

Gelinas, John

From: Gelinas, John
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 2:50 PM
To: *All Fire Employees
Cc: *All ECC Employees
Subject: Company Journal - Issue 50
Attachments: image031.jpg; image033.jpg; image034.jpg; image035.jpg; image040.jpg; image051.jpg; image068.jpg; image070.jpg; image072.jpg; image077.jpg



The Company Journal **and "The Feeder Line"**

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue #50
Wednesday, 8 April 2009

What's New

The contract has been signed with Pierce Fire Apparatus for a new Ladder 1. Ladder 1 will be a 105' rear mount aerial apparatus, similar to Ladders 3 and 4. To comply with latest NFPA standards, Ladder 1 will have a partially raised cab roof. Delivery is expected in the spring. After delivery, Ladder 1's current apparatus (the 1992 Pierce/Smeal 105' rear mount) will be designated as spare Ladder 5.

Who's New

Per G.O. #4 of 2009, and effective 29 March 2009 at 0700 hours, **FFOP Joseph F. Fournier** was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department. He is assigned to Recruit Firefighter Training at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for 12 weeks. A veteran of the United States Air Force, FFOP Fournier is the son of **Cammy Fournier** (Headquarters Admin).

Job Well Done

Congratulations to all members of the Department on energy conservation. The Fire Department's energy use in the last quarter was reduced by 13%. The Fire Department was the #2 city department in savings on energy since the **Cambridge Green Sense** citywide conservation program was implemented. Nice work by all the men and women of the department. As we all know, everyone's individual effort contributes to the teamwork concept. We have made a difference – again - and people notice! Keep up the good work!

All Companies Working

Three alarms **Box 3-43**: Box 43 was transmitted at 1956 hours on Saturday evening, 28 February 2009. The working fire was ordered on arrival by **F.Capt. Gover** (covering at Truck 3) at 2001 hours. The Second Alarm was ordered by **DFC Leonard** (Division 1) at 2002 hours and the Third by DFC Leonard at 2020 hours. Companies arrived with heavy fire showing from floors 3 and 4 of the Alpha/Delta corner of this four story brick and wood, mixed commercial and residential building, which was built in 1910. Simultaneously the engines established water supplies and stretched 2 ½" attack lines up the stairs into the interior to contain and knock down the fire, the trucks opened up, and the rescue and the squads initiated the primary search to remove all occupants. Due to the aggressive, initial interior attack, the fire was quickly contained to the originally involved areas. There was one non-life threatening burn injury to an occupant and several minor injuries to firefighters.

A total of 9 engines, 6 trucks, 2 squads, the rescue, 4 line chiefs, and support and staff units operated at the fire under command of DFC Stephen Leonard of Division 1. At the time of the fire, the annual Firefighters Ball was in progress at the Hotel Sonesta.

The response was as follows:

Box 43 @ 1956 hours:	Engine 2, 6, 1; Ladder 3, 1; Squad 2; Rescue 1; Division 1
"45" - 43 @ 2001 hours:	Engine 5; Ladder 2; Squad 4; Division 2
2-43 @ 2002 hours:	Engine 3, 9
3-43 @ 2020 hours:	Engine 4, 8, Somerville Engine 3; Ladder 4, Somerville Tower 1; Somerville C3
Xtra truck @ 2111 hours:	Boston Ladder 15; Boston District 4





F.Capt. Brian Gover (Engine 1, group 3/covering on Truck 3) ordered the Working Fire on arrival.



Tactical Aide FF Ed Oliver gives progress report to **Division 2 Chief Paul Sheehan**, Interior Sector



Incident Commander **DFC Stephen Leonard**



F.Lt. Brian Casey and FF Jay Martel (Squad 2)



Somerville Tower 1 is assigned as the RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) on the 3rd alarm. They were later assigned to overhauling duty inside the building and were replaced by Boston Ladder 15 as the RIT company.

F.Lt. Charlie Houghton, FF Tom Flynn, and FF John Donovan



FF John Donovan (Somerville Tower 1)



F.Capt. Dennis Murphy (Somerville Engine 3) and **District Chief Bill Lee** (Somerville C-3)



Chief of Operations John Gelinas

- *Photos above by Jimmy Daly*

Box 3-43: More Massachusetts Avenue and Hancock Street photos



Members of Truck 3 quickly mask-up to begin the primary search



Quick change of air cylinders to get back inside



- Photos above by **Jim Swanton**



The fire building before the fire

- Photo above from the *City of Cambridge Assessing Department website.*



FFs Kevin Mercer and **Nicole Zedalis** (Rescue 1, group 1) complete the sampling and evidence collection of a suspect package delivered to the Harvard Law School office of a high-profile law professor.
F.Lt. Matthew Brannelly (Rescue 1) and **FF Kenneth Cunningham** (Truck 1) assist the entry team in suit doffing.

- Photo above by **Tara Bithia**

Dive Rescue Training

Dive rescue members participated in a drill at Fresh Pond on 6 February 2009.



Global warming? The ice in Fresh Pond was 13 inches thick.



The members of Ladder 1, group 1 provided support for the dive rescue team.
F.Lt. Steve Brown (Tech Services) coordinated the dive.





Divers **FF Bill Barry** and **FF Todd Koen**



F.Lt. Stephen Boyle (Squad 2), **FF Bill Barry** (Engine 4), **F.Lt. Matt Brannelly** (Rescue 1), **FF Todd Koen** (Engine 1), and **FF Andy Mello** (Engine 1)

- *Photos courtesy of FF Todd Koen*

Retirements

Per General Order No. 02 of 2009, effective December 31, 2008 at 1700 hours, **Firefighter Kevin M. Kelly** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Kevin Kelly was **appointed on January 16, 1977.**

- March 13, 1977 Engine Company No. 1
- March 5, 1985 Rescue Company No. 1
- January 3, 1993 Engine Company No. 8
- June 27, 1993 Rescue Company
- July 9, 1995 Ladder Company No. 3

- September 19, 1999 Engine Company No. 9
- July 13, 2008 Headquarters

Firefighter Kelly is a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Per Special Notice No. 02 of 2009, effective February 20, 2009 at 0700 hours, **Fire Apparatus Repairman Ronald M. Gardner** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Ronald Gardner was **appointed on January 11, 1981**.

Fire Apparatus Repairman Gardner is a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Out and About

Thanks to **FF Peter Mickiewicz** (Engine 2, group 3) for his service to our country. In his United States Air Force deployment, TSGT PETER MICKIEWICZ is assigned as Station Captain, Fire and Emergency Services , 447 ECES/CEF, Sather Air Base, Iraq. Sather Air Base is at the Bagdad International Airport.



This narrative is a day in the life at **Sather Air Force Base** and **Baghdad International Airport**:

In addition to MASSACHUSETTS, we have units here from NEW HAMPSHIRE, WYOMING, MICHIGAN, WEST VIRGINA, NEVADA, MISSISSIPPI, CALIFORNIA, and PENNSYLVANIA, a total of 47 firefighters. Our day starts off with roll call at 0800. We work 24 on 24 off. The shift getting off briefs the shift coming on what happened during their 24 hrs. Next the vehicles get checked out and an ops check is completed on the crash trucks. Everyone then heads for their respective stations, total of 5 stations.

At 0930 we train on aircraft that is available on the flight line. We go over shut down procedures and vehicle set ups on the specific aircraft. At 1100 hours we start sending units to lunch. At 1300 the rescues, the engines, and water tenders do structural firefighting training. We then do a walk-around at tent city and trailer park. Simultaneously, the crash crews are working on airport familiarization. Work-out time is at 1530 hours and supper is at 1700.

During the night, down time is available to do whatever. Most of our calls are at night when the airport gets very busy. So far we have had 8 trailer fires, 6 fuel spills, 21 in-flight emergencies, and plenty of medical calls.

We have been training the Iraq fire dept at the airport twice a week and they are learning quickly. The Iraq Fire Department works 3 weeks straight then they change out shifts.

On Tuesday March 17th, I ran my first 10k race on the base. I try to run 6 – 7 miles as a good stress relief. A few pictures from the sand storm are shown above. Anytime we leave the base for mutual aid, or go to other bases, or outside the base, we need to wear Over Body Armor and take a weapon with us.

TSGT PETER MICKIEWICZ
Station Captain
Fire and Emergency Services
447 ECES/CEF
Sather Air Base, Iraq



The sandstorm



TSGT Mickiewicz with Water Tender in the background, preparing to head off-base.



A typical tour of duty – just like Engine 2!



Duties include protection of the President of the United States.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **FF Chris Haynes** (Rescue 1) and wife, **Erin** and on the birth of **Ella Antonia Haynes**. Ella was born on 15 Mar 2009 at 2345 hours. She weighed in at 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long. Ella is the first-born of Erin and Chris.

Congratulations also to **Lorna Rutkauskas** (Headquarters Admin). Ella is Lorna's grand-daughter.

Congrats to **FF Sean Williams** (Squad 4) and wife, **Kathy** on the birth of twin daughters. **Julia Mary** was born at 1642 hours on 10 March 2009. Julia weighed 5 pounds six ounces. **Olivia Mary** was born at 1643 hours on 10 March 2009. Olivia weighed 5 pounds 7 ounces.

Congratulations also to **Fire Lieutenant Gary Williams** (Worcester Rescue 1 – retired). Gary is the proud grandfather.

Congratulations to **Fire Lieutenant Jim Drewicz** (Rescue 1) and wife, **Noelle** on the birth of daughter **Ever Vere(True) Drewicz**. Ever was born on 20 March 2009 at 0212 hours, weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 ozs. She was 19 inches long. She joins 4 year-old sister, **Chance** as the newest member of the Drewicz family.

Welcome Home, Brother

Welcome home to **FF Spike Lawless** (Headquarters – retired). Spike has finally returned to his home after battling his illness. Thanks to the Worcester Fire Ramp Crew and thanks to all Cambridge FD and Local 30 members who built the ramp access to Spike's house. Pictures are available on the Local 30 web site <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/> and on the PFFM web site.

Commendation

GENERAL ORDER NO. 01, SERIES OF 2009

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Unit and member commendation for actions at Box 5-361, Incident #8005720 for 25 thru 29 Prince Street on November 25, 2008**

On the recommendation of Deputy Fire Chief Edward F. Mahoney of Division 1, the following members and units are commended:

Members

Fire Captain William J. Brathwaite, Firefighter Edward M. Fales, Firefighter Jay Martel, Firefighter Peter J. Mahoney, Firefighter Jerry J. Bernardo, Firefighter Daniel Mahoney

Units

Division 2, Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Engine 4, Engine 5, Engine 6, Engine 8, Engine 9, Ladder 1, Ladder 2, Ladder 3, Ladder 4, Squad 4, Rescue 1.

At 0331 hrs on 11/25/08 Companies arrived to find a wood frame triple decker with heavy fire showing on all 3 floors in the rear. Ladder 3 arrived to find an elderly male on floor 3 in severe distress. Ladder 3 threw a 35' ladder to the window. The occupant was now in panic mode and was attempting to exit the window head first. FF Peter Mahoney raced up the ladder and at great personal risk grabbed the man and carried him down to safety. The occupant stated that his wife was still trapped inside.

At this point there were companies inside doing a primary search of floors 1 and 2 but could not get to floor 3 due to heat. Squad 2 members FF Jay Martel and FF Daniel Mahoney ascended the 35' ladder and entered room to search for victims. FF Martel located an elderly female about 10' inside slumped over a couch. FF Martel dragged this woman over to the window

and FF Martel and FF Daniel Mahoney unsuccessfully attempted to raise the victim to the ladder. FF Peter Mahoney was now at the window and even with the extra man their efforts were in vain. The victim's vitals were checked and she still had a pulse, so FF Daniel Mahoney went to search for an interior exit.

FF Daniel Mahoney returned after finding a doorway which leads to the hall. FF Peter Mahoney and FF Martel followed FF Daniel Mahoney to the door dragging the victim with them. At this time they found high heat and fire and blocking this means of egress and returned with the victim to the window. FF Martel and FF Dan Mahoney had to retreat out the window at this time because they had run out of air. Captain Braithwaite assisted FF Martel and Mahoney down the ladder then he attempted to make entry to floor 3 using the interior stairs. The interior stairs were now a viable option since some horizontal and vertical ventilation had relieved some of the heat. Captain William Braithwaite was now able to meet FF Edward Fales of R1 along with FF Jerry Bernardo who had entered from the ladder and were sheltering the victim and monitoring her condition. These 3 members took the victim down the stairs pausing several times to administer air from their own SCBA to the woman.

As you can see from the description above, this was no ordinary rescue. These members refused to leave the victim even after there was a call on the fire ground channel from the Charlie sector to evacuate the building. These members refused to give up and ultimately found a way to rescue this woman. This shows not only courage but teamwork. Once this woman was found there was always a Cambridge Firefighter at her side until she was removed from the fire building.

Additionally I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the Cambridge Fire Department who responded, specifically the Command staff who were a great resource. I would also like to thank Emergency Management, the Cambridge Police, as well as Inspectional services and Professional Ambulance for their assistance.

Deputy Fire Chief Edward Mahoney is also commended for his leadership, command and control, and coordination of emergency services at this incident. Tactical aide Firefighter Walter Grace is additionally commended for his professional coordination of fire department units.

All members operated in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department and are hereby commended for their professional actions.

Per order,

Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

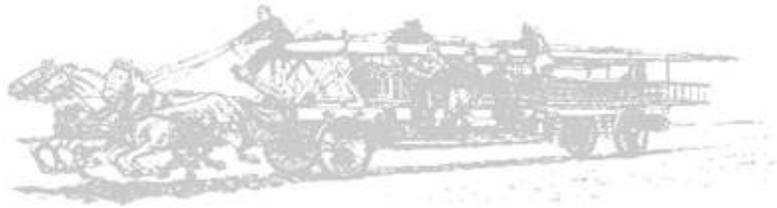
by Mose Humphrey

This past January, the United States inaugurated its 44th President. President Obama and his family will move into their new home for the next four years at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Probably one of the safest homes in the country, but that doesn't mean this famous residence hasn't seen its share of serious fires over the years.

In 1814 (during the war of 1812), the British Army closed in on Washington D.C. and torched the home along with other important buildings. First Lady Dolly Madison was able to save a valuable painting of George Washington before the building was completely destroyed. This painting and a jewelry box were the only two items to survive the fire. The building was rebuilt during the next three years. As a result of the fire, the Committee on Public Buildings discussed piping running water into the house in 1829 for fire protection only, not for convenience. President Monroe also purchased a fire engine which was kept parked with the White House coaches.

In 1929 a Christmas Eve fire in the West Wing caused extensive damage also destroying President Herbert Hoover's desk (among other things) during a Presidential dinner party. The Marine Corps Band that provided the evening entertainment played their Christmas Carols louder than normal to hide the sound of the arriving fire engines and keep the guests from knowing that anything was wrong. So much for having occupants evacuate during an emergency!

While on the subject of evacuating occupants during a fire - for many years in the early 1900's the Vice-Presidents took up residence at the Willard Hotel. One night in 1922, a fire caused the evacuation of the hotel. Vice President Calvin Coolidge started to return to his room prematurely, but the fire marshal stopped him. The fire marshal let him proceed when the VP informed him that he was the Vice-President. Before Coolidge had gone more than a few steps, the fire marshal asked "wait, what are you the vice-president of?" "I'm the Vice-President of the United States!" Coolidge said. The marshal ordered Coolidge to go back and remain with the crowd saying, "I thought you were the vice-president of the hotel!"



From the Archives



The Big House - Group 1 – 1968 or 1969

FF Bill Hunter (Rescue 1 - retired), **FF Bob Bell** (Rescue 1 - now F.Lt. Engine 4), **FF Jack White** (Truck 1 - deceased), **FF Don Warren** (Truck 1 - retired), **FF Bill Morrison** (Truck 1 - deceased), **FF Bill Cochran** (Rescue 1 – deceased), **FLt. Walter Long** (Rescue – retired), **FF Jim Harkins** (Engine 1 – retired as Lieutenant), **FF Frank Wolk** (Truck 1 - retired), **FCapt. Kevin Fitzgerald** (Truck 1 – retired as Chief of Department), **FF Bob Currier** (Rescue 1 – retired), and **FLt. Ed Rose** (Engine 1 – retired as Captain)

Not shown: **FF Donald Gonzalo**, the photographer (Engine 1 – retired)



Engine 9 - 1981

FF Dave Jenkins, FF Tim Foley, FF Dan Farren, and FF Donald Gonzalo
(all retired)

Engine 9's 1967 International/Farrar hose wagon is in the background



Engine 1 – group 1 - 1979

FF Jim Harkins, FLt. Ed Rose, FF Larry Kuhn, and FF Donald “Speedy” Gonzalo (all retired)

The apparatus is the 1977 American LaFrance 1000 gpm pump with 55' Squirt. This was the **wagon** of the two-piece Engine 1.

The **pump** at the time was the 1971 Maxim, 1250 gpm.



Headquarters – group 1
In the kitchen on the third floor of The Big House

Seated: **DFC Edward Griffin** (Division 2 - retired), **FF Jim Harkins** (Engine 1 – retired as Lieutenant), **FF Jack White** (Truck 1 – deceased), **FF Donald Warren** (Aide to Division 1 – retired), **FF Frank Wolk** (Truck 1 – retired), **FF Fred Donahue** (Aide to Division 2 – retired), **F.Capt. Stanley Kotowski** (Truck 1 – retired as Deputy Fire Chief), **DFC Ralph Chapman** (Division 1 - retired), and **FF/Inspector Ed Fowler** (FIU – deceased).

Standing: **FF Jack White** (Truck 1 – deceased), **F.Lt. Ed Rose** (Engine 1 – retired as Captain), **FF Henry Sisco** (now Engine 6), **FF Donald Gonzalo** (Engine 1 – retired).



The Jordan Marsh warehouse fire in July, 1965

The high fire load combined with reduced available water supply due to water main relining in the area added to the fire problem.

Engine companies drafted from the Lechmere Canal and from the Charles River to augment the water supply.
The building was in the area of the Hotel Sonesta on Commercial Avenue (now Land Boulevard).

- Photos above are from the collection of **Donald “Speedy” Gonzalo**

Over a period of six weeks, companies rotated through two complete days of very mentally and physically intense **RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) Training**. The training depicted below took place at the 6-story, vacant, MIT Ashdown House on Massachusetts Avenue between Memorial Drive and Amherst Street.

All members can be proud of their skills practiced in these drills. This series of training scenarios complements the series of exercises completed in the spring of 2008. In addition to Cambridge fire companies, companies from **Belmont** and **Somerville** participated in this training regimen, working alongside the Cambridge companies. In previous RIT skills training series, Cambridge companies worked with and trained along with **Boston** fire companies. Thanks to all members and thanks to certified RIT/Tech Rescue Instructors **Fire Captains Sean White, Ed Morrissey, and Brian Gover, FF Ed Fales, and DFC Lester Bokuniewicz** for making this in-house training possible. Thanks to the Division Chiefs for stepping up to run entrapment scenarios and especially thanks to all Company Officers and Firefighters for their extraordinary efforts.

In the pictures below, operating members are wearing impaired visibility SCBA facepiece inserts.











- Photos above by **FF Michael Dwyer** (Truck 1, group 1)

Also check the **Cambridge Chronicle/Wicked Local** website below for the news story and the *you-tube* video clip of RIT training.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/cambridge/homepage/x1331540484/Vacant-MIT-building-acts-as-training-ground-for-Cambridge-firefighters>

Signal 10-15

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Fire Lieutenant William E. Joyce, Sr.** of Engine Company No. 1 - retired. Lieutenant Joyce was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 29 June 1952. His assignments were as follows:

29 June 1952	Rescue Company No. 1
22 May 1960	Engine Company No. 6
15 March 1967	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 3
29 Oct 1970	Civil Defense Training Officer
3 Jan 1971	Civil Defense
15 July 1983	Assistant Training Officer – Fire Headquarters
1 Sept 1974	Civil Defense
5 Dec 1976	Engine Company No. 1

Lt. Joyce retired on 1 January 1981. He died on 24 December 2008. He was born on 20 April 1925.

Fire Lieutenant William Joyce was a United States Navy veteran of World War II.

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Robert F. Muchata** of Engine Company No. 9 - retired. Firefighter Muchata was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 9 January 1966. His assignments were as follows:

9 Jan 1966	Engine Company No. 8
15 March 1967	Ladder Company No. 1
2 Dec 1979	Engine Company No. 9

FF Muchata retired on 12 November 1992. He died on 16 March 2009. He was born on 6 October 1936.

Ff Muchata was the tillerman when Ladder 1 was involved in the fatal collision with a tractor-trailer truck at the corner of Cambridge and Prospect Streets on 27 Aug 1968.

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Fire Lieutenant Emile A. Poirier** of Engine Company No. 9 - retired. Lieutenant Poirier was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 25 October 1953. His assignments were as follows:

25 Oct 1953	Engine Company No. 7
28 May 1963	Engine Company No. 6
29 Oct 1972	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant Rescue Company No. 1
21 Oct 1973	Engine Company No. 7
27 Jan 1974	Engine Company No. 3
3 July 1980	Civil Defense
9 May 1982	Engine Company No. 9

Fire Lieutenant Poirier retired on 1 January 1983. He died on 28 March 2009. He was born on 3 June 1924.

Fire Lieutenant Poirier was a World War II veteran of the United States Coast Guard.

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Daniel J. Farren** of Engine Company No. 9 - retired. Firefighter Farren was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 22 April 1951. His assignments were as follows:

22 April 1951	Engine Company No. 3
13 Mar 1977	Engine Company No. 9

FF Farren retired on 22 April 1982. He died on 29 March 2009. He was born on 4 August 1924.

FF Farren was a World War II United States Army veteran. He served as a Sergeant with the 71st Bombardment Squad.

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Ralph H. Underwood** of Engine Company No. 5 - retired. Firefighter Underwood was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 9 March 1958. His assignment was as follows:

9 March 1958	Engine Company No. 5
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FF Underwood retired on 7 June 1979. He died on 5 April 2009. He was born on 13 August 1927.

FF Underwood was a United States Army veteran of World War II, having served with the Headquarters Troop 16th Constabulary Regiment.

We also regret to announce the death of **Deputy Fire Chief Peter Cutrone** (Logan Airport Fire Department – retired). Chief Cutrone was a long time friend of the Cambridge Fire Department and for many years had served as the Gas Program Coordinator at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. He was a United States Army infantry and United States Army Air Corps veteran of World War II who was seriously wounded in action.

Chief Cutrone's grandson, **Craig Hall** is a Woburn Firefighter. His son-in-law, **Norman Hall**, a Billerica Fire Captain, died in the line of duty.

Condolences to:

- **F.Capt. Sandy Francis** (Fire Prevention) on the death of his brother, **Mr. Robert Francis**
 - **F.Lt. Jim Drewicz** (Rescue 1, group 3) on the death of his father, **Police Sergeant John P. Drewicz**. Sgt. Drewicz is also the father-in-law of **F.Lt. Pat Haggerty** (Ladder 3, group 1).
 - **DFC Tom Stack** (Division1, retired) on the death of his step-son, **Paul J. Corea**.
 - **FF Nicole Zedalis** (Rescue 1, group 1) on the death of her grandmother, **Priscilla Woytaszek**. Mrs. Woytaszek was 86 years young.
 - **DFC Gerry Mahoney** (EPAC) and **F.Lt. Paul Mahoney** (Truck 3, group 4) on the death of their aunt, **Doris M. Feder (Mahoney)** in Chico, CA. Mrs. Feder was the only sibling of the late **Paul Mahoney, Sr.**, a former member of this department. She was 83 years of age.
 - **F.Lt Michael Clinton** (Engine 6, group 2) and **FF Barry Clinton** (Engine 9, group 1) on the death of their mother and grandmother respectively, **Mrs. Catherine Clinton**.
 - **FF Fred Sage** (Headquarters Tech Services/Aide to Chief of Department) on the death of his mother, **Mrs. Stella A. Sage**.
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Letter from ECD

*The following letter was sent via e-mail by **George Fosque**, Emergency Communications Department Director*

To all members of the Cambridge Fire Department,

Today the Emergency Communications Department with Fire Alarm has moved to our new home on the 5th floor of the new Healy Public Safety Building at 125 Sixth Street.

We are sad to leave our home at 489 Broadway where we have been in continuous operation from 1934 as Fire Alarm - and from July 31, 1996 as the combined Emergency Communications Center. But we are fortunate enough to move on to critically needed new space, much new equipment, and a state-of-the-art ECC and Fire Alarm operation.

This is not a time for goodbyes, as we will continue to operate Fire Alarm and the ECC in the same manner from our new facility, but rather it is a time of remembrance and thanks to all who have helped Fire Alarm and the ECC while we have been located at 489 Broadway. 1934 is a long time ago – 74 years - and thus most of those who helped and worked with Fire Alarm are no longer with us - nor even known to those of us who are here today. But we honor their memory and salute them for their help to us.

To the current members of CFD we say this: It is hard to adequately express our deep thanks to the many members of all headquarters companies and particularly the headquarters staff who were about the best neighbors and “landlords” that our department could hope for. Whenever we asked for help or advice it came willingly, capably and quickly. We were fortunate to be treated as a part of the extended family of the Cambridge Fire Department and to be included in the tradition of teamwork, mutual respect, and down-to-earth attention to the needs of our citizens that is the hallmark of the fire service in general and of the Cambridge Fire Department in particular.

We will miss you and Harvard Square (especially in the Springtime). Stop by and visit us at Sixth Street when you have a chance.

Regards,

Letters

The following was received via e-mail:

Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 1:20 PM
To: Reardon, Gerry
Cc: Gelinas, John
Subject: Fire House 4

Dear Chief Reardon,

My name is Janet Malenfant. We met previously at the Hildebrand Weaving Dreams Gala and I live with my husband Gavin Malenfant and children on Blake Street directly behind Station 4 in Porter Square.

This past week my mother-in-law Geneva Malenfant passed away. During the first evening of calling hours on Tuesday there was a fair accumulation of snow. Knowing that we were returning from calling hours, Captain Brogan and several other firefighters said "We'll take care of your walk and drive, you just go on in and take care of yourselves." I can't tell you what a relief this was. Our children were hungry and exhausted, we were all feeling terribly sad, and shoveling was something we weren't looking forward to.

I wanted to let you know the high regard we have for Captain Brogan and his team at the station for this recent kindness. We feel very fortunate to have such wonderful neighbors. The Captain has always been very responsive to any issues or concerns we have (which have been very few and mostly me concerned about my own tree branches creeping toward the station roof, now removed) and are courteous and friendly.

You will also be pleased to know that my daughter's caroling fundraiser that she does each year for Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center includes the station and those on shift that night gave a wonderful donation to homeless families here in Cambridge from their own pockets.

So kudos to the Cambridge Fire Department, Captain Brogan and others at the station for being such terrific neighbors.

Sincerely,
Janet Malenfant
Blake Street

The letter below was received from City councilor Craig Kelley via e-mail.

March 5, 2009

Chief Reardon:

Last night I ran into a friend whose house had a fire last December. She was very effusive on just how well CFD had responded to the fire, to include focusing on the special care that one of your staff had taken of her son, who was especially devastated as the house had just finished an extensive overhaul. She also noted that in a bedroom where CFD had chopped a hole in the wall over a bed, the two lamps on either side, the only things she really valued in the house for sentimental reasons, remained unharmed.

This level of care and efficiency is something I hear again and again from folks who have had CFD come to their door (and beyond). That sort of consistency, especially under tough circumstances, says a lot of

good things not only about the men and women who work in our Fire Department but also the people who lead them.

Many thanks for a job continuously well done.

Craig

*Editor's note: This fire, Box 2-81 occurred on Alpine Street on 21 December 2008 at 1938 hours. Group 1 was on duty under command of **DFC John Cotter** of Division 2.*

Boston Sparks Association
344 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210

December 12, 2008

Cambridge Firefighters Relief Association
167 Lexington Av.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Members:

The Officers and Directors of the Boston Sparks Association sincerely thank you for your \$100.00 donation in memory of our member and friend, Robert J. Morrissey.

Cambridge Fire Lieutenant Bob Morrissey was a veteran member of our organization. He was a frequent visitor to our quarters, and to the Boston Fire Museum. He was dedicated firefighter, and a well known and respected fire buff. His wonderful smile, positive attitude, and warm personality will never be forgotten by the members of the Boston Sparks Association.

Your donation will be applied to our mobile canteen, A-10. During Bob's 39 year career with the Cambridge Fire Department he often benefited from the hot and cold drinks served by our members on the canteen. We enjoyed serving Bob and his fellow firefighters as they went about their dangerous task of protecting lives and property.

Thanks to your support, we will be able to continue providing this important service to the firefighters of Eastern Massachusetts.

Best regards,

Phil Elliott, Secretary

Chuck Holloran, President

Nice Work

Nice work by **FF Raymond Vaillancourt** (Engine 4, group 3) on his completion of the American Lung Association Tower Climb in Manchester, New Hampshire. Ray ran up 20 floors (40 flights) in 4:35 while fully dressed on PPE and on SCBA air. The other firefighters in the photo are from Salem, NH.

Ray ran up the stairs a second time without firefighting PPE. His second time was 2:53. Excellent!



Pictured above: **FF Ray Vaillancourt** with three Salem, NH firefighters after the race to the top in Manchester, NH.

Out and About

Following the snow storm of March 1st and 2nd, all companies were out shoveling their respective hydrants.



Engine 2 shoveling yet another hydrant:
F.Lt. Ronald Gomes, FFs Reneau Cherant, Margaret Carrigan, and Steve Ortiz



Engine 2, group 1:
F.Lt. Ronald Gomes, FFs Reneau Cherant, Margaret Carrigan, and Steve Ortiz



FF Nicole Zedalis (Rescue 1, group 1 detailed to Squad 4)
shovels out another hydrant on Norris Street at Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge.

- Photos above by **Tara Bithia**

Firefighter Health, Safety, and heart attack risk

Study Targets Firefighters' Heart-Attack Risk

Indiana University has monitored local firefighters for the past six months to find a way to help lower the risk of heart attacks. The *Indianapolis Star* reports that researchers monitored the heart rates of 56 members of the Indianapolis Fire Department to determine which job aspects create the most dangerous stress. The study is funded by a \$1 million federal grant.

The study showed that heart rates speed up on the way to a fire and take hours to return to a normal rate.

"A world-class marathoner might run 85% to 90%," Jim Brown, a visiting scientist at Indiana University who is leading the study, told the paper. "During a fire, firefighters' heart rates can approach 100% of their average maximum rate, based on age."

For example, a 54-year-old man has an average maximum heart rate of 166 beats per minute. During a fire, a 54-year-old firefighter's heart rate was measured at 172 beats per minute.

Research performed by the National Fire Protection Association and the Department of Homeland Security has shown that about 45 of the nearly 100 firefighter deaths in the line of duty every year are caused by heart attacks. In comparison, about 27% of deaths nationwide in 2004 were caused by heart attacks, according to the National Institutes of Health. In Indiana, 13 of the 33 firefighter deaths in the line of duty since 1994 were attributed to heart attacks.

The study also found that:

- Firefighters' hearts react immediately to changing conditions. Heart rates spiked when a dispatcher informed firefighters that a family was trapped in a burning house.
- The risk of heart attack remains high for several hours after a fire.
- Among the tasks a firefighter performs, rescuing a victim is the most strenuous. Fighting a fire puts the second-most strain on his or her heart.
- The job taxes hearts even when firefighters are not working. Firefighters sleeping at the fire station had higher heart rates than when they slept at home.
- Excessively hot or cold weather heightens the risk of a heart attack.
- Volunteer firefighters are at a higher risk for heart attacks than professional firefighters. Inconsistent training regimens are suspected to be responsible for the difference.

Brown will present his findings to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and fire officials across the country. Dr. Kirk Parr, a cardiologist with the Indianapolis Care Group, believes that the findings could potentially lead to improved firefighting strategies, such as rotating firefighters more frequently during a fire. The study already has led to changes in training regimes in Indianapolis, where firefighters have shifted from aerobic-based exercises to anaerobic — such as weightlifting — which are similar to the types of work performed on the job.

Brown hopes to expand his research to fire departments in other cities to compare the effects of different routines, equipment and climates on firefighters' hearts.

- *Courtesy of the **Cambridge Firefighters Local 30** website*

Fire And Ice

- **By Paul Harvey**

Nobody knows why firefighters are firefighters. Not even they can tell you why. It's time somebody try. Firefighting is the most risky of all dead end jobs and yet also the one where most workers are most likely to punch in early. It's hard enough to believe that; it's impossible to explain it. Fire and ice are uncomfortable separately or together. Wives hate the hours. Kids love the noise. Fire and ice.

Any day at the firehouse the bell from hell puts the dispatcher on the horn with a tenement tinderbox address. Into the bunker pants, turnout coat, grab the mask and go. Minutes later you're onsite. As others run out, you go in. You'll need all you can carry. The four pound axe, a six foot rake, the halligan bar. The ceiling concealing the smoldering has to come down and it's one of those stubborn tin ones. In the scary dark with the heat eating your ears, you're gouging out and tearing loose and pulling apart, gulping air and tasting black. Your windpipe is closing and you've lost track of which way is out. Is it worth it?

They've budget cut your ladder company from six to five, so now everything you do is 16.67 percent more difficult and more dangerous. Your air is low. Inside your mask you're throwing up. There's a searing ember down

your neck. Torn gloves expose a smashed hand. So you emerge from the holocaust hugging, with your elbows, somebody's singed kitten. Fire and ice.

You've had minutes of exhilaration on the bouncing rear mount of a steaming hundred foot Seagrave, hours of using all you've learned and learning more. Now you're back at the station house. You've unstuffed your nostrils with soapy fingers; you can almost breathe again. Next come the tedious hours as you and Brillo gang up on the grimy tools. The cleanup crew at the firehouse is you when windows need washing and toilets need cleaning and floors mopping and beds need making, you do it. Fire and ice, they both go with the job.

Then there's that night another engine company gets there first and you see this wet-eared rookie hot-dogging ahead; his academy boots still shiny. You lose him inside the crackling dark and you forget about him until your helmet warning bell says get out. The battalion chief is calling you off. You get out; the other guy didn't. He had heard a scream from the bottom of burning basement stairs and he headed down there, when on the bubbling tarpaper roof the three-ton compressor broke through, that day we lost two. Oh, yes, firefighters cry, but only briefly because now comes the inevitable and evermore paperwork just in case OSHA complains or somebody sues. Is it worth it? Your B crew pumper swapped his day shift so some family guy could be home for his kid's birthday and then, outbound toward a false alarm, your buddy gets blindsided by a hotrod driven by a drunk. Fire and ice.

The intercom barks again. This time it's a warehouse, a big, fast, multiple blaze, probably torched. Onsite engine men draped with icicles dragging an inch and three-quarter hose are waiting for your big line: ladder men can't make the building without you. Search, rescue, ventilate. Eventually it's over and out. You're smoke smudged and sleepless and wrung out, but you won. Behind graffiti-fouled walls you saved what you could. But the raging blaze that wanted to consume adjacent buildings did not because you were there.

Back at the firehouse before cleanup, you and the guys sit a spell, tired but stimulated, drinking coffee and laughing, and feeling good about one another. Nobody outside your world can ever quite know that feeling. In any other uniform you get streets named after you for killing people; in this one you risk your life to save people. Until one day you run out of chances and at one final fire, either you buy it or you don't. If you don't, it's only eventually to be brushed off with a puny pension. Yet there's no third way you'd ever leave this job and you're doubting even God knows why. You're out of the shower now; most of the grime and some of the cynicism are down the drain, when you hear a strangely familiar voice saying, "For salvaging things and people from flames, I have to rely on your hands." You look around, still nobody. But when you get over your incredulity, you feel better. Suddenly today's crew cook in the kitchen hollers chow. It's time to eat. It smells like roast beef today, and that'll be good. But you'll eat fast, for any next alarm you'll want to be ready.

- **From Paul Harvey News**

Paul Harvey wrote this narrative in 1994 showing his respect for America's firefighters.

After radio broadcasting for nearly 57 years, the "Voice of Middle America," Paul Harvey died on 28 February 2009 at the age of 90.

School Tips

Many of our members are enrolled in Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degree programs at various educational institutions throughout the state. The following narrative provides useful information on the college experience. These college experience tips can easily be conveyed into the firefighter experience, both as an FFOP and as an experienced firefighter.

Making the Best of Your College Experience

By **Alan Waters**, B.A.

Northeastern University Graduate Assistant

When you graduate high school it is the normal routine to hear all your friends, family, teachers and supporters to tell you how much you should enjoy college. Usually the phrase "these are the best years of your life" comes up at least a dozen times. It is their way of telling you to live college to the fullest and make the best of your experience. Looking back they are right, I know for me it took my four years through undergrad to appreciate that, but I sure do realize it now. College is a time for growth in so many areas of your life and is a time where many of us find our true identities. So this is my attempt at giving you advice on how to get the best out of your years in college. I have decided to break it down into five easy talking points that I feel will help you accomplish your goals.

Challenge yourself

The first key to success for any student is having the ability to challenge yourself and challenge those around you during College. This is something most of us are not accustomed to do on a regular basis. However when we do, we tend to get the best out of ourselves and others. Being able to challenge who we are, what we stand for and what we believe in, helps us to get exactly what we want out of life. Being able to challenge others allows us to understand others deeper, gain new perspectives and become more inclusive in our everyday lives.

College is the perfect time to do all of that while learning what works for us and what does not. Each of us should strive to do the best we can in all we aspire to do and be. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built." So I challenge all of you to have the courage to challenge yourself to do the best you can. Take the risks you may be scared to take. Take the class you may have little knowledge about. Join a group or organization you are passionate about or even know little about. Challenge yourself to get an A, when you only think your best is a B. At the same time be honest with yourself in your limitations. Know your weaknesses and challenge yourself to get better at each one. In doing so, challenge those around you whether it be friends, family, professors, advisors or administrators to do the same. My advice to all of you is to do one thing that challenges you each day, for this is when you will find your true character and identity.

Give and Get Support

Throughout your college experience, surround yourself with a strong support network. During college most of us experience some of the hardest times in our lives to date, the best way to get through these times is by having people around you that can pick you up when you have fallen down. Do not be afraid to ask for help, we all need it at times in our life. By having a strong support network we can have the confidence to do our very best, knowing others are behind our efforts.

At the same time give that same support to those around you. Whether it is a friend you have had for years or someone that lives on your floor reach out and let them know you are there for them. As one of my favorite motivational songs by Bill Withers explains, "Lean on me, when you're not strong, I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on". It is important for all of us to have shoulders to lean on in times that are hard but is just as important to be there for others that need your shoulder.

Get Involved

Perhaps one of the best ways to get to know others in college is by getting involved in things that you are passionate about or want to become passionate about. By getting involved in programs, student groups, committees or leadership roles on campus you open up numerous doors of opportunity for yourself. Being involved also allows you to take what you have learned in the classroom and put it to practical use. I challenge all of you to seek out at least one organization that interests you and become a member. By doing so you will meet new people, be involved in exciting initiatives all while getting to know who you really are and how you work with others. Some of your best friends might come from taking a chance with a club or intramural sport. Being involved also allows you to expand your experiences and create lasting memories while simultaneously giving back to your college or surrounding community.

Find a Mentor, Be a Mentor

This is perhaps one of my biggest pieces of advice to college students. While at college begin to seek out people you feel are role models to yourself. Find at least one individual on your college campus that you feel holds strong morals, ideals and values. Seek out someone who makes you a better person and challenges you to do your very best. Having a mentor is one of the most important

things to establish while you are in college. They could be a professor, upperclassmen, administrator or a supervisor. By establishing a mentor you create a relationship with someone who you feel makes you a better person. This does not mean they have to be your best friend, but they can be someone you can trust to give you honest advice and feedback on the type of person you are. They also can help you strive towards accomplishing goals you have set for yourself while at college.

Just as important as finding a mentor is being a mentor to someone else. It follows the idea of paying it forward. If you have found someone who gives you inspiration and motivation the best repayment is doing the same for someone else. Being a mentor does not cost you money out of your pocket; all it takes is time and dedication to improve someone else. Be that person who listens to others in hard times, celebrates with others during good times and leads by example. Each of us needs a mentor in life and each of us should be a mentor in someone else's life.

Enjoy Yourself

My last piece of advice is perhaps the most significant of all. More than anything you have come to college to become a well educated individual who is ready to tackle the world. While doing that, make sure you take time to enjoy yourself. There is no bigger regret than sitting back after you college career wishing you had done more. You want to look back at your college career and be able to answer the question "Did I get all I could have out of college?", "Did I allow myself to enjoy my experiences?" You want to be able to sit back and say confidently "I loved my years in college".

You want to be able to tell others you had wonderful times with your friends. You should be able to look back at your college career and remember all the wonderful experiences you went through and how much you grew as a person. That will not be possible if you do not take time to enjoy yourself and all that college has to offer. Because after all, college should be the best years of your life!

*Editor's note: The author of the above narrative, **Alan Waters**, is the son of **Julie Kilbride**, the Fire Certification Administrator at the Fire Academy.*

America's Heroes

Private Robert Miller McTureous, Jr. United States Marine Corps

Robert Miller McTureous, Jr. was born in Altoona, Florida on 26 March 1924. In school, he majored in mathematics and was a member of the football, baseball, softball, tennis, and boxing teams. He was also musically talented. In order to meet his responsibility to defend his country, Robert McTureous went through at least two surgical procedures at his own expense in order to become medically qualified to be accepted into the military service. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was inducted on 31 August 1944.

During recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina, Robert McTureous qualified as a sharpshooter with both the M1 Garand and the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle). Following further training at Camp Lejeune, he was assigned to the 46th Replacement Draft at Camp Pendleton. From there he was deployed to Guam and on 15 May 1945, to Okinawa. (The United States Marines had invaded Okinawa on 1 April 1945.) McTureous was attached to Rifle Company H, 3rd Battalion, 29th Marines of the 6th Marine Division.

Pvt. McTureous participated in a battle on the Oroku Peninsula on Okinawa. The company took severe casualties and remained pinned down by enemy fire. It became impossible to evacuate the wounded due to the heavy fire. McTureous, on his own initiative, filled his pockets and jacket with grenades, and charged up the hill into the enemy position, where the machine gun and rifle fire was originating. Running among the caves, he tossed grenades into Japanese positions, creating the diversion so that Marines could evacuate the wounded. Running out of grenades, he returned to resupply and again charged into enemy positions. Pvt. McTureous was shot and badly wounded in the stomach but his one-man assault had completely disrupted the enemy, killing several of them. Because of his initiative, his own company was able to move forward and take the high ground. The wounded, including Pvt. McTureous, were evacuated. Pvt. McTureous had been transported to the hospital

ship, USS Relief, but on 7 June 1945, he died from his wounds. He is buried in Glendale Cemetery, Umatilla, Florida.

The Medal of Honor was presented to Pvt. Robert M. McTureous, Jr.'s parents on 7 August 1946 by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander A. Vandergriff, Jr.

Reference: Wikipedia

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 3d Battalion, 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Chain, 7 June 1945. Alert and ready for any hostile counteraction following his company's seizure of an important hill objective, Pvt. McTureous was quick to observe the plight of company stretcher bearers who were suddenly assailed by slashing machinegun fire as they attempted to evacuate wounded at the rear of the newly won position. Determined to prevent further casualties, he quickly filled his jacket with hand grenades and charged the enemy-occupied caves from which the concentrated barrage was emanating. Coolly disregarding all personal danger as he waged his furious 1-man assault, he smashed grenades into the cave entrances, thereby diverting the heaviest fire from the stretcher bearers to his own person and, resolutely returning to his own lines under a blanketing hail of rifle and machinegun fire to replenish his supply of grenades, dauntlessly continued his systematic reduction of Japanese strength until he himself sustained serious wounds after silencing a large number of the hostile guns. Aware of his own critical condition and unwilling to further endanger the lives of his comrades, he stoically crawled a distance of 200 yards to a sheltered position within friendly lines before calling for aid. By his fearless initiative and bold tactics, Pvt. McTureous had succeeded in neutralizing the enemy fire, killing 6 Japanese troops and effectively disorganizing the remainder of the savagely defending garrison. His outstanding valor and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice during a critical stage of operations reflect the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



Private Robert Miller McTureous, Jr.



Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal**.

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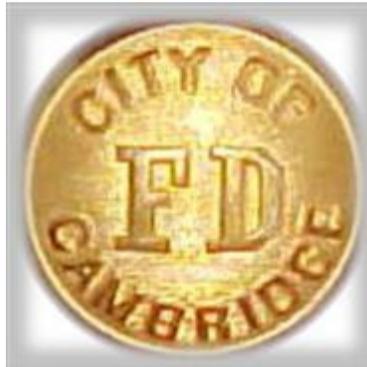
If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the **Company Journal** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

Websites

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at www.Cambridgefire.org

Check out Cambridge Firefighters Local 30's website at <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/>

Visit the Cambridge Retirement Board website at <http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>



“For 42 years I had made small, regular deposits of education, training, and experience. And the experience balance was sufficient that on Jan 14th I could make a sudden, large withdrawal.”

- Chesley Sullenberger
Pilot of US Airways flight 1549

**REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD.
THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY, OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR FREEDOM.
THANK OUR VETERANS!**



**Brothers and Sisters,
STAY BRAVE!
STAY VIGILANT!
STAY SAFE!**

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