



The Company Journal **and "The Feederline"**

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Acting Chief Gerard Mahoney
Issue # 83
Spring 2017



What's New

The Blue Bird bus went into service on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 in order to transport members to and from the wake and funeral of Watertown FF Toscano. It has seating for 22 members plus a command post compartment at the rear.



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Antique Engine 8 - Anyone who has been at the Motor Squad had probably noticed an old antique under a dust cover. The department did not have the resources for proper restoration and use and therefore decided to find a proper home for the antique. It was put out to bid in April 2017. The good news is that the winning bidder was the Seagrave Corporation who originally built the truck in 1935 and they intend to restore it to original condition and display it in a museum.



Photo by J. Gelinas



Photo by J. Gelinas

On its way back to Seagrave in Wisconsin on a flatbed.

New Firefighters

The hiring process has under way for to hire 14 of new firefighter2. Background checks are currently being done on 7 new Paramedic/Firefighters and 7 Firefighters. They may come on board in July/August and will be placed into the fire academy recruit class when spaces are available.

Apparatus

A new Rescue/Ambulance should be delivered by early July. It will be primarily used for various special detail assignments and a spare/backup when the Rescue 1 is out of service for mechanical.

Two new squads to replace the vans are on order. They are built on Ford F-450 chassis and should be delivered by Fall 2017.

One new Pierce 105' rear mount aerial should be delivered around January 2018. The department is also beginning to the specification process for a new pumper. According to Acting Chief Mahoney, all new apparatus is outfitted with air conditioning and they plan on testing out radio headsets on a trial basis in an effort to prevent hearing loss.

Stations

The city is in the early stages of a Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan. One of the first buildings to be addressed is the Taylor Square fire station. It will get a new roof, new heating/air conditioning system, replacement of all light fixtures and various other steps to improve the efficiency of the building.

All Companies Working

March 19, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, 76 Moreland Street – Engine 4 covered in Teele Square, Ladder 1 covered at Somerville HQ during Somerville's W/F. Engine 5 was dispatched and cancelled enroute.

March 21, 2017 – 1 Alarm fire, 243 Broadway, Box 2811 – fire in vertical shaft of 6 story residential caused by an overheated motor. E2 and E5 ran line from L2 tower bucket which was fed by E6 pump. Crews opened up the area and overhauled then washed down the area

March 22, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 30 Inner Belt Road – Engine 4, Ladder 4 covered Teele Square for their fire on the roof of a commercial laundry facility

March 22, 2017 – Haz Mat, Watertown 59 Shattuck Road – Division 3, the covering Cambridge Deputy in Watertown discovered a radioactive box and requested Rescue 1 and Haz mat 1. This was during the services for the late FF Toscano. No radiation was detected.

March 26, 2017 – 1 Alarm fire, 55 Magee Street, Box 453 – fire in a second floor kitchen. Extinguished by homeowner prior to FD arrival

March 27, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Waltham, 3rd Alarm, 4207 Stearns Hill Road – Ladder 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to fire, and worked as RIT. Engine 9 covered.

March 29, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 1 Alarm, Box 294, 64 Webster Ave – Engine 5 responded on a line box. Companies found a car fully involved inside an auto body shop. Engine 5 laid a supply line and operated a 2-1/2" attack line. Squad 2 and Division 1 also responded when confirmed there was a fire in the building.

April 10, 2017 – 1 Alarm fire, 20 Ames Street, Box 246 – lab equipment malfunctioned

April 11, 2017 – Working Fire, 82 Dana Street, Box 416 – fire in the attic, companies arrived with smoke showing from B side of 2.5 story residential

April 14, 2017 – Mutual Aid Boston, 5th alarm, 9 Clover Street, Box 3257 – Engine 2 covered at Boston Engine 33

April 14, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 37 Bishop Allen Drive, Box 31 – electrical fire in the wall of a church. Lines were stretched to the basement but fire was knocked down with water can

April 15, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 2nd Alarm, 45 Pennsylvania Ave, Box 163 – Engine 4, Squad 2 and Division 1 to the fire, Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered in Teele Square.

April 18, 2017 – 4th Alarm, 54 Reservoir Street, Box 84 – heavy fire on arrival on rear porches. During the incident a Mayday was declared and later cancelled.

April 19, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Everett, 3rd Alarm, Oakland Ave. – Engine 5 covered at Everett HQ during their fire.

April 23, 2017 - Mutual Aid, Boston, 6th Alarm, 10 Marie Street, Box 314 – Engine 2 covered at Boston Engine 33 while they fought a fire in 3 fully involved dwellings.

April 26 – Outside fire, Cambridgepark Drive - Engine 4 and Engine 8 worked at an outside fire off Cambridgepark Drive with difficult access.

May 4, 2017 – 2nd Alarm, 956 Cambridge Street, Box 291 – 3 story woodframe. Engine 5 operated a master stream into the window on arrival and companies used interior lines for extinguishment.

May 9, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 240 Albany Street, Box 321 – Companies dispatched to an outside fire next to a building. On arrival, found several men around a campfire. 1 of the men suffered 3rd degree burns and was transported.

May 15, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 275 Mass Ave, Box 274 – Companies responded to an alarm activation. Activation caused by a flash fire of magnesium filings in a machine shop.

May 17, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, 17 Bridge Street, Box 712 - Engine 9 covered in Watertown during their working fire in a commercial building.



Engine 5 first due made quick work of this fire at Box 291 at 956 Cambridge Street on May 4th

May 18, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 5th Alarm, Box 3547, 41 Evelyn Street – Engine 2 covered in Boston during a 5th alarm fire in a 4 story wood-frame residential. Record breaking temps (94 degrees) made the fire a difficult one

May 23, 2017 – Mutual Aid Somerville, W/F, Redbones, 55 Chester Street – Engine 4 and Ladder 1 covered in Somerville during their Working Fire in ductwork.

May 24, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 2nd alarm, Box 341, 91 Gilman Street – Engine 4 and Ladder 1 covered in Teele Square, Engine 5, Squad 2 and Division 1 worked at the fire.

May 26, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, 35 Jackson St, Working Fire – Ladder 1, Division 1 and Squad 4 responded to Belmont for a fire in the basement of a 2.5 story woodframe. Crews operated as the RIT team.

June 1, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Reading, Box 1121, 62 Sanborn Street, 7 Alarms – Engine 4, Squad 4, Ladder 1 and Division 2 responded to Reading during their fire in a condo unit. Engine 4 and squad 4 provided manpower and pumped into the Medford ladder. Ladder 1 covered.

Congratulations

Honored at the City Manager's 2017 Employee of the Year Award Ceremony was **Deputy Fire Chief Michael J. Morrissey; Division 1**. Deputy Morrissey was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding City Employee Award. The ceremony was held on May 4, 2017 at Cambridge City Hall.



Photo J Gelinis

After more than forty years of service to the Cambridge Fire Department, **FF Henry A. Sisco Jr.** retired. His last tour was Wednesday April 5, 2017. Members gave him a good send off in typical fashion at the quarters of Engine 3 and Ladder 2. Congratulations Henry!



Photo J Gelinis

Congratulations to **Deputy Chief Steve Leonard; Division 2 retired**. His last shift was on May 23, 2017.



Photo FF Walter Grace; Retired

Congratulations to **FF Jack Shinkwin; Aide to Division 2** on his successful election to the Cambridge Retirement Board! His term will commence on August 1, 2017 and expire on July 31, 2020. **Deputy Frank Murphy; Division 2** was always a strong advocate for the fire department and we think Jack will be a great successor!

Congratulations to the **Cambridge Fire Hockey team** who won the MetroFire League Championship on April 14, 2017! They defeated Arlington in the Championship and after a few days rest competed in another tournament called the Heroes Cup in Marlborough



Photo Local 30

Honor Guard

Why an Honor Guard?

By FF Timothy P Norton II

The question comes up often and often, I find myself trying to figure out the best answer to give somebody. Why? For the military folks on the job the question itself can draw criticism towards the individual asking. We were indoctrinated to understand the meaning behind every star and stripe, to the point where our ears bleed and our lungs nearly gave out from the (extra) physical training. For someone to ask us this question it's very easy to respond in an adverse manner if you don't take a quick second to think about it. Many times, the response is simply "tradition" or something along the lines of honoring those who came before us. Valid answers but for the jakes who never put on a green uniform, it still leaves them wondering why?

Before I jump into it, something has to be said about the nature of this job. We all know it, it's not your average desk job and certainly doesn't compare too much outside of the vertical were in. We eat, sleep and live together for a third of our lives and a roar of laughter at the expense of the new kid can be broken at any moment by somebody's worst day. It doesn't get us down and in a sense, we live for it. In a famous radio broadcast Paul Harvey said; "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."

There's more. When a fellow Jake from Maui has a son diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that takes him thousands of miles away from home for treatment, we take action. We bring them into our firehouse and do everything we can to squeeze a smile out them. We take to social media and support them, raise funds to help cover their costs and stand next to them when the worst happens. We do it all the time in hundreds if not thousands of ways. It's not part of the job description but many would tell you that it's their duty. This is the mantra which creates and continues the fraternal aspect of our job; taking care of our own.

The terms "brother" and "sister" come up and those new to the game scratch their heads at it until they finally "get it". It's a learning curve that's taught mostly by experience first-hand and more often than not, it's a sad one. Just three years ago today we lost two of Boston's bravest in a massive brownstone fire in the heart of the city. For me, this was my first experience in a Line Of Duty Death (LODD) funeral and I didn't have a clue as to what was going to happen. In the days following the tragic events, a sea of firefighters from across the world flooded into Boston and Watertown. Roads were shut down. Civic offices closed. The general public forced to find different means of travel while we mourned the loss of our brothers. What I saw was fellow firefighters, many of which had probably never met Eddie or Mike (to include myself) standing shoulder to shoulder to honor their sacrifice.

So how do we exactly honor our brothers and sisters? Apart from just showing up to wakes and funerals (which is such an important thing to do) we have Honor Guards. These are the guys and girls who dress a little differently (depending on the department) and march or stand guard next to our fallen brother's casket. They deliver a presence, a silent representation of the importance of the sacrifices made by that member and their family throughout their years of service. Outside of funerals or wakes, Honor Guard members carry the legacy of our fallen onto sports arenas and through parade routes. A reminder to not only ourselves but the general public that men and women gave up their lives, for you.



Photo CFD

Ladder 1 in Dress Blues – L-R **FF Dan Mahoney, Lt Mike Francis, FF Ted DesRoches and FF Ed Fales.**

So now that we all have an idea of what an Honor Guard is, I'll narrow down the why into four main ideas. The first I've already described but can be summed up in one word; Solidarity. There is a reason our unions preach this slogan on coming together in mutual support of one another. They do it for us by fighting for better wages and benefits, in Washington against the legislators who seek to take away what we've earned in blood and sweat. The Honor Guard is the physical embodiment of this. It's that extra step we take to provide that higher level of service we are so committed to providing to the general public and to our families. When something happens, we drop everything and do everything we can to take care of our own.

Sacrifice. How many holidays have you missed because you were in the firehouse? You don't have to lay down your life to sacrifice on this job. We do it all the time, missed birthdays or anniversaries in order to protect the public. This takes a toll on families and honoring that is another major aspect of why we have the Honor Guard. When we conduct casket guard services for a member who passed many years after retirement their family is beyond thrilled when they see a firefighter there. It's a reminder to them that their loved one wasn't forgotten.

Security. If you watch any movie about firefighting where a LODD is portrayed, it's almost always shown with all of the pomp and circumstance that can be imagined. There's a reason Hollywood thinks this; it's the truth. Members operate on the fire-ground knowing a couple of things; one of which is that if they go down, their brothers are going to do anything and everything to get them out. Another is that if they don't, that they will be taken care of. One of the ways we take care of them is by having an Honor Guard. Just like I saw for the first time with Mike and Eddie, hundreds of Color Guards lined the streets so the families could see that they were absolutely part of something bigger. Everyone in a sense, paying it forward.

Last but not least, Socialization. With our work schedule it's so easy to just show up and go home. Participating in the Honor Guard is one more way we get ourselves together to

preserve the family orientation this job has. Even just by grabbing a few drinks or a meal together after a funeral we are able to have an easy excuse to get together and become closer. This comradery furthers the trust we all have for each other and makes us more effective on the fireground. You don't need to join the Honor Guard to go out together but it's a good excuse to do something great for somebody else and after, share some good times.

Getting together is the bottom line here; it's what makes us such a strong group of individuals. All too often, folks are coming onto this job and not taking advantage of the opportunities that come with a little participation. The benefits behind becoming closer and more of a firehouse family is infallible and there are small things new folks can do. If you can't participate in the Honor Guard, attend a union meeting. These are the individuals who work behind the scenes to preserve this job and everything associated with it. You are the future of that. If politics or union business isn't for you, help out with a Fill The Boot drive. See where I'm going? There are endless ways to make this job better, carrying the flag is one of them.

Firefighter Memorial Sunday

Firefighters Memorial Sunday will be held on June 11, 2017. Members are to meet at the entrance to Cambridge Cemetery at 0930 hours. Uniform of the day is Summer Class A.



CAMBRIDGE FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SUNDAY

SUNDAY JUNE 11, 2017
CAMBRIDGE CEMETERY
76 COOLIDGE AVENUE

Formation at 0930 hours
Procession starts at 0945 hours
Ceremony at 1000 hours

Collation to Follow:
American Legion Marsh Post #442
5 Greenough Boulevard

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held @ Mayor Sheila Doyle-Russell Center 680 Huron Ave.

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The poster features two fire department emblems. On the left is the Cambridge Fire Department emblem, which is a shield-shaped Maltese cross with a central scene and the words 'CAMBRIDGE' and 'MASS'. On the right is the emblem for Local 30, which is a Maltese cross with 'CAMBRIDGE' at the top, 'LOCAL 30 MASS' in the center, and 'AFL' and 'CIO' on the left and right arms respectively, with 'FIREFIGHTERS' at the bottom.

*While on the subject of showing our dedication and appreciation for the job we do, let's take a minute to discuss what Firefighters Memorial Sunday is and why it is so important. Firefighters Memorial Sunday is always the second Sunday in June. In 2017, it will be held on June 11, 2017. Please read the comments from **Brother Spike Lawless**:*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Many of us have never met. By way of introduction my name is John "Spike" Lawless and in 2005 I retired. I had the honor to serve as a Fire Fighter in the Cambridge Fire Department for 32 proud years and I'd do it all over again if I could.

In addition to responding to thousands of incredible incidents over the years I also attended many, far too many, funerals for members of Local 30 and beyond our City and State. Many were for Line of Duty Related Deaths and others for active and retired Members. These services always left me with a whole host feelings and emotions.

Sorrow and prayers for the Deceased Member, prayers for the grieving Family, sorrow and prayers for the Brothers and Sisters of the Department but at the same time I would also experience a strong feeling of Pride, Comradery and Solidarity. I was Proud to stand tall within in a sea of blue amongst "The bravest of the Brave" to show our understanding and our support for those mourning their loss.

During the Eulogies and observing the grieving Families it wasn't possible to avoid the hollow feeling of concern of how will they cope. It was impossible for me to avoid the eyes from tearing up and I would hide those tears in my ceremonial white gloves. I couldn't help to wonder what if that was my Family but I'd quickly divert my attention back to our presence to Respect and Support.

There's a reason I'm sharing this history, these emotions and my feelings. I'm concerned about the future of these traditions. The Profession of Fire Fighting has changed dramatically in its technical abilities. Your training is often complicated and intense and raises the bar well beyond the concept of my 1973 Fire Service entry when our motto was simple "Put The Wet Stuff - On The Red Stuff". I'm feeling sad at what appears to be a waning of our Fire Service Traditions and I'm sorry to say that it appears that CFD is also falling victim. The most obvious is in the lack of attendance at the "Line Of Duty

Death" (LODD) Funerals and memorial services for Brother and Sister Fire Fighters across the state and closer to home at the Cambridge Fire Fighters Memorial Sunday.

Over the years I've seen our CFD Memorial Sunday go from a strongly attended day of respect for the Members who have gone before us to a Memorial Tradition that was sadly forgotten and then respectfully resurrected. My attendance has not always been perfect but whenever possible I would be there to pay my respect and too often it was to support the Families of CFD Members whose loved ones had passed during the prior year. Observing the waning attendance is sad but what's also noticeable is the lack of a strong wave of blue Fire Fighter shirts. There's a stronger representation of Fire Officers than Fire Fighters and this makes me wonder why? I don't have any answers but I fear that somewhere along the line us old timers failed to convey the message. The message that taking one day each year to formally pay respect to those CFD Members who have walked before us and the Families they left behind is an Honorable Tradition of the CFD. God willing we will "Never Forget".

Please consider attending this year's Cambridge Fire Fighter's Memorial Sunday.

In Solidarity,

John "Spike" Lawless

Proud Retiree of the Class 1 Cambridge Fire Department

Cambridge Chronicle

New fire chief wants station renovations, smaller engines, better firefighter health

By Amy Saltzman
asaltzman@wickedlocal.com



Recently appointed acting Fire Chief Gerry Mahoney gives off a palpable love of Cambridge.

It's not just the way in which he gushes about his firefighters or how he seems to blend in with the backdrop of the iconic fire headquarters on Broadway.

His love extends beyond those walls to the citizens, city officials, higher education institutions, area hospitals, neighboring fire departments, his three daughters, wife, parents and grandfather -- all subjects he touched upon during a recent interview with the Chronicle.

Mahoney, 57, speaks fluidly, confidently and openly. He speaks as though he has waited his whole life for this moment. And the truth is, he has.

Mahoney's grandfather, Jeremiah F. Mahoney, was a Cambridge police officer. His father, Paul F. Mahoney Sr., was a Cambridge firefighter from 1948 to 1955, before becoming a schoolteacher and then an elementary principal.

Following in his father's footsteps, Mahoney was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on March 6, 1983. Thirty-four years to the day later, he would stand in Sullivan Chambers at City Hall to be sworn in as the acting fire chief.

"I've been very blessed. My only regret about the whole thing is that my dad wasn't there to see it," Mahoney, whose father passed away in 2006, told the Chronicle a few days after the ceremony. "I know how much it would have meant to him."

Mahoney no longer lives in Cambridge (his reasoning: "I married a girl from Medford"), but his 95-year-old mother still lives on Lexington Avenue in an apartment that's been in his family since 1926 and where she and Mahoney's father started off as newlyweds in 1949.

We sat down with Mahoney to talk about his personal and professional history, his visions for the department -- what he hopes to improve upon and what it was like working with recently retired fire chief Gerry Reardon -- the safety of the citizens and the department's personnel, and what he likes to do in his downtime (when he has it).

How did you find out you were going to be appointed acting fire chief? Is it something you had sought out or do you think you were just the natural next selection?

Chief Reardon retired Saturday, March 4, and I was approached by City Manager Louis DePasquale and asked if I would be interested in serving as the acting fire chief. I told him it would be a honor and a privilege. I had made it be known in the past in general conversation that I'd be interested in becoming the fire chief when Reardon retired.

So you're hoping it'll be a permanent position.

Yes, I am.

What was it like working with Reardon all these years?

I actually knew him before I got on the Fire Department. We worked together as firefighters for about eight or nine months. Gerry has a tremendous wealth of knowledge. He's a leader -- not only locally, but nationally -- when it comes to emergency communications. He has been a real leader for this department. The goal of every fire chief I think in every community, no matter how large or small, is to leave the department somewhat better than you found it. Not that you inherited something bad from the previous chief, but you obviously want to make things better, as in any line of work.

And how did Reardon leave the department better?

He did that through tremendous equipment purchases. It's not an exaggeration to say our fire apparatus is the envy of most departments around here. We have reserve or spare fire apparatus that is in better shape than front-line apparatus in some communities.

Gerry will be the first to tell you, he was complimented by both city councilors as well as the executives -- Bob Healy, Rich Rossi and Louis -- in wanting to work in a cooperative partnership to make the Fire Department better. A fire chief can't just snap his or her fingers and say, 'I'll buy this or that,' you have to have the backing of City Hall. His legacy I think will be the apparatus, the equipment. We have two marine units. We joked for years the only thing he never got was a helicopter.

He always did what he thought was best for the personnel and the community.

How do you hope to grow the department?

One of my ideas is that I'd like to see more community engagement. We do community engagement, but we want to improve upon it. You have to sell yourself in this day and age, and I think it's even more so apparent now.

Also, we have eight fire stations in this city. [Fire headquarters on Broadway] was built in 1934. The firefighters are using the same lockers my father used in 1948; that needs to be improved upon. While we've had tremendous equipment, apparatus and personal protective equipment, our firehouses have suffered somewhat.

A fire chief's No. 1 concern is the safety of the public and his or her personnel that work alongside him. My firefighters are No.1 in my book. That being said, we need to improve upon the living conditions of the firehouses. This Broadway firehouse was built in 1934; this is the second newest firehouse in the city. The newest firehouse in the city is in East Cambridge (Engine 3), which was opened in 1976.

The other thing we do need is a dedicated training facility. It's difficult in a built-up urban environment. The city of Boston's Fire Department, their training facility is out on Moon Island. You have to travel through Quincy to get out there.

Where are the CFD training facilities?

Our classroom is located [at the East Cambridge station], and we are fortunate enough to use the classroom at ProEMS particularly if it's medical-related training. But we have no place to do hose and ladder evolutions. We don't really have a place to do training evolutions and we need that.



What about firefighter safety and health?

I think the Boston Fire Department, Commissioner Finn and the Boston Firefighters Union should be commended for the joint efforts they've put in for the health and safety of their firefighters. I'd like us to do something similar.

We've been fortunate; we haven't had the high incidence of cancer they have, but we've had it and one case is too many in my opinion. Part of that is education. Firefighters for years back in the day wouldn't wear their breathing apparatus. They'd come out of a smoky fire and the first thing they'd do is fish in their coat pocket for a pack of cigarettes. Those days are over, a firefighter and police officer hired after Jan. 1, 1988, is not allowed to smoke tobacco products on or off duty. That's state law. Absolutely.

Firefighters tend to, when the smoke clears, take the mask off, and unfortunately that's one of the most dangerous times because you still have high carbon-monoxide levels, there's off-gassing going on and many of these carcinogens are colorless, odorless and tasteless.

The old cliché, 0-60, this is a line of work where it happens. Similar to law enforcement and EMS, firefighters could be in a very sedentary position and then the alarm sounds and within minutes it's a building fire, it's people trapped, it's people screaming, it's go, go, go, go, go and that's not good for the heart.

Why do you think the Boston Fire Department has more cases of cancer than Cambridge?

I think part of it is higher [number of] fire incidents in Boston, but we have had cases. The cancer presumption law for firefighters covers seven forms, but basically any cancer: melanoma, leukemia, prostate, lung.

I haven't been able to dig down into the data that would indicate percentage-wise that they've had higher incidence. So I'm not certain what the percentage data shows. We have roughly 275-280 personnel, while Boston maybe around 1,400 firefighters. Maybe we're not so far off in terms of percentages.

We've had huge resources to tap into -- Harvard Medical, Dana-Farber, the two foremost institutions of higher learning in the world in our backyard. I'm hoping we can tap them as a resource for a whole bunch of issues that concern the CFD.

Is there anything you'd like to do differently from Reardon?

I always told my daughters growing up if we all thought and acted alike the world would be a very boring place. While I have tremendous admiration for Gerry, and everything he did during his tenure as chief, there are things that I would probably do a little different.

Our fire apparatus -- and his hands were tied somewhat by this -- I think we can do something about downsizing the size of some of our apparatus.

One of the things that constrains us somewhat is that so many of our firehouses are old, the architecture is old and we can't alter because of historical designation. So you see these beautiful, brick arched doorways, yet these firehouses were built for horse-drawn apparatus.

We're now putting large, heavy-duty, diesel apparatus in these, so I want to do something about the size of the apparatus.

What do you find most rewarding about working all these years in the fire department?

In all honesty, in my 34 years in this line of work, the most rewarding times are when you can help somebody, that can be a citizen and, now in my role as acting chief, helping my firefighters whether helping them with an issue they're dealing with or encouraging them to advance through the ranks, helping them get to a solution, encouraging them to pursue education outside the Fire Department or advance their skill set whether it's attending trainings at the state fire academy, becoming an EMT, a paramedic.

This city has been extremely good to me and my family for many generations. As I said, my 95-year-old mother still lives in this city. And I just want to help the citizens of Cambridge and the people who run the city, to know they have somebody effective and caring running the Fire Department.

What do you do on your downtime, if you ever have any?

I like to read. And my wife and I, now that the kids are older, we like to travel. We actually just returned a few weeks ago. We went to Aruba for a week. I joke because it was like Cambridge Fire Department South. It was our first visit, but a tremendous amount of retirees from this department own timeshare in Aruba. So we had a lot of fun. It was great.

I'm currently reading William Manchester's fabulous biography on Douglas MacArthur. I also like true crime stuff. I read James Patterson, John Grisham. It's interesting because when I was younger with my dad being an educator he was always pushing me to read and I hated reading as a kid, and now I love to read.

My family has had a home on the Cape since I was 5 years old. I've been very fortunate to spend almost my entire summer as a kid on the Cape.

You've had a good go it sounds like.

I've been very fortunate. I've been very blessed. My only thing, I commented on it during the brief ceremony the other day at City Council chambers, I said my only regret about the whole thing is that my dad wasn't there to see it. I know how much it would have meant to him, especially having served on the Fire Department.

Thought of the day

For hundreds of years, people hand wrote letters and mailed them. The system worked great. Thoughts were reliably transferred from one person to another. Then email came along. All of the sudden there was a much faster way for people to communicate with written words. The postal system still works, but it clearly is not the best option in most cases. Using old techniques at the fire house just because they worked in the past is the same as only using the postal service and never using email. – recent comment from a student in a college class the editor took this spring.

Out and About

FF Steph Crayton; Engine 6 addresses students at the Lynn Middle School during the 15th Annual SMART (Science, Math and Relevant Technology) Girls summit in March 2016.

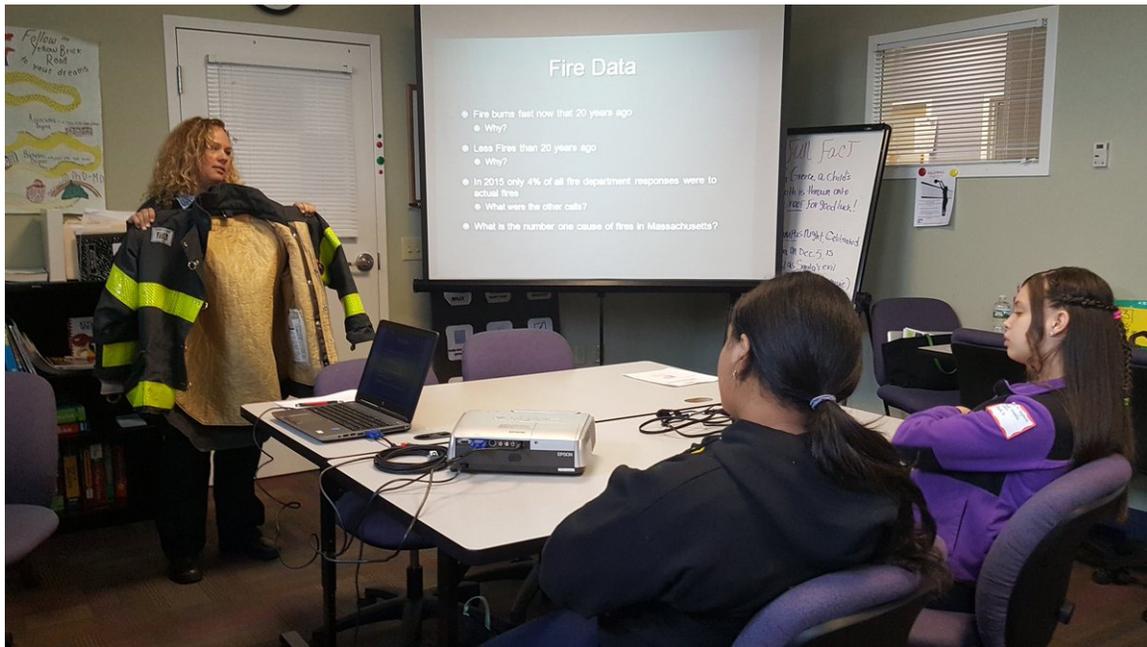


Photo courtesy of WBZ News

SSgt Jose Lora and MSgt Nate Dubovsky, members of the 143rd Airlift Wing RI ANG, at Savannah GA CRTIC base. They were there for annual training to include aircraft live fire, structural firefighting, hazmat refresher, auto extrication and rope rescue.



Photo credit Capt. P. Haggerty



Photo credit Capt. P. Haggerty

Marine Unit - The attached photos were taken yesterday at Massport Fire's Marine unit. Six of our divers and boat operators participated in a Boat Crew Member class being taught by the Mass Environmental Police Marine Unit. MEP officers, Quincy PD officers, Massport Fire officers, and Mark Brennan from Maritime Tactical Training, have all teamed up to teach these classes for free. Eight more CFD members attended a Boat Operator Search and Rescue Class a few weeks later.



Photos provided

From the dock, there were boats from Beverly Fire, Environmental Police, CFD, Quincy PD, and Mass State Police. Massport's Marine 31 and 32 were also at their berths. The selfie taken on our boat shows from left to right, **FF Nathan Dubovsky, FF Robert McVoy, FF Joseph Moore, FF Bill Dusablon, and Mark Brennan** of Maritime Tactical Training.

Picture from early April. A couple of retirees refighting the old fires – and the fires get bigger and better on each retelling. **Boston FF Tom Goodwin; Retired** and **Cambridge FF Tim Foley; Retired** both live in the same complex in Billerica.



Photo J Gelinis

Boston FF Tom Goodwin was assigned to Engine 3, Engine 27, Engine 32, Engine 50, and was the aide to Dist. Chief Joe Houghton in Car 2, then Car 1.

Cambridge FF Tim Foley worked at Ladder 3, and was the aide to **DFC John O'Donoghue**, and possibly **DFC Tom Scott** before that. He drove **DFC Jack Gelinis** when when was Acting DFC and they had a lot of fires together.



Photo J. Gelinias

FF Jack Kenney; Engine 2 (Retired) far right at the recent Heroes Cup Hockey Tournament in Marlborough in April 2017. Son, **Brian** is in middle and grandson **Brady** far left. Brian is a Sargeant with Nashua PD. Jack is also father to **FF Kevin Kenney; Engine 2**. There is absolutely no resemblance between Kevin and Brian at all.



Photo J. Gelinias

Community Art Center children's group visited their "favorite" fire house, Lafayette Square on Wednesday, 12 April 2017



Photo submitted FF P. Melo

Several members attended the 5th annual FDNY Medical Special Operations Conference (MSOC) in May 2017 and met FDNY Chief of Department Leonard. L-R **FF Pete Melo; Squad 2, FF Matt Ansello; Rescue 1, FDNY Chief of Department Leonard, FF Matt McDonald; Rescue 1, and FF John Magee; Engine 1**

From the Archives

The Good Old Days, *Continued* - Ralph Chapman (Deputy Fire Chief; retired)

Fire Alarm Running Card

Prior to 1952 or 1953, a Five Alarm running card was in effect. Under Chief Collins, Third Alarm cards were made up under the supervision of Lt. Gibb (or Gibbs), the Aide to Chief of Department John Collins, with James Fitzgerald and his brother Robert, both retired, and Ralph Chapman, Aide to DFC Thomas F. O'Connor.

At one time, one Deputy Fire Chief covered both divisions. At about 1956, three deputies were promoted, thus two deputies were on duty at all times. The Division 1 and 2 boundaries were re-established around 1975/76. Both divisions initially ran out of headquarters. To move Division 1 out of headquarters, Division 1 was moved to the quarters of Engine 2 and later to Engine 5, where it remains today. Division 2 moved from headquarters to the quarters of Engine 8.

Early Dispatch

Fire Alarm often split an engine company on stills, sometimes Wagon only for car fires, rubbish fires, complaints, etc. or Pump only for lockouts or some complaints. Engine 5 at one time, in certain groups, would run with 4 firefighters on the wagon, and the officer and MPO on the pump. The pump always located the hydrant as it was lead piece until later, the procedure was changed to the wagon as the lead piece.

On very busy nights such as October 31st and July 4th, engine companies such as Engine 5 and Engine 2 were so busy that they would split up to take calls, the wagon responding to some incidents and the pump to others. In those days, the CAFD (Cambridge Auxiliary Fire Department) would staff two engines (Engines 11 and 12) and respond to calls.

Radio Testing

Radio testing stopped under Sgt. Frank Foster as he explained to the Chief at the time that it did not prove that the radio or system would operate as it should on the next call.

Sgt. Foster had been receiving information that transmissions were not being received from inside Zayre's at the Fresh Pond Mall. At one incident, when he was monitoring the system, Ladder 4 responded and on return to quarters notified fire alarm that the system was not working. Foster had been monitoring and called me to the location (due to my being the Administrative Officer to the Chief). I had Ladder 4 respond back and met them there. Foster had Ladder 4 take us to the location within the store – he and I had no problem with communication. Ladder 4 then tried to communicate unsuccessfully. We took the radio and turned it on! No Problem! Human Error!

(Note that Police Sergeant Frank Foster was assigned as the radio communications coordinator and maintainer for both fire and police.)

Code 1

Under Chief Cremins, the "Code 1" procedure was implemented. When the Division Chief (or the Aide) called fire alarm to report a Code 1 for a box, this was the signal for fire alarm to start coverage of the stations because companies would be tied up for an extensive period.

Task Force Response

As mentioned in a previous issue, all city boxes received a response of 3 engines, 2 trucks, the rescue, and a division chief. Chief Cremins initiated a "Task Force Response" meaning that 2 engines, 1 truck, and the division chief only were assigned to certain boxes. Fire Alarm would announce the incident as a "Task Force Response" to box xxxx.

Certain boxes, because of the high number of false alarms, were assigned only one engine on a pulled box. No boxes were taken off the street in those days of malicious false alarms, but a few boxes were changed to self-winding boxes so that members would not place themselves in danger walking through a crowd to wind the box. (Remember that in that era, it was not unusual for people to throw rocks, bottles, rubbish cans, etc. at the responding firefighters.) There were a few boxes that were pulled on a regular basis, at night, for the same dumpster fire(s).

- Thanks also to **Firefighter John Hathaway** of Engine 9 for providing some of the information above.



Engine 1's Wagon circa 1979 with the 1977 American LaFrance Squirt: FF Harkins, FLT E. Rose, F L. Kuhn, & FF Gonzalo

Did you know?

The YKK on your zipper stands for Yoshida Kogyo Kabushikigaisha. Which means "Yoshida Manufacturing Shareholding Company".

When you yawn and stretch at the time, you are "pandiculating."

-40 Celsius and -40 Fahrenheit are the same temperature.

Donald Duck's middle name is "Fauntleroy."

The sleeve on the outside of a coffee cup is called a "zarf."

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

In Memoriam - Cambridge Line of Duty Deaths from April-June.

Please note, the last issue we shared LODD that occurred during the time period January through March. This issue we cover April through June.

John W. Downing, Private (Ladder 1) – died on April 28, 1873. He died from a kick in chest by horse and died instantly from the blow.

Thomas J. Leighton, Telegraph Operator - April 14, 1874 – no information available

Private Joseph L. Cartier, Ladder 4 - April 11, 1944, killed when thrown from tiller seat returning from a call on April 9, 1944. Died two days later on April 11.

Captain (Acting Deputy Chief) James E. Crowley, of Ladder 1 died on April 30, 1951 at Cambridge Box 124 Statler Tissue Warehouse. Captain James E. Crowley Sr. gave his life while responding to the Statler Tissue Warehouse fire in Somerville at the age of 43. At the time of his death, Captain Crowley was Acting Deputy Fire Chief. He was the father of the **late Firefighter James Crowley** (Cambridge Fire) and the great-grandfather of **FF Stephen Crowley; Engine 2**.

Private Daniel J. Holleran, Engine 3, May 20, 1930 – (Note: error on date? According to Engine 3 logbook, D.J. Holleran had floor patrol duty on May 21, 1930 and name also logged on patrol for most of May 1930.)

Private Arthur Bolduc - May 7, 1948, died from injuries received while operating at Box 787 on March 17, 1948 – from a genealogy website discovered on 9/29/2015: According to the Cambridge Fire Dept. records, he became "permanent in the dept" on Sept. 2, 1934. He was assigned to Engines 4, 7, and 9. In 1948 he worked in the Kendall Square station in Cambridge, (assigned to engine 7.) Several of his brothers were also firemen in Cambridge. His brother Lawrence (Larry), worked with him.

Firefighter William J. Cochran, died on April 11, 2006 due to job related cancer

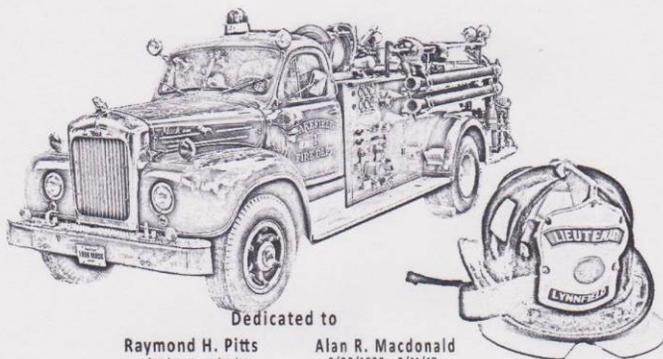
Upcoming Events

Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association, Inc.

A Chapter of SPAAMFAA*

Invites you to our

**40th ANNIVERSARY
FIRE APPARATUS
PARADE, SHOW
& FIREMATIC FLEA MARKET**



Raymond H. Pitts
4/23/1943 - 8/15/16

Alan R. Macdonald
3/28/1939 - 2/11/17

**Saturday June 10th, 2017
10:00AM - 3:00PM**

Muster Site: Edgewater Office Park –
Audubon Road Wakefield, MA

Parade starts at 10AM
from Lynnfield High School - Essex Street

**NO DOGS*, BIKES, ROLLERBLADES OR SKATEBOARDS
WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE MUSTER SITE**

***Service dogs permitted**

For More Information Write
MAFAA, Inc. P. O. Box 3332 Peabody, MA 01961-3332
or Call Lynnfield Fire Department at 781-334-5152
Co-Sponsored By
LYNNFIELD FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Cambridge Local 30

MDA Golf Outing

Tuesday August 22, 2017



Wayland Country Club
Foursome / Scramble

Registration: 8 AM Tee-Off: 9 AM Cost: \$125 per person

Includes 18-Holes, Golf Cart, Collectible CFD gift, Lunch, and the following prizes for:

- * 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Teams * Longest Drive * Closest To The Pin **
- * Raffle Prizes will also be available **

This event is open to all Cambridge Local 30 members, Family, and Friends

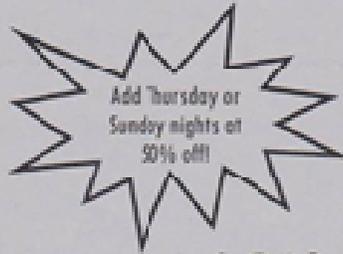
- * Hole Sponsorship is also available **

Team Captains must sign up their foursome by contacting Brandon Hugh (617) 529-1844

Entry fees must be paid in full NO LATER than 7/22/17

*Accepted payments: Cash, Check, Credit Card (secured via PayPal), and
The Cambridge Firefighters Federal Credit Union (for Members only)*





13th Annual Firefighters' Appreciation Weekend

September 15– 17, 2017

Friday

- Muster Registration & Pool Party
(Bring your department's patch to add to our patch wall)

Saturday

- Muster
- First Responders Parade and Touch-A-Truck
- Award Ceremony

Sunday

- 5K Run/Walk to benefit MDA (\$)
- Breakfast Cookout
- Enjoy the facilities at Danforth Bay with your family and fellow firefighters

Detailed agenda available at check-in

Specific Events Schedule Subject to Change

Weekend Package

\$97 Standard W/S/E Site
\$225 * Deluxe Cabin Site

Please call for rates for additional site types.

Based on 2 adults and 2 children. Package includes 2 night's of camping, social, muster and award ceremony.

- Breakfast Cookout can be added for an additional \$10 per adult and \$8 per child.
- Additional adults and children can be added for an additional charge.
- Just \$23 for a standard W/S/E site and \$55 for a deluxe cabin site for any additional nights when added to the above package.



196 Shawtown Rd Freedom NH 03836
503-539-2069 www.danforthbay.com

Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce

Firefighter Robert A. Dahl; Engine Co. 5-Retired

Brother of Firefighter Richard K. Dahl; Ladder Co. 3-Retired

Brother of Lieutenant Edward F. Dahl; Ladder Co. 4-Retired

Firefighter Dahl was appointed January 4, 1970

He retired April 3, 1997

He spent his entire career at Engine Co. 5

Firefighter Dahl was a Veteran of the United States Army

Condolences to:

The family and friends of Massachusetts State Senator Kenneth Donnelly on his passing in April 2017. Senator Donnelly was a retired Lexington Fire Lieutenant and the son of **Cambridge Fire Firefighter Albert Donnelly; Retired** Ken was also an officer with the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, first as Legislative Agent and later as General Secretary-Treasurer of the PFFM



Lt. David Pierce; Fire Prevention Office on the passing of his Brother-In-law,
Mr. James J. Donohue in April 2017

Firefighter Robert McFadries; Engine Co. 9-Retired on the passing of his Sister,
Nancy P. Carlin

FF Bryan O'Neil; Rescue Co. 1 on the passing of his Father-In-Law,
Mr. Jeffrey L. Willbanks

FF Peter Melo; Rescue Co. 1 on the passing of his Grandmother,
Mrs. Maria Moniz Freitas

Firefighter Lawrence Pacios; Ladder Co. 4 on the passing of his Mother-In-Law,
Mrs. Christine Iaccarino

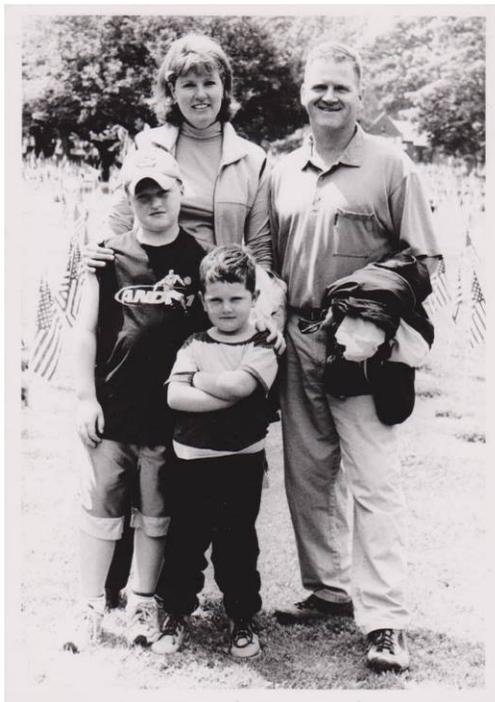
Lieutenant Chester G. McCarthy; Engine Co. 9-Retired on the passing of his Sister,
Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Murphy

Lieutenant James Desrosiers; Engine 5 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Imogene "Jean" Desrosiers

Captain Ray Vaillancourt; Squad Co. 4 on the passing of his Father,
Mr. Romuald "Romie" Vaillancourt

Error

We neglected to include/add the original photo used in the Trivia Question in the last newsletter. Our apologies to Bumper, Jeanne and sons are Patrick and Sean.



Stats and Fires

FY 2016/2017 RUN TOTALS

	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	SBTTL	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	TOTAL
Engine 1	226	214	194	197	831	177	174	180	184	177		1723
Engine 2	284	296	266	246	1092	277	305	273	268	263		2478
Engine 3	129	150	124	135	538	132	114	114	103	122		1123
Engine 4	138	118	128	113	497	134	118	118	114	129		1110
Engine 5	178	179	174	148	679	164	141	155	140	141		1420
Engine 6	151	120	91	113	475	109	99	110	123	110		1026
Engine 8	127	117	76	92	412	90	87	101	101	81		872
Engine 9	92	86	73	88	339	83	87	90	81	91		771
Truck 1	194	199	175	173	741	151	167	170	149	146		1524
Truck 2	99	118	99	102	418	108	91	96	80	98		891
Truck 3	207	211	152	181	751	183	205	175	171	170		1655
Truck 4	126	145	110	112	493	106	81	108	93	108		989
Rescue 1	219	208	205	201	833	172	198	176	187	204		1770
Squad 2	319	298	312	274	1203	314	255	269	284	285		2610
Squad 4	181	176	134	140	631	176	153	148	128	148		1384
Division 1	189	192	113	130	624	141	142	118	126	119		1270
Division 2	129	127	96	106	458	83	95	85	93	100		914
HazMat 1	2	4	4	1	11	1	1	1	1	2		17
Spec & HQ Units	14	15	6	17	52	3	9	3	17	9		93
Mutual Aid Units	13	12	12	104	141	9	15	12	47	17		241
TOTALS	3017	2985	2544	2673	11219	2613	2537	2502	2490	2520		23881

FY 2016/2017 "Code 111" Building Fire TOTALS

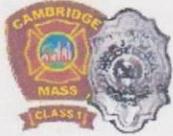
	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	SBTTL	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	TOTAL
Engine 1	3	4	4	11	3	2	4	3	4		27
Engine 2	4	0	6	10	1	1	4	4	2		22
Engine 3	1	0	3	4	1	1	0	2	1		9
Engine 4	2	2	1	5	0	1	1	3	2		12
Engine 5	1	3	5	9	2	1	2	3	1		18
Engine 6	4	3	4	11	2	1	4	3	1		22
Engine 8	3	2	2	7	1	0	1	2	2		13
Engine 9	2	0	3	5	2	1	0	1	1		10
Truck 1	5	4	6	15	3	2	5	3	3		31
Truck 2	0	1	4	5	2	1	2	2	1		13
Truck 3	5	2	5	12	2	1	3	4	2		24
Truck 4	3	3	2	8	1	0	2	3	2		16
Rescue 1	5	3	5	13	3	1	5	3	2		27
Squad 2	2	1	6	9	3	1	5	3	1		22
Squad 4	2	3	5	10	2	1	2	3	2		20
Division 1	4	3	5	12	2	1	4	3	2		24
Division 2	4	4	4	12	2	2	2	2	3		23

Hydrant Testing

Hydrant testing began a few weeks ago and some engine companies are still out testing. Why do we test and inspect hydrants? **FF Brian Peebles** sent the following photo of a hydrant on Cambridge Street. There isn't much a firefighter can do about this situation of poor urban planning, but being aware that these types of situations exist in our districts helps. Thanks Brian!



New Hires, Transfers, Promotions & Retirements



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
491 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
www.cambridgefire.org
ISO CLASS 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Date: March 23, 2017

General Order No. 11; Series of 2017

Effective Date: March 23, 2017

Subject: Retirement, Firefighter Edwin Cruz

Effective March 23, 2017 at 1700 hours, Firefighter Edwin Cruz retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Edwin Cruz was **appointed on July 1, 1993.**

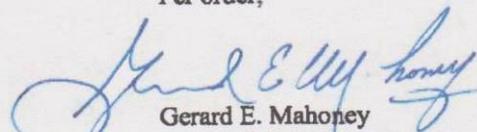
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • September 12, 1993 | Engine Company No. 2 |
| • June 16, 2013 | Engine Company No. 4 |
| • June 12, 2016 | Engine Company No. 9 |
| • September 25, 2016 | Fire Headquarters |

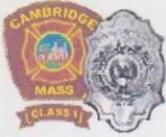
Firefighter Cruz has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Cruz much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,


Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
491 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
www.cambridgefire.org
ISO CLASS 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Date: April 10, 2017

General Order No. 12; Series of 2017

Effective Date: April 18, 2017

Subject: Retirement, Firefighter Henry A. Sisco Jr.

Effective April 18, 2017 at 1900 hours, Firefighter Henry A. Sisco Jr. retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Henry Sisco Jr. was **appointed on January 16, 1977.**

- **March 13, 1977** **Engine Company No. 1**
- **November 16 1980** **Engine Company No. 7**
- **July 1, 1993** **Engine Company No. 6**
- **January 3, 2016** **Aide to Deputy Fire Chief Division 1**

Firefighter Sisco has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Sisco much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,

Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: April 18, 2017

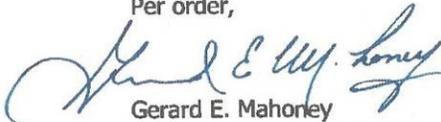
General Order No. 14; Series of 2017

Effective Date: April 23, 2017 at 0600 hours

Subject: Transfers

Firefighter Andrew G. Carrigan from Engine Company No. 5 to Aide to Deputy Fire Chief Division 1
Firefighter Richard J. Thorne from Aide to Deputy Fire Chief Division 1 to Technical Services

Per order,



Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: April 24, 2017

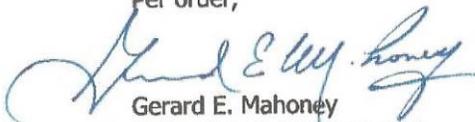
General Order No. 16; Series of 2017

Effective Date: April 30, 2017 at 0700 hours

Subject: Transfer

Firefighter Charles M. Stewart from Engine Company No. 6 to Engine Company No. 1

Per order,



Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: April 26, 2016

General Order No. 19; Series of 2017

Effective Date: April 27, 2017

Subject: Appointment

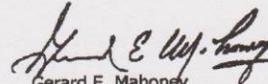
The following member is appointed as a Firefighter-on-Probation to the Cambridge Fire Department.

Nicholas C. Jacobs

He will report to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, MA for nine weeks of Recruit Firefighter training at 0700 hours Thursday, April 27, 2017.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,


Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: April 25, 2017

General Order No. 18; Series of 2017

Effective Date: April 24, 2017

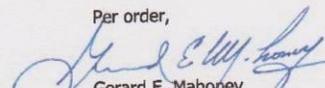
Subject: Status of "Firefighter"

The following Firefighter on Probation (F.F.O.P.) has reached the status of Firefighter, effective April 24, 2017 at 0700 hours:

David B. Quigley

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,


Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: May 10, 2017

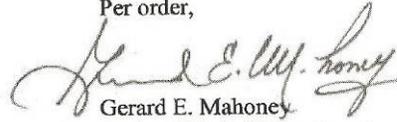
General Order No. 21; Series of 2017

Effective Date: May 14, 2017 at 0600 hours

Subject: Promotion & Transfer

Captain Robert L. Walsh from Engine Co. 5 to Division 1, Group 2
as Acting Deputy Chief

Per order,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerard E. Mahoney".

Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

General Order No. 22; Series of 2017

Effective: Sunday May 28, 2017 at 0700 hours

Subject: Promotions and Transfers

Captain Frederick B. Ikels promoted to Act. Deputy Chief; Division 1, Group 2

Lt. Kevin Mercer promoted to Act. Captain; Engine Co. 5

Lt. Charles E. Lowe promoted to Act. Captain; Engine Co. 2

FF Jay Martel promoted to Act. Lieutenant; Training Division

FF Michael R. Travers, Jr. promoted to Act. Lieutenant; Squad Co. 2

Act. Deputy Chief Robert L. Walsh from Div. 1, Group 2 to Div. 2, Group 3

Lt. David J. Puopolo II from Engine Co. 3 to Engine Co. 1

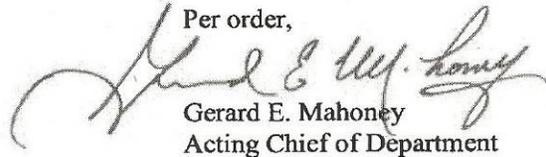
Lt. Andrew F. Mello from Squad Co. 2 to Engine Co. 3

Lt. Philip M. Amenkowicz from Training Division to Engine Co. 6

FF Thomas MacNeil from Engine Co. 2 to Aide to Division 1; Group 2

FF Patrick Sullivan from Engine Co. 6 to Ladder Co. 3

Per order,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard E. Mahoney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: May 25, 2017

General Order No. 23; Series of 2017

Effective Date: Sunday, May 28, 2017 at 0600 Hours

Subject: Promotions

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Robert L. Walsh promoted to Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Captain Frederick B. Ikels promoted to Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Lieutenant Kevin P. Mercer promoted to Fire Captain

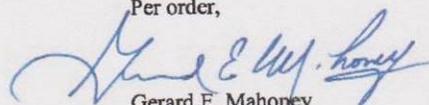
Fire Lieutenant Charles E. Lowe promoted to Fire Captain

Firefighter Jay Martel promoted to Fire Lieutenant

Firefighter Michael R. Travers, Jr. promoted to Fire Lieutenant

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerard E. Mahoney".

Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Commendation



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
491 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
www.cambridgefire.org
ISO CLASS 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Order No: 10; Series of 2017

Date: March 20, 2017

Subject: Commendation

Recently the Massachusetts State Police notified the department about the following incident.

While competing in the 50th Head of The Charles Regatta on October 18, 2014 a 55 year-old male from Georgia suffered a cardiac arrest while in an 8-man shell.

EMS volunteers initially provided support to the victim and transported him via a Safety Launch to the Riverside Boat Club. Massachusetts State Police notified the Command Post of the need for ALS assistance as the Safety Launch was enroute to the shore.

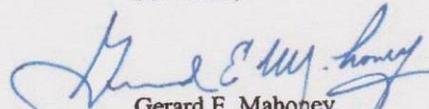
Prior to departing the scene for a Boston hospital the victims pulse and breathing were restored.

MSP Lt. James J. Concannon in his report stated the following, "Luis Aparicio survived due to the rapid and competent action taken by all parties involved and the expert care administered by PRO EMS and Cambridge Fire EMS personnel."

The following are commended for their actions which were in the highest traditions of the department and the fire service.

FF Francis Mullen; Working as Act. Lieutenant at Engine 6
FF Paul Neal
FF Leonard J. DiPietro
FF John Bell; Working as Act. Lieutenant at Squad 2
FF Nicole Signoretti

Per Order,


Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Hollywood calling? FF **Nicole Signoretti**, husband John and kids were featured in a short video advertisement for 47 Brand, a supplier of hats and sporting equipment. The video did a great job showing Nicole's dedication as a Cambridge firefighter and even more so as a Mom around Mother's Day in May 2017. Shown below is a snapshot from the video of them attending a Boston Red Sox game.



Quotes

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Nelson Mandela
Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_courage.html

Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction. John F. Kennedy

Shallow men believe in luck. Strong men believe in cause and effect. Ralph Waldo Emerson

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. Billy Graham

Letters

The following note was received in April 2017 after all members received training and a tour of the ECC:

Dear members of the Cambridge Fire Department,

I wanted to extend our appreciation to all of you for participating in the recent ECD Overview Training here at Emergency Communications Department. I know the staff really enjoyed meeting with you and having you spend time in the ECC which I hope you found to be beneficial.

As a reminder, we will begin the community outreach to announce two initiatives to improve the communication between the community and our public safety agencies. These two programs once implemented will improve the quantity and quality of information our dispatchers receive when residents place a 911 call requesting our services.

The mobile app Haven – Rapid SOS will allow users to bypass the 911 call routing to the State Police, and reach in a much quicker manner the Cambridge Communications Staff. It will also give the user the ability to text into the center by using a relay voice transcriber and notify any emergency contacts of a placed 911 call. Finally, the Haven-Rapid SOS app will use GPS to map out the address of the caller, which in turn will give the ECC staff much better location information than the conventional e-911 triangulation system. The Haven app is free (until June 2018) to Cambridge residents or for people who work in the city and can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play.

The Smart 911 program is more in depth as it provides the ECC staff with information the user has uploaded onto their secure site. It is a secure online database, where users can create household and facility profiles in order to assist emergency service coordination during an emergency. The profiles will house information like home or facility address, phone numbers, hazard information, pets or service animal information, names, descriptions, and pictures of the people who reside or work in that home or facility, emergency contact information, medical alerts and vehicle information. The Smart 911 program is also free to anyone who wishes to create a profile. They can sign up by going to www.smart911.com

We hope to engage community outreach coordinators in various departments in our effort to promote these services in the community and within our agencies.

Thank you for your time and as always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Take care and be safe.

Kind regards,
Christina Giacobbe
Director of Emergency Communications and 911
City of Cambridge

The following note was received in April 2017:



WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Headquarters, 99 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472-4410
Tel. (617) 972-6511 • Fax (617) 972-6575

www.watertown-ma.gov



MARIO A. ORANGIO
Chief of Department

LIEUTENANT ROBERT MANNIX,
President, Local 1347

April 6, 2017

Chief Gerard Mahoney
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 2138

Dear Chief Mahoney,

On behalf of the members of the Watertown Fire Department and Watertown Firefighters Local 1347 we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the recent assistance you provided for us. On March 17, 2017 we tragically lost our beloved brother Joseph Toscano in the line of duty. The outpouring of support we received from you and many other groups allowed us to focus on his wife Maureen and their 5 children Alyssa, Patrick, Mary Cate, William and Michael.

As the news of Joe's passing spread across the Town of Watertown, the Town of Randolph and the Fire community nationwide we were overwhelmed by your offers of support. Because of the assistance you provided we were able to appropriate all our efforts to the family and assist them through the funeral process. The numerous donations of food, services and mutual aid coverage allowed our members to dedicate themselves to honor their fallen brother.

We are indebted to you always for this assistance during this event. Firefighter Toscano made the supreme sacrifice and without your help we could not have provided him and his family with the fitting tribute he deserved. May Joe's sacrifice never be forgotten!

Sincerely,

Mario Orangio
Chief of Department

Robert Mannix
Watertown Firefighters
Local 1347 President

Following letter was received on April 12, 2017:



PAUL J. CICCONE
Chief of Department

pcicccone@fire-dept.waltham.ma.us

Waltham Fire Department

175 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA 02452



Business Telephone

781-314-3700

781-314-3707

Fax

781-314-3704

April 12, 2017

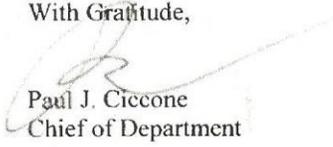
Chief Gerald R. Reardon
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Chief Reardon,

On behalf of the Waltham Fire Department, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and the members of your Department for the Mutual Aid assistance we received during our recent multiple alarm fire at 4207 Stearns Hill Road on Monday, March 27, 2017.

One of the greatest aspects of the Fire Service is that we always help each other selflessly and that was certainly displayed by your members who responded on that day.

With Gratitude,


Paul J. Ciccone
Chief of Department

Following note was sent department wide on April 18 following the 4 alarm fire on Reservoir Street:

Subject: A Job Well Done

I want to express my gratitude and compliments for a job well done this morning by all companies that operated at the Fourth Alarm, Box 84.

Fires in two-and-a-half wood frame dwellings are often thought of as routine by many. As we are well aware, nothing could be further from the truth.

This morning while waging an aggressive interior attack one of our members found himself in a dire situation. Relying on his training and experience, he signaled a Mayday. Proper procedures were followed and the end result was good.

It appears this fire may have had a good head start due to a possible delay in notifying the fire department. Like so many fires, conditions often turn based on circumstances beyond our control.

Once again to all, thank you for a job well done!

Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

America's Heroes

Our office is honored to present the rare WWII combat Coast Guard story of Timothy O'Leary, another example of service from the greatest generation.

By Ryan McLane (Melrose Patch) - March 30, 2012

Timothy O'Leary—Our Newest Veteran of the Month

Melrose Veteran Services is proud to have Timothy O'Leary serve as our veteran of the month for February and March, believing he embodies the term veteran, taking lessons learned from the military and taking them home to make a difference in the community. O'Leary's life is one of service, one of many Melrose veterans who answered a call and continue to do so.

As for what O'Leary took from the service, besides a tremendous work ethic and dedication to his community...

"Discipline," O'Leary said. "That's the advice I would give to our newer generation of veterans. Remember the discipline you learned and you will do well in life. Oh and of course, have a sense of humor. Have I told you the one about..."

Timothy O'Leary has heard all the jokes and tells a few of them if you're willing to listen.

His combat mission in the South Pacific was a rare post for someone in the Coast Guard, but World War II required all hands on deck. Despite joining an organization whose primary mission is to protect and serve the nation's coastal waters, O'Leary travelled half way across the world to aid in the war effort and deliver needed supplies and personnel all while dodging fire.

Even a Navy sailor, lifted from the water by the men of O'Leary's LST 67, didn't hide his surprise at seeing a Coastie ship so far from home.

"This guy stopped when he saw the Coast Guard crest on the wall in our mess. We had just scooped him from the water, but he still had his wits enough to ask us what we were doing so far from the states," O'Leary chuckled. "We were one of only a handful of Coast Guard ships out there, so everyone was surprised to hear that we were Coast Guard, not Navy. We took a lot of pride in that. We were a very close group."

O'Leary's favorite ribbings - "The Navy guys and especially the Marines, they always told us we outside of our three-mile limit. When I wear my Combat Coast Guard hat, the guys comment and I always tell them someone had to keep those German ships away from Manhattan. It's all in good fun, the way soldiers and sailors talk. A good sense of humor is important in life."

The experiences O'Leary had in the Pacific Theatre more than warrant his combat distinction. He spent the entire war aboard a Landing Ship Tank (LST), a flat-bottomed vessel originally designed to move equipment to shore and then be abandoned. They never abandoned the ship. Instead, LST 67 delivered men, gear and ammo into hostile action in New Guinea, the Philippines and if the war had continued, all the way to Japan. He spent more than two years aboard his LST, but almost never joined the military in the first place.

"My brother joined the Marines without asking our parents and my father was crushed," O'Leary said. "My dad thought a high school diploma was the end of all goals and he enlisted before he finished school. My mother told me if I joined before I finished high school my father would drop dead in the yard. I couldn't do that to them, so I waited."

He didn't wait long. After finishing high school, O'Leary was working in Boston and saw a sign reading: "Join the Coast Guard – Small Outfit – Advancements Are Rapid."

"I didn't even know what the Coast Guard was. I learned quickly that a small unit meant NO advancements," O'Leary smiled. "A recruiter saw me looking at the sign and yelled from the window, asking me if I wanted to join. So I did. My brother Jimmy was my example. I looked to him for patriotism. And we all believed we needed to stop the Nazis."

Unbeknownst to our veteran of the month, joining the nascent Coast Guard in 1942 meant O'Leary was bound for war. He received seven weeks of drill instruction from a crusty Marine sergeant who believed his "Coastie" recruits needed discipline. He joined the service in order to stop the expanse of the German War Machine, but ended up in a large ship filled with Navy and Coast Guard sailors bound for the Pacific Ocean.

"I didn't know much about the Japanese, but I soon found out," O'Leary said.

O'Leary boarded a troop carrier headed for Australia, a journey by sea that lasted more than a month. Once in Australia, he and his shipmates received their assignments with most boarding LSTs. O' Leary and his fellow shipmates were assigned to LST 67. They had another name for their craft – "Large Slow Target."

“They handed out assignments and I was given ‘67,” O’Leary said. I didn’t know it at the time, but they assigned people to their ships in order – 65, 66, 67 and so on. I suppose I was fortunate because later in the war, LST 66 was torpedoed in the Philippines.”

LST 67 spent the majority of their time in the Pacific supporting the battle for New Guinea. Hoping to contain the allied advance, the Japanese had thousands of troops in the mountains of New Guinea, forcing U.S. Marines, U.S. Army and Allied forces to engage the enemy and halt any attempt to occupy Australia. LST 67’s mission was to supply the battlefield by maneuvering in and around the island, dropping troops and gear. They completed their dangerous mission while taking significant fire from the enemy.

“The Kamikazes were the worst,” O’Leary said. “We had a 20mm and some 50s and everyone on the ship was expected to do all the jobs. You did your best to fight them off. I can remember thinking at least three times that a Kamikaze would get us and all three times the planes just disintegrated in front of our eyes (from the ship’s guns). Not every ship was that lucky.”

Once New Guinea was secure, LST 67 moved to the Philippines, changing to a light-and-dark blue color scheme to blend into its new environment. Their assignment here was to carry ammo, a scary proposition for a small ship since it immediately became a target.

“That’s when we lost ‘66,” O’Leary said.

LST 67 received another paint job in the Philippines, this time a brownish camouflage. O’Leary asked why the boat needed the brown scheme and was told it was for the coming invasion of the Japanese homeland.

“That scared us a bit,” O’Leary said. “We knew we would do what we had to, but we also knew the Japanese would fight us even harder if we invaded. I’m glad we didn’t have to.”

The brown camouflage never mattered as Japan signed the armistice just weeks later. LST 67 continued to complete its resupply missions since Japanese fighters in the mountains of New Guinea were unaware that the war was over. Even after Allied forces dropped leaflets into their mountain defenses, the Japanese refused to surrender.

“Once our mission was over, some of the guys were picked to go on these giant ships to head back to the states,” O’Leary said. “First we thought we were lucky to not get on those ships as they were pretty crowded, but then we found out that they wanted us to sail back to America on our own LST. The big ships were better. They got home much faster. It’s quite a thing to travel all the way across the ocean in a little LST.”

O’Leary reenlisted after returning from World War II. Some of his peacetime posts included stationary ships off the east coast designed to guide planes into the Boston airport. He enjoyed his time in the Coast Guard, but only finished one more contract, opting for a civilian career.

He spent 38 years continuing to serve his community in the Cambridge Fire Department. Fiercely proud of his service, he started an American Legion Post in Cambridge, Marsh Post 442, serving as a charter member and eventually the post’s commander.

O’Leary moved to Melrose a few years back with his wife Gabriella and said he loves the Melrose community. He is quick with a joke and the type of veteran who will engage in

conversation with anyone. Despite ending his military service more than 50-years ago, he still speaks the vernacular; ending our phone conversations with a sharp “O’Leary, over and out.”

He has much admiration for the generations of veterans to follow his and he’s seen a few. He believes in having camaraderie from one generation to the next and hopes the current Iraq and Afghanistan generation join the various veteran service organizations that “give the type of help and support only other veterans can provide.”

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Acting Chief Gerard Mahoney provided some information on Timothy J. O’Leary

Appointed to the department on 9/10/1961 and retired on 11/30/1988

Promoted to Lieutenant: January 27, 1974

Lt. O’Leary passed away on 7/28/2015

Side note discovered during Chief Mahoney’s research: Notice to appear from Massachusetts Civil Service offering position of firefighter dated August 29, 1961. Salary: \$4,880.00 per year!

Of Interest...

Jumbo – Tufts University Mascot, On April 9, 1882, the largest elephant of its kind arrived in the United States? Why is that important? Well, to most it’s not. Its local history intertwined with fire service history.

Jumbo was captured as a baby in Ethiopia in 1861 and, after being sold several times, eventually ended up at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris for three years, according to Tufts Journal. There he met Matthew Scott, the man who would rehabilitate Jumbo back to health (he’d become ill after suffering from neglect) and be his keeper for the rest of his days.

After a stint in London, Barnum purchased Jumbo from the Royal Zoological Society for \$10,000, according to Tufts. Despite protests from Queen Victoria, Jumbo was taken to America. On April 9, 1882, Jumbo arrived in the Big Apple. He subsequently toured with Barnum & Bailey Circus for several years.

Jumbo died in 1885 after being hit by a train as his keeper was leading him across a seldom-used rail track, according to Tufts. Rumors persist that as Jumbo was dying he reached out his trunk to Scott.



Photo courtesy of Tufts University

Barnum had Jumbo's hide stuffed, and he continued to take him on circus tours. Jumbo's body was eventually given to the Barnum Museum of Natural History which was a Science Building on campus, where it stood until he was burned in a fire in 1975. Before that, Jumbo became Tuft's mascot. Students would pull on his tail for good luck during games and put pennies in his trunk, Tufts Journal said.

After he burned, his ashes were put in a peanut butter jar, which is still considered a good luck charm by Tufts athletes. Jumbo's legacy lives on today, not only as a Tuft's mascot but also as a musical muse for a Canadian folk singer. A life-size sculpture of the elephant was erected 100 years after he passed, in St. Thomas, Ontario, the town of the frightful railway accident.



Photo courtesy of Tufts University

Science Building with Jumbo completely destroyed in a fire in April 1975

Jumbo lives on in name, too. The word jumbo may have originated from — or at least been popularized by — Jumbo himself.

Sources: Business Insider Magazine,

From the Tailboard...



This is the cover of an antique fire truck club magazine Winter issue. In the middle of the photo is a ladder truck with the number "99" on it with FDNY markings. This is actually a former Cambridge piece – former Ladder 4 a 1980 Pirsch. It is privately owned by a collector New York who owns over 400 fire trucks. The former Ladder 4 has FDNY markings because it was used in the filming of a movie in 2007 called "The Accidental Husband," a romantic comedy starring Uma Thurman and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

Social Media

For those on social media and smartphones, Cambridge Fire has been on both Facebook and Twitter for over a year now. Follow and share please!



Follow us on Twitter @CambridgeMAFire



Follow us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/CambridgeMAFire@CambridgeMAFire>

Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal** to hsmith@cambridgefire.org or Hmaxims@gmail.com

E-mail list

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>

**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!**

A strawberry is not actually a berry, but a banana is.

It's impossible to hum while holding your nose.

An apple in the morning keeps you more awake than a cup of coffee. (Whoever figured this out, has never spent time in a firehouse kitchen!)

The average human brain is 78% water.