

San Antonio Fire & Police Pensioners Assn.
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Pensioners Newsletter 13 September 2011
By Vick Abate

WELLNESS REPORTS

(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.

FIRE---by "Breezy Briseno.

ILL OR INJURED: Frank Rincon, treated for chest pains, recovering at home; **Jo Ann Dickinson**, recuperating at home after donating a kidney to a client. She is Treasurer of the F&P Pension Fund and the daughter of Fire Lt. Charlie Erlich who died in the line of duty 8/14/73, and the widow of police officer Charles Dickinson.

DECEASED: Miguel "Mike" Gonzalez 58, 8-19-11. Mike entered SAFD 11/27/73, retiring 2/23/06, he died in a drowning accident at Medina Lake. He has two sons, Michael and Christian Gonzalez, both members of San Antonio's Finest in the SAFD; **Maurice Andrade, Sr.** 88, 9/7/11. He entered SAFD 8/1/52, retiring from F.S. #23, 4/16/88 after serving 36 years; **Charles "Chuck" Robinson**, 64, 8/11/11, entered SAFD 6/16/69. He was also an active barber and musician. He and Trudy, his wife had been married for 35 years. Chuck served as a Para-medical at F.S. # 10 for many years, then transferred to fire-fighter duty, retiring from F.S. #44, in 1995; **Lupe Renteria**, 89, 8/21/11, mother of Robert H. Renteria, Jr. She was also the widow of deceased Fire Engineer Robert Renteria Sr., who passed away on 2/23/11; **Michael Ibarra**, 52, 8/18/11. He was the son of Rachel Yanez and stepson of Danny Yanez, retired Fire Lt.

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: Calvin Klaerner, is recovering at home from cancer surgery; **Billy Hohensee**, is recovering at home from heart problems; **Gerry Clancy** recuperating from a fall, breaking several bones.; **Arthur Bernstein** is at home recovering from surgery.

DECEASED: Ronald Bonham Sr. 64, 8/21/11, was a SAPD officer for 26 years; **William Floyd Overstreet**, 72, 9/2/11, was a SAPD officer for 25 years: **Shawn McGibbons**, 42, 9/8/11. While off-duty on motorcycle died from a crash. He was a SAPD officer for 18 years and former marine

SPEAKER: Steven Solis, representing The Air Life Guardian Angel, an air medical transport community alliance, which covers a 150 mile radius from San Antonio, operating 3 Bell 430 units and one Bell 407 unit. They maintain bases throughout the region reaching from Fredericksburg to Laredo and Gonzales to Del Rio. AirLIFE is a membership program that covers the out of pocket expenses a patient may incur for Airlife transport services. A Registered Nurse and Paramedic are on every mission. Cost is \$49 per year, with multi-year discounts. Also available are special discounts for first responders, military and law enforcement. Additional information may be obtained at: Phone-1-877-404-7111. Website-www.AirlifeAngel.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Warren Schott introduced Mr. Eric Baylor, attorney, as an in-house employee of the fund. He also reported the fund is at +7.2% YTD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRE-FUND HEALTH: Henry Trevino reported the 2011 fall seminar regarding health care will be held on Wednesday, 10:00 A.M. November 16th, at the Alzar Shrine Temple, 901 North Loop 1604-west. There will be only one session for the seminar.

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE: Curtis Franz reported on features of state and national legislation and proposed insurance changes that may negatively impact retiree pension funds. He also recommended the formation of a PAC, to counteract such activity.

PRESIDENT: President Mike Trainer called for the formation of a PAC within the F&P Retiree Pension Group. The vote was held and motion approved. At the October meeting, insurance providers will be present to handle questions, etc.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: For the 2012 term the nominating committee members are- Luis Delgado, Christine Madero, John Scott, Curtis Franz, Christine Madero.

Staggered membership terms: The board has determined that a change in our bylaws to stagger the election terms of certain positions would prevent a total turnover of the board in any given year and to allow newly elected members of the board to become familiar with their positions. To implement this change of Article IV in the elections of November 2011 the following changes would begin in January 2012:

- President-----2 year term
- Vice President-----1 year term
- Treasurer----- -2 year term
- Recording Secretary-----1 year term
- Corresponding Secretary Police---2 year term
- Corresponding Secretary Fire-----1 year term
- Sergeant @ Arms-----1 year term

DID YOU KNOW?: How the West was almost won.

Imagine this Old West scene: the cavalry rides to the rescue, on the backs of their trusty...camels. It might have come to pass if an unusual army experiment had turned out differently.

In 1855, U.S. Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis convinced Congress to give the army 30,000 dollars to import camels for military use. Davis believed camels might prove more useful than horses or mules in the harsh, desert-like conditions that prevailed across much of the western U.S.

A total of 78 camels were brought from the Middle east to Texas. They quickly proved their worth. The camels could carry more than a thousand pounds on their backs, go days or weeks without water, move faster than horses, and eat desert vegetation that other animals wouldn't touch. Along with their humps, though, camels also came with downsides. Their powerful aroma drove horses and mules crazy, while the screeching, spitting and biting made army drivers absolutely hate them. Nonetheless, in 1858 a new Secretary of War, John Floyd, was so enthusiastic about the use of camels that he asked Congress to embrace the idea on a grand scale, and import 1000 camels for military use.

Floyd believed the superiority of the camel would convince Indians they could never escape the cavalry, and encourage them to give up raiding.

But Congress had other things in mind. The call for camels fell by the wayside as rising tensions between North and South consumed the country. After the civil war broke out, the army's dabbling in dromedaries was all but forgotten; the camel cavalry never made it over the initial hump. *The greatest war stories never told.* *By Rick Beyer*

NOTABLE UTTERANCES

"Error of Opinion may be tolerated where Reason is left free to combat it." *Thomas Jefferson*

