A Firefighters Final Call: Captain David Barr Laid to Rest

by Mike Dixon, Editor, the Volunteer Trumpet

November, 16, 2013, Perryville, MD. — On this sad day Cecil County emergency responders mourned the loss of one of their own, as David R. Barr, Jr. was laid to rest. Answering an alarm with the Community Fire Company of Perryville on October 25th Captain Barr was directing traffic around a crash scene on Route 40 near the Susquehanna River Bridge when he was struck by an automobile. The veteran firefighter was rushed to Christiana Hospital in Wilmington where he passed away eight days later on Thursday, November 7. That Thursday afternoon a line of fire engines, ambulances, and rescue vehicles honored the memory of the Cecil County hero who laid down his life serving the public. In a heartfelt tribute, units from all over the county escorted the Patterson Funeral Home hearse returning the body of the Captain home as the service sadly prepared to say a final goodbye to one of their own. Police Officers stopped traffic along the route. Hundreds of people attended the viewing Friday, November 15th, honoring the memory of the dedicated public servant and paying respects to the family. Firefighters flanked the casket, standing watch and changing guard with military continues on page 6

MSFA Signs Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve

Ferndale, MD – Maryland Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, announced that Jackie Olson, President of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA), signed a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve on Saturday, December 7, 2013. The signing ceremony occurred at the MSFA Executive Committee Meeting. Comprised of 368 member companies, the MSFA serves, promotes, advocates and represents the interests of all volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical services companies or departments throughout the state. The Statement of Support confirms the MSFA joins other employers and organizations in pledging: We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA). Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and continues on page 8
Deacon George L’Heureux

November 6, 1931 –
October 28, 2013
Chaplain, MSFA

Deacon George was graduated from the second diaconate class in 1972. He just celebrated 40 years serving the community as a dedicated deacon. He had served many parishes including, St. Leo’s in Alexandria, VA, St. Patrick’s in Rockville, MD, Holy Angels in Avenue, MD and currently, St. George’s in Valley Lee. Prior to that, he owned his own marketing company, "Associated Marketing," for fifteen years in Alexandria, VA.

Deacon George was the Chaplain for Maryland State Firemen’s Association, Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen’s Association and the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Department. He was a member of the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad in Avenue, MD.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed playing softball and golf, and played until he was 70 years old.

Deacon George is survived by his children; Stephen L’Heureux of Richmond, VA and Susan L’Heureux of Ellicott City, MD; his grandchildren, Joseph Sansalone of Ellicott City, MD, Jeannette Boesta of Ellicott City, MD, Bryan Boesta of Ellicott City, MD, and Christopher L’Heureux of Kensington, VA; and three great-grandchildren, Ty L’Heureux, Cameron L’Heureux and Jason L’Heureux, all of Kensington, VA. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his siblings, David L’Heureux and Jean Schwab.

Family received friends on Friday, November 1, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Prayers were recited at 6:00 p.m. by Deacon Joseph Lloyd. And the firemen’s prayers followed.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Reverend Martin D. Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and concelebrated by Monsignor Karl Chimiak on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at St. George’s Catholic Church, 19199 St. George’s Catholic Church Road, Valley Lee, MD 20692. Interment will be at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.
2014 EMS & PREVENTION EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES

- 2014 EMS Education Symposium - “Transforming for Student Success” - A Daylong PDI and Informational Conference for EMS Education Program Administrators and Instructors – January 9, 2014 - 8:00 AM—3:00 PM, MFRI Headquarters, 4500 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD - To register, please go to the MFRI Seminars web page and register electronically: http://www.mfri.org/cgi-bin/seminars.cgi
- Winterfest EMS Conference Tilghman Island - January 23rd - 26th, 2014 - Tilghman Island
- EMS Care 2014 - May 1 – 4, 2014 - Clarion Hotel in Ocean City, MD preconferences – May 1-2, 2014

BETTERTON — NEW TWIST ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Carl Edelin, PP MSFA

On Saturday October 19, 2013 the Betterton Fire Company in Kent County held its first Fall Festival. The weather that day was perfect, and the event was from noon to 5 p.m.

They had assistance from some of the local merchants, churches, and organizations’. The idea to combine Fire Prevention, Public Relations, Recruitment and Fund Raising into a day of activities for children and adults worked very well.

The turn out was great and everybody seemed to have a good time. They had a live band, children’s games and different types of moon bounces, along with a silent auction with over 60 gifts to bid on, along with some great food. The apparatus and the building was open for tours. What a great time

The Betterton Fire Company at an earlier time.
As I shoveled snow, again, this afternoon, my memory wandered back to a day in time of infancy in my fire service career.

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“Winter responses have always been a challenge for the Maryland fire service. If the first two weeks of December are an indication, the winter of 2013 - 2014 will be long, cold and probably snowy.”

* * * * *

“And in the words of iconic Frederick City fire dispatcher “Chinky” Bell, “Put the chains on, Moose!”.

### The Flames of Winter

by Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

As I write this column, I have already measured almost 12 inches of snow on Horseshoe Hill in the “Garden of the Lord”, aka Frederick County. By the time this narrative is published, the predictions of the Woolly Bear Caterpillar can be confirmed or denied. As I shoveled snow, again, this afternoon, my memory wandered back to a day in time of infancy in my fire service career.

As juniors in high school, fellow volunteer firefighter Bion Winpigler and I responded to an early morning fire at the Frederick Elks Club, went to school and took exams, and was allowed by the good sisters to return to the fire.

It was around 10 degrees when the alarm sounded in the early hours of January 22, 1970. Water immediately converted to a solid as it flowed from the inferno. Firefighters were frozen to rooftops by the returning mist of a hose line. Charles “Moose” Miller manned the pump of the 1939 Ahrens-Fox at a hydrant in front of City Hall. Escaping water coated the “Fox” and “Moose” in a fantasy of icicles, a scene straight out of the children’s book Number Nine: The Little Fire Engine. At the end of the fire, my classmate Bion summoned his brother to bring one of the family company flatbed trucks to load solid 50 ft. sections of frozen hose that were more like petrified fence rails.

This was my first, but certainly not my last, experience of firefighting during the winter months. I was but a small babe on January 31, 1955 and have only heard the stories of the J. C. Penny’s fire in downtown Frederick. But, I was on the scene of the old YMCA fire December 7, 1974. In fact, the web site of Engine 1, First Hagerstown Hose Company, used to play the dispatch recording of Hagerstown Truck 4 special response to the Frederick fire. “Truck 4, Truck 4. Respond to Frederick, Maryland for a building fire.” “Truck 4 will respond as soon as they drop the chains.”

Just as I have highlighted major Frederick fires in my Arcadia books, retired Hagerstown Fire Department Battalion Chief Justin Mayhew has many of the major fires in Hagerstown featured in the fire service history books he has published with Arcadia. The Myers-Berkson Furniture Store fire on January 9, 1963 and the Maryland Apartments fire that threatened Engine 1’s quarters on February 8, 1974 are two of many winter fires he highlighted that have challenged the fire service in Hagerstown.

The most senior of veteran firefighters in Western Maryland will recall the Hyndman, PA Christmas fire in 1949. A recently published book by Dick DeVore, Allegany County Emergency Manager, highlights the actions of the many Maryland volunteer fire companies that responded over the state line to help save part of the town. Even with this concerted regional effort, much of the downtown was destroyed and several citizens perished.

In the book Arundel Burning, retired Anne Arundel Division Chief Joseph Ross tells the story of the January 29, 1956 “Maryland Oyster Roast Fire” that killed 11 people and injured hundreds. And another famous winter time fire occurred in Baltimore City on February 15, 1955. A sudden building collapse killed 6 firefighters and injured 20 at the Tru-Fit Clothing Store fire, a historic multi-alarm fire in downtown Baltimore.

It is the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 that is recognized as the

*continued on page 10*
The President’s Corner

by Jacqueline Olson

Your Presidents have been busy with many activities and meetings and some of the highlights are pictured throughout this report. Since the last edition of the Volunteer Trumpet, the President and the two Vice Presidents have held meetings with some of our key state agency partners to include MEMA, OSFM, Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), MFCA and are coordinating dates with DNR and MSP in January. Vice President Keller, Past President Bob Cumberland and I attended the Pennsylvania State FIRE/EMS conference. Again as always we have a great relationship with our partners and with our neighboring states and it are great to work together and share programs and discuss issues in their state.

We also represented MSFA at many other events around the State to include Pyramid 2013 Conference in Bowie, the Ladies Auxiliary to the MSFA Fall Conference, Vice President Keller attended the Ribbon Cutting ceremony to place the second new Augusta Westland AW139 helicopter in full service in Easton, The MACo Win-

terfest Conference and many milestone banquets to include the 75th Anniversary of Arbutus VFD, Ellicott City VFA celebrated their 125th Anniversary and the Junior Fire Company in Frederick celebrated their 175th Anniversary.

Congratulations to President Carol Hayden on a successful conference and thank you for the invitation and hospitality. We would also like to congratulate Karen Doyle and the leadership of R. Adams Cowley STC on the opening of their Critical Care Tower on November 8th, the new space is designed to care for the region’s most critically ill and injured patients, providing even more services to the citizens of this great State.

I would like to thank Delmarva Power for their generous donation of 1,000 – 10 year long, smoke alarms for use on the Eastern Shore to the Maryland State Fire Marshal’s Office; this makes 20,000 smoke alarms since 2002. I would like to thank the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company, (my home company) for hosting the December’s Executive Committee meeting in December, a job well done!, thanks again for you hospitality and your time in making this a successful meeting.

The Legislative Team is continually working to prepare for the upcoming 2014 General Session and I am also working with the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Chairman Craig Harman to see if we can streamline some more on our process to limit the amount of required paperwork is needed and to help make the settlement process a smoother transaction. I want to thank Craig and Pat and all the members of that committee for the accomplishments they have already made with this program and you should be seeing their presentation in your area soon to help you apply for this loan. Your MSFA Officers will continue to work each day on your behalf and if we can be of assistance to you or your department or association, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

See you around Maryland Jackie Olson, President Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

President Olson

Ladies Auxiliary President Carol Hayden and MSFA President Jackie Olson on the banquet scene. Congratulations to Arbutus VFD on your 75th Anniversary!

President Olson and Past President John Denver
Three fire department members have fallen in the line of duty in Cecil County.

By Mike Dixon, Editor

Firefighters respond to dozens of emergencies every day in Cecil County, rushing into burning buildings, extracting people trapped in automobiles, and providing pre-hospital medical care. Mostly these calls are routine for the emergency responders. But on what seems to be the most ordinary of runs these dedicated men and women face great danger while ensuring the safety of the community and sometimes these public servants give everything, falling in the line of duty. The Service was reminded of this on Nov. 16, 2013, as Captain David R. Barr was laid to rest.

Three fire department members have fallen in the line of duty here.

- **Captain David R. Barr, Jr., 64** lost his life while on a call with the Community Fire Company of Perryville. (See Final Call Page 1)
- **Steward W. Godwin, 56** — On Dec. 8, 1963, as lightning periodically illuminated a cold rainy night, a Pan American Airways jet, carrying 81 passengers and crew was struck by lightning and exploded. A general alarm was sounded for all available ambulances. From the North East Fire Company, a unit rushed toward the cornfield just east of Elkton. While search lights illuminated the scene so first responders could search for survivors, Steward W. Godwin of North East suddenly collapsed into the arms of Andrew Scarborough, another North East member. He passed away at Union Hospital, the death being attributed to a heart attack. He had been a member of the fire company for 18 months, newspapers reported.

Firefighter Kevin Ryan and crew on Perryville’s Engine 611 escorting Captain Barr to his final resting place. Photo Credits: Eileen Edelin

Remembering the Fallen: Three Cecil County Firefighters Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

David dedicated his life to the fire service and to serving the citizens of Cecil County. Whenever there was an emergency or something needed to be done in the firehouse, he was one of the first to volunteer and was often tapped to lead important functions. In 1966, at the age of 16, he joined the Water Witch Fire Company of Port Deposit, where he served in many capacities. Professionally he worked as a federal fire fighter, serving 34 years at the Perry Point Veterans Hospital. When he retired from government service he had worked his way through the ranks, serving as a watch commander holding the rank of Lieutenant. In 2000 he joined the Community Fire Company of Perryville and was serving there as a Captain when he answered the final call. The Captain will be remembered as a man who loved his work, the fire service, and the community.

siren broke the silence.

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*Final Call*

continued from page 1

precision and slow salutes to their fallen brother, as family, friends, and emergency services personnel crowded into Station 6.

Saturday the first responder who made the ultimate sacrifice was laid to rest at the West Nottingham Presbyterian Cemetery with full fire department honors. Over 600 friends, relatives, and colleagues attended as emergency workers from as far away Chincoteague Virginia said goodbye to a fallen brother.

To the mournful strains of bagpipes the flag-covered casket was lifted onto a fire engine for the trip to the cemetery. At 12:57 p.m. a dispatcher’s voice crackled over the emergency radio network, but the transmission was unanswered. After a few moments of silence the broadcast went out, Captain Barr had answered his last alarm and as the signal faded a
MSP BEGINS OPERATION OF NEW AW-139 HELICOPTER IN EASTON
by Jim Brown

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013, MSFA First Vice President David Keller, III, Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Marcus L. Brown, Major Frank Lioi of the Aviation Command, Dr. Robert Bass of MIEMSS, and other members of the MSFA, held a media event at the Aviation Command’s Easton Section to officially mark the operation of the AgustaWestland AW-139 helicopter which is deployed on the Eastern Shore. The pilots and flight paramedics, who staff Trooper 6 located at the Easton Airport, have now been fully trained on the new aircraft. They are now flying the new helicopter around the clock on all Aviation Command missions.

David Keller, MSFA; Betty Shaw and daughter Liz Marks, former trauma patient; Delegate James Malone; Col. Marcus Brown, MSP; Major Frank Lioi, MSP; Dr. Robert Bass, MIEMSS

Richard Smith, MSFA; Christa Green, MSFA; Dr. Robert Bass, MIEMSS; Major Frank Lioi, MSP; Liz Marks, former trauma patient, David Keller, MSFA, Doyle Cox, MSFA; Col. Marcus Brown, MSP; Phil Hurlock, MSFA

CECIL COUNTY
continued from page 5

• Richard L. Loller, 37 – On May 18, 1956, the Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 of Chesapeake City responded to a call to assist Galena with a fire at the Kent Oil Company. While battling the dangerous blaze, several explosions rocked the tank farm, the final one coming about 8:30 that Friday morning. That last death-dealing explosion of a 6,000 gallon tank filled with gasoline sent part of the huge vessel soaring through the air. Flying debris killed two firefighters and the extreme heat from the flash burned a dozen or more people close to the scene. Richard L. Loller, 37, of Chesapeake City and Robert Harry Brice, 24, of Betterton were killed after being hit by limbs falling from a tree.

This Cecil Whig photo of the New North East FC ambulance was published a short time before Stewart Godwin died.

L to R — James E. Shepherd, Stewart W. Godwin, William F. Shiflett, Sr., and John H. Meekins
MSFA Signs Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve

will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans. We will continually recognize and support our country’s service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war.

“Today, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation’s Guard and Reserve units. I am asking all Maryland employers to take a look at their current human resources policies to incorporate policies supportive of Guard and Reserve employees,” said Jean Hulet, Maryland ESGR State Chair. “Many Maryland employers provide ‘Above and Beyond’ support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages, and extension of health care benefits, which complement coverage provided by the military, when their employees are mobilized.”

When asked about the criteria, Ms. Hulet said “By meeting the Statement of Support criteria, the Maryland State Firemen’s Association pledges to stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve members, who continue to answer their nation’s call to defend our way of life. Their personal sacrifices are essential to the strength of our nation”.

“Those volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel who serve in the Guard and Reserve leave a void in our public safety assets during deployments requiring the fire company personnel to backfill until their return from duty, said Ms. Olson. We have their back until their return as they have ours by protecting our freedom”.

“The MSFA joins a cadre of Fortune 500 companies, state and federal agencies and thousands of America’s employers and organizations in demonstrating support for our armed forces,” added Ms. Hulet. “By signing the Statement of Support, Ms. Olson is sending a clear message to these volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service providers of our great state that while they are serving their country they do not have to worry about things at home, we got their back.”

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. ESGR facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve service by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their service members, and acting as the employers’ principal advocate within DoD.

For more information about ESGR Outreach Programs, or ESGR volunteer opportunities, please call 1-800-336-4590 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

Editor’s Note

Welcome to the December edition of the Volunteer Trumpet, the newsletter of the MSFA. This edition is packed with material to keep you informed about things happening in the member companies and the association.

You will find lots of reports on activities and informative articles submitted by President Olson and our regular correspondents and photographers.

As committee members work on the next issue please let us know if you have any ideas for strengthening this product, suggestions for coverage, or content we should publish.

We are pleased to hear from you as our goal is to publish interesting and informative content for volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of Maryland.

And be sure to send your company & MSFA material, including photos, to the editor at trumpet@msfa.org

Mike Dixon, Editor
PAGE 9

BROWN VISITS DORCHESTER COUNTY FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION

By Eileen Edelin

Danielle Brown, Maryland Fire Chiefs Miss Fire Prevention, attended the Dorchester County Firemen’s Association meeting on Dec. 2, 2013. Held at the Taylors Island Vol. Fire Co. 66, the dinner was sweet potatoes, ham, string beans, oyster fritters, potatoes salad, and home made rolls. All 15 fire company’s were present and it was a wonderful evening.

Danielle travels throughout the state representing her title and helping to educate the public on fire safety. She was happy to have been invited by Calvin Stack, secretary of the Association.


MD’s Largest Loss of Life Disaster Remembered 50 Years Later

By Mike Dixon, Editor

Elkton, December 8, 2013 – A couple of hours before Singerly Fire Company paused to reflect on a tragic event in Elkton fifty years ago that took 81 lives, an early, wintry blast of ice and snow hit Cecil County. It was Sunday, December 8, 1963 that a big Pan American World Airways jet blew up after being struck by lightning. Despite the dangerous conditions on area roadways about 120 of the expected 150 family members from Flight 214 made their way to the fire station for a program of remembrance.

“This incident is something that will stay with the families and the emergency responders forever and is seared into the collective memory of the community,” Singerly President Don Hicks explained. “In a split-second the lives of the families and our emergency workers changed as they rushed toward the unnerving accident, a disaster of unprecedented size and scope in the early 1960s. But working the front line of the grim scene, Maryland’s largest loss of life disaster, they did what they had to. Partnering with the Historical Society of Cecil County, we wanted to honor the memory of those who perished and those who rushed out into the threatening, stormy darkness to help.”

The 8-inch snow wasn’t going to stop most of the relatives as they had traveled long distances to be in Elkton a half-century after their lives were suddenly changed. So most of the activities went on as planned and the station was filled with stories from first responders and families. Relatives met with first responders who answered the alarm, made their own remarks, and listened to remembrance narratives from police officers and firefighters. However, a commemorative tribute at the crash site at dusk with luminaries was delayed.

As Singerly worked to honor the memories of those on the flight, the company had one additional objective, the creation of a Remembrance Archive that chronicled firsthand recollections of the accident. For the “Singerly Listening Station,” Emergency workers were asked to share their stories of the call on digital video. These recordings will help assure that generational memory of the event and its impact on families, public safety agencies, the public and the community doesn’t disappear as time moves on.

Squirt 13 was ready to escort buses containing about 150 Flight 214 family members to the crash site for the remembrance until snow made travel too hazardous.

L to R — Singerly Assistant Chief Phil Scott, Chief Fred Hill, and Firefighter Katherine Farrell stand at attention during the remembrance program.
largest fire in Maryland history. This wintertime fire occurred on February 7-8, 1904. According to the Fire Museum of Maryland book Fire Department Operations: A Technical Report The Great Baltimore Fire by Baltimore City Assistant Fire Chief Gary Frederick (ret), 1526 buildings were burned over 140 acres. Washington, DC, Philadelphia, New York City and fire departments from up and down the east coast came to the aid of Baltimore. Fire companies from many towns and villages in Maryland sent aid. Fire companies from Highlandtown, Roland Park, Relay, St. Dennis, Sparrows Point and Westport are companies that no longer exist or have been absorbed into the Baltimore City or county fire departments. Only fire departments in Annapolis, Westminster and Harve deGrace were listed as responding and are still in service today.

Some interesting asides, Frederick had three steam pumpers in service and was only 40 miles away with direct rail connection, but never responded to Baltimore to assist. Another interesting story, confirmed in Chief Frederick’s book, that some of the apparatus in New York City actually responded to the Liberty Street Boat Slip in New York harbor where the ferry “City of Baltimore” was tied, misinterpreting the message the actual CITY of Baltimore was on fire. The many stories of major fires in the winter provide unique insight of the ravages of fire when elements of nature become an enemy.

Winter responses have always been a challenge for the Maryland fire service. If the first two weeks of December are an indication, the winter of 2013 - 2014 will be long, cold and probably snowy. We all love to sit around the tailboard and talk about the big fires when the water froze and coffee was hot. But we need to take extra care during the winter months. On the scene or on the road, take your time and take extra precautions, especially responding in a fire department rig or private auto. Vehicle accidents are generally one of the top three causes of firefighter line of duty deaths.

I have noted a just few of the many interesting Maryland fire service history books available for reading on a cold winter’s day. Stay warm, stay safe, STAY ALIVE!! And in the words of the contestants proved to be very knowledgeable in regards the fire prevention subjects.

After the judges’ scores were tabulated, Miss Shelby Simmons was crowned as the Allegany-Garrett Miss Fire Prevention, with Miss Tara Holshey winning the First Runner-up position. In the Junior Miss Fire Prevention contest, Miss Jenna Holshey was declared the winner, with Miss Sammy Jo Kight designated as First Runner-up. The winners were given their oath of office by Allegany-Garrett VFRA President Gene Kidwell. All of the ambassadors are available to make presentations and help with events for fire departments, schools, or any other organization that would like them to attend.

The Fire Prevention Committee and the miss Fire Prevention Committee would like to thank all of those who participated and helped make the contest a success.

The emergency services were well represented at Delmarva Power’s Annual Smoke Alarm Donation Event, an activity we all look forward to each year. Photo: Emmons Horner. Article on page 10

iconic Frederick City fire dispatcher “Chinky” Bell, “Put the chains on, Moose!”
Sears Hometown Supports Bay District VFD for Holiday Campaign

By: Shirley Copado  
(Taken from The County Times)

Sears Hometown in the Wildewood Shopping Center, California, MD is partnering with the National Volunteer Fire Council to raise money for Bay District VFD as part of Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores, Inc.’s “Salute to Local Heroes” charity campaign. The objective of the campaign is to provide firehouses across the nation with critical funds to improve resources for training, equipment and financial support where the local heroes need it most.

From November 23, 2013 through December 31, 2013, Sears Hometown, Sears Home Appliance Showrooms, Sears Appliance & Hardware Stores and Sears Outlet customers and company employees will have the opportunity to donate towards the National Volunteer Fire Council while making a purchase. All contributed funds will go directly to the local fire station for that store’s community. In addition, $2 from each Craftsman® Bottle Cap Wrench purchase will be directly donated to the chosen local department.

“Increasing budget cuts in fire departments nationwide are making it extremely difficult for firefighters to properly do their jobs, especially since seven (7) in ten (10) firefighters are volunteers,” stated Heather Schafer, Executive Director of National Volunteer Fire Council. “Campaigns like ‘Salute to Local Heroes’ are critical for volunteer firehouses to have the necessary resources to perform their jobs safely and effectively while protecting their local communities.” The campaign focuses on supporting first responders with funds that will go towards purchasing and maintaining the following:

- Equipment: protective gear, rescue tools, medical apparatuses, trucks, thermal imaging devices, etc.
- Response certifications and training
- Medical treatment for injured responders
- Assistance and family support for injured responders
- Building maintenance and refurbishments

“We’re excited to take part in a national campaign that will help us make a deeper connection within our community, while positively impacting it as a whole,” said Andre Collins, owner of Sears Hometown of California, MD, who added that community involvement is a top operational priority for the store.

Annual Delmarva Power Smoke Alarm Donation Event

By Emmons Horner, Public Relations Committee

The Annual Donation Event was held at Delmarva Power Headquarters in Salisbury, on October 30, and was well attended by many in the Emergency Services from the State and Region.

* * * * *

The following is a Press Release by Delmarva Power.

SALISBURY, Md. – Delmarva Power’s Emergency Services Partnership Program today 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 1,000 smoke alarms which have a 10-year, long-life, sealed lithium battery.

“Our Emergency Services Partnership Program is committed to supporting the work of the men and women of volunteer and career fire service organizations,” said John Allen, Delmarva Power Region Vice President. “These donated smoke alarms, when used properly, will help save the lives of the victims of fire and the people who come to their aid.”

“Smoke alarms are a good first line of defense against possible injury and death from fire and smoke,” said Brian S. Geraci, Maryland State Fire Marshall. “The Delmarva Power donation extends our reach into area communities to those people who need the most help.”

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

Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse provided these alarms to Delmarva Power at a reduced cost to help support this safety effort. Since 2000, Delmarva Power has donated 18,750 regular smoke alarms, 1,042 special needs smoke alarms and 1,850 carbon monoxide alarms to fire safety officials in Maryland and Delaware.
In the late spring 26,000 people visited Havre de Grace, celebrating the bicentennial of the British attack on the City during the War of 1812. On that day in 1813 the enemy burned many of the buildings and homes. Two hundred years later, the City set records for visitors and while the public enjoyed the beautiful, historic day Susquehanna Hose Company’s E-511 stood ready for service in the front of the station.