



The Official Newsletter of the

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

May - August, 2019

Conecuh County Association Hosts Annual Conference

Firefighters from around the state gathered in Evergreen, Alabama for the 42nd Annual AAVFD Firefighter Conference July 19 & 20. The conference was organized and hosted by the Conecuh County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments and was a big success. The volunteers in the Conecuh County Fire Association are to be commended for their huge and high-quality work in making the conference outstanding. They worked very professionally in registering all participants, interacting with attendees on details, organizing many aspects of the conference such as meal preparation, time, coordination, entertainment, logistics and

accommodation. Special thanks to John Powell, Paul Matthews and Lonnie Grace for the countless hours you devoted to the conference and serving as conference chairmen.

The conference offered an opportunity to gain valuable insights, meet with firefighters from around the state and learn about new products and equipment.

The Alabama Fire College training tower was also on display and attendees were able to see how the tower operates.

A little rain on Friday afternoon did not stop the extrication competition. Congratulations to Goodway VFD for winning the competition!

The keynote speakers for the annual banquet on Saturday evening were State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen and

Secretary of State John Merrill.



State Fire Marshall Scott Pilgreen

This was a great conference. You as participants are thanked for all your great input and for many productive discussions and interaction during the course of the weekend. Thank you for being so positive! We look forward to seeing everyone at the 43rd conference in Tuscaloosa, Alabama being hosted by District 3.



Secretary of State John Merrill

Check out some of this year's Conference pictures on page 10 \$ 11

FROM THE AAVED PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings Fellow Firefighters:

I begin this letter with my sincere appreciation to you all for electing me to serve as President of this Association for another year. As always, I am very humbled by this opportunity and will continue to work diligently for the volunteer fire service in our state. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any officer of the Association if you feel I/we can be of assistance in any way. This is your Association and we are here to serve you and hopefully make a positive impact on our service.

I would like to extend a thank you to Paul Mathews, John Powell, Lonnie Grace and the entire membership of the Conecuh County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments for hosting an excellent conference in Evergreen, Alabama this year. We all know this is a HUGE undertaking and all of you should be proud of your service. You did an excellent job and I have received a lot of positive feedback from individuals across the state!

As previously stated, never hesitate to call upon myself or any other officer of the Association if you feel we may be of assistance to you or your department in any way. If I cannot provide you with an immediate answer, I will find someone who can. However, I feel it is important for our members to know that the AAVFD does not have any authority or jurisdiction over individual fire departments and how they are managed. This is, and should be, the responsibility of the fire chief for overall operations, the Board of Directors, which all departments should have, for all executive decisions and the county commissioners for overall oversight. According to the Code of Alabama, the only entity in this state with any other authority is the Alabama Forestry Commission and that pertains to

certification/decertification of a volunteer fire department. Again, we are here for you and will always try to assist you in any way possible but some situations are just out of our hands.

Please continue to train to better yourselves and your department. Those whom you serve are counting on you to be prepared on their worst day!

Stay safe and may God bless you all. Thank you for your service and commitment!

Mike Green





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Chief Mike Holden Beauregard VFD (Lee County) Alabama's Firefighter of the Year



AAVFD President Mike Green and Mike Holden

During the 42nd Annual AAVFD Firefighter Banquet, Mike Holden was named Firefighter of the Year. Chief Holden has been volunteering with the Beauregard VFD for approximately 23 years. He is described as a great leader who cares for his department members and his small community. Training is a huge part of his expectations for the members of his department.

Volunteer firefighters are always on duty. Sunday, March 3, 2019 was no different. The Beauregard Community was hit with two tornadoes with one being an EF4. The department was met with destruction, deaths and numerous injured victims. Chief Holden's leadership skills, dedication, commitment and training

skills were all used during this horrific natural disaster. His quick actions setting up a command center, triage area, and obtaining for his personnel the resources they needed in order to get the job done is to be commended. Over 17 volunteer fire departments and paid fire departments responded to assist with the disaster.

Holden is described as a great leader and modest warrior who commends his department for their actions not only during this disaster but throughout the year on each and every call. The Beauregard VFD works together as a team.



Greg Wood 2019 Recipient of AAVFD President's Award

Alabama Forestry Commission Volunteer Fire Assistance Coordinator Greg Wood received the 2019 AAVFD President's Award. Wood was recognized for his many years of service to Alabama's volunteer fire departments.

Wood has been employed with the Forestry Commission for several years and has served as the Volunteer Fire Assistance Coordinator for more than eight years.



AAVFD President Mike Green and Greg Wood

Sherry Layton McCall VFD (Escambia County) is Sherry Garner Memorial Recipient!

Sherry Layton was bestowed the Sherry Garner Memorial Award during the annual firefighter banquet. Sherry joined the McCall VFD shortly after it was established in 1983. She began her career in a support role assisting with fundraisers, traffic control, etc. Layton developed into one of the front-runners for the department expanding

AAVFD President Mike Green and Sherry Layton

the role of women in the volunteer fire and EMS professions.

She has completed the 160 Firefighter course, AFC 160 hour Certified Volunteer Firefighter Course, Firefighter 2 course instruction and finished top of her class, Fire Instructor I course, the Pumper Apparatus-Operator course and the Fire Officer I course. She serves as Lieutenant, becoming the first female line officer in the McCall VFD 35 year history.

Sherry's personal achievements and selfless contributions to the McCall VFD, her community, classroom, and the Fire & EMS throughout Escambia County are phenomenal.

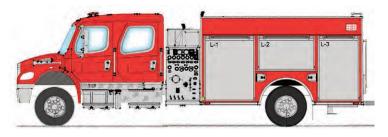


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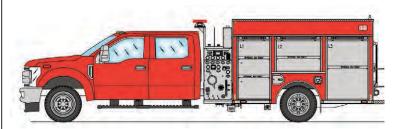
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Fulton VFD Firefighters Named Alabama's Top Team in the Firefighter Competition

The weather outside was a hot and humid day in July, the firefighter competition got hotter at the 42nd Annual AAVFD Firefighter Competition!

Teams from across the state converged in Evergreen, Alabama to compete for the 2019 Top Firefighter Competition trophy. This year's events included: Obstacle Course, Bucket Brigade and Hose Lay. Teams competed for the best time in each event. Each competition is physically challenging and tests the skills and team work of each fire department.



L - R Competition Chair, Joey Boyd, Sandy Boyd, and Carma Whisenant. Back row Paige Crouch

Competition Chair Joey Boyd has organized the firefighter competition for more than eleven years. The competition consists of the firefighters wearing their firefighting uniforms, including a helmet, boots, and compressed air tank. Chairman Boyd would like to thank all the teams who competed in the 2019 Alabama Firefighter Competition. Boyd is already looking ahead to the 2020 Firefighter Competition and challenges all departments to participate.

The third annual AAVFD Auxiliary Sportsmanship Award was presented to Hollis Crossroads VFD. In addition to the trophy, they received \$100.00. This award is presented to the team who displays exceptional sportsmanship in the competition. Judging includes: respectful, self-control, Hollis Crossroads VFD positive behavior and encouraging other teams. Sportsmanship Award

Overall Top Team

VFD

Fulton VFD Hollis Crossroads VFD Goodway VFD

Obstacle Course

Hollis Crossroads VFD Goodway VFD **Fulton VFD**

Hose Lay

Fulton VFD Hollis Crossroads VFD Johnson Crossing VFD

Bucket Brigade

Fulton VFD Hollis Crossroads VFD Catoma VFD



Fulton VFD - Overall Top Team





Hollis Crossroads VFD - Overall 2nd Place





Goodway VFD - Overall 3rd Place



Johnson Crossing **VFD**

Beauregard VFD is Fire Department of the Year Roy L. Mott Memorial Award

AAVFD President Mike Green established a new award this year in memory of Roy L. Mott who passed away on March 14, 2019. Roy Mott was one of the founding members and a past president of the AAVFD. He also was one of the founding fathers of the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute. Mott served as Fire Chief of Thomasville VFD from 1978-1993. He was also instrumental in helping form volunteer

Pictured (L-R) Debbie Heidepriem, AAVFD President Mike Green, Sandra Mott, Beauregard Fire Chief Mike Holden, Firefighter Mary Sinnot and Captain Terry Knowles.

fire departments across the state.

The 2019 Roy L.
Mott Memorial Award
was presented to
Beauregard VFD in Lee
County. Fire Chief Mike
Holden and members
of the Beauregard VFD
are to be commended
for the excellent job
and handling of the
tornadoes that ripped
through Beauregard on
Sunday, March 3, 2019.

The Beauregard Community was hit by two tornadoes with one being an EF4 with winds up to 170 mph. The track was one mile wide and 24 miles long and was described as a "monster." The devastating tornado caused damage to homes and property and killed 23 individuals. The Beauregard VFD was met with destruction, deaths and injured victims. The Department responded within 5 minutes of the first and strongest tornado hit. But a second tornado, on the same path as the first tornado, tore through soon after. Members of





the BVFD worked countless hours clearing debris, search and rescue, providing medical care, clean-up efforts, etc.

The Roy L. Mott Memorial Award will be presented yearly to a volunteer fire department. Additional information and requirements for nominations for the fire department of the year award will be forthcoming.

AAVFD Auxiliary Proudly Serving the AAVFD!

The primary role of the AAVFD Auxiliary is to support the AAVFD as needed and the county hosting the annual conference. This year was no different.

For the third consecutive year, the AAVFD Auxiliary sponsored the Sportsmanship Award as part of the Firefighter Competition. This year's recipient was Hollis Crossroads VFD. In addition to the trophy, the team received \$100.00.

The auxiliary also presented \$100.00 to Mike Holden, Firefighter of the Year, and Sherry Layton, Sherry Garner Memorial Award recipient. Other Auxiliary assistance during the 42nd conference included providing door prizes and sponsoring the Charity Bowden concert for the Friday night cookout. She is an amazing, talented young lady!



(L-R) Angie Moffett, Debbie Green, Della Wade, Gwen Gillman & Doris Jackson

The Auxiliary currently consists of five fabulous members. We welcome others to join and assist in giving back to the AAVFD. Meetings are held in conjunction with the quarterly board meetings and the annual conference. Both men and ladies are welcome to participate.

Thank you so very much for supporting our vendor table during the 42nd annual conference. We set a record-breaking year in our sales thanks to the amazing attendees, firefighters and their families. Thank you for your continued support! We are looking forward to another great conference in 2020 in Tuscaloosa, being hosted by District 3.

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Conference Memories 2019



















AAVFD Conference, July 2019, Evergreen, AL



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Please join us on the fifth of October at three o'clock in the afternoon in the Fire College Auditorium to honor the lives of the firefighters who gave their all in the line-of-duty



Fire Chiefs Executive Development Conference

February 4-6, 2020 Bryant Conference Center Tuscaloosa, Alabama

For more information, watch our website and facebook page!



ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMISSION



August 2019

Alabama Fire College Update

Whether at a Regional or Extension Training Center, on campus in Tuscaloosa, or at your local department, our goal is to ensure that you have a great training experience when taking AFC courses. This mantra has been communicated to all our partners and they agree that we should do all we can to make certain we set the tone and tenor that puts students in the right frame of mind to receive the training and education being offered. It is our obligation to ensure the training environment is conducive to learning. At all RTC's/ETC's we conduct facility inspections on a routine basis. Items that are evaluated during the inspection include the classroom facilities, drill tower and burn buildings, apparatus, forcible entry tools, equipment, and props, and fire extinguishers to name a few. This is done to ensure consistency of training throughout the State. We have asked each RTC/ETC to work with their local volunteer departments to deliver certification training that is conducive to your schedules.

During the past year we have received two new training props through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program - an MC 306 hazardous materials tanker that can flow propane to create very realistic fire training scenarios. This tanker can be used to simulate a haz mat release (without fire) so that students train to control the product flow. We also received a confined space/SCBA consumption trainer. This is a 40 feet - three level maze that has a smoke generator to obscure vision and will provide audible ques (crying sounds or barking dogs) to indicate that the structure is occupied. With this grant we also received an over the road Freightliner tractor to pull the props.

As a reminder the AFC has three burn trailers, a propane tank simulator, a driving simulator, a new mobile drill tower, the confined space/SCBA trailer, and the haz mat tanker. If you are interested in scheduling any of these props at your department, please contact your Regional Coordinator.

Lam very happy to announce that we recently hired Dewayne Yelder as a full-time employee at the AFC. Dewayne has been a faithful employee of the AFC and has a servant's heart. Dewayne's new territory will include Regions 9 and 10 so he will be available to serve the entire southern part of Alabama as a representative of the AFC. I overheard a staff member say recently "everywhere Dewayne goes, things get better." Our expectation is that with a full-time staff member, our constituents in Regions 9 and 10 will now get the appropriate service from the AFC. Dewayne may be contacted by email at dyelder@alabamafirecollege.org.

Commissioner Joey Darby (Foley Fire Department) was instrumental in securing a side by side mobile fire sprinkler demonstration trailer from the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). This 20' trailer has two adjacent roomsone equipped with a sprinkler system, the other does not. This prop will be indispensable in demonstrating the value of installing sprinklers in residential structures.

From the Desk of Matt Russell, Executive Director

In 2017 the State passed legislation that allows plumbers to become certified to install sprinkler systems in residential structures. Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen was instrumental in getting this legislation passed and has been working diligently with the NFSA to develop a curriculum for this program. The first class for plumbers will be September 16-20 at the Alabama Fire College. The cost will be \$275. For more information contact training@alabamafirecollege.org.

It is well known throughout the U.S. that the number of volunteer firefighters is dwindling. In order to assist in recruitment, retention, and training the AFC has set aside a small amount of funding to assist with instructional costs for certain certification courses. The classes will be conducted to coincide with volunteer firefighter schedules. We are working diligently on the specifics of how this funding will be distributed and requested and as quickly as the details are ironed out we will forward them to you.

Last year the Legislature set aside \$125,000 to reimburse tuition costs to volunteer firefighters and volunteer rescue squad members who were successful in obtaining a State EMT license. Thus far six individuals have taken advantage of this program. If approved, the program may be expanded to include AEMT and Paramedic levels. There is always fear that if the need is not justified the funding may be reallocated. I highly encourage you and your members to take advantage of this program.

Lastly, thanks to the AAVFD, AARS, AFA, PFFA, the League of Municipalities, your elected officials, and many others the Legislature passed HB 360 which provides the opportunity for firefighters in Alabama to take advantage of certain insurance coverages related to cancer. Please visit our website for more information regarding this legislation.

As always, if I or anyone at the AFC may be of service please do not hesitate to call on us.

Respectfully, Matt Russell



ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

ROTECT . SUSTAIN

FROM THE DESK OF ...

AAVFD Members:

Fall is in the air! Right? Not around Montgomery, even though kids are back in school and we're starting to hear talk about football...the heat and humidity are oppressive. It makes our agency's work and what you do all the more dangerous. Please be extra careful as you are going about both your regular duties and fighting fires.



RICK OATES
STATE FORESTER

Things at the Alabama Forestry Commission are full speed ahead. We are working on our 2020 budgets and have things in place for a busy year. We announced at the RCFP Steering Committee meeting last week that we will commit to the small grant program again next year. We've set aside \$100,000 to be used for these grants. The rules for next year's grants are the same as 2019:

- 1) The limit is \$5,000.
- 2) The deadline for applications is October 31, 2019. Awards will be announced by December 1, 2019.
- 3) It will be a reimbursement for expenses already incurred.
- 4) No match is required from the VFD.
- 5) <u>The deadline to submit expenses is August 1, 2020</u>. If the required form is not postmarked by August 1 your VFD will not be eligible for the reimbursement.

This was the first year we had the <u>drop-dead deadline of August 1</u>. It went well and I think just about every department that intended to get reimbursed submitted the paper work on time. As a recap, we awarded \$100,000 last year to 28 VFDS across the state. The amounts applied for ranged from \$1,075 to \$5,000. Twenty-six VFDs submitted the paper work and we paid out \$92,117.74 dollars. Some departments, for various reasons decided to not accept the award and money.

I hope this program is helpful to VFDs. I know it is not a lot of money, and wish we could provide more, but with state budgets as they are and declining federal grants, this is unfortunately all we can commit to at this time. If you have any questions about the grants, please contact Greg Wood at (205)-288-3897.

In other good news, the Legislature increased the VFD allocation in our budget by \$175,000. Again, that is not a huge amount of money, but every dollar helps I know. Look for that money to be included in the checks we present next spring/summer. Also, thanks to all departments for helping us get the checks presented this year, although we still have a few counties to go. We've had good attendance by legislators at these meetings. This helps them realize how important the work you do is to their local communities.

Thanks again for all you do each day to protect the people across this state. It is important work and I am thankful for each of you who are willing to give so much to keep people safe.

Rick Oates
Alabama Forestry Commission

Firefighter Training Crews Respond to Overturned School Bus (Mock Drill)



Training is of the upmost importance for volunteer fire departments. Laton Hill VFD Fire Chief, Timmy Crager, understands training is the backbone of a fire department. He recognizes training improves firefighter skills. Crager recently organized a training session for departments in Washington County with James Wood as the instructor.

Several agencies in Chatom worked together July 27 to train crews in the event of an emergency.

The training exercise involved a school bus extrication class and mock drill.



The exercise focused and dealt with an overturned school bus. The mock scene gave crews a chance to practice their skills and learn how to respond to a situation involving multiple vehicles.

Departments and crews who trained included: Laton Hill VFD, Chatom VFD, Millry VFD, Fairland VFD, Charity Chapel VFD, Tibbie VFD, Leroy VFD, Yarbo VFD, Calcedeaver VFD, Choctaw County Rescue, Brad Johnson of the Washington County School Board, Michael Strickland from ALEA and ASAP and several county bus drivers.



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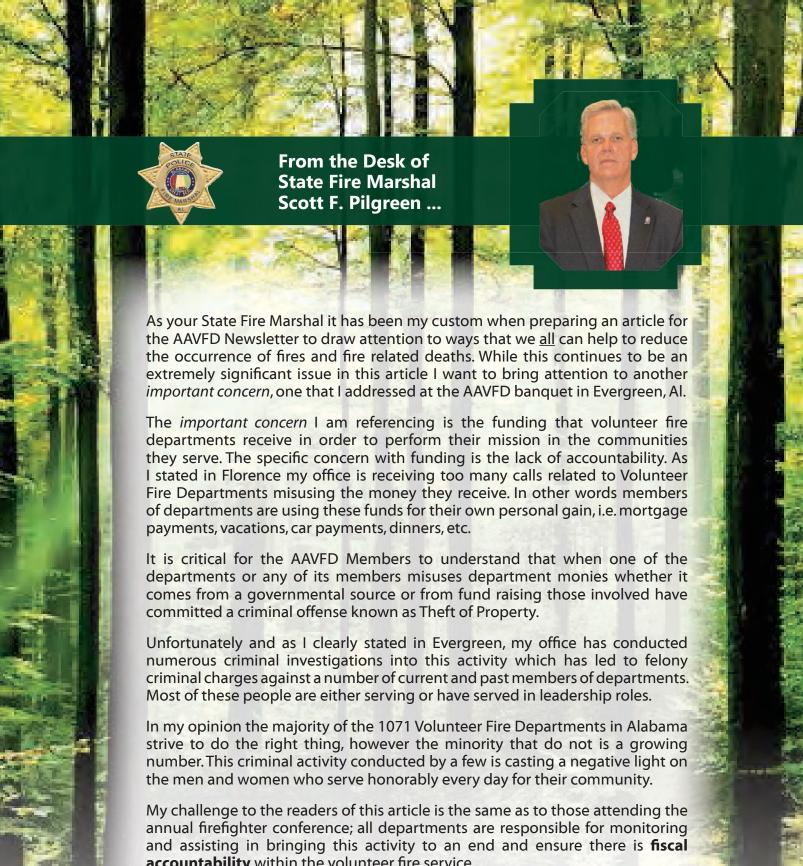
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State Fire Marshal Scott F. Pilgreen

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2009 Ferrara Kenworth Pumper Tanker Waterous 1250 GPM Pump 1200 Gallon Tank Foam System



2012 HME Ferrara Rescue Pumper Hale 1250 GPM Pump 750 Gallon Tank Low Miles



2005 Ferrara Igniter Rescue Pumper Waterous 1500 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank Detroit Diesel



2011 Ford F-650 Quick Attack CET 210 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank CAFS System



2009 Crimson Spartan 100' Tower 1500 GPM Pump 200 Gallon Tank Low Miles



1998 E-One Cyclone 75' Aerial Hale 1500 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank Detroit Diesel



2002 Amercian LaFrance 75' Quint Hale 1500 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank Detroit Diesel



2006 KME Heavy Rescue Seating for 8 Light Tower Low Miles



2001 E-One 75' Quint Hale 1500 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank Detroit Diesel



2000 Fort Garry Interntional Pumper Waterous 1250 GPM Pump 1100 Gallon Tank Low Miles



2008 Ferrara 65' Snozzle Waterous 1500 GPM Pump 1000 Gallon Tank Cummins Diesel Low Miles



2001 Seagrave 105' Tower Waterous 2000 GPM Pump 300 Gallon Tank Detroit Diesel



2005 Seagrave Rescue Pumper Seagrave 1500 GPM Pump 750 Gallon Tank Low Miles



2002 Pierce Dash 55' Sky Boom Waterous 1500 GPM Pump 750 Gallon Tank Detroit Diesel



2005 Rosenbauer Spartan Pumper Waterous 1500 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank Cummins Diesel



2006 Hackney Freightliner Air Light Unit 75KW Generator Mercedes Diesel Low Miles



2001 Pierce Dash 100' Platform Waterous 2000 GPM Pump 300 Gallon Tank Low Miles



2000 Pierce Saber Custom Pumper Hale 1250 GPM Pump 500 Gallon Tank Low Miles



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THE BELL TOLLED

Harlon Ford passed away on August 14, 2019. He was a member of the Egypt VFD in Etowah County and was active in the growth of the department. Additionally, he served as the department treasurer for several years and on the Board of Directors for many years as well, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Chief Charles Banks Mosley, age 69, passed away July 20, 2019 after an extended battle with cancer. Chief Mosley was a 40-year member of the Beaverton VFD in Lamar County. He held the position of Fire Chief for 26 of those years. Mosley was also Vice-President of the Lamar County Association and was a member of the North Lamar Rescue Team. He was an essential part of the Beaverton VFD and will be missed by all.

Dallas Leo Embry, age 77, passed away July 8, 2019 at a Huntsville Hospital. Embry was a longtime volunteer firefighter with Rogersville VFD in Lauderdale County. He was a member of the Church of Christ, a U.S. Army Veteran and he was retired from Reynolds Metals. He will be missed by the department and the community.

Gene Etheredge, passed away on July 7, 2019. Etheredge was a member of the Surginer VFD in Marengo County. He was a retired chief of the department and did not miss a call.

Jared Wayne Echols, passed away June 17, 2019 at age 35. Echols was a firefighter/ paramedic participating in the Fire Bridge Course at Anniston Regional Training Center of the Alabama Fire College. During the training, he became ill and was immediately transported to the hospital in Anniston, where he died a short time later. Firefighter/Paramedic Echols was an active member of the Pleasant Hill VFD in Springville, AL (since 2015) and was employed with Springville Fire & Rescue.

Lester B. Diggs, age 79, passed away June 14, 2019. Diggs was the first fire chief of North Courtland VFD in Lawrence County. He served as the fire chief for 33 years from 1981 to 2014. Diggs was very dedicated to the community and his church (where he served as steward and was the Sunday School superintendent for many years). He also worked with the town on many projects. Diggs was an army veteran and was dedicated to serving his community.

Donna Horton passed away from a heart attack while making call outs for a fire call on June 10, 2019. She was a member of Marion VFD in Perry County.

Mitchell "Mickey" Antwine, age 79, passed away on May 15, 2019 after a lengthy illness. Antwine was a fifty plus year member of the Grant VFD in Marshall County. He was instrumental in the operation of the department for many years and very involved in the community. Antwine loved assisting people. He will be missed by the department and the community.

James Duncan passed away on April 29, 2019. He was retired from Uniontown VFD in Perry County where he had served for more than 20 years.

Harold Hill, Sr. passed away on March 1, 2019. He was a charter member of Mountainboro VFD aiding in the establishment of the department. He was currently serving as a member of Egypt

VFD in Etowah County. With 53 years of service to his community, he will be sorely missed by all.



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 the day or night: Mike W. Green (334) 309-5026, Derrick Gatlin (256) 998-0043, Dan Hopkins (256) 225-7230 or Honor Guard Commander Daniel Day (251) 267-2527. A copy of the booklet "Death In The Line Of Duty" may be obtained from the Montgomery office. 1-888-972-2833 or at www.aavfd.org.

About the Volunteer: *The Volunteer* is issued three times a year in January, May and September. Articles, information and advertisements for the newsletter must be submitted to the AAVFD office no later than the fifteenth of the month before publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, corrections and font.

Other AAVFD Info: All membership information, insurance information, changes of addresses and inquiries having to do with the AAVFD should be sent directly to the Montgomery Office.

AAVFD Officers:

President: Mike W. Green

1st VP: Derrick Gatlin
2nd VP: Dan Hopkins
3rd VP: Joey Moffett

<u>Secretary:</u> Mary Jane Sells Treasurer: Joe Golden Newsletter Editor: Debbie Green

Executive Assistant: Wanda Jones

Office hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 - 5:00 (334) 262-2833 or 1-888-97-AAVFD aavfd@mindspring.com

www.aavfd.org



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