



### CHIEF'S CORNER

#### Bonjour, Mes Amis!

Hello everyone and welcome to the May edition of the Chief's Corner. As you can tell from the title of this month's article, I want to talk about something a little different. As most of you know, I just returned from a trip to France and thought it would be interesting to discuss some of the ideas and differences I encountered while I was there. Most of all, I want to discuss the ways the French and the Europeans, in general, conserve compared to Americans and what we might be looking at in the future. Let's start off with some facts about Paris and the demographics of the "City of Light."

The City of Paris itself is not that large. In fact, it is smaller than Lynchburg in square miles. It measures about 40 square miles compared to the 50.25 square miles of Lynchburg. However, there are 2.1 million people living in Paris "proper" compared to about 75,000 in Lynchburg. (You can see that there is a slight difference in population density.) The suburbs around Paris and the whole metropolitan area has about 13 million inhabitants. With that many people living in the area, you can understand why it is important to conserve your resources. Just the parking for vehicles becomes a major problem. (People park everywhere, including on the sidewalk.) The type of vehicles you encounter are vastly different. Almost everyone who owns a vehicle has a small, fuel efficient "mini car" and there are also thousands of scooters and bicycles. With the price of gasoline at about 1.65 euros per liter, you won't see any four wheel drive pickups or large SUVs cruising around. (That is around \$9.00 per gallon depending on the grade of fuel and the exchange rate.)

Many people live close to where they work; they walk, ride a bike/scooter, or take mass transit to work. Very few people have a long commute to the workplace. It's just not financially prudent to do so. With fuel being so expensive, the average individual living in Paris tries to save every way they can. As the price of gasoline continues to rise in this country, are we going to be more like Europe in the future? Only time will tell, but it should give us pause to think about it.

Another area where the Europeans conserve is in the use of electricity. In every hotel we stayed you could not exit your room and leave a light on. You had to place your room key in a slot to make the lights come on, and when you left and took the key with you the lights went off. All of the light bulbs were CFL or LEDs and of low wattage. Small, high intensity lights were the norm. Europeans also save electricity in the freezing of ice. They use very little ice and serve most of what they drink at room temperature or slightly chilled. This took some getting used to for me and I thought I had hit the jackpot one night when I was able to get a Pepsi for my dinner meal and it was served with three cubes of ice in a tall glass. (I did not get a full glass of ice until I returned to the USA and stopped at the 7-Eleven on the way home from the airport.)

Speaking of meals, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the custom of serving water with a meal. In America, you will get a glass of water with almost any evening meal and it will be served with plenty of ice. In Europe, you would normally have to ask for water and it will come in a bottle or other container and you will be charged for it. If you want regular water then you should ask for "flat water," otherwise you may get "sparkling water" which contains carbonation. They do not waste drinking water by serving it unless you ask. This idea is starting to catch on in some restaurants around here and I can't say that I like it. However, as potable water becomes more valuable I see this trend catching on.

It also seemed to me that the Europeans were really into recycling and reusing everything. Most beverages were in glass bottles and were reused. Plastic bottles were not the norm in the markets and stores. Even the buildings were reused and refurbished. It was not unusual to have new apartments in buildings that were built in the 1500s. They do not tear them down, they remodel and reuse. Even when they tear down a building they reuse the materials when they build the new one.

The last item I want to comment on is the way they shop for groceries in France. Usually they go to the market every day (or every other day) and buy what they need to prepare the evening meal. They don't buy groceries for a week and store them in the refrigerator. Most homes have a small refrigerator like you would see in a college dorm room. This also helps to save electricity and most of the food is fresh. Another difference is the use of shopping bags and "carts" in France. The people take bags and carts with them to the market and after checking out, they load their items in the cart and roll it home. If you want a bag, the market will charge you for each one. Like it or not, this does tend to encourage people to bring their own cloth bags and reuse them. One good side effect of this practice is the fact that you do not see the white plastic bags blowing around on the streets. I kind of liked this approach.

That brings us to the end of my thoughts on how the Europeans differ and conserve when compared to this country. I'm not making any judgements, just commenting on how their culture has forced them to adapt to the available resources. As the population of America increases and our "population density" increases, will we adapt some of these practices? I don't know, but it may provide a glimpse into the future. Until next time, be safe and keep up the great work. However, don't forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

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## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate anniversaries with the department in May:

### 33 Years

Kent Ferguson

### 19 Years

Chris Adams

### 8 Years

Mike Mitchell

### 3 Years

Bobby Caughey

### 2 Years

Jennifer Mayberry

### 1 Year

Stuart Clark

## CERTIFICATIONS

### Boating Safety Education

Kenneth Bunch  
Frankie Campbell  
Tim Jackson  
Phillip Meeks  
Jeannie O'Brien  
Neil Patterson  
Sean Regan  
Charles Shealy

## MEMBERS ATTEND



During the week of April 22-26, 2013, Battalion Chief Robert Lipscomb, Captain Allen Carwile, Master Firefighter Steve Ripley and Firefighter Earl Copes attended the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Over the course of the week, attendees had the opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers and instructors discussing critical issues within the fire service, as well as participate in practical hands-on training evolutions.

This conference also serves as the venue for one of the largest Fire and EMS trade shows in the country. During this event all major manufacturers and vendors display, and in some cases debut, cutting-edge apparatus and equipment used in the fire service.



## JIM WHITAKER RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

On April 14, 2013, Jim Whitaker was recognized for his lifelong commitment to community service in Lynchburg. Much to Jim's surprise, Senator Steve Newman, Lynchburg Fire and Police Department members, and Jim's family and friends gathered at Victory Christian Fellowship Church to honor Jim's work in this community over the last 40 years.



L-R: Senator Steve Newman and Jim Whitaker

Jim Whitaker is a valuable asset to the Fire Department, and we are honored to have him represent the Lynchburg Fire Department as our Restoration Officer. However, we realize that we are but one component of the marvelous community work of Jim Whitaker. As you read the Commending Resolution below that was adopted by the General Assembly and presented to Jim, his commitment and passion to this community is evident.

Congratulations Jim, and thank you for your commitment to community service!

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 362

Commending James Whitaker

**WHEREAS**, James Whitaker moved to Lynchburg almost 40 years ago and has worked to make Lynchburg a better community by giving of himself and his time for public service; and

**WHEREAS**, James Whitaker served on the Lynchburg City Council from 1992 to 2000 and as mayor of Lynchburg from 1994 to 1998; he became the first mayor to begin the State of the City Address and was a strong advocate for stronger communities by developing a strategic plan of how Lynchburg might look in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, James Whitaker has been a member of the Victory Christian Fellowship where he has taught Sunday School and helped design and build the sanctuary; he also coordinated the building of two houses on church property to be named Victory Houses, where victims of fire or crime could live for up to 90 days at no cost; and

**WHEREAS**, James Whitaker has served as the chaplain for the Lynchburg Police Department since 2000, helping many officers and victims of crime by responding whenever an officer or civilian needed counseling or guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, James Whitaker has served as the restoration officer for the Lynchburg Fire Department since 2001; the position is a volunteer one that stocks a trailer with furniture and other household necessities to give to victims of fire who have lost their belongings; and

**WHEREAS**, James Whitaker opened the New Life Christian Bookstore in Lynchburg in 1989 in an effort to help the people of Lynchburg find spiritual items and books; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, that the General Assembly commend James Whitaker for his lifelong commitment to community service in Lynchburg and his selfless contributions to make Lynchburg a better community; and, be it

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to James Whitaker as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for his dedication to community and public service.

## CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE

The Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Inc. is excited to begin its first official fundraiser!

These silver 2013 Challenge Coins are available for \$10 each. All proceeds will benefit the Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Inc.

The front of the coin depicts one of LFDs original logos that dates back to the 1930s. The back of the coin depicts a replica of one of LFDs original uniform patches.

To purchase your coin(s), contact Tammy Sage at 455-6341. No preorder is necessary.....the coins are here and available NOW!



Front of Coin



Back of Coin

## 2013 RETIREE SOCIAL

The department's Annual Retirees' Social will be held Friday, June 7, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon at the Fire Administration Training Room.

During this year's social, the following members who recently retired will be presented with a gift from the department:

Walt Bailey	Richard Bass
Derrick Carwile	Barry Crabtree
Linda Eagle	Paul Ginther
Ed Jones	Carla Mann
Dave Mason	Fred Mills
Robbie Ore	Curry Rice
Ron Sanders	Rod Smith
Mike Smith	Rick Ware

The service will also honor Royall Williams, who was the Fire Department's oldest retiree. Royall passed away on April 4, 2013.

This year's event will again showcase some fire department memorabilia (courtesy of Rod Smith) and offer retirees time to socialize and reminisce. In addition, a brief presentation will be provided on the progress being made on the Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Inc.

All department members are invited to attend! RSVP to Tammy Sage (455-6341) by June 4<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

## DEPARTMENT ACQUIRES WESTERN SHELTERS

By: Battalion Chief Greg Wormser

The Fire Department has recently taken delivery of two Western Shelters through a Virginia Department of Emergency Management Grant.



In keeping with the FEMA standard that our Technical Rescue Team must be self sustaining for the first 72 hours of deployment, these shelters will be utilized during times of deployment.

The shelters have approximately 1,000 square feet of floor space each and are soft sided with a metal frame. Each shelter has a set of double doors at each end and comes with its own heating and air unit. The shelters offer lots of versatility and can be used for office space, staging, sleeping, or dining. In addition, the shelters have expansion points built in, allowing for the addition of bathrooms, showers, or other shelters. There will be opportunities to utilize these shelters in the city for special events and other incidents where sheltering is needed once the Technical Rescue Team has completed its training.

The Technical Rescue Team was also awarded a grant for the purchase of a new Team Trailer. This trailer is being custom built by Hackney and will be turn key. The trailer is a tandem axle 43 foot long trailer making it slightly longer and taller but more maneuverable. Once we take delivery of the new trailer at the beginning of May, we will use the old trailer for our sustainability package which will include; hygienic supplies, shelters, food etc.



## CHIEF CAMPBELL COMPLETES EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM



Battalion Chief  
Jason Campbell

Congratulations to Battalion Chief Jason Campbell who completed the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) in 2012. Chief Campbell was among 15 Virginia Fire Officers who were honored during the Virginia State Fire Chief's 2013 Mid-Atlantic Symposium in Virginia Beach, VA in February 2013 for this accomplishment.

The Executive Fire Officer Program is an initiative of the U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Academy and is designed to provide senior officers and others in key leadership roles with an understanding of the need to transform fire and emergency services organizations from being reactive to proactive; with an emphasis on leadership development, prevention, and risk-reduction.

The EFOP spans a four year period with four core courses. Each EFOP participant must also complete an Applied Research Project that relates to their organization within six months after the completion of each of the four courses. Chief Campbell's Applied Research Projects were:

- Year 1: Organizational culture and its impact on firefighter safety
- Year 2: Improving firefighter safety through company officer inspections
- Year 3: Avoiding firefighter injuries and accidents and becoming operationally efficient through mindfulness and high reliability
- Year 4: Avoiding response standards deficiencies by determining the most economical staffing model for the Lynchburg Fire Department

At the VFCA conference, the EFOP graduates were presented with a U.S. Flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of each graduate's completion of the program.

Congratulations Chief Campbell!

## 2013 FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at noon at the Richmond International Raceway Complex's Main Exhibition Hall. This is a change from the Old Dominion Building where the service has been held for the past few years.

Firefighters who died in the line of duty or have been recognized by the Virginia Line of Duty Act in the last year will be honored for their bravery and dedicated public service. This year's service will pay tribute to the following 10 fallen comrades.

Joshua Weissman	Alexandria Fire Department
Zachary Whitacre	Gore Volunteer Fire Department
Jonathan Myers	Norfolk Fire & Rescue
John Echternach	Boones Mill Volunteer Fire Dept.
David Chew	Bloxom Volunteer Fire Department
Pug Wells	Elliston Volunteer Fire Department
Mark Baban	Fairfax County Fire Department
Clyde Berry	Hopewell Fire Department
Eldridge Canaday	James City County Fire Department
Joshua Culler	Disputanta Volunteer Fire Department

In addition to honoring recently fallen firefighters, the memorial service will honor the memory of all Virginia firefighters who have given their lives in the service of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This year's service will include a keynote address, a Virginia Fire Services Honor Guard procession featuring the Saint Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums, a musical performance, and a fire apparatus display from fire departments across the state. Additionally, the service will be broadcast live over the internet.

A reception, sponsored by the Virginia Fire Chief's Association, Virginia State Firefighters Association, Virginia Professional Firefighters, and Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association, will be held for fallen firefighter family members and guests immediately following the service. Both the service and the reception are open to the public. For more information, contact Mark L. Buff at (804) 249-1965 or visit [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com).

## RELAY FOR LIFE

The Lynchburg Fire Department and the Lynchburg Police Department have teamed up to create a Public Safety Team for this year's Relay for Life. The event will take place May 31, 2013 at Heritage High School.



The relay is an all night event that supports the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. You or someone you know has probably been affected by the disease. The funds raised at Relay save lives by funding cutting-edge cancer research, early detection and prevention education, advocacy efforts, and life affirming patient services. It is because of your involvement that we are able to save lives, help those battling cancer, and empower all to fight back against the disease.

Donation forms, along with any other pertinent information, will be distributed to Fire Department members soon. In addition, a sign up form will be available soon (on the G Drive) for a "walk time" during the event. If you have never participated in this event, it is a rewarding experience.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Communications Meeting and Operations Staff Meeting

Date/Time: May 2, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Place: Fire Administration Training Room

\*\*Note: The Operations Staff Meeting will take place immediately following the Communications Meeting

### Annual Employee Appreciation Event

Date/Time: May 8, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Place: City Stadium

Enjoy pizza, salad, soft drinks, fruit and cake plus many games and activities. There will also be door prizes and all employees attending will receive an appreciation gift!

### EMSAT

Date/Time: May 15, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Stroke Awareness

The following CE will be awarded:

ALS — Category 1 Area 89

BLS — Category 2 Area 05

Contact: Matt Millner, Training Division, ext. 6359

### National EMS Week



National EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." National EMS week is May 19-25, 2013. This year's theme is "EMS: One Mission. One Team." (Wednesday, May 22 is Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day.)

### EMS Stroke Education (Hosted by Centra)

Date/Time: May 20, 2013 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: Lynchburg General Hospital,  
First Colony Conference Room #2

Speaker: Centra One Flight Crew

Cost: FREE

### BREMS Regional Awards Ceremony

Date/Time: May 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Place: City of Lynchburg Information Technology Bldg.  
3550 Young Place

Contact: Mary Kathryn Allen at the BREMS Office at  
947-5934

### City Observes Memorial Day Holiday

All City offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2013 in observance of Memorial Day.

### Relay For Life

Date: May 31, 2013 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Place: Heritage High School

Contact: Battalion Chief Greg Wormser

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service

Date/Time: June 1, 2013 at 12 noon

Place: Richmond International Raceway Complex  
Exhibition Hall

Contact: Mark L. Buff, (804) 249-1965 or [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com)

### Annual Retirees' Social

Date/Time: June 7, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place: Fire Administration Training Room

RSVP: Tammy Sage at 455-6341