

San Antonio Fire & Police Pensioners
11603 West Coker Loop St. San Antonio, Texas
Pensioners Newsletter-10 May 2011
By Vick Abate

WELLNESS REPORTS

FIRE—by S.B. ‘Breezy’ Briseno

(Anyone having information about deaths or illness involving fire department personnel, retirees or relatives, is invited to call Breezy Briseno @ (210) 654-3580) with information.

ILL OR INJURED: Bobby Burrow, at home recovering from surgery on tumor of pancreas, bladder and spleen.

DECEASED: Bill Selsor, 66, 5/2/11, who joined SAFD 2/16/67, retiring 9/9/84. He had a great sense of humor and was well known for his ability to make people laugh and feel good. He was also a practical joker. In addition to his SAFD retirement, he retired from USAA; **Bonnie Lee Brewer**, 80, 4/30/11. She was the wife of Walter Brewer. They were married 59 years; **Thomas Henry Kloss**, 88, 4/23/11. He was the father of retiree Tim Kloss. He resided in LaVernia, TX

POLICE--- by Bill Turner

Anyone having information about deaths or illness involving police department personnel, retirees or relatives, is invited to call Bill Turner @ (210) 525-9962 with information.

ILL OR INJURED: Margie Ruble, recovering from a fall that broke her wrist. She is now at home in rehab.

DECEASED: Manuel Ortiz, Jr. 87, 4/27/11, a detective in the narcotics unit who was responsible for one of the largest drug busts at the time. He also worked as an investigator for the DA’S office. He was also the head of security for Joske’s stores; **Richard Asher**, 65, 5/2/11. Richard fought in Vietnam, then joined the SA Airport Police, then joined SAPD, serving for 31 years, retiring as a detective in 2003.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A memorial service remembering deceased fire and police personnel who passed away in the past year [May 2010-May 2011]. The presentation was made on screen with photos and identity, with a musical background, and was well done. A cake with lettering honoring the deceased was later served in their honor.

SPEAKER:Allison Smoot, R.N. and Mary Lou Howell R.N., representing **All County Home Care**, presented information about their service. They operate in the Hill Country area, with offices in Boerne (32826 IH-10 West-[830-331-1291) as well as Bexar County, providing a variety of home health care services. www.allcountyhomecare.com

COMMITTEES:

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE: Larry Reed and **Alex Perez** reported they are monitoring the activity in Austin regarding legislative activity that may affect pensions. The YTD performance is + 10.35%. Today’s meeting is the first in the new facility and it was enjoyed by attendees. 70 retirees were in attendance.

PRE-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE: Henry Trevino reported the fund is up +8.10%, YTD. The Pre-fund expects to occupy their area in the new facility, in about 2 weeks.

DID YOU KNOW: *How an island rebellion and a lowly insect helped remake America?*

Napoleon Bonaparte had big plans for the vast territory that France held in North America. In 1802 he sent an army under the command of General Charles Leclere, his brother-in-law, to take control of New Orleans and open the door for a new wave of French colonists to populate what he hoped would be a thriving New France.

Napoleon ordered Leclere to stop along the way and re-establish French rule in Haiti, which had been wracked by a bloody slave rebellion. The Haitians were no match for the crack French troops, who won control of the island in a matter of weeks. But then a more deadly enemy emerged...*The mosquito*. Spring rains brought clouds of mosquitoes and an outbreak of yellow fever. The local population was largely immune; not so with the French soldiers. Tens of thousands perished. Leclere himself died in October of 1802. Reinforcements arrived, but many of them also succumbed to the disease. Meantime, the freed slaves of Haiti renewed the fight against their weakened enemy, taking a severe toll with persistent guerrilla attacks. For France, it was nothing short of a debacle. Between the disease and fighting, an estimated 50,000 French soldiers died, and the rest surrendered in 1803. With his army gone and brother-in-law dead, Napoleon gave up on his dreams for the New World, deciding instead to sell France's land in North America to the U.S.

The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the young country, but it may have never taken place without the resilient rebels and the unmerciful mosquitoes of Haiti. The Louisiana Purchase added 828,000 sq. miles of land to the U.S. The purchase price was 15 million, which comes out to a mere three cents an acre. It wasn't until nearly 100 years later that U.S. Army doctor Walter Reed proved that yellow fever is transmitted by mosquitoes. *Excerpt from "The Greatest War Stories Never Told" Rick Beyer*

