

THE OLDE



FIRE BELL

WINTER 2010

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

STEVE CASSIAS REMEMBERED

Beloved America '76 Hose Company Member Stephen Thomas Cassias passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at age 66. Steve was born September 21, 1943 in Detroit, Michigan to Thomas and Marjorie Cassias. Steve was a devoted and loving husband to Shirley Cassias for 43 years, father to Christine Bynum and husband James, Christopher Cassius, and Catherine Irek and husband Steven, and grandfather to Alyssa Cassius. Steve was a dedicated volunteer fire fighter for over 40 years, and was assistant fire chief for the Southside Place and Houston Volunteer Fire Departments. Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 8601 Chimney Rock, Houston, Texas followed by graveside services at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale Ave., Houston, Texas.

Fellow America '76 Hose Company founder Chuck Buschardt spoke at Steve's funeral: "Steve always put others first. You'll see pictures of him with others making sure things are done right. He loved his God, family, friends, and fire service. I will miss him dearly." Chuck was one of the Pallbearers and chauffeured Steve's last ride to Forrest Park Lawndale in one of Steve's favorite Mack B-85's. Steve was great fan of Mack apparatus.

Tom McDonald, a close friend of Steve's: "I

am very sad to hear of the death of Steve. A long-time Houston fire buff and volunteer firefighter, Steve ended his long battle with cancer. I have known Steve since the late '70s when I was a fledgling Houston VFD member (and he and Jay Evans were Assistant Chiefs and Mike Pack was Fire Chief). Steve was a born teacher. He



taught me plenty back then - the old-school way which was and still is the right way. In fact, he and his wife taught CPR for years in Bellaire largely to a room full of 'I-don't-cares.' But, you know, when the class was over, those students knew what they were doing and did care. You could always tell Steve wanted his students to understand and learn, not just go through the motions. He was one of a kind. He knew nothing BUT work ethic during a time when everyone else seems to know nothing OF a work ethic. He knew his stuff and wanted others to know it, too."

Steve was still an HVFD AC at the time of his death as well as an Assistant Chief with the Southside Place VFD. He was then, and still was at his death, Assistant Chief of the Houston VOLUNTEER FD. Houston has had since the 40's, and still does have, a volunteer FD which supports the paid members. Jay Evans is currently chief. Steve was in that organization since the 50's. He was also Assistant Chief of Southside Place FD at the time of his death. Steve had also been a paid firefighter (continued on page 5)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM: April 19, May 17, and June 21 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- SPAAMFAA Summer National, Denver CO June 16 - 19, 2010. Sponsored by the Mile High Hook & Ladder
- 33rd GLIAFAA Fire Flea Market, Jackson MI County Fair Grounds, April 24th

UPFRONT

Welcome to 2010! *The Olde Fire Bell* hopes everyone had a happy, healthy, and restful winter holiday season.

The Olde Fire Bell would like to thank Cheryl McGee and Tom McDonald for organizing the wonderful Christmas Dinner at Bonnies Beef and Seafood Restaurant on December 11th. Approximately 30 SPAAMFAA'ers and Fire Buffs enjoyed a really fine meal. The door prizes were extra special, too!

Speaking of Christmas. Members Clinton and Teresa Johnson of Humble were featured in the December 24th Houston Chronicle's *InMotion* Section by Heidi Van Horne. Many thanks to the

Johnson's for volunteering to appear in the Chronicle and increasing TGCC's viewership. Unfortunately due to poor weather, many TGCC'ers didn't make it to the Friendswood Christmas Parade. There's always next year! With winter behind us, let's get those trucks out and about!

January is turning out to be a difficult month for the Chapter. Only one year from Marla Buschardt's passing on January 31, 2009, we report the passing of another long-time member, Steve Cassius. And on March 9th, Eric Lundstrum's dad, Lee, passed away. Our condolences goes to the families.

TCGG welcomes new members Bill Lofton, Paul Wilson, and Scott Mellott. Bill admits he's a sucker for antique fire engines and old trains (not the models, the BIG ones!). Bill has worked for Aldine ISD for over 20 years, a member of Westfield Volunteer FD for 13, and Jr. Captain for 7. He's also taught pump operation at A&M for 7 years for the Harris County Field Day each summer.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the 2011 National in Dallas, currently scheduled Feb. 23 - 26th. Nationals are a great time to catch up on the latest SPAAMFAA happenings.

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES IN SUMMARY

BY CHERYL MCGEE

The following is a summary of the Winter monthly meetings:

January: Tom McDonald reported the treasury was in good shape with ten members renewing their membership. Chuck Buschardt reported Eric Bergman had completed his High School degree. Clinton and Teresa Johnson's Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department was featured in the Christmas Eve edition of the Houston Chronicle, Heidi Van Horne's *InMotion* Feature. Lee Wilcox outlined his Intercessory Prayer Program. Tom McDonald has pre-registered 5 trucks for St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Officers were voted for another one-year term by acclimation.

February: Fourteen members turned out to help plan March's activities. Cheryl McGee continues to update the club roster with current email addresses and phone numbers. Mark Turvey provided information on The Inaugural Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Ride & Cook-Off to be held on March 20th. Clinton Johnson will be sponsoring the 7th Annual Humble Pumpnic once again at the former brine pit off FM 1960. This year, the IFBA will be joining in the festivities. Chuck Buschardt and Eric Bergman will be attending the

SPAAMFAA Winter National. Greg Barrileaux of Breaux Bridge LA has created a Facebook Page call the Cajun Fire Apparatus Museum.

March: Seven members shared events from the past month. Chuck and Eric recapped their experiences from the National in Tampa FL. Five trucks participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Houston. America '76 Hose Company celebrates 35 years this year. Moonshine Hill Pumpnic will be on March 27th. The April Chapter meeting will be at Eric Lundstrum's shop on 3013 Fountain View.

The Olde Fire Bell

The Olde Fire Bell is the official quarterly publication of SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, issued in March, June, September, and December.

The mission of the newsletter is to highlight SPAAMFAA National initiatives, to spotlight events of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, to foster a spirit of friendliness and of cooperation among its members, and to increase involvement in the preservation, restoration, and operation of equipment in fire service

Acknowledgements

The Olde Fire Bell is continuously seeking input from members and guests for future editions. The editor wishes to recognize the following contributors for making this issue possible:

Clinton Johnson Greg Barrileaux
Tom McDonald Mark Turvey

Please send information to the webmaster at GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG, or send to editor at the address on the newsletter back page

TGCC FEATURED IN CHRISTMAS EVE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Clinton and Teresa Johnson have now joined the ranks of some of the most influential people in Houston by having a front-page article (ok, it was an inner section) entirely dedicated to their fire-truck passion.



With little advance notice, the proverbial “knock on the door” came from Heidi Van Horne, author/editor of the Houston Chronicle’s *InMotion* Section. Heidi features the latest customs, hot rods, and cool classics every Thursday, and she was seeking to fill a December 24th Christmas Eve special featuring local fire truck collectors. What’s more Christmas than Santa on a fire engine! Attempts were made in 2008 to run a similar feature, but fell through due to logistical and timing issues.

A staple at parades and events throughout Houston, Kingwood, and Humble, the Johnson’s 1948 Mack ex-Bellaire Fire Department was featured in the article. See photo below and one the back page Hall of Flame, taken on December 4th when Houston received its earliest snow fall ever! The Mack served Bellaire until 1969 when it was sold at auction. It passed through several owners and was later rescued from a junk yard by Chuck Buschardt. After a short stint as a brush fire truck/reserve pumper, it fell into the Johnson’s hands in 2004 who completed the restoration achieving its current appearance. Their 1961 American LaFrance ladder truck made a cameo appearance, also. Another shot from the recent Crystal Lake League City Pumpnic completed the *InMotion* article.

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter would like to thank the Chronicle and Heidi Van Horne for running the article featuring one of its most dedicated and faithful families.



KILLARNEY ENGINE 3 TO BE RESTORED

It all started with an email from Greg Barrileaux: “According to the Mack Museum, I recently purchased Engine #3 from a fire department in Mississippi. I can no longer keep her and would like to see her return home.” The email above - sent to Steve Kidd, host of the Killarney FD website - was forwarded on to Bill Campbell, former Captain with Killarney and now retired from Reedy Creek Fire Department. Little did Greg know that within a matter of days, Engine 3’s former department would beckon his call. Bill quickly made arrangements to see the engine and buy it with plans to restore it. Bill and John Rougeux flew to Louisiana with the help of a pilot friend, Jim Passilla. Jim dropped them off and they drove the 1972 Mack back to the Orlando/Apopka Airport where it was stored in Bill’s hangar.



There’s a webpage that is dedicated to the restoration of the Mack fire engine that Greg drove to Houston for Marla Buschardt’s funeral last year: <http://killarneyengine3.wordpress.com/>. Over the next months, you can watch its transformation and follow the involvement of the many people it takes to complete a project of this scale. “I sold the truck to the original group of firefighters who were disbanded when the County fire service went professional. The truck was Killarney original Engine 3. They have put several thousand dollars into the truck to return it to its service condition. I’m glad I was able to find the original owners of the truck with the help of the Mack museum and Clinton Johnson’s knowledge of ladders (he recognized the bar at the last rung of the ladder)”, states Greg.



FRIENDSWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE

BY MARK TURVEY

"We made it!" exclaimed Mark Turvey. "Our 1976 Ford/FMC had been suffering from fuel issues, and I found an accelerator pump for our carburetor (a whopping \$4.30 at O'Rielly's) and installed it early that afternoon. Fuel leak solved!" Mark and Nancy Turvey had all but written off participation in the Friendswood Christmas Parade, but thanks to last-minute heroics, the tradition of TGCC participation was preserved. "This was probably the biggest lighted parade yet. Most of our regular staging area by the church was consumed by the Lighthouse Cooking Team. Other trucks besides Friendswood were Forest Bend T-126, what appeared to be an old Ward LaFrance from Hill Sand Co., and another old pumper from Carnes Funeral Home. The Lighthouse Cooking Team set up and served free hot dogs, chili/frito pie & beans/rice at the fire station. They had a snow hill by the park for the kids to slide down. It was a great night for a parade, cool but not biting cold like in some years past."

Due to the weather, the McGee's choose to forego the parade this year. Too wet and cold to parade the open cab ALF 700 series. Regular participants Bill and Kathy Wilcox were undergoing some serious home remodeling and their truck was blocked in by a dumpster. But they still managed to participate on the sidelines.

Photos: Top - Santa being carefully escorted to the top and into the bucket of Friendswood VFD's 2000 Pierce 100' platform ladder truck. Bottom - The Turvey Family and friends - including the four-legged kind - assembling at Friendswood Station 4 prior to the parade. The kids has a great time at the event!



LINCOLN SUPPORTS T-BALL

BY JIM & CHERYL MCGEE

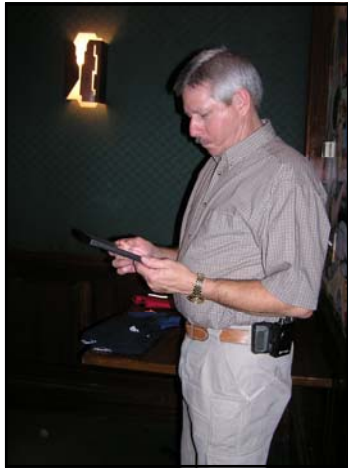


Saturday, March 8th was the Opening Day Parade for Clear Lake Little League. A beautiful day for a morning parade around the Clear Lake neighborhood. Approximately 30 floats including seven in-service fire apparatus from Pasadena, Nassau Bay, Kemah, Webster, and Houston plus our 1948 ALF 700 Series pumper carried teams through the parade. We were the only antique, and it got a lot of attention, as you can see from the photo. The kids threw candy to the adults and other kids along the parade route. We were at the end of the parade and found some areas literally blanketed with candy. We had a great time and appreciated the opportunity to do a little community service in the name of the Chapter. *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes the recognize Jim and Cheryl for their community involvement.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER



On December 11th, about 30 members from SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter and Greater Houston Fire Buffs jointly partook in the 2009 Annual Christmas Dinner at Bonnies Beef & Seafood Company on I-45 South Houston. Organized by Cheryl McGee and Tom McDonald, the 7:00 PM meeting offered plenty of time for socializing in an English Pub setting. Following shop talk, participants ordered off a select menu including Chicken "Condon Bleu", Blackened Redfish "Louisiane", and Charbroiled Delmonico Steak. All entrees included soup, seasonal salad, bread, an assortment of drinks, and a choice of Key Lime Pie or Cheesecakes. After the meal, door prizes including a wide selection of fire memorabilia were randomly pulled from a hat. "The food was good – conversation great – seeing old friends always the best!!!" mentioned Cheryl McGee.



conversation great – seeing old friends always the best!!!" mentioned Cheryl McGee.

The Olde Fire Bell and all the participants would like to thank Cheryl McGee and Tom McDonald for organizing the wonderful event. Photos show Mark Tuvey (left) selecting his door prize, and Tom McDonald and Debbie Hoover enjoying the pre-dinner camaraderie in the private dining room.



STEPHEN THOMAS CASSIAS

for Bellaire years ago.

In 1975, Steve was one of the original members of America '76 Hose Company which became the first incarnation of today's Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA.

Notes Tom: "He built the side and back-yard fence at my house some ten years ago with his helper Oscar. That fence still stands as straight today as it did when they built it. In fact, when Hurricane Ike sent a 1000-lb. tree limb down on that fence in 2008, the fence won and the tree limb lost! I will miss Steve very much because there will never be another person like him."

Below is a 1978 photo of Steve at an apartment fire on Ranchester & Bellaire Blvd. It shows quite clearly that he was not particularly fond of air packs or gloves. If you ever shook hands with him, it was like doing so with an alligator. But, despite his small frame, he was clearly capable of handling a 2 1/2" hose line by himself.

Photographs from the funeral may be found on the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Website. Donations may be made on Steve's behalf to the Lutheran Social Services of the South (Lutheran Social Services of the South, Attention: Agency Advancement P.O. Box 140767 Austin, Texas 78714).



2010 ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

BY STEVE DALPE



The Luck of the Irish prevailed on Saturday, March 13th, as five TGCC Antique Trucks paraded in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. The noon-time parade, a Houston tradition for 51 years, was nearly two-hours long and featured over 120 entries. It is one of the largest parades of its kind in the U.S. to delight the Irish and the Irish-at-heart. The weather was absolutely brilliant for the entire event!

The parade started and ended at Minute Maid Park at the Intersection of Texas and Hamilton. Clinton and Teresa Johnson sponsored two 75-foot aerial and the driven by Bill Lofton. brought his 1958 Mack McGee drove the 1948 David & Lynn White Camp David tillered aerial all the way from col-trucks made it to the without incident. Other



Eddie Kosar, Eric Lundstun, Zac Buschardt, Eric Bergman, and Steve Dalpe. Eric and Eddie produced videos of the event that can be seen on the chapter website. At the conclusion of the parade, Pat Duane, President of the Parade Commission, presented the Chapter with the award for the "Best Largest Vehicle in the Parade." *The Olde Fire Bell* would like to thanks all the TGCC participants.

Following the parade, a lunch was held with the Hibernians underneath the I-59 overpass. The group decided that this would become an annual event.

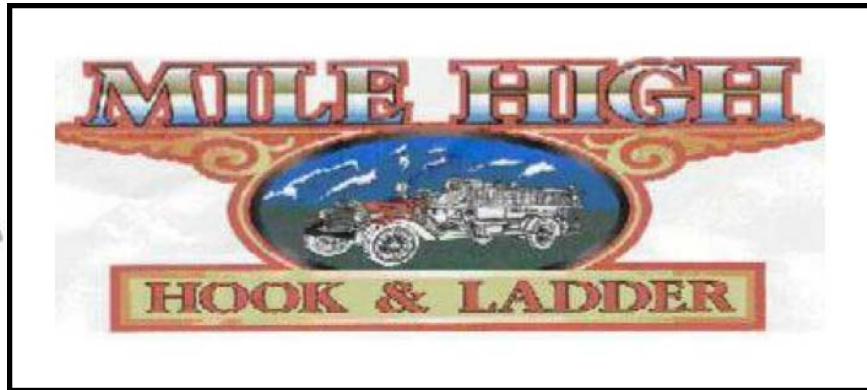
Photos: Top - St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen on 1948 Mack. Left - Chuck Buschardt with a hosebed load of parade goers. Below - David and Lynn White leading the parade with their 1977 tillered aerial. Opposite Page: Jim and Cheryl McGee driving the 1948 ALF with the lucky charm on the nose. Zac Buschardt completing the finishing touches on the 1958 Mack before the start of the parade.



MILE HIGH HOOK AND LADDER

INVITES YOU TO ENJOY COLORADO, AND OUR 25TH ANNUAL MUSTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPAAMFAA SUMMER CONVENTION

JUNE 16TH THROUGH THE 19TH 2010



Hotel information: Rooms are blocked out at Hilton Garden Inn; 1050 Plaza Drive, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, USA 80126
Tel: 303-683-4100 Fax: 303-683-4110. Room rates are \$99.00 per room. Check out www.hgihighlandsranch.com for more information about their property. When making a reservation, ask for the MHHL rate to get the lower rate.

Registration deadline is 4 June 2010, so register early to avoid missing out on tour seats.

Send Convention Registrations to:

**Steve Guardado
654 Rio Rancho Way
Brighton CO 80601**

**For more information check out
www.milehighhookandladder.org**

2010 ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

(CONTINUED)



REPORT FROM THE 2010 WINTER MEETING

BY TOM McDONALD

The SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting was held this year in Tampa, Florida, headquartered at the downtown Howard Johnson Hotel, which backed up conveniently to the Hillsborough River. The meeting, sponsored by the Tampa Chapter, a.k.a. "The Dalmingo Society," was held February 17-20, 2010. Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members Eric Bergman, Chuck Buschardt, and Tom McDonald attended along with about 150 others registrants.



Tampa Fire Department members demonstrate the use of high-expansion foam at the academy

The weather cooperated quite well with most events held under partly cloudy or better skies as daytime temperatures rose to the 60's and 70's, much to the delight of the attendees from snow-covered northern states. On Thursday morning the 18th, tours were conducted to Pierce Manufacturing's Plant at nearby Bradenton as well as to the St. Petersburg Fire Department across Tampa Bay in Pinellas County. For those more inclined to remain at the hotel, three seminars were offered that morning. In fact, the Dalmingos generously sponsored afternoon tours back to Pierce and St. Pete for those who wanted to do both.

On Friday the 19th, the Dalmingos conducted an all-day tour to show off select Tampa Fire Department facilities, including the training academy, the fireboat headquarters, the headquarters fire station downtown, and its new fire museum, housed in the oldest firehouse still standing in the city, which was conveniently across the street from the headquarters station. A concurrent tour went to the Armed Forces Museum in Largo.

On Saturday the 20th, the hotel was the site for all events, which started with an indoor and outdoor flea market. A static apparatus display with about 25 antique apparatus, in-



Tampa Fire Department Ladder 1, a 2009 Pierce tractor-trailer with 100-foot aerial. The color scheme is red and "pewter," the colors of the Buccaneer football team

cluding some beautiful restorations, consumed about a third of the hotel's generous parking lot. The river, only a street crossing away, was utilized for drafting by a couple of select antique rigs. A dump tank operation augmented the water supply as a Crown/Pittman snorkel provided an aerial water show. That show was augmented by the deck cannons of Tampa's smaller fireboat which churned away mid-river with its two streams interacting with the snorkel's spray. That evening, a banquet at the hotel closed the three-day event.



Tampa FD Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Coordinator Brian Smithey cannot escape his four-legged team member's nose, found in less than 15 seconds among a host of sealed barrels. The team, only days back from deployment in earthquake-ravaged Haiti, put on this demonstration for the SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting attendees at the TFD training academy

REPORT FROM THE 2010 WINTER MEETING

(CONTINUED)



This beautifully-restored ex-Jacksonville, Florida piece is a 1925 REO Speedwagon and Childs-Foamite combination engine. It can pump water either using a 300 GPM rotary pump or by pressure created by its onboard chemical tank



This ex-San Bernardino, California 1968 Crown/Pittman 85-foot snorkel with 1250 GPM pump provided an aerial water show for the Saturday event held behind the host hotel along the Hillsborough River



More than 150 visitors enjoyed the Saturday afternoon display of apparatus



At least 25 fire rigs were on display at the host hotel in downtown Tampa on Saturday



Left - This 1958 Seagrave 75-foot aerial was a former Clearwater, Florida ladder company. Right - Tampa Firefighters Museum is located downtown in a well-preserved former firehouse, the oldest still standing in the city



TEXAS LODD TASK FORCE MUSTER

BY MARK TURVEY

Texas Gulf Coast Members were present to support the 1st Annual Texas Line-of-Duty Death Task Force Benefit Memorial Ride and Cookoff, in Hitchcock TX. In conjunction with the Memorial Ride, there was a fire truck muster on Saturday March 20th from 1:00—3:00 PM at Jack Brooks Park. Categories included Best Pumper, Best Aerial, Best Brush Truck, Best Rescue, Best Command Vehicle, Best Antique prior to 1960, Best Antique 1960 - 1985, and Judges' Favorite. There was no entry fee. Many thanks to the SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter for donating the two antique trophies.

Tim Rogers from Baytown Fire was the overall Muster Coordinator. Tim came with experience having previously coordinated staging for CIMA muster with over 50 vehicles. Steve



Dalpe was the second coordinator - his first in that capacity!

Hitchcock Volunteer Fire Department swept the trophy categories, including best antique 1960 - 1985 with this 1985 Grumman Tiger Cat/Spartan Pumper 1250 GPM Waterous Pump. The truck was dedicated in 1986 to Chief A. G. Terrebone for HVFD volunteer service dating back to 1946. Best Pumper went to Pasadena Volunteer Fire Department. Judges favorite went to Marathon for their Pierce 3500 GPM.

In addition to the muster, bike ride, and cookoff, there was live music, longhorns, petting zoo, and other kinds of stuff for the kids. Unfortunately Life Flight and PHI were not able to land due to the weather. Many thanks to everyone that came to the event to raise funds for a worthy cause.



Photos: Left - wet and cold muster coordinators Steve Dalpe (left) of TGCC and Tim Rogers from Baytown Fire Department. Bottom Left - Mark Turvey not only helped coordinate the muster, but operated the sound for

the live bands. Right - Hitchcock Engine 12 1985 Grumman Tiger Cat with Spartan Cab took first place in the antique category. Bottom right - Trophy recipients that braved the cold and rain, including trucks from Marathon, Pasadena, and Hitchcock.



Application for Membership

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire
Apparatus in America
(SPAAMFAA)

Please mail this application with \$20 dues made payable to:

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA

PO Box 697

Bellaire TX 77402

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

Street or Box No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Nine Digit Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Business: _____ Pager: _____

How did you hear about us? Web page _____ Friend _____ Publication _____ Muster _____ Newsletter _____

Other (please specify) _____

Interests: Collecting Fire Equipment _____ Photography _____ Attending Musters _____ Parades _____

Restoration Activities _____ Helmets/Gear _____ Other (please specify) _____

Fire Department or SPAAMFAA Affiliation: _____

If you own a piece of firefighting apparatus that is at least 25 years old, please provide the following information. Attach separate sheet if multiple vehicles. Ownership of apparatus is not required to join Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Year: _____ Make: _____ Type: (Pumper, Aerial, etc.) _____

Mfg. Model: _____ Mfg. Serial #: _____

Pump Make: _____ Pump Size GPM: _____ Tank Size: _____

Previous Owner and History of Rig: _____

Membership in Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is open to all upon application to the Board of Directors and payment of annual dues. Join today and share in the preservation and appreciation of fire fighting and antique fire apparatus.

All new members are also encouraged to join the National SPAAMFAA Chapter. National SPAAMFAA provides additional resources for restoration and insurance for all sponsored events. National Membership is mandatory for Officers of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

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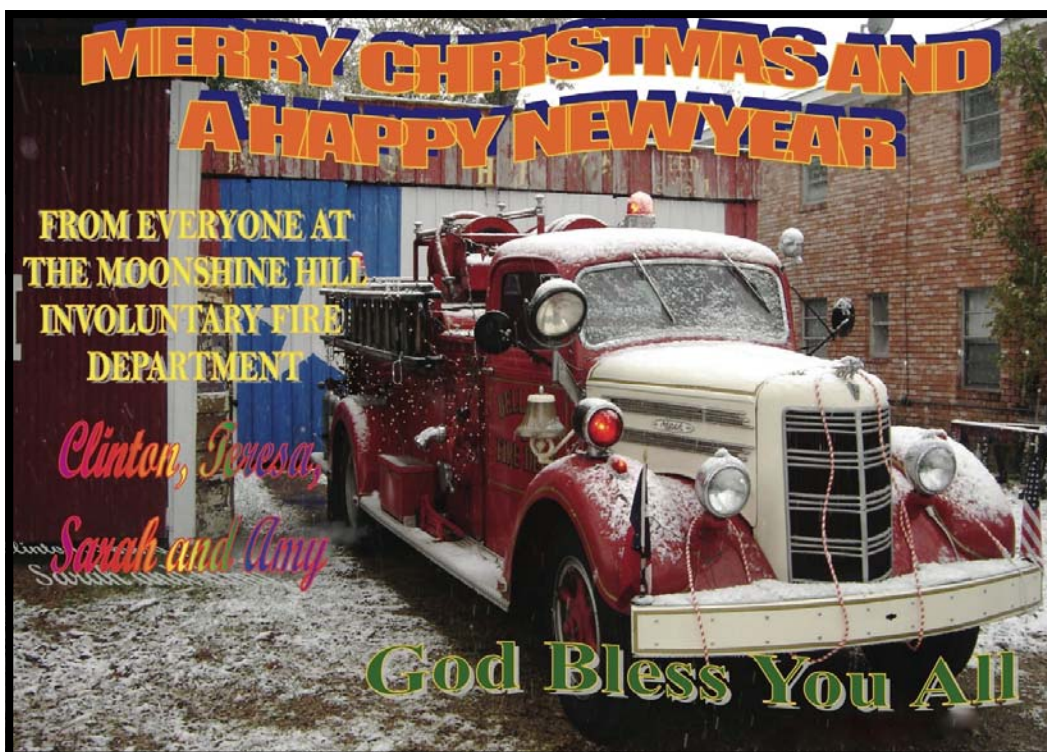


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*To stimulate and cultivate interest in the restoration, preservation,
and operation of antique fire apparatus*

TGCC HALL OF FLAME: 1948 MACK



Clinton and Teresa Johnson operate this ex-Bellaire 1948 L Model Mack with 500 GPM pump and 200 gallon tank. It's a proud member of the Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department in Humble Texas and can be seen regularly at club events