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Maryland Legislative Session In Progress

By Ron Watkins, MSFA
Public Relations Committee

The legislative session for the Maryland State lawmakers has almost reached the halfway point for the 2017 meeting. Starting on January 10 and going to April 10, this is the time when our laws are adapted, new laws proposed, and the money that the State gives to the various organizations and services is decided upon.

What does this have to do with firefighting? Most of our members characterize this with the phrase "I don't fool around with politics – I just want to fight fires!" The reality is that without paying attention to the politics of our State, we may be missing out on funds available for our operations or having a new law enacted that severely affects how we can raise our funds or do business.

Everybody knows that, like any business, it costs money to operate a fire department. Regular expenses, like fuel, utilities, maintenance – take up most of the money we can make with our fundraisers. The costs for new equipment, tools, turn-out gear, etc., go up every year. If it were not for the funds provided by several of the State funding methods, many departments could not afford to buy new equipment or keep their members in protective gear.

The MSFA Legislative Committee works its hardest during this time of the year. Members

of this Committee, along with our elected Officers, are in Annapolis every day of the session, talking with Delegates and Senators, going over new Bill submissions to see if they affect the State's fire departments, and testifying before the many Committees that go over each Bill presented if there is an area that affects us.

As of last week, there have been over 3,000 new Bills submitted for consideration by the House and Senate. Not all of these Bills pertain to the fire service, but the Legislative Committee has to check each one to make sure that they do not.

Every Friday, a fire caucus group consisting of the MSFA, the MFCA, the State Fire Marshal's office, the Metro Chiefs, and other fire service organizations, meet to discuss any new Bills being presented, and determine if there is any action to be taken by the fire service groups. That action may mean talking to the Bill's sponsor, asking for changes in the way the Bill is written, asking for response from our departments to the sponsor, indicating opposition or being in favor of the Bill, or perhaps testifying before the House or Senate Committee that will act on the Bill before sending it

The MSFA Legislative Committee works its' hardest during this time of the year.



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The President's Corner

By Michael A. Davis, President, MSFA.

We have unfortunately suffered some irreplaceable losses in our fire service since our last publication. It has been difficult for many of us to even begin to understand why we lost such a great person or even just how fast they may go, often without warning.

Many, unfortunately, were the result of cancer; rarely do we hear "Natural Causes" as the determination of death any more these days, particularly in the fire service.

All of these folks that I'm thinking of as I write this were icons in their neighborhoods and around the state and country. Some were known around the world. They have all touched us in some way and often we didn't realize just how much until after the fact.

These folks typically spent over 30 years (many over 50 years) giving back in the volunteer fire or ambulance service, usually both, as well as many church and civic duties.

Although, one in particular that hit home the most, was only "active" in his department for less than 4 years you could say. Nolan Scully, who lost his battle with

Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of soft tissue cancer, passed at the tender age of 4.

Despite being only 4, he had the spirit, determination, and life fighting interest of any grown adult I know. More really.

Those that knew him well said he had an unbelievable understanding of life and a "never quit, can do" attitude and it

rubbed off on anyone who got to know him.

His brave fight was captured on his Facebook page Nolan-Strong along with the hashtag:

#NolanStrong with 103,670 followers around the world!

Many of Nolan's family are active in the Southern Maryland Volunteer Fire Service, his father being a member of Leonardtown.

Not only was Nolan given honorary membership into Leonardtown VFD, he was made a local Sheriff as Sgt. Rollin Nolan, an honorary Maryland State Trooper, with his own Stetson hat, and the fine folks at PAX River Naval Air Base

even put his name on a fighter plane!

He loved to role-play as both a firefighter and police officer. Apparently he preferred the police...but hey, I'll take a police officer as a volunteer firefighter any day! Despite his battle with cancer, he taught everyone to be on point with a Nerf gun at all times keeping an active Nerf war in the hospital! All of this, from a termi-

nally ill 4 year old...who was accepting of his fate, even understanding God. Check out his Facebook page, he'll teach you a lesson.

When Nolan first started his treatment, we were fortunate to have him visit us at the MSFA Executive meeting in Hollywood, MD last year. President John-

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"We have, unfortunately, suffered some irreplaceable losses in our fire service . . ."

Hack's Point Fire Co. Captain Sheldon Laid to Rest With Honors



Chaplain Frank Roth of the Harford-Cecil Firemen's Association officiated during the funeral. He stands by as the captain's sister, Robyn Sheldon Hahn eulogized the public servant. Photo: Dixon

By Mike Dixon

Hacks Point, Jan. 7, 2017 — On a frigid, snowy Saturday members of the Hacks Point Fire Company and fire service personnel from throughout MD gathered to pay their final respects to Bobbie Ann Sheldon. The secretary of the Cecil County Firemen's Association, EMS captain, and chairman of the fire company board of directors passed away Dec. 23, 2016 at the age of 52.

She was a committed first responder, dedicating her adult life to public service. It was a family thing Bobbie Ann and her sister, Robyn Sheldon Hahn, as they followed in their father, Robert Allen's footsteps. They grew up helping out at the fire station as their father served the waterfront community. When they were old enough, they joined the company as cadets and worked their way up through the ranks as the years went by.



THE MSFA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

UPDATE ON THE MSFA MEMBER DATABASE!!!

WE RECENTLY SENT OUT A REQUEST TO HAVE THE OFFICERS OF EVERY COMPANY SUBMIT AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET CONTAINING INFORMATION FOR EACH MEMBER. HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SUBMITTING THIS INFORMATION.

- The form can be found at www.MDVolunteer.org/companyform.
- You can also request the form via email at volunteer@msfa.org
- Please use and send us the completed excel spreadsheet to volunteer@msfa.org. (Do not send the information in any other format.)
- We need you to include EVERY member of the company not just the new members. We want and need the ability to reach everyone.
- In addition to existing members, we also need any members that joined after September 2014, even if they are no longer members.
- You may be able to cut and paste this information from another form such as LOSAP or other database.
- We will use the information to communicate important topics so please include an email if you can. We will not share or sell this information.
- If any member belongs to more than one company please have them choose a primary company and only enter their data once. They can go back at a later date to enter the others.

If you are unable to use the form, each member can also go directly to www.MDFirefighters.org and complete a simple form.

Feel free to reach out to Skip Mahan (443) 907-9649 or Mike Faust (443) 262-6896 with any questions about the website or the database.

Thank you for your help!

MIEMSS NEWS BRIEFS

By James Brown MIEMSS

EMS UPDATE 2017 TRAINING PROGRAM

— The EMS Update 2017 training program, including the new revisions for the 2017 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers, is in production and will be available through the Online Training Center. Once the training is online, DVD versions may be requested through the MIEMSS Regional Offices for use at company-level drills. Remember, all Maryland EMS providers must complete the EMS Update 2017 before July 1, 2017.

The printed versions of the 2017 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers will be available to providers. This year, a set of replacement pages, the smaller spiral-bound full protocols, and the pocket protocols will be printed. One pocket protocol will be distributed free of charge to each Maryland provider. The full binder-sized protocol, set of replacement pages, and spiral version, as well as additional pocket protocols, will be available for purchase from the MIEMSS Office of Licensure and Certification.

SAVE THE DATES



EMS and Prevention Educational Programs for 2017

Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar – Pre conference - March 10, 2017 - Conference – March 11, 2017 – Rocky Gap Conference Center

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar – March 25, 2017 – MFRI Headquarters, College Park, Md.

“Beyond Hoses and Helmets” Seminar - March 31 – April 1, 2017 North East Fire Company, North East Md. – Register - www.mfri.org

“From Xbox™ to the Box Alarm” - April 8, 2017 - Carroll County Public Safety Training Center - Register - www.mfri.org

39th DELMARVA Safety Conference - April 9 - April 11, 2017 - Clarion Hotel and Resort, Ocean City, Md. Register - <http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-delmarva-safety-association-health-safety-conference/event-summary-7ee8e9d2b32444129f93a0e097ba6805.aspx>

Statewide Volunteer Recruitment Day Open House 2017– April 23, 2017

EMS Care 2017- April 26 – 30, 2017 – Ocean City, Md.

Point/Counterpoint 2017 – May 11-12, 2017 – Baltimore, Md. Please go to: www.mdcot.org

Basic Disaster Life Support™ (BDLS) Course - May 17, 2017 -Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, College Park, Md. – Register www.mfri.org

MSFA Annual Conference and Convention – June 17 – 23, 2017 – Ocean City, MD

2017 Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference – September 26, 2017 - The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Rd, Laurel, MD

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The Volunteer Trumpet

This periodical is issued six times a year by the Maryland State Firemen's Association. It's purpose is to publish interesting and informative articles for the volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of Maryland.

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Chip's Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

Inaugural Detail

by Chief Clarence "Chip" Jewell, III

On January 20, 2017, fire service units from throughout the National Capitol Region were positioned strategically around the streets of Washington, DC to help provide safety during the safe transition of power in a historic presidential inauguration.

As Donald J. Trump stood in front of the Capitol to take the oath of office of President of the United States, EMS units, fire apparatus and personnel from many fire and rescue services throughout Maryland stood watch on the ready to respond.

Maryland should be very proud of the many members of volunteer fire and rescue companies that got out of bed at "O dark 30" to be in the District of Columbia at 4AM to be briefed on the day's activities and receive their assignments.

Weeks of preparation, extensive background checks and heightened measurements to assure security were required

to prepare for the day of presidential honors.

How times have changed. In 1973, proudly carrying my American Red Cross Advanced First Aid card, I volunteered on a Frederick County ambulance to assist the District of Columbia Fire Department to provide additional EMS coverage during the inauguration of President Richard M. Nixon.

Needless to say, preparation and security in 1973 was quite a bit different. We were assigned to the command post at a large hotel, I believe it may have been the Washington

Hilton. Our entire security vetting consisted of writing the names of the crew on a sign-in sheet

at the hotel and a card board sign that said "1973 Inaugural Committee" placed on the dashboard of the ambulance.

Several ambulances were staged at that location to be assigned as needed throughout Washington. This was my first

exposure to a form of incident command as a large room was filled with representatives for the many

agencies present. Long before HSPD 5 or ICS forms, the fire service realized the need for organized chaos and coordinated efforts of all disciplines involved in the event.

At the time I was working as a part time dispatcher. The coordinated communications required during the event was of personal interest. I could only imagine the massive technical requirements needed to enable communications with the many units from throughout Maryland and Virginia.

My vision of some a massive state-of-the-art radio communications network quickly disappeared when I climbed on the hotel roof to meet a Prince Georges County dispatcher sitting in a lawn chair using a portable radio on the high band mutual aid radio frequency and a table with some jurisdictional radios to communicate with the surrounding units.

Until the age of 800MHz and trunked radio communications, many jurisdictions shared fre-

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"In 1973, . . . I volunteered on a Frederick County ambulance to assist the District of Columbia FD to provide additional EMS coverage during the inauguration of President Richard M. Nixon."

"... EMS units, fire apparatus and personnel from many fire and rescue services throughout Maryland stood watch on the ready to respond."

75th Anniversary of the Galena Volunteer Fire Company

By Deputy Chief Scott Duhamell

On February 2, 2017, the Galena Volunteer Fire Company celebrated 75 years of service to our community.

In lieu of our normal business meeting, the company held a small party for our members, which included a swearing-in ceremony for our 2017 Officers. The Company was fortunate enough to have Mr. Harvey Camp in attendance. Mr. Camp is the only surviving charter member of the Company. The ceremony concluded with a moment of silence in remembrance of those members of Galena Fire Company who are no longer with us.

If the day wasn't special enough, at 1800 hours on the Anniversary, Chief Powell officially placed in service, "Tower 3". The unit is a 2002 E-One HP-95, 95 foot rear mount tower/ladder. It has SCBA seating for six firefighters and carries a full complement of truck company tools, as well as rope rescue equipment, EMS supplies and salvage and overhaul items. The truck formerly served the BWI Airport Fire Rescue Department as Tower 43 and was acquired officially in October, 2016.

Since the delivery of the truck, our neighboring fire companies have been a great resource in helping us get the unit ready for service. We would like to specifically thank Maryland Senator Stephen Hershey, the Maryland State Fireman's Association Surplus Equipment Committee, the Singerly Fire Company of Elkton, the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company, the Easton Volunteer Fire Department, Uff Machine Company, and Todd's Body Shop for their generous donations. Our success would not be possible if it weren't for the help of these organizations



Chief Powell officially placed in service Tower 3
Photo Credit: Nevin Steffy

. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the members of the GVFC for the time and dedication put forth to complete the training, maintenance work and prep work in getting the tower ready. Our members are definitely our most valuable asset.



L to R - Membership Chair Tracey Rodney, President Jeff Dwyer, and Charter Member Harvey Camp with the presentation of Mr. Camp's 75 year membership award.
Photo: Nevin Steffy

President's Corner

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ny Roth did a head shaving fundraiser to help with Nolan's financial campaign which caught the attention of our Cancer Support Committee.

NOLAN

Never lose hope

Offer support to all

Love one another

Always have faith

Nerf gun wars are okay and fun

*Jimmy Hayden (Facebook post,
over 150 shares, 500+ likes in*

Since then, the committee has had tremendous growth and support, launching new awareness campaigns, an annual walk in Annapolis, and greater statewide involvement, all of which allow us to give back to our fellow firefighters and family members battling cancer.

cer. The majority of the cancer support items are made and obtained by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Southern MD VFA and their friends, all because of Nolan.

Not a day goes by that I don't think how unfair it was for him to have lived such a short life, especially with two boys myself, one of which is Nolan's age. My 4 year old acts out a fire, police, rescue, or some sort of emergency several times a day; Nolan was the best friend he never got to have.

But then I look at all the positive and even the coincidental. The encouragement and fortitude he's passed to other patients and us is priceless. It's the fuel that feeds our desire to do better and help one more. And was it just by chance that my wife's co-worker, who had her baby at only 28 weeks, the day Sgt. Nolan came home, named him Nolan? My wife didn't share his story with her, but when she did, they agreed we had a new Angle above with a purpose.

This is why I always say to take the time to share stories with the young and old, pass it along. Spend time with your loved ones like everyday is the last and watch out for your fellow man and woman for we are all we've got! Without each other, what would our purpose be in this life if we don't do our best to make it better, remember where we've come from, who brought us this far, and have the courage and strength to look to the future through the past. We will be forever grateful for all that Nolan has shown in his short tenure on this earth and just how precious a life is no matter the age.

I share with you a few more great folks who have gone before us:

William "Bill" Olsen with over 60 years in the volunteer fire service, serving the MSFA, Southern MD VFA, and Charles County VFA. His list of accolades are over 3 pages long, hard record to beat.

Dr. Harry Hickey with over 52 years working to make us more "fire safe".

Vernon V. Dulin, over 60 years of service with Easton VFD and a former Police officer and Fire Marshal. I can still remember him "busting my stones" every time I saw him. Always putting smiles on people's faces!

Bobbie Ann Sheldon of Hack's Point, Past President LAMSFA, Robyn Sheldon-Hahn's sister. Bobbie was always lending a helping hand and went with Robyn everywhere! She made friends from all over the tri-state area.

These folks will all be missed but rest knowing they each have made a difference in someone's life and served a good purpose on this earth.

Please keep Chaplain Emeritus J. Harvey Dixon in your prayers. He's battling cancer again and welcomes all of your prayers blessings. And, as always, keep up the good fight. Look out for each other. Do the right thing. Live. Love. Laugh. Enjoy life and have fun doing it. God Bless and God Speed!

*Be safe, Volunteer. Get Involved
Yours Truly,
Michael A. Davis, President*



Across Maryland fire police officers handle their jobs in all sorts of weather and conditions. On a windy snowy early January day on the Eastern Shore outside work was particularly difficult as the thermometer struggled to reach the high 20s. But, regardless, the Cecil-ton Fire Company fire police officer stood duty on his post.

Flintstone VFC Holds Annual Banquet

By Ron Watkins, MSFA
Public Relations Committee

On January 14, the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Company held their annual banquet and officer installation at their station. The weather was not pretty, but it did not prevent a good crowd of members and guests from enjoying a good meal and a good evening. Much of the food and social hour snacks were prepared by the members, and served by the fill-in company personnel.

Bernie Zlomek served as the Emcee, and kept things rolling along. After dinner, FF David Kyle conducted a Memorial service for the three members who passed away last year. Peggy Kolb, Randolph Bennett Jr., and Steven Mitchell were remembered by the department.

President Steve Moyer gave the President's report and presented Brian Lohr with the President's Award for his active participation and ready willingness to help with any project over the past year. Chief Steve Bowman gave the Chief's report, noting that the department had responded to 142 fire alarms in the past year.

The Chief's Award for this year was presented to Steve Martin. The Top Ten fire responders were honored for the efforts. The Rookie of the Year Award went to Brian Lohr. Brian will need to add another wall to his home to display all of his awards from tonight! David Kyle presented a special award, in memory of Steven Mitchell, to President Moyer – a statue of a firefighter – to be displayed in the company's trophy case. EMS Chief Brian Adams reported that the department had responded to 388 emergency medical calls in 2016. The EMS Member of the Year Award was presented to Dave Kyle, who had over 200 responses last year for EMS runs.

The Auxiliary President Jan Stickley gave her report, indicating a good year for the members. Because of their regu-

lar help with the Auxiliary in doing their work, Brian Adams and Andy Cessna were inducted as Honorary Auxiliary members. During the past year, the department had erected a covered pavilion in their side parking lot to provide a covered area for their various functions. The Auxiliary presented President Moyer a check for \$10,000 to cover the costs of the pavilion.

The new officers for the department were sworn in by Roger Long. They are: President Brian Adams, Vice President Kermit Humbertson Jr., Secretary Jason Bennett, Financial Secretary Amy Elliot, 3 year Trustee Andy Cessna, 2 Year Trustee Steve Martin, 1 year Trustee, Kermit Humbertson, Jr., Hall Manager Brian Lohr, Chaplain Dave Kyle, and Sergeant at Arms Malena Martin.

The Chief of Department for 2016 -2017 is Steve Bowman, Deputy



Flintstone Chief Steve Bowman presents the Chief's Award to Steve Martin.

Fire Chief Dalton Smith, Assistant Chief Steve Martin, Lieutenant Andy Cessna. EMS Chief is Bryan Adams and Deputy EMS Chief is Allen Ruby.



Brian Lohr receives the President's Award from outgoing President Steve Moyer. Brian also received the Rookie of the Year Award.

The Chaplain's Corner

Reflections on Risk: The Chaplain's Perspective

by Rev. John F. Long, Jr.
Chief Chaplain MSFA

I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

NOTICE: There will not be a fire service LODD funeral today.

Today a mother will hug her son again, a child will play ball with his father, a boyfriend will take a walk in the park with his girl. All of this happens because each one took the time to put on their seatbelt before departing the station; their officer did a 360 of the building before they made entry; and they put on their gloves before drawing blood in the back of the ambulance.

So now you are asking, why is the chaplain using his column to talk about this stuff? After spending the weekend at the National Fire Academy in a Risk class, I started to think about the current way we look at risk for own. We learned about managing community risk and how we can get our department and community to work together to reduce risk and protect life in the community. How much more do we need to look within and reduce the risk taken by our firefighters and EMTs?

Safety has always been a major piece of our training. We push it at every level, and explain what the best practices are to insure "Everyone Goes Home", but I want you to look at it from a different angle. WHY? Our instructor at the NFA did a very good job explaining how we can get folks to buy-in when we pro-

pose or tell them to do something.

So here is my perspective coming from a chaplain. You see it is usually the chaplain who is there with those left behind trying to give comfort to the grieving. So when you are told the engine will not move until everyone is in their seatbelt, picture this: you are responding on a call, and a truck blows through the intersection and hits your engine broadside. The engine spins wildly down the road and flips over. Because you were properly belted in, you unclip the belt climb out of the engine and walk away shaken but not broken. You go home to your family and live for another day with the story of a life time that you are a survivor.

"So here is my perspective coming from a chaplain. You see it is usually the chaplain who is there with those left behind, trying to give comfort to the grieving."

Same accident: no seatbelt, you are thrown around the cab, everyone else has their belts on, you are unconscious, removed by the rescue crew, and air lifted to Shock Trauma. Your brother and sister firefighters all gather at the hospital waiting, family members come in looking at the department members asking; "why did you let this happen." Tension between family and the fire service members may not surface but they are there. The outcome is grime, brain swelling, no neurological function. Days are spent waiting for good news, but it does not come. You check out

after two weeks of intensive care. Everyone questions why this had to happen. The department plans for a HERO send off

in the traditional LODD fashion. Your life has ended, you leave a vacuum, a void in the lives of the ones you left behind. The heartache is unbearable to your mother and father, sister, wife, and children. The children, now they have to grow up without their father.

I have had loved ones ask me; "how can God let this happen." Usually my response is silence and I just give a hug or hold a hand, when I really want to say, "because he was selfish, and would not take the time to put on his seatbelt."

So the next time you depart out of the station on a call, click that belt and save the lives of those who love you from a life without you.



MSFA CANDIDATE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Candidates for various MSFA offices may submit advertisements for placement in the Volunteer Trumpet.

Rates are discounted for MSFA office-seekers

To inquire about rates or to get additional information email the editor at trumpet@msfa.org

Deadline for submission of copy for the Convention Issue — May 15 2017

The Passing of Dr. Harry E. Hickey

By R. Wayne Powell

Dr. Harry E. Hickey served in multiple key roles in fire protection and the fire service during his life. His active fire services career spanned 52 years – 20 years in the career service and 32 years in the volunteer service.

His distinguished journey in fire protection disciplines include joining the University of Maryland's Department of Fire Protection Engineering (FPE) as the second full-time faculty member in 1960, retiring after 25 years of service in 1985.

For several decades he served as deputy fire coordinator, Wyoming County, NY, Bureau of Fire, which required many trips from Maryland to New York to fulfill. He spent most of his adult life analyzing the key components of good fire protection and working closely with the Insurance Services Office's Public Protection Classification program (overseen today by Verisk Analytics) that assists the fire insurance industry establish premium rates.

He authored many books and articles, plus it was his pioneering concepts that lead to the creation of the National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC), a national fire-related archival initiative, to preserve the written history of fire protection and the fire services in America. The well-earned official title of NFHC Principle Founding Member was bestowed on him by NFHC President Ronny J. Coleman of California in 2008.

The Dr. Harry E. Hickey Scholarship Endowment was established in July 2009 by alumni of the 4-year academic program, his friends and former students. Income from the Scholarship Endowment provides annual FPE scholarships in the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland at College Park. An important component of the FPE curriculum, the Fire Suppression Research Laboratory is

named in his honor. Upon retiring, he served as Director of Fire Protection and Fire Chief at the Johns Hopkins University / Applied Physics Laboratory in Howard County, Maryland.

Prior to and all during his university teaching and writing work he served with both the College Park and the Hillandale Volunteer Fire Departments in Maryland, plus assisted on projects at the National Fire Academy / United States Fire Administration in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Dr. Hickey authored the following textbooks:

- "Hydraulics for Fire Protection"
- "Public Fire Safety Organization: A Systems Approach"
- "Fire Suppression Rating Schedule Handbook"
- "Water Supply Systems and Evaluation Methods: Water Supply Evaluation Methods,' (Volumes I and II)
- "The Impact of Building Code Criteria and Emergency Preparedness Criteria on Water Demand Requirements to Fire Protection"

ADDITIONAL ROLES / CONTRIBUTIONS

- Once worked for the Fire Department City of New York
- Served as a fire protection evaluator for the insurance industry
- Testified before Committees of the Congress on fire protection matters

Wife - Gloria Hickey

Daughter - Kathleen Hickey

Son - David Hickey

QUOTES FROM DR. HICKEY

Regarding the importance of the Insurance Services Office on fire protection capabilities nationally, Dr. Hickey once said, "I know from my personal and academic-research experience that good fire protection has a tremendous effect on the vitality and sense of well-being in a community. When a fire hap-

pens, those who need help can easily see the difference between an effective, well-organized, and smartly deployed firefighting resource

and an inadequate or nonexistent one. "I've spent most of my adult life analyzing the key components of good fire protection, and I can tell you this – I can't imagine living in a world without ISO's Public Protection Classification program. It works because the financial incentives to improve classifications are unique and effective. It works because insurers and residents alike benefit from the informed choices of community leaders. And, it works because saving lives and property continues to be the prime mission of local emergency responders."



Dr. Hickey, Chief of Fire Service & Director at JHU/APL

Chip's Firehouse Logbook

quencies. As it was, Frederick County and Charles County, Maryland shared the low band frequency of 46.42 MHz. With both counties participating in the inaugural ceremonies, we could actually communicate with Charles County units. This did lead to some confusion as the numbering ~~system~~ in Frederick and Charles was identical. You could easily have two Ambulance 39 on the same channel. The need to use the county surname with the unit number became necessary.

Our first assignment before the parade started was to transport an additional nurse from the hotel command post to an EMS tent located near the parade route. As country kids in the big city, few of us knew the streets of Washington, DC and depended on directions from the command post.

Either we made a wrong turn or someone wrote the direction wrong, as we literally drove directly in front of the presidential reviewing stand amid bright television lights and military honor guards. I am certain today such a drive

by of the reviewing stand would be prohibited. We would probably be stopped or shot!

1973 was also a tumultuous time as the Vietnam War was still in progress. George McGovern was the "peace" candidate and Richard Nixon was perceived as the more "hawkish" presidential candidate. Protestors against the war caused some disruption, especially in the vicinity of the Mall. One of the ambulances from Frederick County assigned to that general area did receive some damage as the protestors became disorderly and law enforcement had to take action.

44 years later, counties surrounding the District of Columbia still step up to provide mutual aid to provide safety and security to the presidential inauguration. But extensive interoperable channels of digital communications have replaced a dispatcher on a hotel roof with a high band mutual aid radio. Weeks of preparation and planning go into the development of the Incident Action Plan, and multiple versions of ICS

forms replace the lined legal pads and sign in sheets.

Advanced First Aid has been replaced by Advanced Paramedic. Cadillac ambulances have been replaced by Mass Casualty Units and specially designed EMS transport busses. Even the perennial parade announcer Charlie Brotman has been replaced by the Washington National's announcer Steve Ray.

But, the mission has remained the same; providing safety and security to assure the smooth transition of power in our government can occur.

I commend all those from the many jurisdictions around the National Capitol Region for providing personnel and equipment to again demonstrate to the world that every four years our nation can host hundreds of thousands of citizens to Washington, DC to view democracy in action.

Be Safe.

Chip

Legislative Session in Progress

(Continued from page 1)

to the full House or Senate for a vote.

So why do we have to know anything about this politics? Well, if your department receives any money from the 508 Fund (the Amos Bill), or applies for a grant or low-interest loan through the MSFA, gets money or equipment from the DNR, or you receive a tax subtraction from your State income tax, you are a recipient of the work done by the legislative branch of State government; and the Legislative Committee is

our voice in where the money comes from and how much is available to be used by our departments.

You can help by getting to know who your area's Delegates and Senators are. If you have a question about legislative matters, contact the Legislative Committee to see what needs to be done. This may only mean sending an Email or making a phone call to the office of your Representative stating your being in favor or opposed to a proposed Bill. Check the Web Site for the MSFA

(msfa.org) each week during the session to see what the legislative bulletin that is prepared says about current legislative efforts.

The Bills that the MSFA are supporting and the Bills we are in opposition to are listed, along with the Bill's status, hearing schedules, etc. In this way, you show the people that represent you that you are a knowledgeable voter, and help them make decisions that affect us as firefighters.



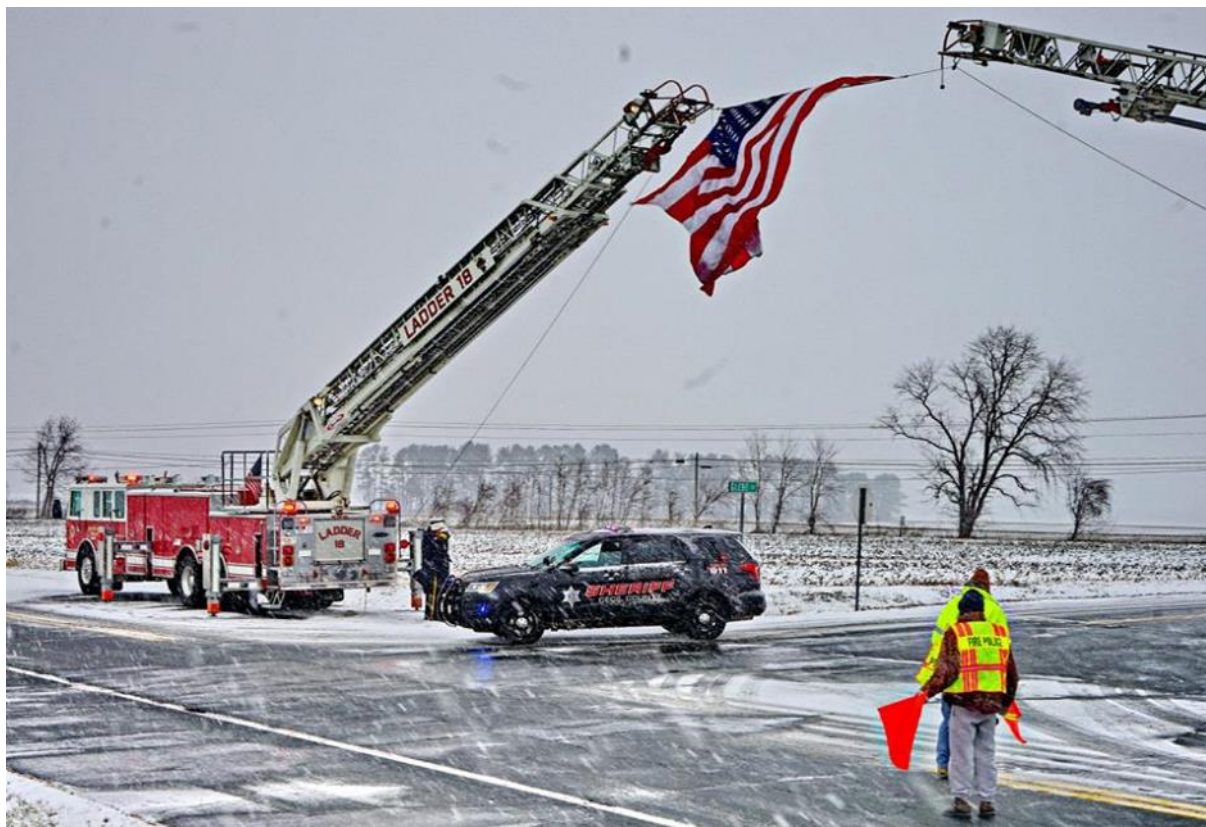
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**Representing the volunteer fire,
rescue and EMS personnel of
Maryland**



Two Delaware companies, Good Will of New Castle, and the Wilmington Manor Fire Company assisted Hacks Point as the service honored the memory of Captain Sheldon. The Cecil County Sheriff's Office lead the funeral procession to the cemetery on this snow day. See article page 3. Photo: Dixon

