



Established 2007

Jacksonville Association of Retired Fire Fighters

NEWSLETTER

625 STOCKTON STREET

March – July 2020

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32204

www.JAXRFA.com

Editor: M.A. Barr

Quote for Month: “Bravery is the capacity to perform properly even when scared half to death.” —Omar Bradley

LAST ALARM:

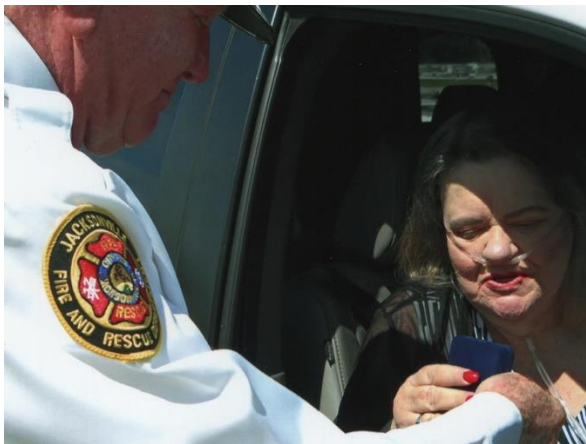
Captain T.C.Banks passed away May 20, 2020

Engineer Terry Starratt passed away June 4, 2020

Fire Fighter Lonnie Turner passed away July 7, 2020

L122 President/Engineer Paul Dinkins passed July 14, 2020

Lieutenant Bill Baer passed away July 16, 2020



Retired Captain T.C. Banks Services were held on May 24, 2020 at Cedar Bay Funeral home and Glennville Cemetery in Glennville, Georgia. Pictured Left: Jacksonville Retired Firemen’s Association President John Wood presenting his wife with the JRFA Widow’s Commemorative Coin, which is engraved with “My Hero wore a Fire Helmet”)

After the loss of his wife in April of 2020, our very own Wayne Doolittle was blessed with an invitation to visit Franklin Street Baptist Church by Retired Engineer Richard Tuten and Wife Alice. The Church’s Pastor is Doctor Terry Gore ,(none other than brother to Retired Haz Mat Captain Ronnie Gore) who was raised on 23rd Street right around the corner from the Old # 9 at 24th and Perry St. The brothers’ father was a City of Jacksonville Police Officer. Many of the neighborhood youth would often visit their corner Fire Station #9, and participate in the pranks and camaraderie of the station scene. One of Dr Terry’s cherished memories was Retired Battalion Chief Robert Wyse dumping copious amounts of water on him from the station’s 2nd floor. Another one of the youth’s to grow up in the station was Retired Division Chief of Services Larry Peterson. Just ask Wayne Doolittle and John Davidson about the many pranks that were pulled on Larry.



Picture to Left: At the Retired Fire Fighter's breakfast, Director/Fire Chief Keith Powers was presented a sign created by Retired Lieutenant Jim White in his wood shop in his home, along with JaxRFA President John Wood. Lt. White has made numerous signs for JFRD personnel and has recently mentioned this will be his last.



Pictured Left: Retired Engineer Cosmo Roberts was presented this plaque by his Son, Captain Mark Roberts of Ladder 4. The Hatchett/Axe displays the symbol of the International Association of Fire Fighters. On the decorative engraved blue plate, it pays tribute to Cosmo's 41 years of service in JFRD as well as City of Jacksonville. Retired Engineer Keith Wood was the Craftsman of woodwork in this plaque.



Above Pictured Left: Our Annual Oldest Living Fire Fighter/Fire Chief Celebration in honor of Retired Chief Cullen Chalker turning 96 yoa. Sitting & Standing left to right - Retired Chief Larry Mays, Engineer Donald Baster, Chief Cullen Chalker, and John Keene, Retired Administrator of Fire/Police Pension Fund. It was held on July 10, 2020 at Long Horn's Steakhouse on Southside Blvd. Above Pictured Right – Due to the constraints of Covid 19 – Only fifteen max were allowed to attend due to the restaurants mandate.



Pictures 1-6 above: Finally on July 25, 2020, The Celebration of Life Services were held for Retired Captain Kenneth Lee at the Hickox Baptist Church in Hickox, Georgia officiated by Retired Chaplain Wayne Young. Amongst immediate and extended family as well as close friends, there were numerous retired Fire Fighters in attendance. Picture 1 left top - Ken's wife, Engineer Button Lee receiving the Widow's Commemorative Coin by Jax RFA President John Wood. Picture 2 Right top - a group picture of all the fire fighters in attendance. Picture 3 middle left - Retired Captain Howard Evans & Engineer Charlie Geiger on post beside his casket. Picture 4 - middle right Evan's personal Fire Engine was used to carry the family homemade casket from the Church to his resting place on his and Button's property. Picture 5 - the Pall Bearers who are personal friends, carrying Captain Lee to board the Engine. Picture 6- Retired District Chief Steve Gerbert, Retired Captain Evans Howard, and Retired Engineer Charlie Geiger preparing to lift the casket off the Engine and walk it to Service Tent. Many Thanks to Evans and Charlie for their time and effort in getting the Engine to Hickox.
