



Volume 2009.07 – July 2009

Dallas Fire-Rescue Recognizes Excellence

On Saturday, May 30, the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department set aside a night to honor some of the very best among them.

After presentation of the colors by the honor guard and a moving rendition of the National Anthem by Chaplain Robert Winters, an invocation was offered by Chaplain David Smith.

Chief Eddie Burns, Sr. delivered the keynote

address, and then presented awards, among them:

- Firefighter of the Year, Wilmer “Tony” Gerber, Fire and Rescue Officer, Engine 43 A Shift
- Paramedic of the Year, Horace Gerald Perry, Second Driver, Rescue 15 C Shift
- Staff Officer of the Year, Captain Laurel Pitman, Environmental Manage-

ment Representative

- Fire Officer of the Year Captain Clayton J. King, Truck 49 C Shift
- Rookie of the Year, DeAlo Marilla, Fire and Rescue Officer, Engine 33 B Shift
- Outstanding Service to the Department, Larry

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*Wilmer “Tony” Gerber (left) is presented the award for **Fire Fighter of the Year** by Chief Eddie Burns, Sr. (right)*



*Capt. Laurel Pitman (left) is presented the award for **Staff Officer of the Year** by Chief Eddie Burns, Sr. (right)*

Dallas Fire-Rescue Recognizes Excellence (Continued from page 1)

- R. Waller, Driver Engineer, 807 B Shift
- Life Saving Award, Kenneth W. Ferguson, Fire and Rescue Officer, Rescue 33 C Shift
- Meritorious Service Award David R. Hickman, Captain, Fire Cause and Arson Investigation, D Shift
- Distinguished Service Award, Michael T. Gibbs, Fire and Rescue Officer, Engine 28 B Shift
- Dallas Hispanic Firefighters Association Community Service Award, Richard A. Salinas, Fire and Rescue Officer, Red 01 B Shift

- Henry Majors Community Service Award, Sponsored by the Black Firefighters Association, Officer Donna Ross-Harper, Dallas Police Department
- Barney McKenzie Humanitarian Award Sponsored by the Dallas Fire Fighters Association, Darr D. Pierce, Driver

Engine, Engine 57 B shift

- Community Service Award, David M. Smith, Driver Engineer, Chaplain, and Robert B. Winters, Fire Rescue Officer, Chaplain

The Pension System Board and staff wish to congratulate all of the 2009 Fire Rescue Award recipients.

*FRO DeAlo Marilla (left) is presented the award for **Rookie of the Year** by Chief Eddie Burns, Sr. (right)*



Term Life Insurance Benefit to be Offered

The National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) is offering Family Protection Plus, a Group Decreasing Term Life Insurance Program for Police Officers and Firefighters. NCPERS is the largest national, nonprofit public pension advocate, and works to protect the pensions of public employees.

The program is separate from the City-provided life insurance coverage.

The plan is especially valuable for young members and

their families because it pays the most when the needs are greatest. Every member pays the same cost for coverage, \$17 a month, and the cost does not increase as the member ages. The plan pays a maximum benefit when a member is younger. The amount payable decreases over time as the member ages.

The program provides a regular Life Insurance benefit and an accidental death and dismemberment benefit. It also includes coverage for

dependents.

Payment will be through payroll deduction.

By early August, active and retired police officers and firefighters will receive more information by mail. Retirees will have a **one-time** enrollment opportunity.

The coverage is provided by NCPERS, Prudential, HealthSmart Benefit Solutions, and Gallagher Benefit Services.

Military Leave Payback Available

Many Police Officers and Firefighters have been called up for active military duty during the last few years. If you performed or do so in the future, active duty military service on a call-up from service with the city, you did not contribute to the Pension System during this period.

When you return from active duty military service to active service with your department, you may be eligible for the Uniformed Service Leave Payback, which enables you to purchase pen-

sion service credit for the period of absence on active military duty.

These rights are granted under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

To purchase the service, you may pay by one or a combination of the following means:

- Direct, after-tax, payment by check
- Tax-deferred rollover or transfer to the System of funds from another qualified plan or IRA as permitted by Internal Revenue Code
- Transfer of funds from the City's 457 deferred compensation plan as authorized by that plan.

If you have recently returned to your department from Active Military duty, please contact a Benefits counselor to discuss your options and the particular details of your situation.

The counselor can give you an estimate of the amount needed, and can discuss the options available to you should you choose to participate in the Military Leave Payback Option.

CONGRATULATIONS

NEW RETIREES!

FIRE

Dudley S. Baker
John W. Bass
Henry Castro
L.D. Fox
Garry Herring
John C. Meredith
Jerry T. Minter
Danny L. Morris
Mitchell K. Smith
M.L. Williams

POLICE

Ronnie J. Acker
James M. Brigdon
Robert J. Crider II
Charles R. Darden
Brian Floerchinger
Paul R. King
Robert F. Neuman
Robert A. Yowell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 3: Pension System Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 9: Regular Board Meeting
- Aug. 6: PREP Class
- Aug. 11: Quarterly Board Meeting
- Aug. 13: Regular Board Meeting



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FIRST CLASS
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- Richard H. Wachsman



First Responder
July 2009

From the Administrator

By Richard L. Tettamant,
Pension System Administrator



Summer is officially here, with the three-digit temperatures to prove it. I hope things are well with you.

In this issue of the ***First Responder***, we honor Members of Dallas Fire-Rescue who recently received awards. There is also information on the Uniformed Services Payback option, and news about a new Term Life Insurance benefit which will soon be available. Look for more information in the mail on this new program.

Remember, we are here for you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by phone, or by e-mail at info@dpfp.org.

Richard L. Tettamant
Pension System Administrator

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