Dillard, Keith Fredericks, Tommy Gattis, Zeb Overton, Robert Rodgers, Carmelo Sanchez, Buddy Scarboro, Dean Taylor, and Ricky Tharrington.



The Honor Guard represents Raleigh Fire Department colors at funerals of active or retired personnel. They are notified immediately upon any death of active or retired members, and are present during all funeral activities for line-of-duty deaths. They are present for select funeral activities for off-duty or retiree deaths.

The Honor Guard participates in many other activities, including recruit graduation ceremonies, promotional ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, and special events related to fire department activities. They also assist other fire service organizations, including the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Recently, the Honor Guard participated in the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony, the North Carolina Victims of Domestic Violence ceremony, and the United States citizenship ceremony. The Raleigh Fire Department was chosen as the honor guard agency for local citizenship ceremonies in 2009.



In August, the Honor Guard appears at the South Atlantic Fire & Rescue Expo at the Raleigh Convention Center. In October, the Honor Guard travels to Emmitsburg, Maryland, for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Lt. Herman Jones, who died on duty in 2008, is among the honored.

Honor Guard members received new uniforms in April. The dress uniforms further enhance the guard's appearance, and match the fire department new dress uniforms.

The guard's uniforms extend Class A uniforms with white gloves, white caps for all members, shoulder citation cords, trouser stripes, and collar pins with crossed axes.



The Raleigh Fire Department Honor Guard takes pride in representing our department, and paying respect to those who have diligently served our organization. See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ❖

Youth Academy Starts

The Raleigh Fire department hosts the annual Youth Fire Academy during the week of July 20-24. During this week-long camp, young adults aged 11-14 will learn about the fire department and firefighting. Led by Fire Educator Ronald Campbell, the 24 youths will begin each day at the Kiwanis Park recreation center. They'll visit fire stations, the training center, the communications center, and other facilities. Classroom and physical challenge activities will include first aid, fire behavior, fire inspections and code enforcement, fire prevention, fire investigations, and thermal imaging camera demonstrations. ■

Task Force 8 Responds to Garner Building Collapse

On June 9 at 11:30 a.m., Engine 26 and Garner fire units were dispatched to an explosion and fire at the ConAgra Foods processing plant at 4851 Jones Sausage Road. Arriving units found a 50,000 square-foot industrial building partially collapsed, with fires inside, and numerous victims evacuating the structure.



Command was established by the Garner Fire Department, and the command post was located in the front of the plant. Raleigh Fire Department technical resources were requested as mutual aid, along with haz-mat units, due to leaking ammonia.

Task Force 8 was mobilized, and Raleigh USAR units were dispatched along with personnel and equipment from Cary, Chapel Hill, and Durham fire departments. Construction engineers and heavy equipment were also sent to the scene.

Fire and EMS personnel treated and transported 46 patients including three firefighters. Another three employees were still trapped inside. As haz-mat personnel performed recon, Task Force 8 began planning for an extended search and rescue operation.



The first search teams entered the building at 8:00 p.m. They operated for 30 to 35 minute periods, and then changed air bottles. During periods of severe weather, operations were halted due to the possibility

of a secondary collapse. A base camp was also established, with climate-controlled shelters for sleeping, eating, and sanitation.



The mission concluded on June 10 at 4:00 p.m., with the recovery of the third victim. The total haz-mat and USAR personnel numbered 93, including off-duty members. Just over 600 man hours were spent in the debris pile for search and recovery. See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ❖

Promotions

July 1

Promoted to Captain: Michael D. Ezzell

Promoted to Lieutenant: Christopher S. Smith

April 25

Promoted to Senior Firefighter: Johnny F. Allen, William G. Bowen, Melvin L. Cooley, Jerry J. Farantatos, Adam C. Ferguson, Donald W. Griffin, Steven G. Griffin, Jerry B. Jeffreys, Christopher D. Laxton, James H. McLamb, James W. Pearce, Phillip M. Rogers, Justin D. Rose, Andrew W. Saunders, Jr., William M. Stricker, Brett C. Taylor, Matthew D. Taylor, Christopher N. Townsend, Kenneth R. VonDerHeide, and Paul M. Wyatt.

Retirements

Capt. Randy A. Pierce retired Jul. 1, with 27.3 years of service



Capt. Darrell R. Canady retired Apr. 1, with 28 years of service.



Lt. S. Mark Alford retired Apr. 1, with 30.1 years of service.



Photo Gallery



Apartment fire at 6305 Shanda Drive on June 25. Engine 15 was first on scene. Two alarms.



Players hit the links at the Third Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament on June 11 at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Raleigh. The event raised \$8,238 for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.



C-shift personnel play a familiar game of volleyball behind Station 1 on June 3. No photographer was harmed during the making of this newsletter.

SEE MORE PHOTOS AT:
WWW.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.ORG



Station 6 open house and birthday party on June 27.



Raleigh and Cary personnel pose at the Progress Energy Center, before the annual Wake County EMS System Cardiac Saves ceremony on May 18.



Apartment fire at 537 Dacian Road on April 30. Engine 12 was first on scene.



Recruit Academy 36 poses before graduation at the Raleigh Convention Center on April 17. ■

New Pumpers and Platforms

The Raleigh Fire Department has received four new pieces of fire apparatus. Two 2009 Pierce Arrow XT 100-foot aerial platforms were delivered on May 11. Each is equipped with a 1,500 GPM pump and 300 gallon tank, and feature two speed-lay and two cross-lay hose compartments. They'll be placed in service soon as Ladder 5 and Ladder 7. See below for information on new unit numbers.



Two 2009 Pierce Arrow XT pumpers were delivered in April. Each is equipped with a 1,500 GPM pump, 500 gallon tank, and 20 gallon foam cell. Other features include vertical rear-enclosed ladder storage, and one speed-lay and two cross-lay hose compartments. They have been placed in service as Engine 1 and Engine 20. See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org.



New Numbering For Units

Effective July 7, unit numbers change for ladder companies, rescue companies, mini-pumpers, haz-mat units, and the mobile air unit. The change enhances fireground safety by reducing the number of duplicate unit numbers at an incident. For example, Engine 1 and Ladder 1 to the same response. The change also eliminates equipment renumbering when apparatus is moved to another station. Reserve ladders and rescue units are not affected.

Additionally, Car 5 (Division Chief) and Car 10 (Training Chief) are swapping unit numbers. This change aligns Car 5 with the other Assistant Chiefs: Car 2 (Operations), Car 3 (Services), and Car 4 (Prevention). ❖

Old Number	New Number
Ladder 4	Ladder 1
Ladder 11	Ladder 2
Ladder 17	Ladder 3
Ladder 1	Ladder 4
Ladder 22	Ladder 5
Ladder 24	Ladder 6
Ladder 20	Ladder 7
Ladder 26	Ladder 8
Rescue 19	Rescue 1
Rescue 7	Rescue 2
Rescue 14	Rescue 3
Air 8	Air 1
Car 5	Car 10
Car 10	Car 5
Mini Pumper 16, 3, 23	Mini Pumper 1, 2, 3
Haz-Mat 2, 15	Haz-Mat 1, 2
SR 2, 8, 22	SR 1, 2, 3

Budget News

The approved budget for Fiscal Year 2010 includes funding for two replacement pumpers, ladder company high-rise kits, five thermal imaging cameras including two replacements, and more improvements for fire stations, including generators, and roof repair and replacement.

Other funded items include the child seat installation training program, two washer extractors for cleaning turnout gear, and a new chemical ID detector to replace outdated equipment.

Travel has been reduced across all city departments, though funding has been retained for certifications and training at the National Fire Academy. No staff has been added or subtracted, and seven city inspectors remain temporarily reassigned to the Fire Prevention Division. Read budget documents at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■

More Fleet Additions

USAR 1 has received a replacement apparatus, a 2009 Hackney trailer with a 2005 Volvo cab. It replaces a converted 1974 Hackney beverage trailer with a 1998 Sterling cab. The new twin-axle trailer adds some 40% additional space, and includes a generator and two light towers. USAR 1 is parked at Station 7, and is part of North Carolina Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 8.



Two box trucks have been delivered to the Services and Training divisions. Left is a 2007 Chevy/Isuzu supply truck, used to deliver supplies to fire stations. Right is USAR 5, a 2008 Chevy/Isuzu logistics unit, used to transport personnel and equipment for Task Force 8. ❖



Mobile Data Terminal Update



Engine 12 has received the first mobile data terminal (MDT). The system consists of two touch-screen monitors and keyboards, one for the Captain, the other for personnel riding in the rear. The mobile terminals provide driving directions, show dispatch information, access fire department records, and connect to the Internet. The next installations are planned for all eight ladder companies over the next several months. ❖

Our Family Tree (Part 3)

Who is related to whom in the fire department, past or present? Here is the latest installment tracing the family tree of the Raleigh Fire Department. Note that the ranks of retirees (r) and deceased members (d) are listed as their present-day equivalents.

Brothers and Sisters

Capt. **William Brooks** (r) is the brother of former member **Thomas Brooks**.

Capt. **James Faison** (r) and Lt. **Harold Faison** (d) are brothers.

Bat. Chief **Lynn Johnson** (r) and Firefighter **Wayne Johnson** (r) are brothers.

Asst. Chief **Kenneth Lane** (r) and former member **George Lane** are brothers.

Capt. **Willy Medlin** (r) and Lt. **Billy Medlin** (r) are brothers, and also cousins of Garage Supervisor **Charles Medlin** (r), who is cousin of Mechanic **Joe Medlin** (r).

Capt. **Aldred Perry** (r) and Firefighter **Labon Perry** (d) are brothers.

Lt. **Tommy Rich** (r) is the brother-in-law of former Lt. **Jimmy Eddins**.

Bat. Chief **Stephen Talton** (r) and former member **John Talton** are brothers.

Capt. **Wade Watkins** (r) and former member **Henry Watkins** are brothers. (1940s)

Lt. **Orlin Wilder** (r) and Lt. **Roma Wilder** (r) are brothers.

Fathers and Sons

Lt. **Thomas Hodge** (r) is the son of former member **Julius Hodge**. Thomas is also the cousin of Bat. Chief **James Warren** (r).

Lt. **Todd Glover** is the son of Bat. Chief **William Glover** (r).

Other Relations

Capt. **Larry Averette** (r) and Lt. **Paul Averette** (r) are cousins.

Lt. **Tim Keeter** is the distant cousin of Capt. **Ray Driver** (r).

Lt. **Al Moody** is the nephew of Capt. **Robert Moody** (d). ■

Retiree Luncheon Photos

The "A" shift crew of Station 26 hosted a retiree lunch on Monday, March 30. Chicken and rice, plus peanut butter sandwiches, were served to some 90 retired members. The event was sponsored by the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association. See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org. ■



Since the start of the city retirement system in 1949, at least 360 uniformed or civilian fire department members have retired with time or on disability.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

Pam's Restaurant, 5111 Western Boulevard, 7:30 a.m.

July 14

August 11

September 8

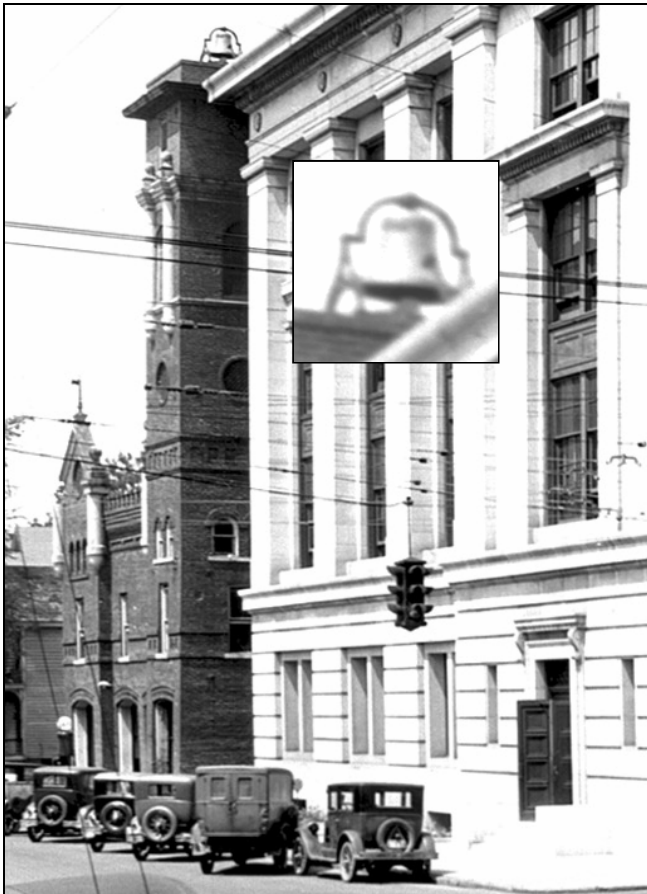
SOUTH ATLANTIC FIRE & RESCUE EXPO

Raleigh Convention Center

August 19-22

HISTORIC FIRE BELL REVEALED

This 1930 photo from the North Carolina State Archives shows the 1870 fire bell atop old Station 1 on West Morgan Street. The historic bell was returned to city custody last year, after spending decades atop a building at North Carolina State University. ❖



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State Firefighter Convention Returns to Capitol City

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association and the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs hold their annual convention at the Raleigh Convention Center, August 19-22. The Capitol City last hosted the event in 1973, with prior visits by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1889, 1902, 1916, 1936, 1956, and 1968.

The Raleigh Fire Department is the host agency, and is participating at the South Atlantic Fire & Rescue Expo in several ways, including workshops led by fire department members, training conducted at the Keeter Training Center, and a raffle with proceeds split between the Wake County Burned Children's Fund and the North Carolina Fallen Firefighter's Foundation. Look for the Raleigh Fire Department information booth, where you can buy raffle tickets.

In addition to conference sessions and workshops, other event activities include a baseball game, a golf tournament, the Haz-Mat Challenge, a motorcycle run, and a fire truck parade down Fayetteville Street. Learn more at www.southatlanticfirerescueexpo.com. ❖

Historical Society Update

Work continues toward organizing a Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society. By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation have been drafted for review and approval. An inventory of the department's historical items is planned, as well as creating an artifact storage area at Station 23. Other recent projects: removing old records from the old alarm house behind Station 1, and creating a historical display for the Station 6 birthday party and open house. For more information about the historical society and current activities, visit www.raleighfirehistory.org. ❖

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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