



Established 2007

Jacksonville Association of Retired Fire Fighters

REMINDER

November – December 2019
January 2020

625 STOCKTON STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32204
www.JAXRFA.com

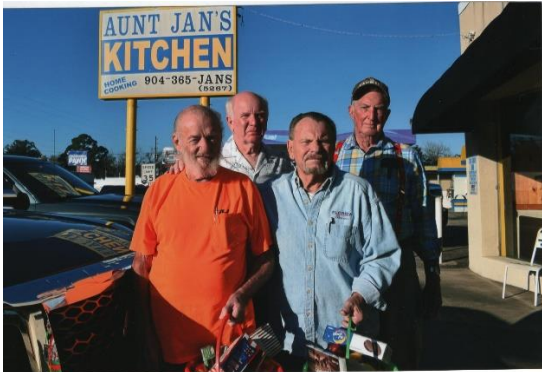
Last Alarm:

Editor: M.A.Barr

Engineer Joe Davis passed away November 12, 2019
Engineer Scotty Hicks passed away November 29, 2019
Fire Fighter Claude Ray Miller passed away December 4, 2019
Captain Charles Baxter passed away December 20, 2019
Engineer George W. Freeland passed away December 27, 2019
Engineer Bobby Dewitte passed away January 29, 2020
Engineer Joe Hawthorne passed away February 3, 2020
Engineer David Ebersole passed away February 4, 2020
Engineer Jeff Bailey passed away February 9, 2020

Our heartfelt condolences go out to all their families and friends. Welcome to the top floor, Guys,
We will take it from here!

Member Report:



Picture to the Left: Annually the Retired Fire Fighters Associations creates and delivers baskets of fruit and goodies to retired members who are ill or confined to home. This picture was back before the holidays, when several members, John Wood, Jim White, Ronnie Learn and Wayne Doolittle took David Ebersole to breakfast and presented his basket to him. (Aunt Jan's Kitchen on Normandy is a local favorite hangout for many retired FF's. Picture to the Right: Another basket presentation to Captain Tom Leuders and his wife Betty. Little of any of us know that this would be our last interaction with David Ebersole.



Back at Aunt Jan's County Restaurant, several of us gathered to celebrate Lt. Jerry Parker's 70th Birthday (Jan 25, 2020). First, we enjoyed breakfast and then ended the celebration with cake and great conversation! Thanks to our JFRA President John Wood for organizing this event. Also, a word of thanks to 1st Vice-President Ronnie Learn for providing the Birthday Cake.



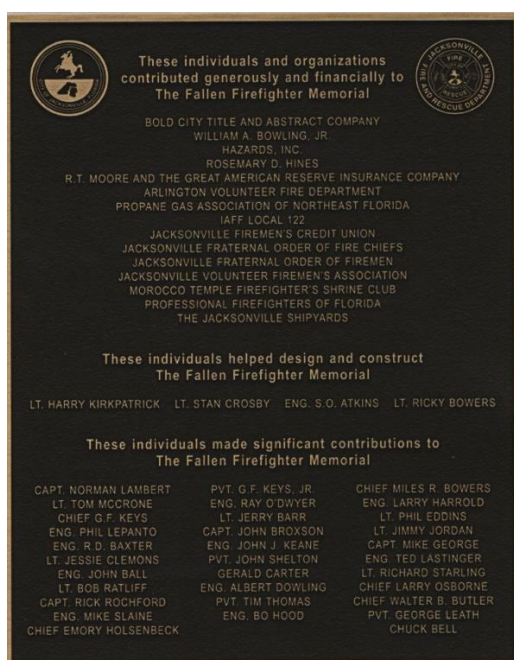
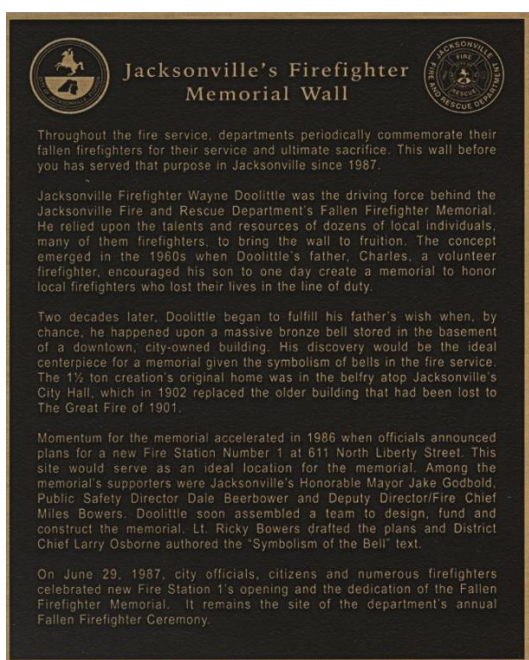
Friday, January 31, 2020 was an emotional and sad day for many retired members of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department. For those that had not heard, the original Fire Station # 5 on Riverside Avenue at Forest Street met demolition to pave the way for expansion and progress. Many tried diligently to save the building as it has been a Fire Department Icon for many years. On that same day, the present Fire Station 5 company along with numerous retired members gathered together at old # 5 to collect bricks and mementos. The building may no longer be standing, but it's memory will never be destroyed for many. (1910-2008 FS # 5)



Above picture taken during the annual meeting of the JRDB Fund, Nick Tison, who is the retired representative, who ran again unopposed, is heading the meeting. To the left: Fred Ferguson is the funds Administrator along with Captain John Long.

Update on the Annual Jacksonville Fire Death Benefit Fund meeting held in conjunction with the Union Meeting on January 16, 2020. At the start of the meeting, there was a remembrance for all the JFDB members who passed away in 2019. They were as follows: James Phillips; Richard Hunt; Richard Johnson; Walter Hurlbert (Oldest Living Fireman); Robert J Lewis; and Rebecca R. Viets. A big round of congratulations to those involved in soliciting new members, as of January 31, 2020 we have acquired 121 new members and boast with a total of over 1200 members to date. The annual Election for active duty representatives was held, and Chief Donald Blanton was elected with no opponents, the President. Chief Blanton was unable to attend the meeting due to a 2nd Alarm fire which required his attention since he was on duty.

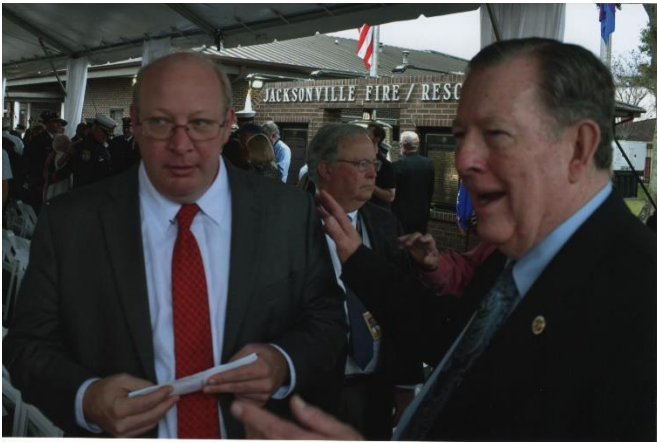
On December 17, 2019, The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Ceremony was held at Fire Station #1, 611 North Liberty Street at 10:00 am. Many attended including the President of the City Council Scott Wilson representing Mayor Lenny Curry, other dignitaries, Director/Fire Chief Keith Powers, Larry Osborne, MOC Nicholas Tison, Dr Percy Golden for the Invocation, JFRD and JSO Honor Guard and of course, the JFRD Pipes and Drums who performed "Amazing Grace". Many thanks to all who contributed their time, their talents, and their attendance to this annual Memorial Service. It is a bittersweet remembrance of those who gave all in the line of duty, and although they are no longer with us in life, we will be with them again in another time. Special thanks and acknowledgements go to the Jacksonville Retired Fire Fighters Association for providing breakfast; Local 122 for hosting the breakfast and providing lunch. Also, many thanks to the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Mr. Glen Weiss, Director of the Council's Public Art Program, for their funding the new plaques which describe the History of the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial as well as the stakeholders who were involved in supporting, designing, and construction of the Memorial.



Both these newly designed and mounted plaques are placed at the northern gate where you enter to the Fallen Fire Fighter's Memorial Wall. The two plaques are placed along the pathway. One tells the History of how the Memorial became a reality and its other companion displays all those who contributed to the creation of the Memorial and its grounds.



Picture to the Left: Retired Captain "Master of Ceremonies" Nick Tison commencing the start of the Ceremony. Picture to the Right: Director / Fire Chief Keith Powers welcoming all to the Annual Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Service.



Picture to the Left: Larry Osborne (Business Agent for Local 122) is speaking with long time friend and City Council President Scott Wilson. Picture to the Right: These are past Chiefs of the JFRD who were in attendance at the Ceremony.



Picture Upper left: JRFA President John Wood presenting Retired Fire Chief Cullen Chalker with a new Jacket representing his status of Oldest Fire Fighter & Fire Chief. Right Picture: Retired Lt. Jim White created this wood plaque displaying Chief Chalker's name. Picture Lower Left: The New Sign created to display Chief Chalker's titles and mounted on the Fire Engine used for events and parades.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

March 2 -5, 2020 38th Annual Fire Fighter's Fishing Tournament in Deland, Florida. Contact John Wood (Fishing Tournament Manager (904) 868-7480.

March 24, 2020 Men of "10" Luncheon - At Fire Station # 10 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

March 31, 2020 Annual Fire Fighter's Widows Luncheon

April 18, 2020 Annual Guns and Hoses Boxing Match

April 25, 2020 Annual Fire Fighter's Ball