



FIRE AND  
RESCUE  
DEPARTMENT  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

GEORGE C.  
THORNTON  
CAPTAIN/PREVEN  
TIO

## APRIL 2014 MEMBER PROFILE RETIRED CAPTAIN F. P. D. GEORGE C. THORNTON

George was born on February 23, 1938 in Camilla, Georgia to Edwin and Elizabeth Thornton. He was the sixth of seven siblings, all girls except six. He is married to Helen and together they have four daughters, one son, nine grandchildren and three great grands.

Education: Hopeful High School, Camilla, Ga. Fletcher High School, Neptune Beach, Fl., Florida State College of Jacksonville, Fl. (Fire Science Associates degree) and attended the U.S. Fire Academy Emmittsburg, Md.

George was raised on a farm but didn't care for the farm life. He moved to Jacksonville in 1957 and was hired by the City April 27, 1965. He transferred to the Fire Dept. in September 1968 and his first assignment was Ladder 2 with Lt. Alton Carver. He was promoted to Engineer on Engine 19 with Lt. Howard Barker in 1972, then to Lieutenant FPD in March 1992 and Captain in 1994 or 1995.

Most memorable event: There are so many it is hard to define which one, but the Palms Hotel on Market St. near Headquarters comes to mind. My Company, Eng. 19 with Lt. J. T. Woody and Larry Norris, was called in on third alarm and were directed to go in to search for victims. I started searching rooms on the second floor and found someone on the floor in the bathroom near the window. I picked her up and carried her to the stairs and handed her over to others. Then discovered two male victims near that same window where they were probably trying to escape ,and carried or dragged them to the stairs and left them with other rescuers. By this time I had to exit the building.

Hobbies: wood working, building furniture and other stuff for family and friends.

Retired: May 7th 1997. After retirement did some consulting in fire and life safety for a large Telephone Co. for about two years.

Enjoys traveling around the USA and has been to all States except Minnesota. Like to do some gardening and yard work and spend time with family.

Special accomplishments: Beat cancer for at least ten years

