The Volunteer Trumpet was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Past President Lee Sachs on Dec. 19th, 2012. At the October Executive Committee meeting at the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department PP Sachs was honored when Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, presented him with a matched pair of MD Challenge Coins recognizing him for his service to the MSFA and the citizens of Maryland. We thank the National Volunteer Fire Council for allowing us to reprint this article and photo as we remember his public safety and community service.

NVFC, Dec., 20, 2012 — The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is deeply saddened by the loss of Maryland Director Lee Sachs, who succumbed to cancer on December 19.

“It is with very heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Lee Sachs, who has been a lifelong champion of the fire and emergency medical services and an integral part of the NVFC board,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “We will remember him as a leader in the fire service, a champion for EMS, and as a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this very difficult time. Lee will be deeply missed.”

“Lee’s unexpected passing has hit us hard. He was a tremendous advocate for the volunteer fire and emergency services and he will be missed deeply,” said Heather Schafer, NVFC Executive Director.

Sachs had been with the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company since 1976 and served as EMS Lieutenant, President, and Vice President, among other positions. Throughout his service, he responded to more than 10,000 calls and received certification as EMT-A, CRT, EMT-B, Firefighter III, Fire Officer I, and Driver-Operator.

Joining the NVFC board as Maryland Director in 2006, Sachs represented the Council on matters relating to the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program, served on the Finance Committee and as the Council’s Historian, and was a committed voice for EMS on the national level. Sachs chaired the committee that developed the NVFC’s EMS/Rescue Section and subsequently served as the board’s liaison to the Section since it was established in 2010.

Sachs was extremely active with the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA) and the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen’s Association, and was a Past President of both organizations. His awards included the Governor’s Volunteer and Service Award, Pro Bono Service Award (legal professional award for volunteerism),

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California Casualty Donates to Frederick Co. Fire & Rescue Museum

By Chip Jewell

The California Casualty Insurance Company, underwriting insurance carrier for the MSFA Insurance Program, has donated $4,000 to the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum towards the purchase of audio/video equipment for the museum.

The museum, located at 3008 South Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg, highlights equipment, apparatus and pictures from the Frederick County fire and rescue service. The museum also highlights pictures and artifacts of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association such as early badges and program books. The National Fire Heritage Center is also co-located in the museum building.

The museum plans to install audio/visual equipment to help enhance the visitor experience by showing videos, PowerPoint presentations and pictures on monitors throughout the museum. The museum is preparing for an anticipated influx of visitors next year during the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg located just 6 miles away.

Museum president Clarence “Chip” Jewell commented, “We sincerely appreciate the donation of California Casualty to help us tell the story of our fire and rescue service. California Casualty has demonstrated a commitment to the fire and rescue service by providing the funding for our audio video system. With over 1,000,000 visitors expected in Gettysburg next year, the means to communicate to visitors through technology is an exciting opportunity.”

California Casualty specializes in insurance for fire service organizations nationally and partners with the MSFA. California Casualty provides coverage for the Maryland State Firemen’s Association Home and Auto Insurance Program.
MSFA Executive Committee Meets at Flinstone VFD

This abbreviated report from the Oct. MSFA Executive Committee meeting at Flinstone VFD is reprinted from the Bulletin, the newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. The reporter for this piece was Rod Bowser.

The MSFA recently met in an abbreviated session due to Super Storm Sandy at the Flinstone VFD. The following is a brief synopsis of the days events as submitted by Executive Board member Rodney Bowser.

President’s Report – The Presidents gave a report of their activities and their travel. They have attended many events since August. President Denver along with others had met with Col. Atkins from the Dept. of the Military. He pledged his support in moving VCAF applicants toward expedient closings.

MFRI – Director Steve Edwards provided his report for FY-2012. There were a total of 34,327 students in various programs across the state – that’s 829,690 training hours.

MIEMSS – PP Phil Hurlock reported that Fentanyl will be was added to the 2012 Protocols due in part by the shortage of morphine. It has been approved by the State EMS Board in June. Training is available for review on the MIEMSS website.

Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Dep. Mark Bilger reported for Fire Marshal Bill Barnard, who noted fire deaths since the first of the year totaled 38. That’s a decrease of 12% over last year. He noted the Life Safety conference was held on September 26th and was well attended. MFIRS – some fire departments and/or counties are not submitting MFIRS reports to the OSFM in a timely manner. Monthly reports should be forwarded by the 10th day of the following month.

Fire Prevention & Life Safety: Teresa Ann Crisman reported the committee met with the Miss Fire Prevention and Jr. Miss Fire Prevention chairs and noted there would be a change in the date for the Jr. Miss Contests within the regions. The new date will be held in April at the Flinstone VFD.

Ways and Means – The $10,000 Raffle tickets were handed out to Executive Committee members for their respective companies.

Bessie Marshal – Fund Chair Elaine Huttenlock reported 16 cases have been paid out for a total of al of $13,500. Please buy the Bessie Marshal raffle tickets in support of this fund – a fund that support fire/rescue personnel that have been hurt or have an illness not sustained in the line of duty. Each department was mailed ten raffle tickets within the state – that’s $50.00. Please return them to Elaine Huttenlock prior to Spring Conference.

Convention and Conference – Plans for the 2013 convention and conference have begun – there will be a few changes: i.e. Construction continues and the back wall of the Convention Stage will be gone shortly if not already, and the configuration will not be the same next year at the Convention center.

Statistical – The Annual Statistical – Report are important! It cannot be stressed enough as to how important the numbers are – once they’re compiled – the data is very helpful to the legislative committee when they work in Annapolis for you! Requests have been made from federal legislators to support their efforts in support of the AFG, etc. As this year comes to a close – please insure your department’s stats are in!

Fire Laws – The new Maryland State Fire Laws Books will again be printed this year. The governor provides a budget just for this publication which should be out by January. Cost is estimated at $30,000.

Financial Team – The Financial Secretary’s Office and Budget Chair presented the financial reports of the Association for the past months. The financial condition of the Association is stable with all areas being within budget.

Volunteer Company Assistance Fund (VCAF) – Vice Chair Jason Baer and Secretary Pat Bowser gave their report noting the Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad was at the day’s meeting. Their application was approved by the VCAF

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There were a total of 34,327 students in programs across the state—that’s 829,690 training hours.

Director Steve Edwards

Effective Sept. 1, 2012, MFRI students may access and request an unofficial student transcript at any time through the MFRI Student Zone, a feature of the MFRI website.

By Emmons Horner

The annual smoke alarm donation event was held at Delmarva Power & Light Co.’s offices in Salisbury, on November 13th. Representing Delmarva Power was Mr. John Allen, company vice-president. In his remarks to the gathering, he emphasized Delmarva’s continued commitment to supporting the work of the volunteers in the emergency services field, and his appreciation for the work that they do, regularly, to keep the citizens safe from harm. This continued support enables the Md. Fire Service to be able to save lives and protect the property of those we are committed to serve.

Also addressing the group was Md. State Fire Marshall, William Barnard, MSFA President John Denver, MSFA Past President, Richard Yinger, and 2nd Vice President of the Md. Fire Chief’s Association, Johnie Roth. All expressed their appreciation for Delmarva’s support, and noted it’s importance to our continued success.

On page 9 is a joint press release by Delmarva Power and the Fire Marshall’s Office.

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MSFA Rural Water Supply Drill Held at EGCVFD

By Douglas Alexander

The annual fall rural water supply drill put on by the MSFA Rural Water Supply Committee was hosted by the Eastern Garrett County Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday Oct. 27. Units registered at the EGCVFD station at 0800 and enjoyed a fine breakfast put on by the Ladies Auxiliary. The drill began at 0900 with a video presentation of a previous drill which outlined basic points of an effective shuttle operation. A question and answer session as well as a safety briefing were held after the video presentation. The scenario for the drill was laid out and units provided with radios and instructions for the exercise.

The scenario for the drill was a re-creation of a fire that occurred a few years ago at the Hen House Restaurant. This building was severely damaged by fire, and water supply was a bit of a problem at that incident. This drill was set up to help find ways to improve on rural water supply procedures in the case of another fire requiring a large amount of water in this area.

The drill began at 1030 hours and ran for 97 minutes. The drill was shortened a bit to accommodate the opening of the restaurant for business. We were able to deliver close to 50,000 gallons of water in that time. At one point in time we were flowing 700 gallons per minute. The average for the entire length of the drill was approximately 520 gallons per minute. Great delivery from only 10 pieces of apparatus, including 5 tankers, 2 engine tankers, one quint, one engine and one brush unit and 30 personnel.

We identified several challenges early that the crews were able to overcome and correct. Some of those included: No strainer on the hard sleeve in the drop tank; Different size hard sleeves from the various apparatus; Not enough jet siphons; No personnel to assist with filling shuttle apparatus; Folding tanks placed too close together allowing only one tanker to use the side dumps; to unload at a time; and Air leaks at the draft site and dry hydrant.

After the exercise shut down and picked up, a delicious lunch was served to all the participants by the EGCVFD. A post drill analysis was held after lunch and all units were clear by 1400 hours.

Thanks go out to Chief Tim Clark and the members and Auxiliary of the EGCVFD for hosting the drill and the great hospitality. Thanks also go out to the five Maryland and two Pennsylvania fire companies that participated. Special thanks to Laytonsville VFD, Mount Airy VFD, and Sandy Spring VFD for traveling the long distance to participate in the drill.

The MSFA Rural Water Supply Committee is looking for a host for the spring drill. If your company is interested in hosting, please contact Chairman Buddy Sutton to voice your interest. There will be a two day rural water supply seminar sponsored by the MSFA Rural Water Supply Committee on March 23 and 24, 2013 hosted by the Harford County VFA and held at the Jarrettsville VFD. More details will be posted soon. This seminar is being presented by GotBig-Water LLC which specializes in rural water supply instruction, and will include classroom and practical exercises in the two day time frame. There is no charge for this seminar but pre-registration will be required.

A Note: Polar Bear Plunge Challenge

Captain MSFA challenges all members of the fire service and their families to participate in the 17th Annual Polar Bear Plunge on January 26, 2013 at Sandy Point State Park. I ask that you either join Team MSFA in the plunge that day or donate funds to this worthy cause. Please check out the Team MSFA webpage at: http://plunge.kintera.org/2013/MSFA to sign-up and plunge with us or provide monies to support our efforts to promote the outstanding members of the MSFA and the fire departments it represents. I personally vow to lead our members into the icy cold waters of the bay.

Please come and join us even if you do not wish to enter the water. Many activities and entertainment by local bands are provided during the event for your enjoyment. When it comes time to enter the water you can be there to support us by cheering us on! Thank you in advance for helping us support Maryland Special Olympics!

Sincerely, Captain MSFA (Bruce Bouch)
Station Numbering: Advances in Emergency Communication & Evolving Terminology in Frederick County

By Wayne Powell

“How come you all are Company Number 6?” – A Common Question...

Those who visit the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) of Emmitsburg – one of the most visited firehouses in the world – often inquire about how the numbering of individual fire companies (departments) in Frederick County came about. Long ago, the Frederick "City companies" started the numbering of each company as they were formed with the actual number of the three engine companies as a part of their respective corporate chartered name. Company numbers were common in older municipalities. In neighboring Carroll County, several companies have the number "1" in their official name (i.e., Westminster Fire Company No. 1, New Windsor Fire and Hose Company No. 1, etc.) so for many years, just like their neighbor in Baltimore County, the use of company names for dispatching via 2-way radios was common rather than the use of station numbers.

And if you go back far enough, our department, too, used the number "1" in our name – Vigilant Hose Company No. 1 is how we were originally known. No history of any one fire company, including ours, can be complete without being seen in the context of what was occurring in and around the region, the county and our state. The first mobile radio in a fire unit in the County was installed in the Independent Hose Company's "County Engine" in Frederick City where it was designated "Car 5" on the City police radio system. In many areas of the eastern U.S., colocating “county” apparatus in “city” fire stations was quite common.

In Frederick City, the Citizens Truck Company was initially known as Company "A", rather than Company 4 as it is today (this practice was quite common in many large cities, too). Albeit that Company “A” had been in existence for decades, with the advent of radios they assumed the number and radio designation of "Ladder 4". When they bought a second Ladder ("Truck" Company), the units became identified as Truck 41 and Truck 42.

When 2-way radios became more prevalent across Frederick County following World War II, the assignment of Company numbers was determined by use of Town names alphabetically, not the Company name:

5 - Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company
6 - Vigilant Hose Company, Emmitsburg
7 - Middletown Volunteer Fire Company
8 - Myersville Volunteer Fire Company
9 - New Midway Volunteer Fire Company
10 - Guardian Hose Company, Thurmont
11 - Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company

Numbers after this time were based on a Company’s admission into the Frederick County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. It should be noted, Graceham (now Co. 18) once used Co. 17, however, since Libertytown was actually admitted into the County Association prior to Graceham’s admission, Libertytown was assigned Co. 17. The same is also true with the advent of Co. 19 (Brunswick Ambulance), who were not members of the Association even though they were a much older department, but because they were “an ambulance company,” they were not considered “members.” It was probably the old Frederick County “Central Alarm Board” that assigned them the Co. 19 designation. Jefferson VFC (now Co. 20), was initially dispatched as the “Jefferson Station” as its equipment used unit designations such as E-122 and E-124 since they were a sub-station of Braddock Heights (Co. 12). Thus, Jefferson did not get its own number until they organized separately.

Frederick City Police (FPD) continued to dispatch the 4 city fire companies until 1970; they also maintained the city police base station (KGG530) well into the 1970’s. Because of the fear of losing local control, the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company maintained a separate emergency phone number long after Central Alarm was operational. (VHC’s John Hollinger well recalls that the region’s Motorola Dealer, Hankey’s, installed “fire radios” into VHC apparatus for many years). There are stories about those times when the FPD would simply just turn down the fire radios. Even the Frederick city companies would complain the police dispatchers would only “hit” the fire house bells and sound the siren, but, forget to announce the location of the call for the responding volunteers. Frederick city also had a large fog horn called “BIG BERTHA” mounted on top of city hall that sounded for a ”general alarm”. The horn is still mounted on top of the building now known as Brewer’s Ally. For the most part,

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Station Numbering in Frederick Co.

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Individual companies monitored their own radio equipped-units from firehouse “Base Stations” and VHC was no exception. One great challenge that plagued our members “in the north county” was that depending on where in our community our units were operating at times our personnel had to rely on Adams County to relay radio communications for us (particularly poor communications were common when units responded up into the hilly areas west of town).

Central Alarm (the county-wide emergency call-taking / dispatching service) which was located in a facility only a short distance west of Fort Detrick went “on the air” in 1967. The Emergency Number “911” was implemented in the county in 1982 when the communications center moved to a new facility on Montevue Lane. Today that facility serves as the back up emergency communications center. The present Frederick County Emergency Communications Center, part of the Law Enforcement Center located near the Frederick Airport became operational in 1982.

Part I of II — Next Issue — The Evolution of Emergency Medically Services Locally and Terminology

The author thanks Mr. Clarence “Chip” Jewell, Dir. Of Frederick Co. Dept. of Emergency Communications for assistance with this series.

Editor’s Note

Welcome to the Dec. edition of the Volunteer Trumpet, the newsletter of the MSFA. As members of the committee get ready to work on the next issue, please let us know if you have any suggestions for stories or content we can publish. We would be pleased to hear from you. Our goal is to publish interesting and informative articles for the volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of MD. Send your material along to the editor, Mike Dixon at list@atlanticbb.net.

Mike Dixon, Editor
Avoid Static Electricity When Dispensing Gasoline

Press Release, Maryland State Fire Marshal

PIKESVILLE, MD (November 21, 2012) – Although rare, fires occurring when dispensing gasoline into vehicles and approved containers can result in a sudden flash fire directly resulting from a static electricity spark. A spark caused by static electricity can quickly ignite gasoline vapors in or around the fuel fill site.

When dry (low humidity) conditions exist, the potential for static electricity rises. Static electricity develops while entering and exiting your vehicle. It is advised to touch a metal area away from the fill location on the vehicle to discharge any static built up from contact with the seat before touching the nozzle. Although it is a best practice to avoid re-entering your vehicle after beginning the refueling process, if you find it necessary to enter the vehicle again, touch the exterior metal area of the vehicle before handling the nozzle. “Serious injury or death can quickly change the outcome of a seemingly simple task when dispensing gasoline”, stated State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard. “Please educate yourself and share the following safety tips with others when filling vehicles and containers”.

Please follow the safety instructions provided on decals located on the gas pump housing.

• Always turn-off vehicle engine when refueling.
• Stay near the nozzle during the refueling process.
• Refrain from re-entering your vehicle. If you must re-enter the vehicle, discharge any static charge by touching a metal area like the car door before touching the nozzle.
• When filling approved con-

Be Vigilant of Fire Safety as we Begin the Winter Season

Press Release, Maryland State Fire Marshal

PIKESVILLE, MD (December 5, 2012) -- State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard wants to remind all Marylanders to check for fire safety where they live, where they work and even where they attend classes, trainings and meetings. “Fire and life safety is everyone’s responsibility, by testing smoke alarms, keeping exits clear of obstructions, and maintaining fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems, we can all avoid injury or death from fire,” said the State Fire Marshal.

To ensure your best chances of surviving a fire, the State Fire Marshal offers the following tips on both escaping a fire and preventing one to begin with.

• Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are working properly. Remember, the effects of toxic smoke and gases can quickly overcome your ability to think clearly. Every second counts when escaping the ingredients of fire.
• Check exits from both your home and any place you go to ensure you will be able to get to safety. Blocked exits resulting from improperly placed chairs, tables or even holiday decorations can result in the delay of getting out quickly and safely. Be vigilant of these safety concerns whether at church, school or even your local favorite eatery.
• When using portable unvented fuel-fired heaters, such as kerosene heaters, make sure to only use the recommended fuel specified in the owner’s manual and NEVER use gasoline. Note: Portable kerosene heaters are banned for use in Baltimore City.
• If you find it necessary to use an electric space heater, use only one that has been approved by an authorized testing laboratory such as UL.
• Keep all portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible.
• If heating equipment fails, do not use kitchen stoves or ovens to supply heat. These devices are not designed for that purpose and the chance of a fire improves greatly.

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Delmarva Power Donates Smoke Alarms to Fire Officials

Press Release—Delmarva Power

SALISBURY, Md. – Delmarva Power’s Emergency Services Partnership Program donated residential smoke alarms to the Maryland State Fire Marshal’s office for distribution throughout Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The fire marshal’s office received 600 smoke alarms which have a 10-year, long-life, sealed lithium battery. The company also donated 40 special needs smoke alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing. The special needs alarms emit a bright strobe light, as well as an extremely high volume audible alarm.

“Our Emergency Services Partnership Program is committed to supporting the men and women of volunteer and career fire service organizations,” said John Allen, Delmarva Power Region Vice President. “These new sealed lithium battery alarms were recommended by the Maryland State Fire Marshal’s Office as one way to help provide another level of protection for residential fire safety.”

“The Office of the State Fire Marshal encourages residents to enlist multiple levels of protection against possible injury and death from fire and smoke,” said William E. Barnard, Maryland State Fire Marshal. “These new 10-year, sealed lithium battery alarms are one of the newest ways to know there may be a problem in your home that requires you to take action. By working with Delmarva Power, we are able to increase our resources and extend our reach into the community to those people who need the most help.”

Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse and Harris Communications of Minnesota provided these alarms to Delmarva Power at a reduced cost to help support this safety effort. Since 2000, Delmarva Power has donated 17,000 regular smoke alarms, 1,042 special needs smoke alarms and 1650 carbon monoxide alarms to fire safety officials in Delaware and Maryland.

Pictured (from left) are Delmarva Power Vice President, Mr. John Allen; MSFA President, John Denver; MSFA Past President, Richard Yinger, representing the MD. Fire Protection Commission; Johnie Roth, 2nd Vice President of the Md. Fire Chief’s Association, and Md. State Fire Marshall, William Barnard.

Additional organizations supporting this effort include: the Maryland State Firemen’s Association, Fire and Burn Safety Coalition of Maryland, Maryland State Fire Prevention Commission and Maryland Fire Chief’s Association.

Fire Marshall Barnard making his remarks
Bel Air VFC Dedicates Patterson Mill Sub—Station.

Reprinted from the Bel Air VFC Web Site

Bel Air, Nov. 10, 2012 — History took a new turn today for the Bel Air VFC as the Patterson Mill sub-station was officially dedicated.

Several hundred interested citizens and fellow firefighters turned out to see house 3 officially open as a new history of the BAVFC began. Emceed by Harford County Councilman Jim McMahon there were several presentations and speeches made by fire department and county government officials.

In each speech a resounding emphasis on service to the community was heard. The ceremony concluded with the traditional housing or pushing of an engine into the station by the members. In this instance the BAVFC put a little twist on it and pushed two engines in, one being the 1948 Mack and the other E312 an in-service squad.

Harford County Councilman Richard Slutzky, County Executive David Craig, Chief Eddie Hopkins and President Tony Coliano, Sr. made the push on the Mack with Past Chief Donald Maclean driving while the general membership made the push on E312 with Past Chief and current Asst Chief Bill Snyder driving.

With these apparatus housed the station was deemed officially dedicated. At 1700hrs this date the station became fully operational with one medic unit and one engine.
The Old Bell’s Story

The 118-year-old fire bell that stood watch over Elkton for decades, arousing firefighters from their slumbers in the dead of winter nights or calling them from their labors on hot summer days, remains an important part of Singerly Fire Company today. For years this tolling instrument, swinging in the belfry high atop the fire station, alerted volunteers when a blaze threatened the community.

Cast by the C. S. Bell Co. of Hillsboro, Ohio, the 1,190 pound piece of equipment was placed in its perch high above the engine room in the fall of 1893. By 1910 things advanced as the company installed an electric gong. When the operator at the telephone exchange received a fire call, she pushed a button activating the device. Once the first firefighter arrived at the station, he tugged on the rope striking the gong in the tower as that urgent tolling was heard all over town. In time, the tapping out of calls for Elkton’s volunteers on the bell stopped as Singerly installed a modern fire whistle.

Sam Goldwater, a young firefighter in the early 1970s recalled helping put the bell back into the spotlight. It had been stored away for generations, but when the Newark Avenue station opened in 1970 a past chief, Gene Meekins, became interested in getting the ancient relic out of storage. As part of the opening of the new firehouse, it was placed on a pedestal at an entrance to the station. Later, in preparation for the 1976 Bicentennial, other members cleaned up Elkton’s sentinel that had tapped out many urgent chimes, cleaning it up and giving it a fresh coat of paint.

Although the bell was silenced once electronic alarm systems arrived, the Singerly Fire Company has made sure this relic from its past has been preserved. The bell was last formally rung when the fire company celebrated its 100th anniversary. Two former presidents, Jim Spry and Gary Storke, struck the gong causing the sound that once called Elkton firefighters to duty to ring out as the members gathered for the special celebration.

The 118-year-old sentinel stood watch over Elkton for decades.

It now has a proud home in Singerly’s newest station.
Lee Sachs

MSFA Hall of Fame, MSFA Gladhill-Thompson Trophy, and the MSFA Josiah A. Hunt, M.D. Award.

A lifetime resident of the Baltimore area, Sachs was a member of many community and professional associations. He practiced law since 1967, most recently serving as General Counsel to a local real estate developer.

Sachs is survived by his wife, Marjorie Goodman, three children, and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company, 40 E. Sudbrook Lane, Baltimore, MD 21208.