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Chief Walker-Ewing Makes History in Cecil County

By Mike Dixon, Editor

The fire service in Cecil County has had many firsts over the centuries as companies kept up with the times, and on February 2, 2015, another entry was added to the record book.

Michelle Walker-Ewing became the chief after Singerly's annual election. The 38th commander to take operational charge of the Elkton unit is also the first woman to attain the top rank in the county.

Assuming the leadership

reigns comes naturally for the veteran fire and emergency services commander, with both volunteer and career experience. Michele started as a rookie in 1981, joining the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun when she turned 16.

Her mom and dad were firefighters, and while



Chief Walker-Ewing, the 38th commander of the Singerly Fire Company.

growing up she watched their
Continued on page 9

Solomons VRS & FD Puts Ambulance Into Service

By Shirley Copado

On August 22, 2014 the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department put into service a 2014 Freightliner PL Custom Ambulance.

Besides the many upgraded EMS features, Ambulance 38 is the first commercial chassis ambulance purchase by Solomons Volunteers.

This ambulance also features a unique mural of the Drum Point Lighthouse located at the Calvert Marine museum where it was moved to and restored in June 1978. The Drum Point Lighthouse is a unique lighthouse because

it is one of the only three surviving screw-pile lighthouses in the Chesapeake Bay.

The lighthouse mural was made possible by the funds which were contributed by the community out of reverence for the passing of respected local Solomons resident Mr. Alton Kersey.



This year, Ambulance 38 participated in the 68th annual Southern Maryland Convention where it placed 1st as best appearing ambulance.

The Solomons Volunteers are proud to have this unit as part of the over fleet of vehicles.

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The President’s Corner

by Johnie F. Roth, Jr.

*“ Proud of
our Past.....
Focused on
our Future “*

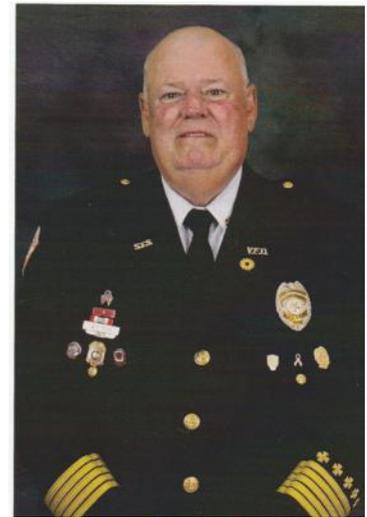
I am proud and humbled to have the opportunity to serve YOU as the President of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA) as well as my partner Darby Byrd Pres-

ident of the Ladies Auxiliary to the MSFA for the current term and we thank each and every one of you for your hospitality and support.

I feel blessed to have Mike Davis First Vice President, Mark Bilger as the Second Vice President, Chief James Seavey, Sr. as the Executive Committee Chairman, and Doug Simpson as the Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee as part of the leadership team for the MSFA.

The outstanding accomplishments of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association are known all over the United States but we can’t sit on our laurels, but must forge ahead. Committee Chairmen have been instructed to contact all the members of their respective committees and go over their mission and tasks and make whatever appropriate changes where necessary to keep up with the times.

My goals and objectives are very simple, we must communicate up and down the chain of leadership and membership, we must encourage and include younger members of our organization to



become the leaders of the future and provide them the proper tools to accomplish those goals, and we must do whatever we can to strengthen this organization as we prepare to celebrate our 125th Anniversary next year.

Finally a colleague of mine from the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department coined a phrase that I feel appropriate at this time for our organization and that is “ Proud of our Past..... Focused on our Future “.

Thank you again for your support and as we look forward to the challenges that lay ahead of us, we will prevail and with your help it will be fun and exciting year.



Promoting and Learning “Fire Safety” at the Fair

By Jim Jarboe

During the Montgomery County Fair, held August 14-22, fire and EMS personnel were on hand all week, to provide fire safety education to the public, i.e., 9-1-1 Telephone Simulator, Safety Games, Safety House (Gaithersburg Washington Grove VFD Junior Fire Bridge), Car Seats (MoCo Safe Kids), fire apparatus on display and much more.

Takoma Park VFD once again had fire safety games for kids to play, learn and win prizes. Before they could play a game, they had to answer questions about fire safety. In some of the games, questions were asked during or were built in.

This year a new game was added, the popular TV game “Plinko” from the Price is Right. It was a big hit by all, especially the kids. Well over 100 played it in the first day.

When it comes to learning, I am a strong believer that we all can learn while having fun. Try it, the kids will like it and learn!



Jim Jarboe talks to children at the Fair

Correspondents & Photographers Wanted

Get coverage for your company, association, or MSFA committee in the
Volunteer Trumpet

The Newsletter of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association

To contribute material or discuss opportunities contact the editor

Mike Dixon, trumpet@msfa.org

Expiration Date: 00/00/00

Charter Member Still On the Job in Galena

Mike Dixon, editor

Galena, April 2014 — Harvey Camp, 97, is a charter member of the Galena Fire Company and one day last year we had the pleasure of talking to Harvey about his experience over more than 70 years in the fire service.

He helped get the company started in 1942, he was there in 1953 when Galena Fire Company acquired an ambulance to serve Kent and Lower Cecil counties, and he vividly remembered the consequences of the Kent Oil Explosion, which took the lives of two firefighters. Harvey was out of town on his job for the day when the accident occurred, but for that generation of emergency responders the tragedy was something they would never forget.

And Harvey is still there working for the company. On the morning I stopped by he was into his usual routine on the days the fire company serves breakfast. He had command of things in “Harvey’s Corner,” the coffee workstation.

I first met Harvey in the 1970s and got to know him well as he took his EMT training about 1980. After he enrolled in that he started volunteering to work evening weekend shifts in the Union Hospital Emergency Room, and crews coming into the hospital would see him in between runs.

Harvey helped mentor generations of young first responders and he is still going strong. Thank you Harvey for your service.



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PHOTOS: Top — In the engine room at Station 3, Kent County; Middle — Harvey Camp, a charter member of the company, takes a a break from working the Sunday morning breakfast; and bottom — Harvey and friend, another senior member talk to the Volunteer Trumpet about some of the trophies in the station.

Chip's Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

“Educating the Educators”

by Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

I am very proud of my first training pocket cards as they are truly artifacts of the evolution of fire service training in Maryland. With “Fire Service Extension” and the signature of the iconic director John Hoglund, the cards from the 60’s and early 70’s are a reminder of how far we have become as the national leader in fire service education and training.

Such is also true of my original “credit card” EMT card, and the first EMT patch with the “orange cross” pre-dating the Star of Life. I still have the “orange book” from the American College of Orthopedic Surgeons and “Brady Book” First Edition. The vision of Dr. R Adams Cowley has far exceeded his dream, and the EMS training developed by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) has made the “Maryland Way” the template for our nations EMS responders.

I am very fortunate to be an instructor for Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), and boast of the high quality of patient care that is the hallmark of the individuals certified by MIEMSS. The training and EMS delivery system in

our state is second to none and envied nationally. But, some recent decisions by these pillars of our service have created some potential domino effects on the customers of these two state agencies, all those individuals dedicated to service and ultimately the citizens we all serve.

For the last several months, the National Registry for new Maryland EMT’s has been the overriding concern at nearly every fire & rescue meeting at the state, local and company levels. The backlog of students that have completed the EMT course waiting to take the test, the distance needed to travel to take the test, the time between the end of instruction and testing, the need to purchase books to enable students to study for the exam, and difference between the Maryland protocols and the National Registry are having a direct negative effect on the EMS delivery system in the State of Maryland.

We have always been proud of the “Maryland Way”, not to diminish National Registry, but rather to bolster the fact our system leads the nation, making changes at the state level to the direct benefit of our patient care. It is critical to develop our statewide training AND testing to assure the competency of our personnel to be a vital link in that all important chain of survival of the patient. For our state protocols to take

a back seat to the National Registry sends a message we are more concerned about teaching to the test than teaching to

the state service delivery system.

The substantial delay in getting personnel certified has a direct effect on the ability of our companies to service to our communities. Whatever the possible cost saving to MIEMSS to defer testing to National Registry has been delegated to the volunteer companies and members in time traveled, gas for mileage and purchase of Brady books. My guess is statewide this process is a much more expensive as burden of cost that has been passed to the fire/rescue customer. The ultimate burden of cost will be borne by the citizens if they cannot receive EMS service due to lack of providers.

As a direct affiliate of the University of Maryland, MFRI is one of the very few state fire and rescue training agencies to be aligned with a predominant institute of higher education. Yet, a recent action to eliminate ACE (American Council on Education) accreditation for MFRI courses and only utilize direct articulation agreements with Maryland colleges may have a direct negative effect both career and volunteer personnel *that have the desire to advance their formal education.*



(Continued on page 8)

“Maryland is extremely fortunate to have the premier education and training agencies for fire, rescue and emergency medical services in America.”

Enlisting Recruits to Join the Ranks

by Mike Dixon,
Editor

April 12, 2015 -- Departments across the State opened stations, inviting the public to visit and learn about becoming first responders. This was part of a statewide recruitment initiative spearheaded by the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

The *Volunteer Trumpet* stopped by Elkton to see how the day was going at one of the many stations con-



ducting activities. We noted that the first responders at Station 13 were busy doing demonstrations and talking to community members about joining the ranks of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue service.

Singerly personnel were having success enlisting people to sign-up and serve the community as visitors filled out recruitment forms. According to SFC Director Robert Mul-

ler, the project coordinator, "the statewide recruitment day was an overwhelming success and we were one of the busiest locations in the county."

The event was part of a grant the State received for recruitment and retention and is part of a major campaign, including radio announcements and billboards. The statewide recruitment day has already been announced again for 2016.

"The Singerly Recruitment and Retention Committee received a lot of support from members and officers to make the event a success," Director Muller noted.



PHOTOS

Top of Page L: Asst Chief for EMS Conway and Director Muller discuss the recruitment strategies.

Center L: Matt Patrick practiced the use of fire extinguishers.

Center R: Plenty of activities were going on and administrative member Alexcys Ryan was on hand to talk to interested recruits.

Bottom L — Two new recruits pause for a photo while filling out applications.

Bottom R — Singerly Firefighter Ty Viars talks about the rewards of serving as a first responder.

Bottom R: SFC first responder Ty Viars talks potential recruits.



The Chaplain's Corner

Memorial Service

By MSFA Chief Chaplain
John F. Long, Jr.

I hope everyone appreciated the changes we made for this years memorial service. It has been a time honored tradition to honor our brothers and sisters in the fire service and we want to provide the best experience we can for their loved ones and families.

I need to take a minute and explain who and how we recognize the folks we do. We rely on the members company/auxiliary to submit the memorial form for their members.

This form must be signed by the company president or chief. We "DO NOT" accept forms from any other source.

This is required since one year we honored a person who was sitting in the audience. Memorial forms must be received by March 1st for the previous calendar year.

Please do not wait until February to submit the form. The new form is always made available within a month after the convention. Print it out and submit it with a good picture of the member as soon as possible.

When a member of your company passes away send me the information so I can post it on the Memorial page and I can also send out a death announcement so everyone will know they have died.

It is my goal to have the website to match the memorial service list that way we can have a checks and balance on who we are honoring.

I do maintain a Memorial page on the MSFA website. If you send me the members information I will post their name and information on the Memorial page and send out a Death Notice to

the MSFA membership. In the future I would like to be able to use this information to put the Memorial together. That will give the families a chance to see if their family member is being honored before the make the trip down to Ocean City.



Thank you for your support.

In Remembrance: Patricia Ann Bowser

Patricia Ann Bowser, 62, of Friendsville, MD, died Monday, August 10, 2015, at Monongalia General Hospital, Morgantown, WV.

Born November 25, 1952, in New Eagle, PA, she was the daughter of the late Robert C.

and Irene (Novobilsky) Bird.

Mrs. Bowser was a homemaker and a professional volunteer for the State of Maryland and Maryland Emergency Services. She was a life member of the Friendsville Vol. Fire and Rescue Dept., where she held positions of current secretary and Assistant Chief.

Patricia was a life member of Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad, where she served as board chair, secretary, Crew Chief and was a Firefighter/EMT for 37 years.

She was past president of Allegany Garrett Vol. Fire and Rescue Association and was also past president and secretary of



Garrett Co. Vol Fire and Rescue Association.

She was inducted into the Hall of Flame for MSFA and was Chairman of Fire Prevention for Allegany and Garrett Co. Patricia was a charter member and secretary of Friendsville Firemen's Auxiliary and representative for Allegany and Garrett Co.

She was on the Volunteer Co. Assistance Fund for MSFA and held the position of Secretary. She was the Tax Incentive Points Coordinator and for the past 20 years, she had been Garrett Co. Rep. for the MD Fire Service Professional Qualification Board. Patricia was currently financial secretary for Allegany/Garrett Ladies Auxiliary and was currently Chaplain for Garrett Co. Fire and Rescue Association. In 1998 she was the first female Firefighter of the year for Garrett Co. and also Allegany Co., in 2002 she was inducted into Garrett Co. Commission for Women Hall of Fame and in 2013 she received the MIEMS-Stella Service Award. In 1988, she published the first newsletter for Garrett Co. Firemen's Association called "The Rural Firefighter". In 2005 and 2012 she was the EMS Person of the Year for Allegany and Garrett Co., in 2012 she received the Robert H. Shimer Award and was also inducted into Allegany/Garrett Fire Assoc. Hall of Flame.

She is survived by her husband, Rodney W. Bowser; one daughter, Peggy Baines, Keyser, WV; two brothers, David Bird and wife, Helen, Ursina, PA; Robert Bird, Jr., Bowling Green, VA and two grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Friendsville Fire Hall on Aug. 29, 2015. Cards may be sent to: Rodney Bowser, P.O.Box 14, Friendsville, MD 21531

Chip's Firehouse Logbook

Continued from page

The nationally recognized acceptance of ACE credits provides an avenue for individuals to enter a degree tract with a head start of credits. In the case of training provided through MFRI, most courses would equate to a level of ACE credits to provide an excellent foundation for a student to enter a fire service related degree path, or even elective credits in an unrelated college degree. Without ACE accreditation, college credit for MFRI classes may be limited to those colleges with specific articulation agreements with MFRI.

"I am very proud of my first training pocket cards as they are truly artifacts of the evolution of fire service training in Maryland."

Chip

The need to review and revise these most recent policies by our state training agencies is self evident. I have yet to hear a valid reason requiring National Registry for EMT in Maryland. Though the present MIEMSS leadership inherited this seemingly complex issue, the answer is very simple, make National Registry voluntary and reinstate course testing, state protocols and skills as part of the class schedule.

With respect to the lack of ACE accreditation for MFRI classes, I encourage the MFRI Education & Training Commission to re-evaluate this action with the leadership of MFRI and state Department of Higher Education to determine how volunteer and career personnel of our state that could be penalized by eliminating an avenue to receive valuable college credits.

Maryland is extremely fortunate to have the premier education and training agencies for fire, rescue and emergency medical services in America. The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems have an international reputation as the trendsetters for training and education. I sincerely hope these training agencies continue to focus on the customer's they serve by making informed decisions in deliberation with their constituents and reconsider previous actions that already have had, and potentially will have, a future negative effect on our personnel and the people we all serve.

BE SAFE

Chip

Frederick County Church Donates Funds for Hearing Impaired Smoke Alarms

by Chip Jewell

On August 27, 2015, Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church of Frederick made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association at the monthly meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary at the Urbana VFC. The donation was presented to LAMSFA PP Sherry Soper and Chip Jewell, Director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services by Nancy Cole and Kim Shelton for the purchase of Hearing Impaired Smoke Alarms.



Pictured L-R: LAMSFA PP Sherry Soper, Nancy Cole, Kim Shelton, and Chip Jewell.

Chief Makes History in Cecil County

Continued from page 1

engagement in the community as first responders so it was logical to follow their path.

At a time when the services were predominantly male, the rookie worked her way up through the ranks, acquiring credentials as a firefighter, EMT, and paramedic.

As time went on the recruit advanced, beginning to lead response to incidents as a junior and senior officer. She also launched a career in the Cecil County Department of Emergency Service.

There she had a career spanning most operational units, including communications and EMS. After 26 years of service, she retired from the county as the agency's second in command, the deputy director.

The 38th commander to take operational charge of the Elkton unit is also the first woman to attain the top rank in the county.

Immediately after the annual stockholder's election, Chief Walker-Ewing busied herself getting her command lined-up and optimized for a 12-month tour of duty at the busiest and largest department in the county.

But Singerly's new leader wasn't going to have much preparation time as within 24 hours, an alarm came in for a working blaze at Triton Bar & Grill. The first arriving units radioed in that fire heavily involved the interior, and the veteran commander efficiently coordinated a multi-company response to fight the blaze in a commercial structure.

Fred Hill had served the company as chief for two years, starting in 2013, and he too worked his way up through the ranks. He joined Singerly in 1989 when he was 16-years-old, following in the footsteps of family members. His dad, Fred, had served as a captain at Station 14 and his uncle, Gary, commanded the department for two years in the early 1990s.

Chief Hill Hands Over Reigns

Fred G. Hill, Jr. the outgoing Chief, decided not to seek reelection and Michele was unopposed on the ballot. He observed that he was handing the reigns over to a capable incident commander.

"She has always been a good leader on scenes and always there when you needed her. If you put a five-story building fire in front of her, she is as calm as a whip."



(l to r) Chief Fred Hill, Jr. and his uncle Chief Gary Hill.

she took the helm of the combination career/volunteer public safety organization.

"Thank you to the officers and members

of the Singerly Fire Company for the opportunity to serve you as chief. I am honored to be the chief of the best department I know and I look forward to working with everyone," Michele stated in a message to members.

Chief Hill Hands Over Reigns

After serving the company as its top commander for two years, starting in 2013, Fred G. Hill, Jr. decided not to seek a third term this year. He too worked his way up through the ranks, joining Singerly in 1989 when he was 16-years-old. He also followed in the path of family members. His dad, Fred, had served as a captain at Station 14 and his uncle, Gary, commanded the department for four years, first in 1989 and 1990 and again in 1993 and 1994.

Both chiefs have seen a lot of changes take place in emergency services. And the incoming commander will guide the department through a period of rapid transformations as she takes on this demanding assignment.

Chief Walker-Ewing concluded the interview with the Volunteer Trumpet by saying: "I look forward to the working with the finest group of professionals around as our team addresses the public safety needs of 21st century emergency services in Elkton. I'm pleased to be in a position to provide leadership and management as our strong organization maintains and builds on the fine reputation that has been established by our generations of earlier leaders and members."

News and Notes

At the Maryland Association of Counties — Maryland State Attorney General Brian Frosh stopped by the MSFA Booth at the Maryland Association of Counties in Ocean City, Maryland to say hello. Pictured L-R: MSFA President Johnie Roth, MSFA Executive Board Member Chuck Walker, Attorney General Frosh, and MSFA Executive Board Member and Vice Chairman of the MSFA Legislative Committee Richard Smith. — with Chuck Walker, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh and Richard Smith.



Johnie Roth, Chuck Walker, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh and Richard Smith.

Celebration for Charles W. Wills 60 Years of Service — MIEMSS attended a celebration in honor of Charles W. Wills who celebrated 60 active years of volunteer fire and EMS service to the citizens of Charles County and to the State of Maryland. Ten years ago, as Charlie celebrated 50 years of service; he received the MIEMSS State of Maryland's Star of Life - Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services. The award is given to someone that has devoted a lifetime of dedication to excellence in patient care, compassion and respect for each patient, and commitment to continuous improvement to Maryland's EMS system. Over those 60 years, he served in many leadership positions and also as an EMT instructor. He has also taught at many statewide conferences. He was a member of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC) for many years and continues to serve on many statewide EMS committees. Charlie frequently paid visits to Annapolis, trying to get legislation that benefited the Maryland volunteer EMS providers and fire-fighters.



Dr. Richard L. Alcorta, MIEMSS, presents Charlie Wills with a plaque celebrating his 60 years of EMS service.

President Roth Joins Pink Heals Tour to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness — MSFA President Johnie Roth along with his wife Marcia- a Breast Cancer Survivor and Recording Secretary of the LAMSFA- joined the Pink Heals Tour during their stop at the National Fire Heritage Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Pink Fire Trucks travel around the nation and bring a message of breast cancer awareness and personal safety. They even make house calls to those dealing with a debilitating illness.



Shutt Inducted Into Cecil Co. Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame

By Heidi M. Coleman & Eileen Edelin

Nona Shutt was inducted into the Cecil County Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame at the Singerly Fire Co. Banquet held on May 9, 2015.

Ms. Shutt was born in 1930 in Perryville, Maryland. She and her husband moved to

Elkton in 1968 and she joined Singerly's Ladies Auxiliary in 1974. She has been an auxiliary life member for 41 years.

Keeping busy at bingos she was always seen at the firehouse working and telling jokes. Everyone always laughed while in her company. She and her husband devoted so much of their time volunteering at Singerly. She served as an officer in the auxiliary; membership secretary for ten years and proudly served as the sick committee chair for many years.

Ms. Shutt was also a volunteer at the Union Hospital hospital-ity shop for many years and could be found at Laurelwood Nursing Home and Brennan Nursing home in Havre de Grace, contributing to the happiness of residents.

Her love of people and her willingness to care for those in need shined brightly as she helped others. Congratulations Ms. Shutt for your years of service and dedication.



Ms. Shutt with her daughter, Brenda Verra at the CCLA Hall of Fame induction ceremony.



Baltimore City YouthWorks interns attended the Level Volunteer Fire

MIEMSS Celebrates Baltimore City YouthWorks Students for Emergency Services Career Exploration

By James Brown, MIEMSS

MIEMSS recently celebrated the successful internship of six Baltimore City YouthWorks students. The internship began on June 29, 2015 and concluded on Friday, July 31 at MIEMSS with a ceremony and a premiere showing of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) created by the students during their internship.

YouthWorks is a service of the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development. During their time at MIEMSS, students learned about careers in Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management, nursing, and other medical professions.

The students learned CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AEDs) and were able to experience the workings of Maryland's nationally renowned trauma and EMS system and how it operates from the initial call to a 9-1-1 call center, to the emergency response, to transport to a hospital or trauma center, and the care that is rendered throughout.

The students also participated in prevention activities including the design, development and production of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) titled, The Final Message. In this PSA, the students learned the leading causes of crashes for teen drivers and based on the data, they scripted, storyboarded, and were the "stars" of the two and one half minute video. The Baltimore City Fire Department Academy staff assisted in the production. The group was also part of the production of several photographic shoots for prevention posters relating to pedestrian safety, distracted driving, and domestic violence.

During their time with MIEMSS, the students had an opportunity to visit with the Baltimore City Fireboat, Baltimore City Fire Department Academy, Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services, the Level Volunteer Fire Company, the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Company, the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport Fire and Rescue Department, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Maryland Department of the Environment, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Maryland State Police Aviation Command, and the Harford County Emergency Operations and 9-1-1 Center.



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**Representing the volunteer fire,
rescue and EMS personnel of
Maryland**



Baltimore City YouthWorks interns spent a day at the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department during their emergency services career exploration month in July at MIEMSS.

