

VOLUME XII: ISSUE III

VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.



Potomac Fire Company in Westernport host annual open house focusing on the 2022 Fire Prevention Theme: Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape. Annual Open's House's like this take place all over Maryland during the month of October. The open house also included surrounding departments from Keyser and Piedmont WV, and Barton and Bloomington, MD..





VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Firefighters

Firefighters do much more than just put out fires. As designated protectors of their communities, they attend to emergency events from fires to road accidents to floods.

They also meet with their communities to teach and raise awareness for fire safety.

EMTs

Emergency Medical Technicians are certified to render first aid to patients in the field, then triage, stabilize and transport patients to the hospital. In some areas, EMTs are also special operations personnel that do more than medical assistance.

Support/Admin

We are in constant need of professionals with specialized skills-sets from ALL backgrounds. Non-operational volunteer contributions are critical in day-to-day operations as well as attaining long-term department goals.

Hundreds of Volunteer Fire & EMS departments statewide are seeking passionate, dedicated individuals interested in joining their team as volunteer firefighters, EMTs, support, or administrative member.

Visit Marylandvolunteer.org to learn how you can make a difference and find your second family



Editor's Corner



In this new section of the Volunteer Trumpet, we'll highlight everything from member departments, volunteers, leadership development, operational and tactics quizzes, officer development, recruitment and retention best practices, and so much more. This is an opportunity to share my take on specific topics, and the spin is that the material is meant to start conversations. It's **not** meant always to be the "cookie cutter" reading material, nor is it always meant to be the **right**, as often I find myself met with varying opinions. But, too often than not, in the volunteer fire service, I find myself encountering people who think that they know everything there is to know, whether that is the seasoned Chief with 30-plus years of experience or the new volunteer that thinks five years of experience is equivalent to 30 years. Training and knowledge sharing must continue if we look to continue to advance the fire service forward.

Because this section of the newsletter is meant to share ideas and start conversations, I want to hear from the readership new topics that I should cover and ways that we can work on expanding the readership of the Trumpet. If you have a topic you'd like me to write about, please send ideas to Jonathan Dayton at jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com.

*My topic for the first Editor's Corner will be **recruitment and retention**. So I pose the question, why do we call it Recruitment and Retention? I would argue that if we solved the retention issues, we wouldn't ever have a recruitment issue. So why do we often focus on the recruitment piece first? I don't have the correct answer, but what advice I am going to offer is that all departments need to take strategic planning and membership satisfaction seriously. The first step for all departments should be starting a strategic planning committee that can focus on setting two to five-year goals for the department. Your department should seriously consider sending out a membership survey. There's a relationship between employee satisfaction and customer satisfaction, and both impact hospitality companies' financial performance (Heskett et al., 1994). What business are we in, the hospitality business or the people business? To do our job more effectively, we must first examine any challenges with volunteer (employee) satisfaction.*

I also want to take this time and express my sincerest appreciation for all the men and women volunteering in any capacity within the volunteer fire and ems services. People like you sacrifice hours, days, weeks, and months every year to serve your community and protect the lives of those young and old. For that, I thank you and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jonathan

In Memory of Chief Daniel B. Smith, Sr.
Aberdeen *Volunteer* Fire Department
A Fire Chief, U.S. Marine, and longtime MFRI Instructor

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Aberdeen Fire Department, I want to express our heartfelt sorrow at the passing of longtime Life Member and past-Chief Daniel Bennett Smith, Sr., affectionately known as "DB", at the amazing age of 100, on September 22, 2022. Indeed, a life well lived!

In addition to his sons Bennett, Jr., Bill, Sr., daughter Sandy, and son Bob, along with their spouses, he is survived by 7 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 22 great, great, grandchildren, and still counting.

In remembering him, I know he would also want us to remember his wife Sara, and how much they loved each other. They celebrated a remarkable 81 years together! They made a great team! Always there to support each other and the family in every way they could. We honor that love and devotion.

Although we mourn his passing, we remember him for the example he set, for all the good he did, for his kindness and compassion, the love he shared for his family and friends, the love he had for America, and the values he lived by.

We know how much he loved the fire service. And we loved him back! We admired and respected him, and we will miss him. We thank God for his life, his service to the nation, the State of Maryland, and the community of Aberdeen and Harford County he cared about so much. His many contributions made our state and community a better and safer place to live and work and raise a family. We pray Dear Lord, that his spirit will live on in each of us.

With God's blessing, DB outlived all the others of his generation. Indeed, this moment marks the end of an era for us. These are a few of the things I have come to know and admire most about DB and the Smith family. I know you share some of these thoughts.

DB leaves a rich legacy of dedicated and selfless service to his church, our community, State, and nation. He was born on December 19th, 1921, the youngest of three children born to Everett and Alice Bennett Smith. He was raised in Cecilton, a small town in Cecil County. He joined the Cecilton Volunteer Fire Department as soon as he was able to at the age of 16. The family home was just a few doors down the street from the fire station.

When World War II suddenly involved the United States with the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor he was inspired to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. Like many others of his generation, he saw it as his patriotic duty. More about that in a moment.

After returning home, he worked a couple of odd jobs before he was hired as a firefighter at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), and moved his young family to Aberdeen. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Aberdeen *Volunteer* Fire Department in 1948. Over the years he served as a Junior Officer and Assistant Chief before being elected Fire Chief in 1956. He held this position for two years until he was promoted to Fire Chief of APG at which time he was informed it was considered a conflict of interest to also be the volunteer chief at Aberdeen. He was subsequently elected as a long-time member of the Board of Directors. He also served as a past-President of the Harford Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association. He chaired or served on many committees at the state and local level. He served as a career firefighter, Fire Prevention Chief, Assistant Chief, and Fire Chief of APG for over 25 years until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 55.

In the years since, he continued to devote thousands of hours to the volunteer fire service on both the fire and ambulance side, now referred to as the Emergency Medical Services or EMS. He was instrumental in helping to establish both the Level Volunteer Fire Company and the Joppa Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company back in the 1950's and was recognized as an Honorary Member of both departments.

DB was a proud and humble man of great character, honor, integrity and compassion. He earned the respect of all who knew him. This is evidenced by the numerous awards and honors he received over his lifetime at the state and local level - way too many to mention here, but a few most notable ones include the prestigious Marbery F. Gates Service Cup Award by the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) in recognition of over 50 years of continuous and faithful service, as well as the MSFA Hall of Fame Award and the Harford Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association's Hall of Fame Award. He also Chaired the MSFA Executive Committee in 1968 under President Peter Paul Lockary, a dear friend from Bel Air VFC.

After he retired from APG, he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the State Fire Prevention Commission which is a volunteer Governor appointed board of seven members responsible for adopting and updating the State Fire Code every three years; overseeing the operation of the State Fire Marshal's Office; interviewing and recommending the appointment of the State Fire Marshal every six years; and serving as the board of appeals for those who feel aggrieved by an order of the State Fire Marshal. He was re-appointed every five years and served for over 17 years, the second most tenure of any commissioner since the commission was established by law in 1964. This again is testament of the great respect that DB earned due his background in fire safety and his

ability to evaluate all the testimony in an appeal case, and then help provide guidance with his fellow commissioners toward a fair and reasonable decision.

DB was a member of the Maryland fire service for almost 85 years. For nearly 70 of those years he was an active member of the Aberdeen Fire Department, and I do mean active. Even when others his age or younger slowed down or retired, he continued to respond on fire, rescue and EMS calls into his early 80's, driving and operating all of our fire and EMS apparatus and helping to care and lift patients into the medic unit. He was often the primary driver-operator of our first due engine, especially during the week. He was consistently among the top 15 responders each year for many, many years, even though in retirement he and Sara traveled all over the country, even to Alaska and Europe, in their RV. And later they spent a couple of months in Florida during the winter. When you think about all those years, his age, and the training and experience they represent, it is truly a remarkable record of service that very few of us achieve. It is indeed an inspiration to all of us!

In more recent years I enjoyed talking to DB not only because of our shared interest in the fire service, but because he reminded me so much of my dad and their generation. Like my dad, "Jack" Bender, DB was a veteran of World War II. Both received the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat, my dad with the Army Infantry in Italy and DB as a Marine in the First Marine Division in the Pacific. DB was seriously wounded during the invasion of Okinawa, a Japanese stronghold, one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific with fierce fighting and heavy losses on both sides. They both still lived with shrapnel in their bodies.

He told me he joined the Marines because he wanted to be in one of the "best and toughest outfits". He wanted to be where the action was. He wanted to make a difference. He had this inner desire and strength to be among the best of the best. That was his nature and that is what he expected of his family and others, and that is what he carried over into the fire service. That is the spirit he imparted to his firefighter students and all of us.

Like other young men of their generation, their lives were tempered by the reality of war and the separation from loved ones that only they could know in the most intimate way. When the war was over, they considered themselves extremely lucky to be alive, and to have survived. They did their Duty with Honor to God and Country, and love for their fellow soldiers. They just wanted to go home, be with their family, put the war behind them, resume their lives and raise a family, and work hard to earn the "American Dream". They accomplished that and so much more. They were an inspiration to all of us. We owe them our greatest debt of gratitude and respect!

Throughout the rest of their lives, they remained immensely proud and patriotic Americans, serving as a strong and steadfast example for all of us to follow. They stood proudly and silently at Veteran's Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, and at the Fourth of July parades, and at other occasions when our flag was presented or the National Anthem was played; always with a proper salute or their right hand over their heart.

And, they shared another common trait: Like many military veterans, they were humble and never considered themselves "heroes", regardless of what they did in the war or when they returned home. They said the real heroes were those who were left behind and made the supreme sacrifice. I think the following inscription at Arlington National Cemetery best describes their demeanor:

"America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did; they quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms we all enjoy." - Author: Unknown

Like many of you, I came to know DB and Sara and the Smith family through their well-known involvement in the Aberdeen Fire Department. They were a team. It was, and is, a family affair headed by DB and Sara. They and their sons and daughter, grandsons and granddaughters, and several spouses, all got their start, so to speak, or were influenced by the Aberdeen Fire Department in some way. Sara was extremely active with the Ladies Auxiliary, and daughter Sandy was the lead majorette in the award winning fire department marching band. At last count, I identified at least 16 family members, including spouses that became volunteer and/or career firefighters, Chief Fire Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, or Registered Nurses. Five generations of emergency first responders and care givers, and still counting. What a lasting tribute, and how proud and happy you all made DB and Sara! Thank you for your service!!

Their example inspired me and many others to join the fire service. I witnessed first-hand their unselfish devotion to every aspect of the fire service, and to each other, from responding on thousands of fire, rescue and EMS calls at all hours of the day and night, in all kinds of weather and other circumstances, organizing and participating in drills, clean-ups and maintenance of apparatus, leading and participating in meetings, marching in parades, helping at the annual firemen's carnival, collecting donations door-to-door for tag day, serving refreshments during a major incident, and participating in Ladies Auxiliary activities, and all of the many other activities the fire department did back then. Those were the "good old days" that I, and others my age, remember most.

No doubt times have changed, and the number of calls and hours of training requirements and other demands have greatly increased. The fire and EMS service has evolved to meet and address those challenges; but the primary mission to save lives and protect property with a sense of selfless devotion to duty remains the same.

Each generation builds on the success of the previous generation. There is no question that DB and the Smith family have contributed greatly to our community and the outstanding reputation that the Aberdeen Fire Department enjoys today around the State of Maryland. Their legacy is a source of pride and continues to serve as a solid foundation upon which the fire service continues to build, and for that we are forever grateful.

On a more personal note, DB was my earliest role model for what a firefighter and a Chief Fire Officer should be. He truly loved the fire service with all his heart and soul. You could just feel it by his presence and mannerism. He truly enjoyed helping people in times of emergency, no matter the time of day or night, no matter the circumstances or the people involved, no matter the attention it got or didn't get, just as long as the situation was handled the best way possible for all concerned. And, most importantly was that everyone returned home safely. He consistently followed up on anything he observed that could have gone better, any safety hazards he saw; and incorporated any such "lessons to be learned" in future drills. To him, leadership, preparation, pre-planning, having and maintaining the best equipment, training and safety, were critically important.

As all firefighters know, training is the life-blood of the fire service. Just like in the military, when a situation suddenly erupts, expected or unexpected, personnel must be prepared to react immediately with instinct based on their training and experience. DB knew this inherently and he did everything within his power to provide the best training opportunities not only to personnel under his command as Fire Chief of APG but to others around the county and State.

I for one consider myself extremely fortunate to have been one of hundreds of young firefighters to have benefitted from his training, and influenced by his leadership. Back then, our training was limited to whatever fire and rescue courses were offered at the local level or at College Park through the University of Maryland Fire Service Extension, now known as the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute or MFRI for short, and their part-time field instructors. DB was one of several well qualified instructors in this region for some 25 years. Back then, there were no regional training facilities like we have now at the MFRI Regional Training Center in Edgewood, so classrooms and training props had to be whatever could be organized at the local level. Often, classrooms were in the engine bays of local fire stations. Thanks to DB and his colleagues, we received some of the best training available at the time, mostly courtesy of the APG Fire Department.

Some of the training DB facilitated included: pit fires out at the APG "Phillips Airfield" using old B-17 and B-29 bombers, tanks and armored personnel carriers as props where the pits surrounding such props were filled with a layer of jet fuel floating on top of water and allowed to burn for several minutes to get really hot before crews would coordinate use of straight streams, fog streams and foam to extinguish the huge fire; there was a broken flange prop where crews would use different nozzles to attack flaming liquid spurting from a broken pipe above a stack of empty 55-gal drums; there were room fires that were allowed to burn to "flashover" set in old wooden barracks, abandoned officer's quarters and large dining halls with cork insulated walk-in freezers. These fires were as real as they get. I remember them as if it was yesterday. In fact, the hottest fire I ever fought was in one of these large, divided, dining hall freezers. It almost melted our helmets and singed or burned our ears despite our protective ear covering!

Some years ago this experience vividly reminded me of how terrible it must have been for the 6 firefighters who died in a huge abandoned cork insulated cold storage warehouse fire in Worcester, MA, searching in vain for homeless people known to live there. Like most firefighters everywhere under such circumstances, they were recognized for their bravery and selfless courage!

We very much appreciated DB for organizing this training and instructing us in how to be safe and effective firefighters. Today, of course, the challenges are much different and thankfully the resources are much more advanced and accessible thanks to the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute and the advocacy efforts of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and allied agencies, and our elected leaders and others. Maryland prides itself on having the best fire service training in the nation, and perhaps in the world for that matter. We are so fortunate for early visionaries like DB.

While we are saddened to say farewell to such a valued and respected member of the fire service, we are comforted knowing that DB lived a full and honorable life of noble purpose and deeds; and now is free of pain and suffering and is in a better place. There is no doubt he is at peace in the home of our Lord surrounded by loved ones, including, of course, his beloved wife Sara and many fire service colleagues like John Hoglund, Bob Byrus, David Gratz, Prof. John Bryan, Lloyd Layman, Joe Bachelor, Joe McDonough, Robert B. "Skip" Smith, and C. Oscar Baker, to name just a few that he mentioned to me. DB outlived all of these outstanding fire service leaders of his time. And now, he is one of them!!

And now, as we commend his soul to God, we say.... Life well lived, job well done good and faithful servant! Rest in peace Chief Smith from a grateful nation and a grateful community!

John F. Bender
Member, Board of Directors and
Immediate Past Vice President
Aberdeen Fire Department, Inc.

October 4, 2022



Past President of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association Chief Hugh Owens was awarded the John M. Buckman, III Leadership Award at this year's IAFC VCOS Symposium in the Sun Conference. Chief Hugh D. Owens is a Life Member (60 Years) of the Glenn Dale Fire Association and retired Federal Fire Chief.

In memory of Chief James "Jimmy" Jarboe (The man behind the Volunteer Trumpet Drawings) served Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department for over 60 years, from frontline firefighter to Chief, and in his later years as one of the country's most excellent fire prevention and public education activists. Decades of institutional knowledge and history go with him, and our department will miss him greatly. May he Rest In Peace, and may we all learn from his shining example of public service.



Chief Seavey passed away on September 4, 2018, from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a blood cancer presumed to have been a result of contact with toxic substances during his 42 years of service as a first responder.



Chief Seavey was present every October at the memorial when the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice were added to the wall. The NFFF has moved the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend from October to May 2023, and **Chief Seavey's own name will now be added to the memorial.** For more information about the memorial, visit the NFFF website.



100TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE CELEBRATING THE NORTH EAST FIRE COMPANY, INC.









Chip's Firehouse Logbook

1964 Bomber Crash, Nuclear Near Disasters in Maryland

Clarence "Chip" Jewell

One of the most serious and most dangerous aircraft accidents in Maryland history occurred during a blinding snowstorm on January 13, 1964. A Strategic Air Command B-52 bomber enroute from Westover Air Force Base, Mass, to its home station at Turner Air Force Base, Albany, Ga. When it crashed in the mountains of Western Maryland about 20 miles from Cumberland.

Reports in the Frederick News noted it took Maryland State Police troopers from Cumberland five hours to reach rugged, isolated area at the foot of the 2,788-foot Big Savage Mountain. At the time, there were already 15 inches of snow on the ground and still snowing. The initial report was no survivors. However, four of the five crew members ejected, and two survived.

An article in the January 13, 1964, Frederick News identified the crew as Ma]. Thomas W. McCormick, 42, Yawkey, W. Va., the aircraft commander, married and the father of two children; Capt. Parker C. Peeden, 29, copilot, Smithfield, NC., married and the father of one child; Maj. Robert L Payne, 41, navigator, Tulsa, Okla., married and the father of three children; Maj Robert E. Townley, 42, radar bombardier, Gadsen, Ala., married and the father of two children; T. Sgt. Melvin Wooten, 27, tail gunner, Rapid City, S.C., married with two children.

According to an AP report on Triblive archive, Payne succumbed to exposure in the Savage River State Forest after ejecting from the crippled B-52. Bombardier Maj. Robert Townley's remains were found in the wreckage on adjacent private land. The tail gunner, Tech Sgt. Melvin F. Wooten bailed out and died from exposure and injuries near Salisbury, Pa., nearly 15 miles north of the crash site.

The aircraft had been participating in Operation Chrome Dome, an airborne nuclear deterrence program that operated mainly from 1961 to 1968. It aimed to keep 12 bombers airborne at all times, flown by crews on 24-hour missions. The aircraft was returning from Europe and had to land at Westover, Massachusetts experiencing engine failure.

The website buzzonefour.org is dedicated to the crew of the aircraft and the people of Garrett County that attempted to rescue the crew of the aircraft in horrendous conditions. The narrative on the website notes "On January 13, 1964, a Boeing B-52D bomber of the 484th Bombardment Wing, call sign "Buzz One Four" was flying from Westover AFB in Massachusetts to Turner AFB in Georgia. The aircraft experienced severe wind turbulence over Southwestern Pennsylvania, which resulted in the structural failure of the vertical tail section, causing the aircraft to go out of control. The order to abandon the aircraft was given, and 4 of the 5 crewmen were able to eject." Wooten's widow, Carol, of Hermosa, S.D., called it the result of a "stupid" Strategic Air Command decision to fly the plane that night. She was left with three young children, including a newborn. The aircraft carried nuclear weapons, though not armed at the time of the accident, which no doubt created much concern with local officials.

First responders faced another large military jet crash on May 6, 1981, in Walkersville, MD that took the lives of 23 military and civilian personnel. I responded on this incident and can personally attest to how first responders suddenly become very concerned when military aircraft fall from the sky not knowing if the big jet is armed with weapons that can activate or explode. Fortunately for those that responded to the crash of an Air Force EC-135, call sign AGAR 23, on May 6, 1981, it was determined within the first hour this was a military surveillance aircraft and not armed with weapons.

Another scare involving unarmed nuclear missiles also happened in Frederick County on October 6, 2001, when a truck carrying 8 unarmed Navy missiles overturned on I-70 near Myersville, causing panic and evacuations and a mammoth traffic jam that halted traffic on I-70 for over 12 hours. Additionally, a no-fly zone of up to 3000 feet was imposed by the FAA. The missiles were eight Navy SLAM-ER (Standoff Land Attack Missile-Extended Range) missiles designed to be launched from a plane with a range of 150 nautical miles flying near the speed of sound. Several homes and businesses in the Myersville area were evacuated, sheltering in the Myersville Volunteer Fire Company and Myersville Elementary School.

The crash of the B-52 bomber in 1964 and the trailer overturning with nuclear missiles on board were two incidents that taxed emergency responders' resolve. In both cases, fire, rescue, and law enforcement personnel responded directly to the scene with no knowledge of the potentially catastrophic consequences that could have not only cost the first responder's their lives but could have jeopardized the lives of many civilians and created an ecological disaster. These incidents are prime examples that you can never be nonchalant in any incident. Any incident can be the next "big one."



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I RESPECT IT.
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Scott Cain

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Stay Safe!



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***THE MISSION OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION IS TO SERVE,
PROMOTE, ADVOCATE AND REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE,
RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF MARYLAND.***