



# THE VOLUNTEER



The Official Newsletter of the  
**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

July 2003

## 2003 Annual Conference

**By: Daryl Lester,  
DeKalb County Firefighters**

June 27th and 28th, the DeKalb County VFW Fairgrounds saw in excess of 500 firefighters and family members attending the 2003 Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments Annual Conference, hosted by our very own DeKalb County Association of Fire Departments.

The annual event is moved every year, but had never been held in DeKalb County. The preparation started over nine months ago and concluded on Saturday night with a banquet held at the Wills Valley Recreation Center.

Included in the weekend event was a vendor show with over 30 exhibitors and a firefighter's competition. The competition consisted of three events,

The Obstacle Course, The Hose Lay #2 and The Bucket Brigade. Sylvania took first place in the Obstacle Course and Hose Lay #2 events, while Dogtown took 3rd place in the same two events and fourth place overall. After the points were tabulated, Sylvania was awarded first place overall. The challenge trophy is kept by the first place winner until the competition next year. For the last four years, Thomasville Fire Department has held it, but had to give it up this year to Sylvania.

"We would like to thank everyone who attended, the exhibitors and especially the teams that competed from our county, which were Sylvania, Dogtown, Ider and Pine Ridge. The competition was tough and I'm glad to see a department from DeKalb County take the top honors."



**The 2003 Sunbelt Fire Apparatus Award was presented to Clayton Cobb, Sr. in recognition of his service to the AAVFD Honor Guard.**

### *Sylvania Volunteer Fire Department*

Located at the intersection of Alabama Highway 75 and County Road 27, Sylvania Fire Department in DeKalb County was organized in 1980 and state certified in 1984. When Chief Bobby Abbott took the helm of the department in December 1996, he and his officers set a goal to lower their 8/9 ISO rating. Almost three years of purchasing equipment, gathering information and data, finally paid off as the department was surveyed in September 1999. The results of the ISO survey were returned in April 2000 with the department lowering its rating to 6/9. In January of 2000, the department ordered its first new truck since 1980, a 2000 International E-One pumper.

As the pride and confidence of the department seemed to be at its height, July 20, 2000, the department was dispatched to a structure fire. As members responded it

became obvious the structure fire was the Sylvania Fire Hall. Not only was every piece of equipment destroyed, but also, better than 20 years of volunteer labor, donations of the community and countless man-hours of effort went up in smoke.

Today, almost three years later, the rebuilding is still ongoing but at a slower pace. They were donated apparatus from New York and New Jersey, but the most help came from right here in Alabama.

Donations of money and equipment from all over the state helped bring the department back. Equipping the donated apparatus is almost complete and a new station is nearing completion. Sylvania's appreciation and gratitude for the departments and people that have made donations or offered prayers is felt by every member of the department every time they see what they have now.



# FROM THE AAVFD PRESIDENT'S DESK

by

*Johnny Dennis*



To the DeKalb County Association, a special thanks for a great conference at our 26th annual event in Fort Payne. This being DeKalb County's first opportunity to host the AAVFD conference, their association did a great job in making the conference a success.

We thank each member of their association who made the

members of AAVFD welcome to DeKalb County and the City of Fort Payne.

I enjoyed seeing my good friend Mr. Ray Crouch, who I first met in Sacramento, California. Ray was representing the State of Tennessee at the Third National Fire Service Benefit Summit, which was hosted by the California State Firefighters' Association, Inc. I must agree with Ray in his comments at our dinner in Fort Payne. Our fire service must become more active with our political leaders, on a national level, and most of all with our state leaders, all the way to the Governors Office. These are the people who hold the power to pass legislation to benefit our volunteer fire service. If you don't know your Senator or Representative, call them today. Not only introduce yourself, let them know which fire department you are a member of. Invite your representatives to visit your department to see how they can help you help your community.

## FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND

Most people think of our fire service as the people who are employed by a fire department or those of us who are members of volunteer departments. In reality, our fire service consists of more than the firefighters who fight the fires or the chief who oversees his department. Without the fire engines, the hose and all the specialized equipment needed in our service today, we would be of little use on house fires and all the other emergencies we are responding to each year.

Our fire service in Alabama, like all other states, is also made up of others who sell the fire engines, fire hose, ladders, SCBA's and all the equipment needed to meet the emergencies firefighters face in today's fire service. Because of these people, those of us on the fire line can do our job knowing we have the best of equipment available to fight the fires and attend to those injured on the highways. They make it possible for us to do our job and to be able to go home to our families.

Last month, the fire service said farewell to a man who many had met or purchased fire equipment. Thousands in Alabama and across many other states knew Tom McLendon of Sunbelt Fire as one of our fire service vendors. Tom like most good sales people first sold himself as a trusted friend. This was never more evident as when hundreds of Tom's friends attended his visitation service and funeral.

One way to know how someone was judged in life is to see a line of fire engines on the side of the highway with

their red lights flashing waiting to pay their last respects to person they knew as a friend. To see members of an Honor Guard from both paid and volunteers standing guard to honor Tom and his family at the church and cemetery and to see two ladder trucks with their ladders extended across the highway forming an arch holding the largest and most beautiful American flag I personally have ever seen, I saw this flag in a different light that day. The red white and blue had more meaning than ever before. It reminded me of the man that loved his state, his family, his business, and the many friends he had made over the years.



I believe most firefighters will always remember Tom as more than just a fire service vendor because he always had time to say hello and voice his concerns about our fire service. I believe our lives are richer from having known Tom McLendon. We will miss our friend.

Johnny Dennis  
President, AAVFD

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Gear Bag



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30-minute Aluminum Bottle  
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**Red Head Brass**

## 2003 Elections

The election of Officers for the 2003-2004 year was held at the general membership meeting on Saturday, June 28th, in Fort Payne. The following candidates were elected:

*President* – Johnny Dennis  
*First Vice President* – David Davis  
*Second Vice President* – Clayton Cobb, Sr.  
*Third Vice President* – Don Shield  
*Secretary* – Mary Sells  
*Treasurer* – Rhonda McKissack

Directors and Alternate Directors were elected from each of the 10 districts and are listed below:

- **District 1:** Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Madison and Marshall Counties.  
*Director* - Sidney White  
*Alternate Director* - Bobby Abbott
- **District 2:** Blount, Cullman, Jefferson, Shelby, St Clair, Walker and Winston counties.  
*Director* - Roger D. Wilson  
*Alternate Director* - Euell Hodge
- **District 3:** Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa counties.  
*Director* - Billy Doss  
*Alternate Director* - Clif Homan
- **District 4:** Chambers, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa counties.  
*Director* - Willie Wise  
*Alternate Director* - Stan Merrett
- **District 5:** Autauga, Bibb, Chilton, Dallas, Marengo, Perry, and Wilcox counties.  
*Director* - Mike Carlisle  
*Alternate Director* -

- **District 6:** Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike counties.  
*Director* - Kenny Givens  
*Alternate Director* - Lamar Clements
- **District 7:** Butler, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, and Monroe counties.  
*Director* - William A. Neal  
*Alternate Director* - Daniel Day
- **District 8:** Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, and Washington counties.  
*Director* - Stanley E. Wood  
*Alternate Director* - Charlie Dixon
- **District 9:** Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Limestone, Lawrence, Marion, and Morgan counties.  
*Director* - Bobby Atkins  
*Alternate Director* - Marvin Putman
- **District 10:** Bullock, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Russell counties.  
*Director* - Kalyn Ray  
*Alternate Director* - Chris Smith

Because of space limitations, the phone numbers and addresses for the officers and directors could not be printed/ however, if you wish to contact any of them, call the Montgomery office at 334-262-2833 or toll-free at 1-888-972-2833, and we will be glad to provide you with the necessary information.

State Fire Marshal John Robison swore in the officers, directors and alternate directors at the awards banquet on Saturday night.

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## By-Law Proposal Results

1. Currently all member departments vote for a Vice President from all areas. This change would allow member departments from each of the three areas to vote for the individual representing each of the Vice President's Districts. **This proposal was defeated.**

2. In order to be a voting member of the AAVFD Board of Directors, this would require that the department's current membership dues of all members of the AAVFD Board of Directors be paid by January 31st. **This proposal was defeated.**

3. This would require proxy be voted only by an individual from that county. **This proposal was defeated.**

4. A member department may request a proxy ballot and vote by mail as an alternative means when voting by proxy. By waiting until a month prior to request a ballot, all items

would be known by each member department from the newsletter. Only items or nominations coming from the floor could not be voted on by absentee ballot. **This proposal was defeated.**

5. This amendment increased the time frame to 90 days on all proposed amendments. This would allow the association to mail proposed amendments to the membership 60 days prior to the annual meeting verses 20 days. **This proposal was defeated.**

6. This amendment increases from 3 to 5 the number of people who tabulate the votes at the annual election and establishes the procedure for counting the votes and destroying the ballots of the prior election. **This proposal was approved.**

**More Than \$10,000.00**  
**in Gifts to be Given Away**



**BUDDY GRAY FIRE EQUIPMENT**

# **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

**Sat., Oct. 4, 2003**

**6325 Old Montgomery Highway  
Tuscaloosa**

**205-345-1296 or 800-593-2462**

*Join us!*

**11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**FREE BBQ LUNCH!**



# Sherry Garner Memorial Award

By Bo Bolton

Monroe Journal Publisher

The top female volunteer firefighter in Alabama this year is Frisco City's Sue Starr. Starr received the Sherry Garner Memorial Award at the 26th annual conference of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments in Fort Payne June 28. Starr was selected by judges from the Arkansas Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.

The award is presented in honor of Sherry Garner, a female volunteer firefighter who lost her life while battling a fire.

"The Frisco City Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department deserves the award instead of me," Starr said. "If it had not been for the Frisco City department giving me the opportunity, I couldn't have received the award. If they hadn't treated us women equally, I couldn't have brought this award to Monroe County. We perform the task as the men do."

Starr, who joined the department four years ago, said she used to think all firefighters did was fight fire. "Boy, was I

wrong," Starr said. "We are needed in almost every emergency situation from bad weather to working with hazardous chemicals to vehicle wrecks. And sometimes we are even called to rescue horses who are stuck in mud up to their chests."

"The part of the job I enjoy the best is handling traffic control in emergency situations. When the firefighters are working an emergency situation, I want to be able to keep them safe from drivers traveling through the accident scene. In 1991, my son, George, who was a policeman in Virginia, was doing his job and was killed by a drunk driver. I want to make sure that nothing like this happens to our firefighters."

Besides the time involved in working emergency situations, there are untold hours, she said, in attending weekly meetings and schools. Starr has attended First Responder classes, which are lower level emergency medical training sessions, and classes in operating emergency vehicles, hazardous material, terrorism, bomb treats, weather spotting and extrication.

In nominating Starr for the award, vol-



Sue Starr Receives the Sherry Garner Memorial Award

unteer firefighter Daniel Day says she goes the extra mile. "To show you what I mean, last year, Mrs. Sue was having a family reunion at her house and they were getting ready to eat and she left her family to help somebody in their time of need when their house trailer was burning," Day said.

## WATEROUS FIRE PUMP TRAINING — YOU ARE INVITED!

Waterous has announced the schedule and locations for their 2003 fire pump training classes which includes one stop in Alabama. This fire pump training deals specifically with Waterous pumps, but most of the information on operation and routine maintenance will help on any make of pump. In 3 to 3 1/2 hours, it will cover the following items using four cutaway pumps as training aids: pump theory; pump operations and routine maintenance.

Houston County Volunteer Firefighters Association will host this event to be held at the Hodgesville Fire Station - 538 Flournoy Moore Road - Six miles south of Dothan's Ross Clark Circle on Hodgesville Road, then turn right.

If you plan to attend, let us know so we can prepare for the correct number of participants. Call Kenny Givens at 334-793-0074.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH @ 6:30 PM**

## The Lighter Side

Two hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their car. A third hunter approached them, pulling his along too. "Hey, I don't want to tell you guys what to do, but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground." After the third hunter left, the two decided to try it. A little while later, one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" "Yeah," the other added, "but we're getting farther away from the truck!"



Mary: "I hear Skip was a real hero when the office building caught fire. They say he led the whole staff safely outside."

Irvin: "Something like that. Actually, what I heard was that Skip was the first one out the door."

# Firefighter of the Year

The definition of a volunteer is "a person who performs or offers a service of his own free will". So, then how do you define a person who has spent most of his life as a volunteer?

Anyone who resides in the Perdido Beach Community is familiar with John T. (JT) Abbott, because almost all the residents in the area know him. JT currently serves as Second Assistant Chief of the Perdido Beach Volunteer Fire Department, but his volunteer services goes well beyond that.

JT has served Perdido Beach VFD since 1982. In that time, he served as President for seven years, then, as Fire Chief for 71/2 years. Under his direction as Chief, the department achieved an ISO rating of 5/9 and continued its growth as a first rate fire department. He retired as Chief in 1999, but has continued as one of our most active members.

JT serves as an EMT and maintenance officer, overseeing the upkeep of department vehicles. He is also a CPR and AED instructor and spends numerous hours teaching the department firefighters and other groups these life-saving skills. He continues as a leader in the department guiding the new younger members and officers with the numerous requirements that the fire service demands from us. He currently serves as Vice President of the Baldwin County Fire Chiefs Association, where he has also held various offices and served on numerous committees.

His volunteer services do not stop with the fire department. He has over 33 years of service with the Boy Scouts of America. This includes serving as Scout Master for 7 years and as Committee Chairman of Troop 643 in Pensacola, Florida. He also serves in the Troops' Explorer Posts and Cub Scout Packs in Baldwin County. He was awarded the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver and is a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow. He assisted in the development of Fire Explorer Post 35, which serves the Perdido Beach, Lillian, Josephine and Elberta areas in training young firefighters.

JT serves as Service Officer of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and has served as Vice President of the Chapter. He is also a life-

long member of the Community of Christ Church where he serves as Deacon. In addition to all of these commitments, he raised a family and has been happily married to his wife, Ann, for 44 years.

Perdido Beach Fire Chief Ken Wright, Assistant Chief Rick Manning, Captain Jason Henson, Captain Rodney Frederick and Baldwin County Fire Chiefs Association President Joby Smith proudly nominated JT. County President Joby Smith stated, "I met JT in an EMT class in 1991. Since that time I have grown to respect and admire him not only for his devotion to the fire service of Baldwin County, but also to the many other organizations to which he has dedicated his life over the years."



*J. T. Abbott, Firefighter of the Year*

## Competition Results

The annual competition events were held Saturday, June 28th at the VFD Fairgrounds in Fort Payne. Departments competing were East Limestone (Limestone Co), Dogtown (DeKalb Co), Thomasville (Clarke Co), Ider (DeKalb Co) Vinemont-Providence (Cullman Co), Lee-Chambers (Lee Co), Pine Ridge (DeKalb Co), Fulton (Clarke Co), Sylvania (DeKalb), and Johnson Crossing (Cullman Co). Sylvania VFD was First Place Overall Winner, with Thomasville VFD, Second Place Overall Winner, and East Limestone VFD, Third Place Overall Winner, after the Air Pack Relay\* was run between East Limestone and Dogtown VFD, who were tied with 10 points each, to determine the winner.

We congratulate each team that competed and look forward to seeing each of you in Dothan 2004.

Competition Chairman Joey Boyd presented trophies at the AAVFD Awards Banquet that night. The winners in each event are as follows:

OBSTACLE COURSE			*AIR PACK TIEBREAKER		
TEAM	SCORE	POINTS	TEAM	SCORE	POINTS
Sylvania	112.44	10 pts	East Limestone	143.13	
Thomasville	115.16	7 pts	Dogtown	151.28	
Dogtown	117.03	5 pts			
HOSE LAY II			OVERALL		
TEAM	SCORE	POINTS	TEAM	POINTS	
Sylvania	52.81	10 pts	Sylvania	20 pts	
Johnson Crossing	58.16	7 pts	Thomasville	14 pts	
Dogtown	102.62	5 pts	East Limestone	10 pts	
BUCKET BRIGADE			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Congratulations to each team and to the winners!</b></p>		
TEAM	SCORE	POINTS			
East Limestone	55.37	10 pts			
Thomasville	57.19	7 pts			
Fulton	57.50	5 pts			

# Your Fire Department Could **WIN OVER \$30,000**

## IN FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT At Sunbelt Fire's Open House Sept. 5th & 6th, 2003



Register today to double your chances of winning  
over \$30,000 in firefighting equipment!

• A thermal imager • Turn-out gear • SCBA units • And much more!

Be among the first  
300 to register and  
we'll enter you  
**TWICE!**  
Must be present  
Sept. 5th or 6th to win.

#### WHEN

September 5th & 6th (Fri/Sat), 2003, starting both days at 8 a.m.  
Contact Lisa at 1-800-642-8484 ext. 111 with any questions. Final registration  
deadline: Friday, August 29th, 2003.

#### WHERE

Sunbelt Fire, 8050 McGown Drive, Fairhope, Alabama  
• 12 miles south of I-10 on Hwy 98, across the bay from Mobile, AL

A map and directions are posted on our web site at [www.sunbeltfire.com](http://www.sunbeltfire.com). You'll  
also find links to hotels in Fairhope to make your visit a great experience. The  
hotels listed have blocked rooms at a special rate for your stay.

#### VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vendors will be set up by 8 a.m. both days. Get here early to see  
demonstrations and try out all the latest gear. There'll be entertainment for the  
whole family.

#### PRIZES

Drawings for prizes will be held throughout both days. Over \$30,000 of  
firefighting equipment will be given away. One lucky department will win the  
Thermal Imaging Camera at 2:00 p.m. on Sept. 6.

Don't miss it!

Send in your registration today to double your chances of winning.

To be eligible for the prize draws, you must be a member of a  
volunteer or paid department and be present on September 5th or 6th.

#### 3 WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Ask your rep for a registration form and mail it to us.
2. Fax the completed form to us at 251-928-9933.
3. Go to [www.sunbeltfire.com](http://www.sunbeltfire.com) and click on "Register for  
Open House" to fill out the form online.

We're expecting a huge response. Don't wait to register!  
Must be present Sept. 5th or 6th to win.

1-800-642-8484 ext. 111

Please call Lisa with any questions

Fax: 251-928-9933 • [www.sunbeltfire.com](http://www.sunbeltfire.com)



# SunbeltFire



## You're invited

to the Open House Celebration  
of the year.

Bring everyone in your department  
and your families, too!

There's no cost. Enjoy a delicious lunch of  
seafood and BBQ—on us!

# From Here and There

*News of the Volunteer Fire Service from across Alabama*

**T**HE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS statewide continues to pay off in improved ISO ratings. Listed below are changes in ratings.

DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING	DEPARTMENT	COUNTY	PRIOR RATING	CURRENT RATING
<b>Effective May 1, 2003</b>				<b>Effective June 1, 2003 (Continued)</b>			
Monrovia	Madison	7/9	5	Cedar Bluff	Cherokee	8/9	5/9
Scyrene-Chance	Clarke	9/9	8/9	Corinth	Randolph	9/9	6/9
Seale	Russell	7/9	6/9	Douglas	Marshall	7/9	5/9
<b>Effective June 1, 2003</b>				Eufaula	Barbour	5/9	4/9
Ardmore	Limestone	7/9	6/9	Macedonia	Cleburne	9/9	8/9

Congratulations to these departments and their hard working members! Improved ISO ratings are what we are often measured by and it's obvious that Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments measure up!

Congratulations to these departments and their hard working members! Improved ISO ratings are what we are often measured by and it's obvious that Alabama Volunteer Fire Departments measure up!

Wilcox County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments held Firefighter Appreciation Night on August 2nd.

The 9th Annual Jay Boothe Softball Tournament sponsored by Pea Ridge Fire & Rescue, Shelby County, was held June 21st. This fundraiser for the department is named in honor of Firefighter Boothe who died in the Line of Duty on April 2, 1994.

Green Pond VFD, Bibb County, held their annual Safety Day at Library Park on Saturday, May 30th.

Brindlee Mountain VFD, Madison County, held a cave rescue class in July.

Under the direction of new Fire Chief Jim Mathis, Kennedy VFD, Lamar County, has decided to purchase a new pumper from Tuscaloosa Fire & Equipment. Kennedy VFD was awarded a FEMA Grant totaling \$54,499. With the acquisition of this pumper, the department hopes to lower its ISO rating.

Harvest, Monrovia and Toney VFD, Madison County, trained by taking part in clearing a lot and burning an old structure abandoned because of damage from a tornado



that struck Madison County in 1995.

Opp VFD, Covington County, recently purchased a new breathing air compressor system.

Floyd Smith, President of the Madison County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments and Meridianville Fire Chief, announced the delivery of 15 Class A Fire Engines and the delivery in the near future of 1 Heavy Rescue Truck to the volunteer fire departments of Madison County. This delivery culminates 18 months of planning which resulted in the \$2.5 million dollar purchase of engines, equipment and other funding. Commissioners Roger Jones, Jerry Craig, Chairman Mike Gillespie and Madison County Firefighters liaison Prince Preyer and the Training Center Committee supported this and many other measures that benefit the volunteer fire service in Madison County.



Emelle Community VFD, Sumter County, took delivery of an American LaFrance 4-door Freightliner pumper from Empire Truck Company. Also, four Draeger SCBAs with four spare tanks were purchased from Buddy Gray Fire Equipment.

## 2003 Wildland Fire Prevention Grants

The 2003 Wildland Fire Prevention Grants were awarded June 17, 2003. Twenty-three fire departments and 13 County Fire Associations submitted project applications. The submitted projects of six fire departments and 3 county associations did not meet the requirements for the grant and were not funded. We extend congratulations to the following departments and associations that were successful in securing funding for their projects:

New Hope VFD (Choctaw County)	\$1,000
Pennington VFD (Choctaw County)	\$4,500
Cleburne County Fire Association	\$5,000
Colbert Co Fire Association	\$8,000
Castleberry VFD (Conecuh County)	\$ 260
Crenshaw Co Fire Association	\$1,000
Franklin Co Fire Association	\$5,000
Limrock/Aspel VFD (Jackson County)	\$ 500
Jefferson Co Fire Association	\$8,600
Shannon VFD (Jefferson County)	\$5,000
Warrior River VFD (Jefferson County)	\$ 750
Lamar Co Fire Association	\$2,000
Greenhill VFD (Lauderdale County)	\$1,000
Lauderdale Co Fire Association	\$6,200
Waterloo VFD (Lauderdale County)	\$2,200
Beauregard VFD (Lee County)	\$1,000
Linden VFD (Marengo County)	\$1,000
Four-C VFD (Marshall County)	\$1,000
Excel VFD (Monroe County)	\$5,000
Frisco City VFD (Monroe County)	\$1,000
Eva VFD (Morgan County)	\$3,000
Marion VFD (Perry County)	\$1,000
Uniontown VFD (Perry County)	\$1,000
Winterboro VFD (Talladega County)	\$2,500
Walker Co Fire Association	\$8,000
Wilcox Co Fire Association	\$1,200
Winston Co Fire Association	\$2,200



## 2003 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year's AAVFD Scholarship winners were announced at the 26th annual banquet in Fort Payne on June 28th. Four \$500 scholarships were awarded this year, and the recipients were Valerie Diane Crosby, Fulton VFD, Clarke County; Nickolas Hugh Ray, Lee-Chambers VFD, Lee County; Rebecca McFarlen Jones, New Market VFD, Madison County; and Casey Allison Pence, Grant VFD, Marshall County.

Cathy Morgan, Lovetown VFD, Houston County, was the recipient of the first AAVFD Scholarship. She graduated from Troy State University on June 1, 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. If you were a recipient of an AAVFD scholarship and have received your degree, please let us know. We are proud to have played a part in assisting students with the completion of their education through the years.

AAVFD scholarships are awarded on a one-year basis and must be applied for each year regardless of previous applications. To request an application for 2004, you may call the Montgomery office at 1-888-972-2833 or 334-262-2833. Completed applications must be mailed to the Montgomery office, to the attention of the Scholarship Committee, and post marked no later than March 31, 2004.



Valerie Diane Crosby and  
Nickolas Hugh Ray

# BUDGET FRIENDLY

## NEW SKID PUMP UNITS

Mertz Fire Apparatus has built skid units up to 1,500 gallons, with pumps from all Fire Pump Manufacturers, which includes Hale, Waterous, and W.S. Darley. Mertz Fire Apparatus also provides pumps by Hypro and Udor. Vanguard electric start engines are featured on all pumps and Honda engines are available. The Mertz 16V1550 Series pump system will pump up to 170 gpm at 170 psi and will pump in excess of 50 gpm @150 psi.

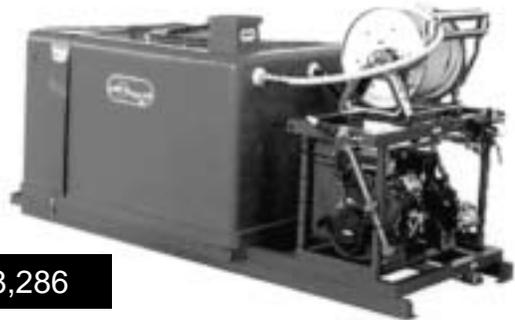
### Standard Unit Pricing

#### FD 18V 300 L

This is the 18 hp version of the famous "FireCracker." With pressures of over 500 psi this is the top of the line "Wildland" firefighter. Standard tanks up to 300 gallon, but larger optional tanks are available. Engines from various engine manufacturers are also available. Optional foam systems can be installed.

- Maximum Pressure: 560 PSI
- Maximum Volume: 26.0 GPM
- Maximum Speed: 550 RPM
- Number of Cylinders: 4

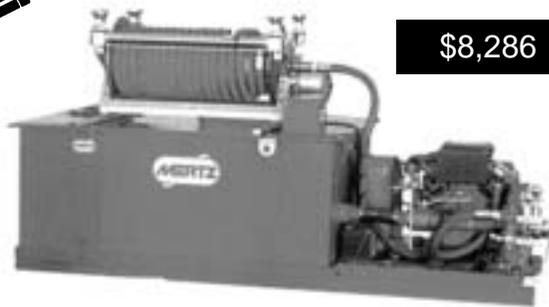
FD-18V-300 L



\$8,286

Low Cost

MERTZ, INC.



\$8,286

#### FC 16V1550 200 LFT

The standard series of the Mertz 16V1550 standard pump systems are available with 150 to 400 gallon booster tanks. Standard features include hose, hose reel, outriggers, primer, fuel tank, plumbing and battery. The tanks are 20 years limited warranty fiberglass tanks.

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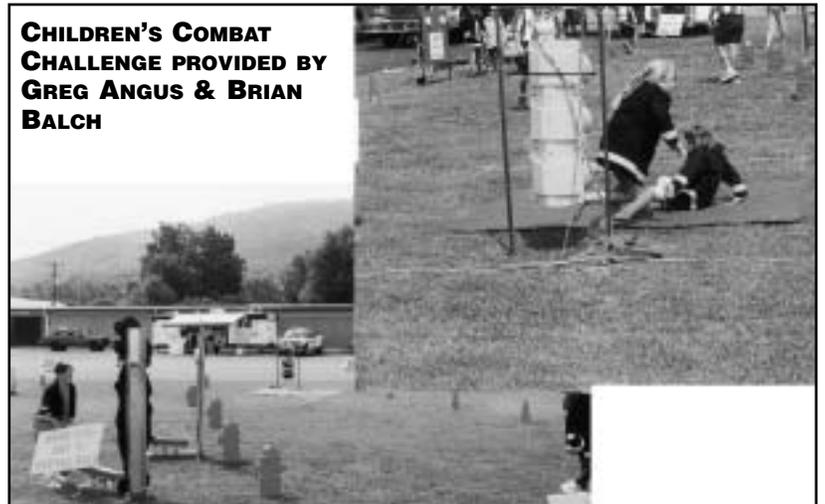
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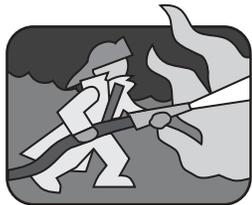
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# Brantley Fire Department in Crenshaw County

## The building's gone, but not the spirit...

*Editor's note: This story and pictures appeared as a feature published in the Luverne Journal on June 5, 2003, authored by George Wacha, editor.*

Citizens in Rutledge watched in awe early Monday morning as the structure known as the Second Baptist Church of Rutledge burned to the ground. The church, originally established in 1952 was dedicated in 1962, and was the site of many baptisms, weddings and other special occasions of Christians of the community.

"We held the 50th anniversary celebration there last year," said Rev. Jody Bentley, associational missionary for the Alabama-Crenshaw Baptist Association. "Shortly afterward, the congregation made the difficult decision to disband the church, due to the sharp decline over the years of its membership."

Bentley, also a firefighter, said when the Brantley Fire Department was dispatched to man the Luverne fire station in mutual aid after the Luverne Fire Department responded to the fire to back up Rutledge Fire Department he knew he was needed elsewhere.

"I knew that when they said we were going to Luverne to cover the City while Luverne was at the church with Rutledge (F.D.), I had to go to the scene, to help those working there locate important church records," Bentley said. "Thanks to the hard work of the firefighters at the church, we were able to get the records out, and they have been taken to the Alabama-Crenshaw Baptist Association for safekeeping."

The records included baptisms, weddings, Sunday School records, and many other important documents held by a church.

Bentley said that he was relieved to learn that the origin was determined to be the electrical system in the attic of the church.

"I feared that perhaps vandals or burglars had caused the fire," Bentley said. "It was a huge weight lifted when we were told it was electrical."

The incident was investigated by the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office, from before sunrise on Monday until late in the day.



Remarkably, the church's flags were virtually unscathed during the fire, which completely destroyed the building and its contents.

"The American flag and the Christian flag up near the altar of the sanctuary were undamaged," Bentley said. "They were still standing, although they were dirty. But they did not burn up in the fire. This will always serve as a symbol to us."

Bentley said the firefighters all did a tremendous job in trying to save the structure.

"The Rutledge Fire Department was the first to arrive, shortly after 1:30 a.m. on Monday — at 9:30 a.m., although they were fatigued and about to drop from exhaustion, they were still hard at it," Bentley said.

"Rutledge Fire Chief David Sanders and Rutledge Mayor Joe Dexter Flynn along with the entire community, have been a great support for us through this, and Sidney Vickery, a local resident, volunteered to use his track hoe to help level the remains of

the building."

Bentley said the building was felt to be a safety hazard, due to crumbling block walls, and would have been too dangerous if left standing.

"The building was a total loss, but its spirit — the Spirit of God — lives on in all of the lives that were touched by the church during its 50 years of service to



the community," Bentley said.

Bentley said for further information, former church members can contact the Alabama-Crenshaw Baptist Association by mail at P.O. Box 44, Glenwood, Ala., 36034, or by calling or faxing 334-335-6169.

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*He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Micah 6:8*

# BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE APPARATUS

Open House and Firefighter Appreciation Day

## H I G H L I G H T S

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On Saturday, June 14th, 2003, Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus welcomed over 1,500 firefighters representing 300 departments to our North Alabama facility. Thirty vendors were on hand to show off their products while the children participated in a Kid's Firefighting Competition hosted by the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. Some firefighters took test drives, while others casually strolled through our facilities. Several visitors took advantage of our pump test facilities to test their own trucks, as well as those in our inventory.

At 1:00 in the afternoon, vendor-donated doorprizes were presented, followed by the much-anticipated \$15,000 giveaways. Jean Wessel Templeton, mother of Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus President James Wessel, surprised the crowd when she made two generous gifts of \$5,000 each to two additional departments. Congratulations to McCollum-Midway VFD (Walker County, AL) who received the \$10,000 prize. Trinity VFD (Morgan County) and Forkland VFD (Greene County, AL) received the \$5,000 checks. In addition, five individual firefighters took home \$1,000 in cash.

To view more Open House pictures, as well as our current inventory, visit our website: [www.FireTruckMall.com](http://www.FireTruckMall.com)



An aerial view of our facilities during the Open House on Saturday, June 14th, 2003.



Congratulations to McCollum-Midway Volunteer Fire Department who took home the \$10,000 giveaway.



Air Evac 15 (Cullman) lands on the property at Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus.



Brindlee Mountain's EVT-certified mechanics pump testing a 1996 Ferrara Pumper purchased from Brindlee Mountain in 2002.



## Don's Perspective

by Don Shield  
Alabama Firefighter

“The KING can do no Wrong”, this phrase was used in and around the volunteer fire service for many years. Each of us knows in this day and age, this phrase holds no weight. The fire service is being held to higher standards and must abide to Federal, State laws and regulations just like other organizations and individuals. Making changes in which your organization operates may require changes in your By-Laws or other rules and standards. In doing so it should require your organization to look at all official documents and laws. When your volunteer fire department, county association and even your state association filed their Non-Profit Incorporation papers in

Alabama they were stating that they would abide by the incorporation laws within the Code of Alabama. Your incorporation paper is the first official document establishing your organization when probated. Then you prepare your By-laws and any further internal rules or regulations which may apply to your organization.

The order of precedents with the laws and all incorporation documents is as follows, 1.Federal laws, 2.State laws, 3.Incorporation document, 4.By-laws, 5.rules and 6.regulations. What does all this mean, a higher number can not conflict with a lower number or your By-laws can not conflict with incorporation papers and or

State, Federal laws.

If your organization has in years past made By-law changes without someone researching your incorporation papers to insure no conflicts were introduced, it may be wise for someone to take a look to see that your organization is in compliance with the laws and incorporation papers.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, but knowingly ignoring the law has no place in the fire service. The Code of Alabama 1975, Title 10 CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS, Chapter 3A NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS.

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# Fire Prevention Week October 5-11, 2003



For the past 81 years, NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme, "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" underscores a simple lesson. Because fire can grow so quickly, you may have as few as two minutes to escape safely. When every second can mean the difference between life and death, advance planning is absolutely essential. This year's campaign focuses on installing smoke alarms and testing them regularly and developing and practicing home fire drills.

You can visit the National Fire Protection Association website at



[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) to obtain more information about this year's campaign. There is a section just for the fire service that includes coloring sheet to download and print, fact sheets, fundraising ideas and fill in the blank editorials for your local newspapers. There are also sections for teachers and a section for kids with fun games and educational tools for the whole family.

If the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute can be of any service for your Fire Prevention Week activities, please give us a call at 1-800-897-7237 or visit our website at [www.rcfpi.com](http://www.rcfpi.com) and send us an email.

## STEERING COMMITTEE BANQUET REGISTRATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 • 6:00 PM

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 per person)      Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Thomasville Volunteer Fire Department and mail to Attn: Firefighter Appreciation Day, Thomasville Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 1007, Thomasville AL 36784.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:** Tickets purchased in advance may be picked up at the door.  
NO advance tickets will be mailed.



**September 26-27, 2003**

**19th Annual Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day**



*Sponsored by*

**The Alabama Forestry Commission Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee**

**Thomasville, Alabama**

**CLARKE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

**Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day**

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*Rate:* \$38 plus tax (double beds) or \$35 plus tax (king)
- Budget Inn & Suites** .....334-636-0614  
32810 Highway 43  
Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$40 plus tax (double occupancy)
- Economy Inn** .....334-636-0123  
33691 Highway 43  
Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$36 plus tax (double occupancy)
- Holiday Inn Express**.....334-636-2000  
1740 North Park Drive  
Thomasville, AL 36784  
*Rate:* \$69 plus tax (double occupancy)

The 19th annual Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day will be hosted by the Clarke County Firefighter's Association and sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Commission's Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee.

The FCFP Steering Committee Banquet will be held Friday night, September 26th. The host motels will be Day's Inn (334-636-5467), 32810 Highway 43; Best Western (334-636-0202), 570 North Park Drive; Budget Inn & Suites (334-636-0123), 1400 Moseley Drive; Economy Inn (334-636-0614) 33961 Highway 43, and Holiday Inn Express (334-636-2000), 1704 North Park Drive.

Accommodations are also available in Grove Hill and Jackson. Contact the Chamber of Commerce in those cities if you need phone numbers and other information. The Grove Hill Chamber office number is 251-275-4418, and the Jackson Chamber office number is 251-246-3251.

Competition will be held the following day, September 27th, at

Thomasville High School on Gates Drive. The events will be the Obstacle Course, Hose Lay II, and Air Pack Relay.

There will also be a Brush Truck competition, along with a cake baking contest and a chili and stew cookoff. Vendors will be on hand with their exhibits all day Saturday.

In appreciation for the strong partnership between the volunteer fire service and the Alabama

Forestry Commission, the Commission will provide the eighth RCFP Brush Truck to be put on permanent loan to one lucky fire department. Fulton VFD in Clarke County was last year's winner. Registration for the brush truck will begin on Saturday morning.

For more information contact chief Mark Sims at 334-636-4897 or Charlie Dixon at 334-636-2877.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
26th	6:00 p.m.	Banquet
27th	7:00 a.m.	Registration
27th	8:00 a.m.	Captain's Meeting
27th	8:30 a.m.	Competition
27th	9:30 a.m.	Cake & Chili Judging
27th	10:00 a.m.	Stew
27th	10:30 a.m.	Brush Truck Competition
27th	11:30 a.m.	Lunch
27th	Final Event	Brush Truck Giveaway

**COMPETITION EVENTS:**  
 OBSTACLE COURSE  
 HOSE LAY II  
 AIRPACK RELAY  
 BRUSH TRUCK COMPETITION  
 COOKING COMPETITION\*  
 – SURPRISE EVENTS –

\*CAKE, CHILI, AND STEW COMPETITIONS. CAKE IS JUDGED ON TASTE AND LOOKS—DECORATE TO A FIRE DEPT. THEME. CHILI AND STEW JUDGED ON TASTE. RIBBONS WILL BE AWARDED.

**Contact:**  
**Charlie Dixon**  
**334-636-2877**

**Chief Mark Sims**  
**334-636-4897**

**Competition Site:**  
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**Gates Drive**

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# Alabama AED Program

Many of you have asked about phase two of our AED program. There are a few counties that have yet to receive AED's in phase one that must be provided units when certified. Once this is complete, phase two of this program can begin. However, to get the number of substations and additional departments that needs AED's, a list must be prepared. At the request of Senator Tom Butler who will present funding legislation in the special or regular session, I have begun compiling this information. If your County or depart-

ment has not submitted this data, I suggest you do so ASAP. As before, the only departments that can receive an additional AED are departments that failed to take part in this program in phase one. They will be those submitted to me on a first come basis. Some funds remaining with the association under the ADECA grant can be used with state monies in phase two. However, I do not expect the present funds to cover all the AED's needed to complete our volunteer fire departments AED program.

You may submit your departments request to the AAVFD office in Montgomery or to me by email at: Jden42@aol.com or to the following address. Your request must have a contact person including phone number and your department's physical mailing address (NO PO BOX NUMBER). Please include in your request the reason why you are requesting a first or second AED.

Johnny Dennis  
250 Bradford St.  
Florence, Al 35633

---

## Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the AAVFD Board of Directors will be Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Alabama Power Conference Center in Clanton. The Conference Center is located at the 205 exit off I-65. Go north on Highway 231 for 1/2 mile, and the Center is on your right.

---

## Thanks for your generosity

Hello Everyone,

This note of thanks goes out to all those who donated to my loss. On June 15th, I lost everything in a TOTAL trailer fire. With help from you who donated to my mom (Mary Sells, AAVFD Secretary) while in Fort Payne, I've been able to make

a new start. I've been to fires with my mom and never knew what it felt like for the families that lost everything. But now, I can say I know their feelings more than ever! I know there are some things that can't be replaced, but I thank God every day that we were able to get out with our

lives.

My Mom says when you're in the fire service you have a VERY BIG family. Now I know it's true! I'll also keep all of you informed on the birth of my new son due on September 16th. Thanks and God Bless Each of You. — Renee Sells



**The members of Chandler Mountain VFD, St. Clair County, have taken delivery of a 1973 Ford Louisville Pumper Tanker from Buddy Gray Fire Equipment. This will enable them to fight fire where no hydrants are available.**

# NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES

Name/Rank: Firefighter Mike Stanley, Volunteer  
 Department: Salisbury FD, Salisbury MO  
 Date of Death: 3/15/03  
 Cause of Death: Died of probable heart attack after becoming ill at scene of grass fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Charles Lance Mathew, Volunteer  
 Department: La Belle-Fannett VFD, Beaumont TX  
 Date of Death: 3/18/03  
 Cause of Death: Struck and killed by tractor-trailer truck working scene of motor vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Captain Tom Kistler, Volunteer  
 Department: Polk County Fire Dist 1, Independence OR  
 Date of Death: 3/19/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from injuries received as passenger in fire apparatus crash while enroute to training exercise.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Oscar Armstrong III, Career  
 Department: Cincinnati FD, Cincinnati OH  
 Date of Death: 3/21/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from burn injuries received in flashover while working residential fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter James Smith, Volunteer  
 Department: Troy VFD, Troy IN  
 Date of Death: 3/22/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from apparent heart attack while working residential fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Karlton Allen Cole Briscoe, Volunteer  
 Department: Hickory Flat VFD, Hickory Flat MS  
 Date of Death: 3/25/03  
 Cause of Death: Died from injuries received in car crash while responding to fire incident in private vehicle.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/Training Officer Kevin Whitely, Volunteer  
 Department: Emmett City FD, Emmett ID  
 Date of Death: 3/26/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died on scene of gas leak call which turned into a carbon monoxide situation.

Name/Rank: Fire Suppression & Mitigation Specialist/Aviation Charles Krenek, Career  
 Department: Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX  
 Date of Death: 3/27/03  
 Cause of Death: Died in helicopter crash while he & his crew were doing an aerial search for shuttle debris in East Texas.

Name/Rank: Fire Police/Firefighter Isaac Donald Tshudy, Volunteer  
 Department: Lickdale VFD, Jonestown PA  
 Date of Death: 3/30/03  
 Cause of Death: Became ill while directing traffic at scene of accident and was transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Name/Rank: Firefighter Richard A. Long, Volunteer  
 Department: Gallipolis FD, Gallipolis OH  
 Date of Death: 4/3/03  
 Cause of Death: Died of injuries suffered when pumper apparatus overturned enroute to brush fire.

Name/Rank: Battalion Chief Randy Hill, Volunteer  
 Department: Screven County FD, Sylvania GA  
 Date of Death: 4/7/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from apparent heart attack after completing three-mile walk as part of his monthly physical fitness training.

Name/Rank: Deputy Chief Donald Maurice, Volunteer  
 Department: Wolcott VFD, Co # 1, Wolcott, CT  
 Date of Death: 4/8/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died in apparatus bay from apparent heart attack after being called into firehouse in response to false fire alarm.

Name/Rank: Assistant Chief Vannie Duane Kever, Volunteer  
 Department: Gulfport/Gladstone FPD, Gladstone IL  
 Date of Death: 4/10/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from apparent heart attack at scene of vacant mobile home fire.

Name/Rank: Firefighter/EMT Mark Haynes, Career  
 Department: West Lauderdale County FD, Ripley TN  
 Date of Death: 4/11/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from apparent heart attack.

Name/Rank: Chief Edward Weber, Volunteer  
 Department: Elkhart Lake FD, Elkhart Lake WI  
 Date of Death: 4/13/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed working third fire of the day and pronounced dead of heart attack at local hospital.

Name/Rank: Lieutenant John Robert Patrick, Career  
 Department: Gwinnett Co Dept of Fire & Emergency Service, Lawrenceville GA  
 Date of Death: 4/14/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed and died from heart attack while ventilating roof of motorcycle shop fire.

Name/Rank: Fire Police Captain Woodrow Pinkerton, Volunteer  
 Department: Union Fire Co, Station 251, Medford NJ  
 Date of Death: 4/19/03  
 Cause of Death: Succumbed to injuries suffered in the line of duty on February 23, 2003 when he was struck by a car while operating at scene of motor vehicle accident.

Name/Rank: Firefighter & Dept President Carl J. Mack, Volunteer  
 Department: New Chester FD, Grand Marsh WI  
 Date of Death: 4/22/03  
 Cause of Death: Collapsed from apparent heart attack at scene of structure fire.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Volunteer fire departments, county associations, and other non-profit, fire-related organizations can advertise in the "Items For Sale" column for free. Businesses and other for-profit organizations may advertise here for \$22.50 per column inch, per issue.

RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION INSTITUTE MERCHANDISE is available by calling the Institute office at 1-800-897-7237 or at booths at many fire service related functions across the State.

**FOR SALE:** 1970 Hahn Fire Truck, 6 cylinder Waukesha, Manual Transmission, 750 GPM Hale Pump, 750 Gallon Tank. Contact 334-774-6932 or 334-774-2731 for equipment price and details.

**FOR SALE:** 1982 2 Ton Chevy Tanker Fire Truck with 1800 Gallon Baffled Tank. Extras include: 250 GPM Pump, Dump Valve, Drop Tank, Booster Reel, Lights & Siren. \$7,000. Contact: 334-271-1048.

**AAVFD ITEMS AVAILABLE:** Following items can be purchased through the AAVFD office in Montgomery (address and phone elsewhere in this issue): Single color caps \$6.; two tone cap \$7.; Pins \$2.; Tote Bags \$6.00; Patches \$2.50; AAVFD Logo Decals \$2.; small Swiss Army Knife with AAVFD Logo \$15.; Prints (copy of painting) \$10.; Matted prints \$20.; T-Shirts \$8.; Golf shirt with collar \$22. (Shipping charges will be added.) Golf shirts come in burgundy, forest green, navy/white, burgundy/white in L, XL, XXL and XXXL.



# THE BELL TOLLED

Gary White, Collins Chapel VFD, Chilton County, passed away March 21, 2003.

Lane Horton, Pea Ridge Fire & Rescue, Shelby County, passed away July 7, 2003. He had served his department for 30 years.

Chief Thomas Willis, Yantley VFD, Choctaw County, died July 8, 2003. His life was ended by a gunman at Lockheed Aircraft where he worked in Marion, Mississippi.

Lt. Joey Qualls, Bayou La Batre VFD, Mobile County, passed away July 11, 2003 after responding to an emergency call. Lt. Qualls, 29 years old, was a 14-year veteran of the department and was involved in numerous community activities.

*Let us pause a moment to pay our respect to these firefighters for whom the bell tolled that one last time as we offer our prayers and condolences to their families and friends.*

Our condolences are extended to the family of Tom McLendon, owner of Sunbelt Fire in Fairhope AL, who passed away June 28th. Tom had been in the fire truck industry for 40 years and truly enjoyed serving all the fire departments in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Shelby County Tennessee. He was a friend to everyone he met, and he truly cared about the departments, families and communities of each one.

Our Condolences are also extended to the family of Michael Brogdon, equipment salesman for Sunbelt Fire in Fairhope, who died June 24th in a traffic accident.

If any Volunteer Fire Department (member or not) has a firefighter die in the line of duty or as a result of a line of duty injury (examples: at the scene, going to or from the scene), notify ONE of the following IMMEDIATELY, no matter what day it is or what time of day or night. Johnny Dennis— (256) 766-4707 or Dave Davis (334) 366-4490; or Clayton Cobb, Sr. (251) 578-2855; or Don Shield (256) 776-9760.

**A copy of the booklet "Death In Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or [www.aavfd.org](http://www.aavfd.org).**



**About The Volunteer:** *The Volunteer* is issued 4 times a year: in Jan, April, Jul, and Oct. Articles, information, and advertisements for the newsletter must be in Montgomery not later than the 15th of the month before publication.

**Articles & Information:** Submissions of articles, letters, and information for inclusion in this newsletter are greatly appreciated and encouraged. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous material will be published. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections, and style.

**Other AAVFD Information:** ALL Membership information, Insurance information, changes of address, and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery office.

**AAVFD Officers:**

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2nd VP Clayton Cobb, Sr.  
3rd VP Don Shield  
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