



THE THIRD RAIL

Official Publication of Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27, IAFF, AFL-CIO



Volume 18, Number 4



Winter 2009

So Long, Old Timey Guy

by Preston Bhang, E34

November 8th was a placidly cool Sunday morning. Seattle Fire Battalion Chief David Jacobs lay quietly in a rented hospital bed upstairs in his tidy East Bellevue home. The cancer that was diagnosed a little more than two years ago was taking its final turn. Dave's breathing was slow and shallow. With family lovingly surrounding him, his wife Janna gently whispered in his ear, "Honey, it's okay, you don't have to linger...." And, just like that, Dave left his earthly body and traded it in for a new one. Beautiful, incorruptible. Promised by his Savior.



Dave and I were good friends for nearly a quarter century. Both fire fighters from Southern California, we shared a love for the sun and surf and "real" Mexican food. Dave was also a fire fighter in Chula Vista, CA and in Ashland, OR. His father was a Fire Captain in National City, CA. After Recruit school in Seattle, Dave was assigned to Engine 2. He promoted out to become the Lieutenant on Engine 29, Captain of Engine 21, 25, and Training, and finally Chief of Battalion Four and Seven. Dave served as president of the Officers' Association. As a fire fighter he also worked many days off on a "blue" Shepherd Ambulance (later to become AMR).

the cool cement. Did you know that Dave was also an accomplished pianist?

Dave was elected by his peers as Chief of the Year in 2005. But, did you also know that he is on the cover of the menu at McCoy's Firehouse? Extra points if you recall what piece of specialty equipment Dave is holding in the photo.

Dave was known for his slow, deep, "DJ" (double meaning intended) radio voice. I suspect that his Opus Magnum may have been a water rescue a few years ago. It was the dark days of the fire fighters vs. cops, "Who's in Charge of the Water Rescue?" debate. An overturned canoe was reported and within a few minutes, Seattle Fire Units were on scene with Battalion Chief Jacobs as Incident Commander. Many of us throughout the City were listening intently to the radio traffic. Suddenly, the Police Harbor Base dispatcher cut in and demanded that Fire Units "stand down" and await the arrival of Police resources. Chief Jacobs radioed back that rescue operations were already underway. The Police dispatcher then added that his supervisor had telephoned from a remote location and directed that Fire units back off. Chief Ja-

(Please see *Dave Jacobs*, page 4)

The hospice nurse who walked with Dave and Janna through the difficult last weeks was none other than Laurean Myers, wife of retired Lieutenant Bob Myers. She actually moved into the Jacobs' home to offer full-time care. With Laurean's careful direction, Dave's family prepared his body and adorned it in a Hawaiian shirt that Janna had made years earlier, board shorts, and flip flops. Two handsome Seattle Fire Fighters transported Dave's body to the mortuary in a very red and shiny Aid Car Two.

Writing was a passion for Dave. That preoccupation for the pen resulted in 22 published books ranging from concrete work to auto detailing. In the back of a North Beacon Hill house, there's a set of tiny footprints in the concrete slab from my then four-year-old son. When I was out with a back injury, Dave led the charge to repair my backyard damaged by excessive rainfall. One of my son's favorite childhood memories was being lifted up by Dave's strong arms, feet dangling and gently placed in

Officer Timothy Q. Brenton Gone, but Not Forgotten

All too frequently it seems we pay homage to a fallen brother. Police Officer Timothy Brenton, killed in the line of duty serving the citizens of Seattle, was so honored at Key Arena on November 6, 2009. Uniformed members of police, fire, military, and related agencies from the area as well as a large contingent of uniformed representatives from Canada were there to salute Timothy's dedication to duty and his love of his chosen career.

Timothy Quinn Brenton was born in Seattle on February 9, 1970. He spent his early childhood in Poulsbo and Woodinville, Washington. His mother fondly remembers Tim teaching himself to read at three years old from a subscription to National Geographic. He later lived in West Seattle, where he graduated from West Seattle High School in 1988. During his high school years, Tim was the editor of the school paper and member of the Seattle Police Explorers. After high school, Tim enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served in Wildflecken, Germany and was a veteran of the first Gulf War. One of the highlights

of this time in the military was being in Berlin the night the Berlin Wall came down.

After leaving the Army, Tim moved to Spokane where he attended Spokane Community College. While in Spokane, Tim met his future wife, Lisa. After graduating, Tim pursued his lifelong goal of a career in law enforcement. He began with the Hoquiam Police Department, then moved to the La Conner Police Department, where he served for three years. In 2000, Tim began his career with the Seattle Police Department, fulfilling his lifelong dream of following in his father's footsteps. Tim had a remarkable conviction for this job as a police officer and its invaluable purpose in society. Being a police officer



was all he wanted, it was his calling, and he loved his job.

Tim and Lisa were married in December of 1997. Their daughter Kayleigh was born in 1998, then in 2001 they were blessed with the birth of their son, Quinn. He was so excited to have a family, taking his role as a father seriously.

Tim will be remembered for his quick wit and intelligence. He loved reading, and was a history buff. Whenever he had the chance, he enjoyed the outdoors. Camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing were some of his favorite activities.

Officer Timothy Q. Brenton: Gone, but not forgotten.

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Miscellaneous Musings from Dave's Universe

An Editorial Opinion!
BY DAVE PEERY



The headline boldly states:

"Ex-firefighter awarded \$13 M"

That's the lead of the article as it appeared in *The Seattle Times*, NW FRIDAY, October 23rd edition. That's the lead-in to the article which lays out the jury settlement awarded our own Mark Jones. While the award may seem generous, by the time attorneys take their share of the settlement and other costs are factored in, the amount left may--or may not--be enough to take care of Mark's needs in the future.

The real issue is whether there will be an appeal. If either the City or its insurance carrier, AIG, choose to appeal the jury's decision, the process could take up to 2½ years. Justice Delayed is Justice Denied!

If an appeal is filed, there will be no funds immediately available from the jury award. Meg and Mark will carry on as they have during the trial. Day by day, responding as needed to protect the award and seek its disbursement. There are no guarantees. Even with a jury award granted, the City or its insurance carrier may find an avenue to con-

test the award and cause final settlement to be pushed out for years. The effect upon Mark (and Meg) can be guessed.

While Mark should be concentrating on finding a manageable routine to help control his medical needs and some way to look to the future for something more than a continued battle with attorneys and judges, he is left in legal limbo until either an appeal is settled or abandoned.

When retaining an attorney is the best option for seriously injured fire fighters who attempt to rehabilitate and return to duty or to adapt to a lifetime of disability, then it should be apparent to all that the system itself has failed.

We are aware of the failings of the current LEOFF II pension/disability issue. We have names for those failures--Mark Jones, Marion Gray, Kevin Locke, Dave Jacobs, and others. The Labor and Industries model of insurance/workplace safety has failed to address the unique needs of fire fighters. Whatever the cause, it is evident to this writer that fire fighters need to seek options to the current model.

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to duty or to adapt to a lifetime of disability, then it should be apparent to all that the system itself has failed.

The name Marion Gray continues to pop into my mind as the epitome of failure of the LEOFF II system. The settlement reached in Marion's case was small, and his pension (\$1.65 per month) was little more than a monthly insult. State Industrial's coverage had limitations and was not designed to address the severe nature of Marion's life-long physical limits. Mark Jones is now in a very similar situation.

It is not my intent to seek out responsible parties for these failures. I have come to believe that it's "just the nature of the beast." Any time the span of control over death and disability issues extends beyond the immediate employer and it's insuring agency or health-care provider, accountability and flexibility suffer. It's the "next window, please" syndrome. If there is more than one responsible party involved, the deathly serious game of assessing liability becomes a nasty game of musical chairs where the only sure outcome is that the injured party will be left exhausted and frustrated by an unresponsive system not designed to address the needs of seriously injured men and women in the fire service.

That's one reason that Local 27 has become ever more involved in political action. We recognize the challenges our members face when dealing with a health-care system that is poorly designed to meet the needs of public safety personnel. Each year we try to improve the existing model and/or incorporate needed changes into available programs.

The Usual Suspects



If you've been to the JTF lately you've seen the new training tower. It's the one that looks just like the tower used in the Scott Fire Fighter Combat Challenge. This new tower was a joint project paid for by donations from Local 27, Local 2898, and the SFD.

It is one of 5 such towers purchased by fire departments in Canada and the U.S. Members can use the tower to train for

the Scott Combat Challenge and the Department can use it in general training as well.

The tower was assembled by the same people who tend to use it the most often. We know them by their names and faces. They are the first to volunteer, the first to step forward to get department projects off the ground, and they are the driving force behind many of our more public competitions and events.

Every department has a core of members whose interests in fitness, sports, competition and comradeship brings them together to volunteer for programs related to these interests. We all benefit from the positive public face these men and women provide just as the Pipes and Drums and the Honor Guard do with their public appearances at events related to our profession. Very often, we see these same volunteers at social events and competitions that portray fire fighters in the best possible light.

Thanks to all who tirelessly participate in this ongoing work!

Slain Lakewood Officers Leave Holes in Community Fabric

Excerpts from *The Seattle Times*, November 30, 2009

The four Lakewood police officers gunned down in a coffee shop Sunday morning had a lot in common: They joined the fledgling Lakewood Police Department in 2004, had years of experience, and all were parents.

The slain officers "all have been outstanding professionals," said Lakewood Police Chief Bret Farrar.

Sergeant Mark Renninger

A decorated veteran officer and popular law-enforcement instructor, Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, is survived by his wife and three children.

"He was the most competent and tactically proficient man I ever knew in police work," Brian Wurts, a Lakewood Police Officer and president of its police union, said in an e-mail. "Mark had that spark that made you like him and respect him. He was truly a rock in our department."



Officer
Ronald Owens

Officer Ronald Owens

Friends describe Ronald Owens, 37, as a dedicated officer, devoted father and fun-loving guy.

"Ronnie to all of us was the laid-back, dirt-bike riding, surfer-hair waving cop you would always want at a party or with you on any



Sergeant
Mark Renninger

call," Wurts said. Owens had the ability to be a "calm-down guy, an even keel who was able to put a perspective on things with few words."

Officer Tina Griswold

Tina Griswold, 40, joined the Lakewood Police Department in 2004 and earlier this year won its Lifesaving Award.

"With her, it was all about wanting to make a difference," said U.S. Army Sgt. Kevin Muhlenbeck, who lived next door to her in Lacey from 2002 to 2005. "She was dedicated to her kids, dedicated to her career."

From 1998 to 2004, she was an officer and SWAT team member for the Lacey Police Department, said Sgt. Scott Eastman, a former supervisor. The team served high-risk warrants and conducted high-risk entries, he said.

"Tina was an outstanding officer," Eastman said. "She was very assertive, and had no fear in dealing with high-risk situations and suspects that were larger than her. She had this presence about her that was in charge and you were going to do what she said. She had the verbal skills and the confidence to pull it off."



Officer
Tina Griswold

Officer Gregory Richards

He was known as one of the sweet guys, the one everyone liked to work with.



Officer
Greg Richards

Gregory Richards, 42, of Graham had eight years of law-enforcement experience, starting with work as a patrol officer in Kent.

Richards is survived by his wife, Kelly, a daughter and two sons.

Sister-in-law Melanie Burwell said she last saw Richards at Thanksgiving. "It was wonderful," she said, fighting tears. "All he ever wanted was his family. He didn't want to do anything but be with them."



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Published quarterly by the Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27, a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters. Telephone number: 206-285-1271 or 800-423-4224. Fax: 206-285-9479.

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All articles and Classifieds approved for publication by the Editorial Board must be received by the second Thursday (Local 27 Union Meeting) of each month prior to publication.

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President's Report

by *Kenny Stuart*

It has been a sobering time over the last few months...

Brother Mark Jones and Sister Meg Jones were victorious in court as the jury awarded 12.75 million in damages to ensure that the City meets its obligation to properly care for Mark after his catastrophic and debilitating on-duty injuries. While this is but one chapter in this struggle, the jury's award brings some comfort that justice may eventually be served. The overwhelming show of support from so many brother and sister fire fighters who attended the trial day after day is a tribute to Mark and Meg and the great unity we have as fire fighters. I am hopeful that soon the process will end and that Mark and Meg may reach some semblance of comfort and peace. They certainly deserve it.

Our good brother Dave Jacobs lost his battle with cancer on November 8th surrounded by friends and

family and the thoughts and prayers of every Seattle Fire Fighter. Dave displayed amazing courage, dignity, and grace as he slowly slipped toward his death, which was in keeping with who he was as a man and as a fire fighter. He will be missed by many. Dave's fight for proper treatment and respect from the City of Seattle is our fight, and his legacy will include a better understanding of the challenges any one of us could face if we found ourselves with a duty-related illness.

Seattle Police Officer Timothy Brenton was brutally murdered in his patrol car on October 31 after a traffic stop. Seattle Fire Fighters responded to the incident as well as to the Seattle Police Officer's Guild's efforts in finding the murderer. Seattle Fire Fighters helped distribute reward posters to encourage anyone with information to come forward. And they did. Then, as almost 250 Seattle Fire Fighters mourned with Seattle Police Officers at Officer Brenton's memorial, the suspect was taken into custody in a violent gunfight. The satisfaction of his arrest is such a fleeting triumph as the tragedy of this line of duty death continues to sink in. We give our

deepest sympathies to the Seattle Police Department and our hats are off to our brothers and sisters in blue for their continued valiant service to the citizens of Seattle.

Finally, a tip o' the Kelly to our **Fire Investigation Unit** for catching the Greenwood Arsonist after about 15 or so arsons, including the 3-11 in Greenwood. Their excellent work saved the citizens of Seattle from further arson attacks and most likely saved lives.

As the holidays quickly approach, we should all take pause to remember these public servants, and the many that preceded them, who so clearly reveal the sometimes forgotten service and sacrifice inherent to our professions. We should continue to strive as a Union, with renewed energy and purpose, for those things that will help protect our brothers and sisters from harm, and we should love our friends, our families, and our lives in the spirit of Mark Jones and Dave Jacobs.

2009 Election Results

Sally Bagshaw, Local 27's first endorsement this season, won a Seattle City Council seat by a significant margin. Her track record supporting public safety in the King County Prosecutor's Office and her reputation as a compassionate, common-sense leader will make her a great addition to the Council.

Local 27's support helped ensure that **Initiative 1033** was defeated and that **Referendum 71** passed. Our endorsements for these issues were practical decisions that were met with much appreciation from the campaigns. Both of these issues will serve the interests of Local 27 members.

The other two City Council races in which Local 27 endorsed candidates did not go our way. **Nick Licata** beat **Jessie Israel** to serve his fourth term and **Mike O'Brien** passed **Robert Rosencrantz**. These were tough races and our endorsements were made based on the candidates' views and emphasis on public safety and the safety and

security of fire fighters. Local 27 will work with these elected council members going forward and seek to instill in them a greater sense of importance for public safety and fire fighters.

Mike McGinn beat **Joe Mallahan** to become Mayor of Seattle. We put more effort into this race than ever before and had very high expectations for the Mallahan campaign. Local 27 worked very hard to help Joe win, but in the end it was up to Joe and his campaign to win and that did not happen. Joe Mallahan was our endorsed candidate because of his strong stance on public safety and his clear and unequalled support for fire fighter issues. However, Mike McGinn had a large number of motivated volunteers who worked tirelessly for his campaign. Their efforts paid off. McGinn's platform of environmental issues and his anti-establishment stance drew strong support. The Mallahan campaign could not overcome the volunteer army that supported McGinn. Their boots on

the ground, grass-roots, door to door blitz won against a campaign that spent three times as much money.

For our part, Local 27 is very proud of our involvement in this election and we have no regrets. We faced some challenges along the way but we met them head on, with integrity and professionalism and we are better for it. Politics does not end with elections--it begins with them. We will reach out to Mayor McGinn and we have already begun to forge a positive relationship with him. In spite of this loss, Local 27 is well-positioned to continue serving the interests of our members and we are confident of success even though the circumstances we face are different than we planned for. Our strength lies in our commitment, determination, and ability to adapt as fire fighters. It was a big effort, but if you want to hit home-runs you need to swing for the fence, and you can't be afraid to strike out once in a while.

Battalion 3 Station Rep Elections & Online Voting

Members of Battalion 3 elected a Station Rep for each shift last month. Since B3 changes their work place from shift to shift and there is a large number of members in B3, the Union encouraged a member from each shift to represent members of their shift. This change is intended to improve communication between members and Local 27. Congratulations to newly elected B3 Station Reps Miki Mann, Carl Gordon, Joe Toche, and Scott Helfrich. Thank you for participating in your Union.

Through review of election issues, evaluation of our election system, member input, and Station Rep feedback, the Executive Board recommends to replace mail elections with an improved and updated online election system. Problems with mail elections include the unreliability of mail delivery, the slow delivery speed, staff time, and

cost. Online elections offer the benefits of automatic ballot count, instant confirmation of casting a ballot, access to election/candidate info on the ballot so a member has the election information while voting, ability to vote from anywhere with internet access, no more lost ballots at home or in the post office, the reduction of staff time needed for mailings, and a shorter duration of each election. But online elections would be new to Local 27 and security needs to be ensured.

Votenet.com was selected from the available online services as meeting Local 27's requirements most appropriately. We used the B3 Station Rep election as an opportunity to test online voting. Members used their unique username and password to log into an independent and secure website to vote. The program walked members

through the voting process. If submitted by a candidate, members viewed candidates' bios or pictures while voting. A completed ballot review was displayed prior to submitting the ballot to prevent voting mistakes. After the ballot was submitted, the member was prevented from voting again.

B3 members who participated in the Station Rep election were asked to complete a survey to evaluate the process. Almost all of the members who completed the survey found online voting to be easy and all preferred online elections to mail elections. Members can look forward to a By-Laws revision referendum that will allow for online elections and can learn more information about online voting at votenet.com.

IAFF Line of Duty Deaths

- **Fire Fighter Thomas R. Veverka, Local 4211 - Des Plaines, Illinois.** Brother Veverka, 58, passed away on September 18 from lung cancer.
- **Fire Fighter Patrick Joyce, Local 628 - Yonkers, New York.** Brother Joyce, 39, passed away on October 2 while battling a fire.
- **Captain Carl Nordwall, Local 3406 - Norfolk Airport, Norfolk, Virginia.** Brother Nordwall, 56, passed away on October 6 of cardiac arrest while on duty.
- **Fire Fighter Michael Coyne, Local 937 - Chelsea, Massachusetts.** Brother Coyne, 48, passed away on October 10 of cancer.
- **Fire Fighter/Paramedic Mark McNeal, Local 1505 - Flagstaff, Arizona.** Brother McNeal, 53, passed away on November 6 of cancer.
- **Captain Jim S. McDonald, IAFF Local 867 - Winnipeg, Manitoba.** Brother McDonald, 54, passed away on November 3 from bladder cancer.
- **Fire Fighter Donald (Don) J. McCormick, Local 162 - Ottawa, Ontario.** Brother McCormick, 75, passed away on November 6 from complications of a neurological disorder.
- **Fire Fighter Terence Goldberg, Local 2545 - Kirkland, Washington.** Brother Goldberg, 43, passed away on November 8 from cancer.
- **Fire Fighter Ramon E. Hain, Local 21 - Saint Paul, Minnesota.** Brother Hain, 50, passed away on November 14 from heart disease.
- **Battalion Chief David H. Jacobs, Jr., IAFF Local 2898 - Seattle, Washington.** Brother Jacobs, 58, passed away on November 8 from esophageal cancer.
- **Fire Heavy Equipment Operator Dean T. Moore, IAFF Local 2046 - Santa Barbara County, California.** Brother Moore, 51, passed away on November 29 from cancer.

2009 BLEVE

by Dave Peery

I have attended a few BLEVE events over the years and have spoken with retirees who made the big decision to “move on” with their post-retirement lives. I have yet to talk to a single one that has regretted their choice. Each has said that what they still miss the most is the camaraderie of fellow fire fighters. Many missed the opportunity to be a part of an elite team or simply be members of a great crew, but to all, the loss centered on the friends they worked with for so many years.

This year, the BLEVE ceremony was held at the Red Lion Hotel Downtown on November 13th. Thirteen retirees attended and were honored at the ceremony, and the rest who were unable to attend were honored in their

absence. Awards were made, plaques presented, and pictures taken—all fine and part of a ceremony that is appropriate and welcome. But these men and women worked together not for awards or special mention—no, they worked for acceptance as part of the team and because they loved the craft of fire fighting and emergency medical services.

Whether in administrative assignments or as combat officers, paramedics, drivers, or fire fighters, each

filled an important function that has to be filled for the system to work well—and work well it does. Our system, from fire prevention to fire suppression to emergency medical support, is one that is recognized and respected world-wide. We are blessed with a number of talented and dedicated members who have taken these tasks as worthy of great effort.



Retiree Terry Taylor (second from left) and department friends celebrate at this year's event.

So, when the announcement goes out for the next BLEVE, don't hesitate—join the fun.

Functional Movement Screening Opportunity

by Dallas Baker, Benefits Officer

Recently, our Peer Fitness Trainers began visiting stations to do Functional Movement Screening for Seattle Fire Fighters. This is a tremendous opportunity for Fire Fighters; Functional Movement Screening gives PFT's a chance to evaluate our functional range of motion, limitations, or asymmetries while we perform some basic movements. Another department went through a similar program and realized a 42% reduction in injuries which resulted in a 62% reduction in time loss over 12 months.

While this opportunity isn't mandatory, it is extremely important that we take advantage of this screening. We need Battalion Chiefs to encourage their battalions to participate and we need company officers to encourage their crews to participate. Whether it is department lead-

ers getting more fire fighters to participate or fire fighters getting their chain of command to participate, we need to help each other understand the impact that FMS (functional movement screening) can have.

Our work and responsibility doesn't stop once screening is over. The PFT will let you know how you can address any imbalances you have and how to address any areas where you may be susceptible to injury. This is another area where company officers can support their crews by taking a leadership role in ensuring an hour is set aside each shift for physical training. If the officer starts the workout and invites his or her crew to join in, our members are more likely to see the reduction in injuries that is so important to our careers.

It is also important to note that there are no individual record sheets and the PFT will only be recording raw data (which will be used by PFT's for making improvements to the program), making this the most secure fitness assessment ever provided for the membership.

Continued support and participation in the FMS program will lead to fewer injuries, fewer injuries will lead to longer, healthier careers, and healthier careers will lead to longer, healthier retirements. We will also maintain a stronger healthcare trust, not to mention a safer fire ground for all of us in which to work. For this to happen, however, it must start by taking advantage of this opportunity.

Dave Jacobs

(continued from page 1)

Jacobs again replied “Negative”. A third demand was transmitted. Finally, Chief Jacobs, in his low and slow manner, transmitted that now famous radio message: “Harbor Base. You are not on scene. Your supervisor is not on scene. I am on scene and in command. End of story.” There was complete silence after that. Of course, that is ancient history and we now enjoy excellent cooperation from the Police presence on the water.

The above story only illustrates one side of a multi-faceted David Jacobs. Dave was quite the historian and could always be found with a strong cup of coffee and a (ahem) cigarette, recounting a story of some sort, laughing until tears flowed. I'm reminded of a certain Polaroid picture Dave brought all the way from San Diego. Tattered and faded, the dog-eared pic would be brought out just at the right moment. Did you know that Dave gave his old foul weather jacket to a new guy, which by the way, turns out to be one of the new guy's most prized possessions? Dave was always—I mean always—quoting retired Fire Fighter Jimmy Yokum. I believe one of Dave's favorite Yokumisms was the term “grippages”, meaning to gain a purchase on something...I think. Dave often referred to himself as the “Old Timey Guy,” originally coined by Yokum.

Naturally, one could never recount the story of Dave Jacobs without mentioning that he is the only documented fire fighter who dropped dead at a fire, was resuscitated, and ultimately returned to fire fighting duties. Five years ago, Chief Jacobs was Incident Commander at a West Seattle house fire. I was listening to my Department radio when I heard Dave give his radio report. I thought, “Hmmm, Dave sounds tired.” Shortly thereafter, my pager hit indicating that they were performing CPR on Battalion 7. My heart sank and tears flowed until I got a cell call from Chief Vickery informing me that Dave had been revived and I was to pick up Janna Jacobs and Lt. Bob Myers and take them to the hospital. Tears of sorrow had suddenly turned to tears of joy. After being revived, Dave recounts that he experienced absolute peace and the unshakable assurance that there is life after death. He had no fear, rather ex-



traordinary well-being. That is, until he opened his eyes and peered into the face of one of the recruits that Dave and I had the pleasure of training a few years back. Dave uttered the words “Is that you, _____?” When the fire fighter answered in the affirmative, Dave whispered “Oh, @*&^\$%!”. The only thing more entertaining about that day was that Lt. Myers had convinced Dave that a certain retired Battalion Chief had performed mouth-to-mouth on him. I heard that the Form 20B documented the fact that Dave spat all the way to the hospital.

Dave and Janna would spend quiet days and tranquil nights at their A-frame in Seabeck. A few months ago, I was privileged to be walking with him along the beach, sun-bleached oyster shells crunching under our feet. We stopped and sat on a weathered log just listening to the wind and birds. Dave broke the silence saying

“It's okay, Prestione (his nickname for me)...don't worry...God will take care of me.” Dave was always thinking of others and their well being. Even in his days of terminal illness, his big heart was still concerned about me.

Dave and Janna vacationed regularly in Maui, staying at Pete Aoki's place, where sun, surf, plate lunches, and good friends would rejuvenate his chemo- and radiation-riddled body. Dave always amazed his friends upon his return with a robust body, tanned skin and a huge smile. In January, Roger Bianchi and I jumped on a chance to be with Dave and Janna in Maui. I found it interesting that even on vacation, Dave was on the job. He assumed the role of Fire Marshal and surf instructor of his condo complex. I will never forget watching Surfer Dave deftly catch a few nicely shaped waves on his 9'6" surfboard. One of the last things I whispered to Dave as he lay hovering between heaven and earth was “Cowabunga, Dude!”



Dave Jacobs bravely battled his cancer for a little more than two years. Remember when the docs gave him only six months? Dave's muscles had now atrophied to the point where he was unable to move. The tumors had their strangle hold on his spine. However, in true “never a dull moment style,” the night before he died, Dave tried to get out of bed. Janna asked him

“What are you doing?” He said “I have to find the right path.” As Janna guided him back to bed, he crossed his arms, grinned and declared “Silly me.”

The next morning, I was just about to take my usual seat at the little church just a half-block north of Station 28. My cell phone quietly vibrated. The screen read “Bobby Myers”. I answered. Bob simply said “At about 9:55 today, Dave passed.” I jumped into my car and sped east-bound over the lake to the Jacobs' home. When I arrived, heart in hand, I was greeted by a Norman Rockwell-esque scene of a living room full of beautiful children and grandchildren. The peace I felt walking through the front door was overwhelming. It was as if for every loved one there, an angel was present. No kidding, man. It was the very same peace that I felt swimming with the sea turtles, flanked by Dave and Roger in that secluded Hawaiian cove on a breezy, lazy day only a few months earlier.

Well, another one of the Good Guys is gone. David Jacobs—a fire fighters' Chief. My friend. The pain in my heart is not for Dave, for it is he who now has no pain. My pain is rather for myself and for all of us who have been blessed by knowing such a man. We now must go about our lives without him.

Born in Rhode Island (I didn't know that until recently), David Jacobs is survived by his wife and best friend of 20 years, 13 children (yes, a blended family) and 17 grandchildren, with two on the way! His mother and younger brother still live in San Diego. And, many, many friends like you, who will most assuredly be better fathers, sons, fire fighters and friends because of Dave's unselfish humanity and deep conviction to always do the right thing.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the deeply sacrificial work of Bob and Laurean Myers. Daily, Laurean brought her exceptional nursing skills to bear and kept Dave grinning. And Bob—well, you know...Bob is Bob and we love him. And to all of you who have prayed, visited, written, called, and expressed love and concern—thank you! Thanks be to God who is even now with Dave, catching that perfect wave, on that perfect beach in that Perfect World!

Dave, we will miss you. Well done, brother. Well done.

Cowabunga, Dude!

Congratulations to the 2008 and 2009 Retirees!



Barbara A. Beers

Chief Beers retired from Battalion 6 after 31 years of service. She was the first woman to join the Department and throughout her career she was a pioneer and a role model for women in the Fire Service, not only in Seattle, but across the country.



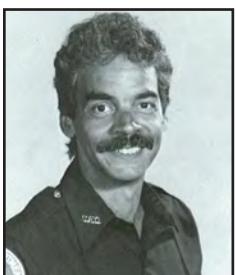
David R. Behrends

Fire Fighter Behrends retired from Engine 21 after 28 years of service to the Seattle Fire Department. He was the driver on Engine 21, described by those who worked with him as self-motivated and thorough.



Jay N. Carnegie

Battalion Chief Carnegie retired from Battalion 7 after almost 39 years of service. Over the years, he made many suggestions that helped improve the Department, including the addition of plaques on apparatus honoring the four fire fighters who died in the Pang Warehouse Fire.



Roy B. Davis

Lieutenant Davis retired from Engine 4 after 28 years of service. Early in his career he was recognized by Firehouse Magazine with a Heroism and Community Service Award for suffering burns while attempting to rescue a baby from a well-involved house fire.



Karen J. Dong

Fire Fighter/Paramedic Dong retired from Battalion 3 after almost 27 years of service. She worked as a Paramedic for almost her entire career after spending the first six years working on Ladder 5 and Ladder 4.



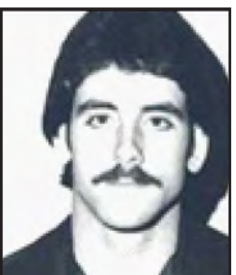
Gregory P. Elder

Fireboat Engineer Elder retired from Engine 4 after 22 years of service. He spent 12 years keeping Seattle's fleet of fireboats running. Fire Fighter Elder was known by his fireboat crewmates as "Elder the Welder" because of his exceptional welding skills.



Milton Footer, Jr.

Lieutenant Footer retired from the Fire Marshal's Office after more than 29 years of service. Lieutenant Footer served as a fire fighter, a paramedic, and an officer on Engine 28 before transferring to the Fire Marshal's Office where he completed his career.



Michael P. Garvey

Fire Fighter/Paramedic Garvey retired from Battalion 3 after 29 years with the Seattle Fire Department. Over the years, the Department received countless thank you letters commenting on his exceptional patient care.



Terry L. Haddenham

Fire Fighter Haddenham retired from Engine 11 after 29 years of dedicated service to the Seattle Fire Department. He worked on Engine 11 for his entire career, and spent 17 years serving as the driver.



James Hemans

Fire Fighter Hemans retired from Ladder 8 after 27 years of service. He received a Letter of Commendation for coming to the aid of a bicyclist who was hit by a car when he was off-shift. Hemans frequently served as an instructor for important Seattle Fire Department training.



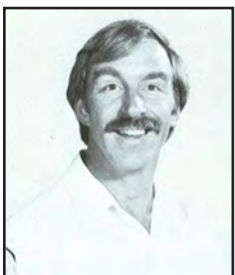
M. Kenneth Hoefner

Fire Fighter Hoefner retired from Engine 33 after more than 50 years of service. He was an inspiration to others and was the recipient of the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award for, among other things, his ability to lead, sense of teamwork and excellent customer service.



Richard T.K. Honda

Fire Fighter Honda retired from the Seattle Fire Department after 25 years of service. During his career he worked on busy Engines 13 and 28, and worked as an inspector at the Fire Marshal's Office.



Patrick L. Jasper

Fire Fighter/Paramedic Jasper retired from Battalion 3 after 35 years of service to the Seattle Fire Department. Jasper received a Unit Citation in 2004 for helping resuscitate a 14 year old boy who drowned in Lake Washington.



William R. Knapp

Lieutenant Knapp retired from Engine 38 after more than 29 years of service to the Seattle Fire Department. Over the years he was recognized by many Seattle citizens for his compassion and excellent communication skills.



Craig D. McCarty

Lieutenant McCarty retired from Engine 31 after 23 years with the Seattle Fire Department. He was described by those who worked with him as having a positive impact everywhere he went because of his personal values and unsurpassed work ethic.



Anthony McGrew

Fire Fighter/Paramedic McGrew retired from Battalion 3 after more than 27 years of service. In thank you letters to the Department, he was often complimented for his ability to make patients feel comfortable.



Randall G. Peak

Fire Fighter Peak retired from Engine 39 after nearly 37 years of service. He received a Certificate of Meritorious Service for his hard work and diligence in developing the Fire Department's Pre-Incident Survey Program.



C.W. Robinson

Captain Robinson retired from Engine 26 after almost 32 years of service. He was described by those who worked with him as a hard working and diligent officer. He served as a recruit instructor for both pre-recruit and recruit classes, sharing his knowledge and skills with future fire fighters.



Judson H. Talmadge

Fire Fighter Talmadge retired from Engine 31 after almost 29 years of service. He spent most of his career at Station 31, serving on both Ladder 5 and Engine 31.



Terry G. Taylor

Fire Fighter Taylor retired from Ladder 12 after 29 years of service. He was an advocate for fire fighter safety, and was known for setting a standard of safety and excellence for others to follow, including the many probationary fire fighters he worked with at Station 28.



Kenneth L. Tipler

Chief Tipler retired from the Seattle Fire Department after 33 years of service. Prior to becoming the Fire Marshal in 2006, he served as the Assistant Chief of Safety & Employee Development and as the Assistant Chief of Resource Management.



Calvin L. Tomicich

Fire Fighter Tomicich retired from Engine 10 after over 31 years. He was the driver of Engine 10 and a member of the Department's Haz Mat Response Team. He received a Certificate of Meritorious Service for rescuing two patients from a serious car accident while on vacation near Blewett Pass.



Alex R. Trent

Lieutenant Trent retired from Engine 26 after 30 years of service. He was known as a fun guy to work with who was always ready to go.



Anthony E. Warren

Fire Fighter Warren retired from Engine 5 after more than 41 years of service to the Department. He was the Driver on Engine 5 and part of the Seattle Fire Department Marine Team.



Armando L. Zapata

Lieutenant Zapata retired from Engine 11 after 28 years of service to the Seattle Fire Department. He worked on engines all over the city during his career, and served as a Lieutenant for more than nine years.

2009 Medic One "Lights, Sirens, Auction!"

by Jan Sprake,
Executive Director of Medic One

In the face of challenging economic times and pouring rain, an enthusiastic and fun-filled crowd of 560 guests gathered to show their support for fire fighters and paramedics at the Medic One Foundation's annual Lights, Sirens, Auction! event. More than 250 items were auctioned off, raising \$385,000 for the Medic One Paramedic Training Program and for emergency medical equipment grants!



Fire departments throughout our region supported the event by donating unique auction items that were the highlight of the evening, including a ride-a-long with Seattle Paramedics John Hinson and Chris Robinson, a fire-fighter-for-a-day experience with the Bellevue Fire De-

partment, a backyard BBQ donated by Seattle Paramedic Andre McGann, a dinner and tour with Woodinville Fire and Life Safety, and a Jamaican BBQ donated by Seattle Fire Fighter Michael Poole!

Evening highlights included recognition of Seattle Lieutenants Jeffery Milton and Dan Nelson, and Seattle Paramedics Mark Colley and Stuart Ono for saving the life of Tony Locati, the featured "Medic One Life Story." Stubbs, KMPS 94.1 radio personality, and Jean Enersen, co-anchor of KING 5 News weeknight broadcasts, helped emcee the evening's activities, while the soulful sounds of Type A! entertained guests late into the evening.

Many thanks to everyone who turned out to support



the Foundation and help raise funds for the Paramedic Training Program and for emergency medical equipment grants!

by Chris Gilbert

The biggest development since the last edition of The Third Rail for the levy project is that a decision has finally been made as to the future of Fire Station 20. After years of debate, the city has chosen to build a new Station 20, on a new site at the intersection of 15 Ave. W. & W. Armour St. This new site will provide adequate space for a much needed new home for one of the city's worst fire stations. The City Council is also allocating an additional \$2 million for site development. Local 27 would like to thank City Councilman Tim Burgess for his help in finding a workable solution for everyone involved.

Another new development of note is that the department has reached a decision on where to relocate the Technical Rescue Team. Drum roll please...and the winner is: Station 14. Yep. Rescue 1 will stay right where they are. The station will get a remodel and a new bay added to the north side of the building. Battalion 5 was originally slated to move to 14's and that has now been scrapped as well. Engine 13 will continue to share 13's with their chief, post remodel.

Other updates of note:

Station 2

Work continues on the remodel, including roofing, mechanical, and new power service to the building. The project is 40% complete.

Station 9

Project is in schematic design. A neighborhood open house will be held on January 9th. Construction will not begin until middle of 2011.

Station 13

Will be getting a remodel that will include an addition to

Fire Levy Update

the back of the station. Battalion 5, which was previously slated to permanently move to Station 14 will now remain at Station 13. Engine 13 will continue to be housed at the station during the remodel and Battalion 5 will temporarily move to either Station 30 or Station 14.

Station 14

Project is in pre-design phase. An Open House was held for the public on December 2nd, during the day.

Station 16

Project is in pre-design phase. Site negotiations are underway for a temporary site.

Station 17

Concrete work/brick walls on the new addition are now complete as well as new plumbing in the original building. This project is slightly behind schedule due to some problems with sub-contractors. General contractor, Graham Construction, has taken over sub work now. Project is 45% complete.

Station 21

Going out to bid very soon. Construction will not be able to begin until another station using temporary facilities is completed. Temporary station will be at 6802 Greenwood Ave. N.

Station 28

Down to punch list items on the new station. New station dedication took place on Saturday, December 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Station 30

Moved into temporary quarters at 3113 Wetmore Ave S. on November 18th. Groundbreaking scheduled for December 9th. Low bid was \$3.02 million, 30% below the

engineer's estimate of \$4.3 million.

Station 33

Remodel is complete and Engine 33 has moved back into their station. Punch list items continue to be worked on with Fleets & Facilities and the contractor.

Station 35

The old station has been demolished and ground has been broken on construction of a new station at the existing site. Concrete foundation walls have been placed. Bid for this station was 28% below estimate.

Station 37

New construction at a new location has begun at 35 Ave. S.W. & S.W. Holden St. Sitework and excavation for footings is currently underway. Bid for this station was 33% below estimate.

Station 39

Framing and exterior wall insulation has been completed on the new station being built adjacent to the existing station. Work is underway on installing the exterior metal siding, electrical and mechanical systems as well as interior wall framing and concrete floor polishing. Project is 60% complete.

Station 41

Framing has been completed on the new addition. Roofing work is underway on the existing station and the new addition. Electrical and plumbing has been roughed in on interior walls of existing station in preparation for sheet-rock. Project is 48% complete.

As always, if you are having issues with your station's levy project, or if you just have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at cgilbert@iaff27.org.

FIU Takes On the Greenwood Arsonist!

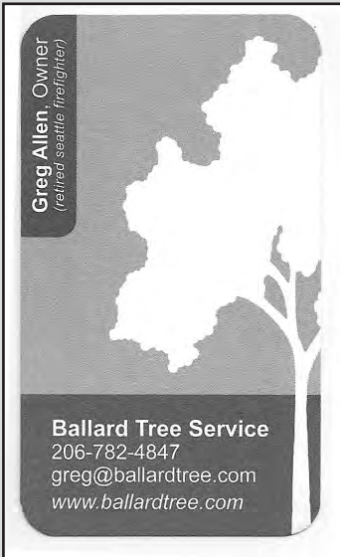
Kevin Todd Swalwell's luck ran out early Friday morning, November 13th, after he allegedly set another arson fire in the Shoreline area. Seattle Fire Investigation members were en route to the latest blaze in Shoreline when they spotted the suspect at a bus stop. With a long history of arrests for arson as well as other crimes, Swalwell is well known to police.

A local resident provided information that led authorities to begin looking for Swalwell as a possible suspect. His long history of arsons in the past made him a "person of interest" and through a review of surveillance camera footage at arson sites it was believed that Swalwell was seen at several earlier fires in the greenwood area.

Seattle Fire Department instituted an arson patrol of the surrounding areas on November 5th. On Friday, November 13th when the alarm came in for a fire at a vacant warehouse in the Shoreline area, Seattle Arson Patrol members Jim Berger and Steve Olson decided to head north to investigate.


While on the way to that scene they spotted Swalwell near a bus stop on foot. They called for Police and Swalwell was questioned and detained. Evidence has placed Swalwell at three of the previous arson fires. He has since been charged and bail has been set at one million dollars. It is hoped that with his extensive arrest record for arsons he will be given a significant sentence.

Many thanks to our vigilant Arson Patrol members Berger and Olson for their sharp eyes. We will never know what other fires or lives Swalwell might have been responsible for had he not been apprehended early that morning.



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5 Alarm

Beacon Hill Dental Association; Boeing Employees Credit Union; Comforce Co; Emerald City Emergency Clinic; Fast Flashings of Kirkland; Great Pacific Seafoods Inc; Martin Selig Real Estate; Meridian Valley Laboratory, Inc; Presbyterian Retirement Communities NW; Soleil Development; Washington Athletic Club; Wilde Rover Irish Pub & Restaurant; Yellow Cab
Charlie Bell; Cathy Corrigan; Don & Shyla Miller

4 Alarm

Acme Bowling Billiards & Events; Apollo Video Technology; Aramark Uniforms; Aspen Management; Cosco Fire Protection; Custom Ocular Prosthetics; Fine Design Inc; First Lutheran Church ELCA; Hair Art Beauty Outlet & Salon; Jordan River Moving & Storage; Kamco Seafood; King Buffet; Laborers' NW Cooperation Fund; Lynden Inc; Magnetic & Penetrant Services; Mastercraft Electric Inc; SBI/Saxton Bradley Inc; SkoFlo Industries Inc; South Park Marina; Svetlana Angel Yim @ Prudential NW Realty; TeraVendo Inc; The Ould Triangle; The Stone House; Time Out Sports Bar; Western States Fire Protection
Janice Blanchard; Margaret Sawyer; Elina Snell

3 Alarm

3-Wire/Restaurant Appliance Service; Accommodations Plus; Bach's Construction; Bamboo Bar & Grill; Cedar River Montessori School; Chelan Café; City Market; Commonwealth Land Title Co of Puget Sound LLP; Computer Sonics; Designers Marble; Dina S Good Salon; Duncan Aviation Seattle; Hopvine Pub; Las Margaritas; Marine Vacuum Service; Newport Children's School; Office of Wayne Gittinger; Pacific Asset Advisors; Pacific NW Equipment Inc; Pho Tai Vietnamese Restaurant; Rainier Food Market; Romio's Pizza of Seattle; Royal Glass Company; Seattle Truck Driving School; Sound Oil Co; TR Trucking Inc Warehouse Service; Tabarek Mini Market; Taco Del Mar; Taqueria Tequila; Teddy's Bigger Burgers; Thompson Fire Equipment; Tony Phan @ Home Realty; Tony's Bak-

ery & Deli; Westfire Coastal Inc; Rick B Anderson; Dick Backs; Gary & Linda Byers; Gary Costello; Barbara Downs; Tyra Elliott; Martin Estevez; Donna Fayerweather; Robert H Fleming; Bruce Gross; Richard Hattingh; Vallery A Holmes; Albert Jalso; Charles R King; Darla Larson; Steve Latimer; Mrs Stanley Little; Thom Nguyen; Helen Osborne; Robert Ranf; Laurie C Ryan; Dan Satterberg; Felicia Sherrell; William Smith; Wendy Stephenson; Adrienne G Stone; Thomas Strom; Linda Suzman; Philip E Tobias; Patricia Wright

2 Alarm

9th Avenue Children's House; All Shades Painting Inc; Barclay Seafood; Builder's Hardware & Supply Co; Carniceria El Paisano; Carnitech US Incorporated; Chase Appraisal Services; Cooper's Ale House; GL Simms & Associates; George's Eastside Shell; High State Corp; I Luv Teriyaki; International Grocery; Isomedia; Jeld-Wen Coatings; Khang Hoa Duong; Laborers' Local #440; Lioe's Automotive Service Inc; Mai Lynn Flowers; Malkit Uppal @ Skyline Properties; Mama Lucia's; Marine Exchange of Puget Sound; McKinnon Furniture; Misha 76; Nielsen Shields PLLC; Okinawa Teriyaki; Pape' Machinery; Pegasus Pizza & Pasta; PSI Group Inc; Quality Business Systems; RL Evans Co; Seatac 76; Sno-Valley Auto Rebuild; Three Moon Clinic; Tony's American Car Care; Travel Seatac; Twisted Metalworks; Universal Auto
Georgina Alquist; Leona Anderson; Patricia Behrbaum; Paul Beier; Kellie Brindley-Koonce; James Copeland; Karen Gould; Edna Hewett; Edith Ingalls; Maggie & Leo Judd; Scott Lui; Vernon Oscar Maekawa; Kimberly Mitchell; Kim Nguyen; Tina Price; Clyde Robinson; Rozie Royal; Jeff Sams; Bert Secreti; Ralph Svehaug; Anna Valencia

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Remembrances

The 2009 Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial

by David Churchill

The question of why Colorado Springs was chosen as the memorial center of our continent came up while we were there this past September 18th and 19th.

There are a lot of reasons why Colorado Springs works well. Although slightly West, it's more or less physically central to North America. It's small enough that the logistics of traffic, parking, etc. work, and it's not so small that it's difficult to get to.

Although these were probably factors in its choosing, the significance for me is not in the surface logic nor in the convenience. The meaning is in the beauty of the resting place. Colorado Springs is in the middle of magnificent surroundings. Pike's Peak, one of the wonders of the Rocky Mountains, rises strikingly in the nearby distance. Also close by is the Garden of the Gods, a public park studded with three hundred million-year-old palatial sandstone formations some three hundred feet tall standing thrust from the earth, beckoning visitors from all over the world.

Nestled down in the plain, in a lovely open park alongside these inspirations of nature, our monument to heroism and sacrifice lives. I first came here in 1996, suffering the fallout of the loss of our four brothers to the Pang Arson. Back then, even more than a year after their deaths, everything still seemed to be whirling and confused. The pipes played, the flags were given to the widows, and the honor guards marched their solemn and precise march. We walked away, each to his or her own island of grief. There was comfort in the ceremony, in being surrounded by those who cared, but always there was a lingering disruption that undermined and unsettled the sense of self.

What could possibly heal so pervasive a wound? Perhaps only time, ultimately.

Back in '96 we were able to hike up into the Rockies, stroll through the Garden of the Gods, spend time contemplating alongside those places in Nature greater than us. And it helped. Helped in ways that I did not comprehend back then. It helped because it allowed the self to escape the trap of the mind stuck in its own misery. Helped to project outward onto stunning landscapes that are monuments to the mystery of life itself. And in that focus away from the self, in the slowing and calming and stillness, lay a cure for the grief. If you're not thinking of the self, focused inward, you are free to focus on and to help others, and in helping others, in your concern for them, you are filling the void that was left when you lost those dear to you.

I have come to learn there is no better way to fill that void.

This idea did not come full circle and didn't become fully realized in its totality until my return here this year. And

yes, the grandeur of the surroundings did play its part, but just as important, and maybe even more so, was the feeling of inclusiveness.

We came down to Colorado Springs this time to honor Gerry Moberg and to accompany and give comfort to his widow, Barb Moberg. Gerry was loved by those who knew him for many reasons. I had the good fortune to work with him on many occasions in the Fifth Battalion, and he was a joy to be around. Ornerly at times, sure, but mostly he was a dedicated officer who understood the serious nature of our job and who also knew how to have fun. Scrappy and persistent and knowledgeable at fires, and self-deprecating, genuine, and happy-go-lucky around the station. A great officer. A great man. A great leader. A rare breed sorely missed these days.

All these years later, the foundation of the ceremony remains unchanged. However, the scope and the volume and the power have grown exponentially. Where there were only a few pipe and drum bands and several honor guards then, now there are over two hundred and fifty pipe and drummers, and over seven hundred honor guard members. It is a sight and sound to behold.

The ceremony begins with a procession of bikers who come from all over the continent. This procession also numbers in the hundreds, and it continues with fire apparatus, both modern and classic, and leads into the moving singing of the Air Force Academy Choir. The Chaplain then handles the introduction, the vast sea of pipes, drums, and honor guard members surges forward, and we are enveloped in waves of sound that strike at our core, a primal sound that somehow both marries us to our sorrow and lifts us beyond it at the same time. The honor guard announces each name of the dearly departed, each meticulously folded American Flag in its triangular wooden and glass case is given to the loved one of the departed, words of comfort are spoken, and so on, until the last remembrance is handed over, final speeches are made, 'Taps' resonates out, and the flags are lowered to half staff.

It is a ritual full of meaning and surrounded in tradition. Tradition carried out with pride and precision. You can be proud of your Walter Kilgore Honor Guard and Seattle Firefighters Pipes and Drums. They performed perfectly, a reflection of countless hours of practice and dedication.



Garden of the Gods



Pipes and Drums and Honor Guard

It is a great comfort to me to know that our honor guard, founded by Walter Kilgore's widow Mary Anne, and our Pipes and Drums, brought to us by Spencer Nelson, are part of a network of support personnel that has grown to outnumber the deceased by ten-fold. There is great comfort in the knowledge that so many are dedicated to continuing the traditions of caring that stem back for centuries, and that will endure forever.

Forever enduring, the sense of permanence and the sense of caring are connected, reflected in the permanence of sandstone monuments, mountain peaks, and surrounding natural beauty, all combining to support and carry us forward through our grief to a place that is at once full of grace and fully grounded in the earth.



Kym LeRoy, Barb Moberg, and Theresa Purtell



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Calendar of Events

- Jan 1 New Year's Day (Local 27 office closed)
- Jan 14 Regular Business Meeting (A shift) 9am, Local 27
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Local 27 office closed)
- Jan 28 Station Representative's Breakfast (C shift)
- Feb 11 Regular Business Meeting (D shift) 9am, Local 27
- Feb 15 President's Day (Local 27 office closed)
- Feb 25 Station Representative's Breakfast (B shift)
- March 11 Regular Business Meeting (A shift) 9am, Local 27
- March 25 Station Representative's Breakfast (B shift)