

# FIRE MUSEUM

~ OF ~

## MEMPHIS

ISSUE #25 - 4TH QUARTER 2007 - MEMPHIS, TN

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### OVER 100,000 STUDENTS SERVED

In October 2007, the Fire Museum surpassed the 100,000 mark of student's served through the Fire Safety Education grant program since 2002. The students from Gordon Elementary School who visited in October were one of the many groups who have been educated for FREE at the museum. Participants on Fire Safety Education tours learn how to prevent fires and what to do if they smell smoke or find themselves in a fire. They also learn about history by touring the museum and listening to Ol' Billy the life size talking horse. Everyone enjoys ending the tours with a slide down the fire house pole. Tours are offered free to Memphis & Shelby County school groups and can be arranged by calling 901-320-5650.



## Ride for Charleston 9

Third generation firefighter, Laddie Williams (left), and his road companion Scott Rousseau (center right) of Augusta, SC stopped at the Fire Museum of Memphis on their cross country bike trek from Palm Springs, CA to Charleston, SC. Williams and Rousseau embarked on their journey to raise awareness and money for the families of the nine fallen Charleston firefighters who died during the deadliest firefighter incident in the nation since the 9-11 attacks.

Traveling around 100 miles each day, Williams and Rousseau,

stayed at firehouses each night. They reached Memphis on September 30 and were treated to Southern hospitality by Chief Henry Posey (far right) and Vice President of the Union Local 1784 Joe Norman (center left). The stop included some famous Memphis BBQ and a guided tour of the fire museum. Williams and Rousseau were impressed by the museum and wrote on their blog that the museum, “was really incredible”.

For more details about the Ride for Charleston 9 visit [www.ride4c9.com](http://www.ride4c9.com).



## MFD Annual Recognition Service

Memphis firefighters who performed exemplary in the line of duty were honored in the museum’s courtyard on October 5th at the Memphis Fire Department’s Annual Memorial and Awards Service. Medals of distinction were awarded for Heroism, Lifesaving, Honor, Bravery and Merit.

The heroic efforts given by all who responded to the “Downtown Fires” on October 6, 2006 were recognized by a special Award of Merit given to the Fire Department from the City Center Commission.

Jerry Tate (center), a long time supporter of firefighters who has volunteered for many years as Master of Ceremony of the MFD Annual Awards, received an unexpected and greatly appreciated honorary firefighter award.



## Red Door Fund

The Red Door Fund is a membership of Memphis firefighters (actives and retirees) and Fire Department employees who make contributions to support the fire safety education program and the Memorial Wall exhibit at the Fire Museum. The Fire Safety Education program provides FREE fire safety education to any school age child in Shelby County. In 2007 almost 19,000 children were given the museum's Fire Safety Program, led by Memphis Fire Department Public Educators. Since the Fire Museum opened in 1998, the average number of fire fatalities in our community has dropped - from 25 to 18 - that is seven fewer deaths per year. We believe, and the Fire Department believes, that the museum's Fire Safety Program has helped improve those statistics. The Red Door members have contributed to that success.

The Memorial Wall in the museum's courtyard contains 53 names of Memphis firefighters who died in the line of duty from 1880 to 2006.

The Red Door Fund shows the community that Memphis firefighters believe in the mission of the Fire Museum:

- To reduce injury and loss of life and property through education and awareness of fire and life safety
- To be the finest fire museum in the country
- To recognize and promote the contribution that the fire department makes to its community.

There are currently 720 Red Door members, approximately 50% of the Memphis Fire Department. We are very proud of that number – no other museum in the country can boast a membership program as stable and strong as ours.

Red Door members receive benefits for their contributions including family memberships in the museum (free admission to the museum for them and their families), 10% discount on any purchase in the museum gift shop and a 25% discount on any birthday party or after hours party rental.

If you are not a member and would like to join, please contact Brier Turner at the museum by email [brier@firemuseum.com](mailto:brier@firemuseum.com) or by phone 901-320-5651.

Note: this is the first comprehensive list of Red Door members done since 2003. We have made every effort to ensure its accuracy. If you find an error, please contact me at [brier@firemuseum.com](mailto:brier@firemuseum.com) or leave a message at 901-320-5651. Thank you.

# PERENNIAL MEMBERS

These members make continuing contributions through payroll deduction.

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# ANNUAL MEMBERS

**These members have made an annual contribution to the Red Door Fund in the last 12 months.**

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Brad Kellum  
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Sally B Mattix  
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Ila Jane Linam  
William C. Pleasant  
Thomas Rivera  
Fred Steward in memory of  
Driver Leslie Haynes  
Donald Stocks  
Randy Williams  
Wayne M. Wood



## New Painting on Exhibit

Rebecca Stynchula poses with her son Bill Stynchula in front of a new painting that was unveiled December 8th. The painting by Peter O'Neill, entitled TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE depicts a New York Firefighter in the aftermath of the World Trade Center disaster. O'Neill has donated over 17,000 lithograph prints of this painting to the victim's families and public safety institutions throughout the world. This painting is numbered 1 of 100 prints that were hand embellished and signed by the artist. It is on loan to the Fire Museum of Memphis from the collection of Rebecca S. Stynchula of Charleston, South Carolina in honor of her son, Mr. Bill Stynchula of Senatobia, Mississippi. The original painting has been donated to the New York Firefighters Museum of Lower Manhattan.



## 2007 4th Qtr Newsletter Donation list – Oct. 26-December 31

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### Honoraria

In honor of Jerry Gillis - Jerry Hanover  
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In honor of Memphis Fire Dept. Station #41 A shift -Central Defense Services, LLC

### New and Renewed Red

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Joe Carson  
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Charles Finney  
Bobby & Ann Gary

### Memorials

In memory of Cecil Haslip - Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kuhn  
In memory of Glen Hardin (MFD Retired)  
- Phil & Barbara Dagastino  
- Kristy Marrero

## CNN Interviews Retired Firefighters

CNN was at the Fire Museum in November interviewing several retired firefighters for a documentary being produced for the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. The CNN interviewer grew up with a firefighting father in Chicago. Out one morning on a jog, while scouting in Memphis, she happened to pass by the museum. It was then she remembered that often firefighters have photos of events and inquired at the museum. The documentary will air this April. Firefighter Bill Harwood, pictured, was one of the firefighters who rode in the ambulance that took Dr. Martin Luther King to St. Joseph Hospital on April 4, 1968.



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*Thank you to Mack Andrews, Lance Fair, Billy Frank and Jerry Gillis for their dedicated support and past service to the Fire Museum of Memphis Board of Directors.*

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