



Fire Chief Steve Earley  
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Jan 2010

## Botkin Memorial Service

A funeral mass was held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church on Jan 6 at 11:00 am to celebrate the life of retired FF/PM Eric Botkin. A reception was held at Grove Community Church following the service. Thanks to the assistance of neighboring fire agencies such as CAL Fire, Corona, Norco, Hemet, Morongo, and others, all RFD members were able to attend the service if they desired.



**Photos Above (L to R): (top row) Procession from Downtown Fire Station to St. Francis de Sales; Eric's son, Hunter, leaves church with flag and helmet presented by RFD and Local 1067; Chief Earley presents flag to Eric's wife, Hallie; (bottom row) Fire Inspectors Margaret Albanese, Lisa Munoz, John Arendas, and Roni Forst attended memorial; Hallie meet this woman who was revived by Eric 10 years earlier when she was rescued from an upstairs bedroom in a structure fire; Retired Chiefs Dave Austin and Mike Fisher**



**Letter From Jack L Owen, Fire Chief of Guadalupe Fire Department in CA:** Please accept our deep condolences for the loss of Firefighter Botkin from the men and women of the Guadalupe Fire Department.

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**Email to RFD personnel From Rob Rappaport on Jan 3 2010:** Dear RFD Family: today is my last day with the RFD. I am both sad to leave and excited to begin my new career. Last night I turned in all of my uniforms and equipment at station two. It was ironic since I began my career at station two, 15 years ago. I have had the opportunity to work for some of the best role models in the fire service! Who could ask for a better probation captain than John "The Rock" Martinez? I am thankful for all of the time and effort my probation crew (Scott Blair, Joe Rosales, Terry Miller, Bob Ward, Dennis Hunt, and John Peurifoy) spent with me. They truly gave me a great start! I also learned from so many others who assisted and guided me through my career at the RFD. I would like to give a special thank you to Oran Pentz, who showed me what a great leader and motivator is! I had the privilege of driving for Oran when we were at station 12, and was very blessed to be on his crew. During my time as a captain, I always thought to myself "what would Oran do?" I have worked and trained with some of the best firefighters around! I have a lot of pride in this department and hope to make you all proud when I go to the South Bay. I have learned something from each one of you and will take the many memories with me. I hope that I have been a positive role model for some of you during my years at the RFD. I am also thankful for the many friends I have made and hope to keep in touch. Good Luck to Captain Tyler Reynolds, Engineer Mike Allen, and FF/PM Kristin Johnson! You will all do a fantastic job! Lastly, I would like to thank my crew at Station 5C (Clinton Breads, Mike Allen, Rob Foy, and Bryan Klinke). You guys have made my last few years a great experience and a lot of fun! I will miss you! Chiefs Bock and Campos, thank you for your encouragement and support, it is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, I can't list all of you who have touched my life over the past 15 years, because the list is too long. Suffice to say that I appreciate your friendship and value the time we spent working together. Remember you have a friend in Redondo Beach! Take care, Rob Rappaport

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**Email on Jan 26 from Cindy Stolfus of Riverside Christian Day School to Linda Daugherty in Training Division:**

Thank you for scheduling our Jan 20 field trip to Fire Station #1. The kids had a great time. The guys at the station were outstanding with the kids. They did a great job presenting the facts about the station and keeping it interesting. Please tell the firefighters how much we appreciate them taking the time to give our kids a tour!

*(more emails & letters on Pages 4,5, & 7)*

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# Congratulations

**Promotion:** Eng Tyler Reynolds to Captain;  
FF/PM Mike Allen to Engineer

**Assignment:** Captain Jay will be in the Acting Battalion Chief position at Battalion 2B starting Jan 17. Captain Valdez will be assigned to Station 3B. Thanks to Bob Valdez for a job well done during his three months in the position.

FF Kristen Johnson to FF/PM

**Resignation:** Captain Rob Rappaport has resigned from the RFD to join the Redondo Beach FD as Division Chief with responsibilities including Operations, Fire Prevention, and Arson Investigation. We want to wish Rob the best in this new endeavor.



## YEMP



FF Andy Ferchaw and FF Denise Delgado spoke to students at Central Middle School as part of the YEMP program

## February Birthdays

Cory Bruce	2/26
Ed Clark	2/1
Romney Ellsworth	2/23
Lee Davis	2/7
Thomas Jay	2/11
Dirk Jensen	2/9
John Martinez	2/12
Bob Pina	2/5
Tony Robbins	2/1
Steven Scotti	2/19
Greg White	2/8
Scott Wilson	2/14
Robert Yanes	2/19



## Growing Families



**Jonathan and Liz Turley:** Baby Girl Anabelle Rose Turley born on Jan 7 at RCH. She weighed 8 lbs 13 oz.

**Greg and Deena White:** Baby boy Ayden Thomas White born January 29 at 7:51pm measuring 8 lbs 8 oz and 21 inches long. Deena is recovering well after 45 hours of labor and an eventual c-section.



(cont.)



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

VINCENT J. BOLLON
General Secretary-Treasurer

January 11, 2010

Steven H. Earley
Fire Chief
Riverside Fire Department
3085 St. Lawrence Street
Riverside, California 92504

Dear Chief Earley :

Fire Fighter/Paramedic Eric C. Botkin, who died in the line-of-duty on December 27, 2009, was a member of the Riverside Fire Department in your community. He sacrificed his life in an act of courage, humanitarianism, and selfless devotion to duty. We want you to know that the loss suffered by your membership and the community is shared by the 296,000 members of the International Association of Fire Fighters. We join with you in conveying our sincere condolences to the family of Fire Fighter/Paramedic Botkin.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Harold A. Schaitberger

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President

Email from Tyler Reynolds to Lisa Holloway on Jan 11 (regarding a Mastiff found by Station 1 personnel and adopted by Tyler Reynolds):

Hi Lisa,

It's me "Elvis" the English Mastiff!! I have a great home, nice big padded bed, good food, and lots of toys! I have an older brother who is a yellow lab, and a little brother who looks like a hot dog! I asked my daddy if I can have a couple more brothers, and he said "NO WAY"!! He said we are maxed out!!! I'm not sure what he means..... we have plenty of room here at home!!!!!!

I settled in very quick!! It's not very hard over here because I get plenty of kisses, walks, bones, and treats everyday!! The only time I have gotten in trouble so far was when I changed the TV station during the horse races!! I tried to watch the Animal Planet but my daddy started yelling while he was wearing this ugly Churchill Downs hat! Anyway.....thanks again for the help!!

Love,
Elvis
"The English Mastiff"

PS. "My Face book is down at the moment."



Steven H. Earley
Fire Chief
City of Riverside Fire Department

1/22/10

Steve, I was able to attend the Mass of Resurrection and reception for Eric Botkin held January 6, 2010. I'd like to pass along some comments.

As a retired member of the RFD, I was proud to witness the respect, love and professionalism demonstrated by The City of Riverside Fire Department members at this difficult time. Everyone I came in contact with, currently on the job or the many retired members was moved with the ceremony.

Speaking of witch, please pass along my thank you for a job well done. I was particularly impressed with the organization, of the staff members and how they carried off their respective duties. Additionally my thanks to the following persons; Captain Charlie Luna (retired), Captain Steve McKinster, Deputy Chief Oran Pentz, and Division Chief John Martinez.

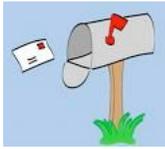
A, special word, of thanks, to Captain Steve Horton and Captain Thomas Jay. The pipes are something to hear as well as Taps. The honor guard is just that an honor to see and experience. The members of the honor guard are special. I'm at a loss as to the names of all the members, please extend my thanks. It shows in their attention to detail, how much time and effort they have put in, this service, we all appreciate.

One more, whoever did the SOP, OPS and protocol for this ceremony deserve an atta boy also.

I guess you can tell that I was impressed and I'm saying so. I noticed several other fire departments in attendance. I'm sure they know where the bar is set.

Handwritten signature of Jerry Barden
Jerry Barden
Division Chief (retired)

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JAN 26 2010
CITY OF RIVERSIDE
FIRE DEPARTMENT



(cont.)



Thank you letter from DeAnne Molina, Volunteer Coordinator at Sheepfold dated Dec 2009: "Dear All Our Friends in the Fire Association, We thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to do something for the Sheepfold. The residents at the Riverside Home were amazed to see all of you come and give special attention to them. Of course, Santa was a special treat but the major attraction was the fire truck (thanks to T3B crew – Scott Wilson, Dennis Hunt, and Billy Milligan). They were SO excited when the siren blared, they are still talking about it! What a fun time!

A special thanks goes to Oran Pentz and Tim Odebralski who planned the event. You showed them that they truly cared about them when you brought gifts. We are trying to teach them that Christmas is not only "giving" but it's celebrating the most wonderful Gift ever given.

We thank you so much for sharing your love to our moms and kids. Please extend our thanks to all who participated. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and we wish you a very Happy New Year. In His Love"

Email from Cathy Williams on Jan 14: Hello everyone!!

It is time for Daffodils..... You can either purchase them for yourself or donate to have them sent to cancer patients.

By now you all know my cancer story with my son so I won't bore you or try to guilt you into donating. I know what an incredible department I work with and I know that you are extremely giving and compassionate. It also gives Anna and I a chance to come to all the stations and visit. So look forward to seeing us at a station near you!!!

See the attached flyer for the bouquets available. It will also explain about The Gift of Hope. You can donate any amount as I will put it all together in one large total at the end of the campaign that ends March 1<sup>st</sup>

If you'd like to send me your donation, make it out to the American Cancer Society and send it to me at City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

As always, thank you for being the amazing group you are. Think of all the happy cancer patients that will be blessed with beautiful Daffodils thanks to you!!!

Have a great day and see you soon.

The American Cancer Society

# Daffodil Days®

Give daffodils. Give hope.

**Sunshine \$20**  
Ten gorgeous daffodils featured in a beautiful 7" glass teal colored vase.

**Vision \$35**  
Two bouquets to arrange as you wish in a clear, 6.5" square glass vase.

**Bear and a Bunch™ \$25**  
A 10-inch oatmeal-colored Boys' by Enesco® plush bear, named Birthdays R. Hope, that has been created exclusively for the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days to help communicate that a world with less cancer is a world with more birthdays.

**Bouquet \$10**  
Ten gorgeous daffodils. (No vase.)

**The Gift of Hope®**  
Gift of Hope donations fund cancer research, education, local patient services, and advocacy efforts. They also allow the Society to deliver bouquets of daffodils anonymously to cancer patients in hospitals, medical centers, and doctor's offices. The daffodil is the first flower of spring, symbolizing hope for those battling cancer. A minimum donation of \$25 is suggested, while donations of \$50, \$75, \$100 or other will help support greater numbers of cancer patients and their families.

**The Bear of Hope®**  
Comfort a pediatric cancer patient by sending a Bear of Hope. For a minimum \$25 donation, the American Cancer Society will anonymously deliver limited edition Boys' by Enesco® Bears to children in the community who are receiving cancer care.

Your entire Gift of Hope donation may be eligible for a tax deduction. We estimate the suggested donation of \$25 for the Bear and a Bunch to be the fair market value. For all other purchases the fair market value is \$20. Purchases in excess of fair market value may be eligible for a tax deduction. Your entire Gift of Hope or Bear of Hope donation may be eligible for a tax deduction. These amounts are not included with Gift of Hope bouquets or Bear of Hope bears or are their items delivered to specific patients.

Product not available during January and February, and are available in March. The American Cancer Society reserves the right to substitute comparable products in the unlikely event of shortage or product with similar characteristics. Ownership property of the Birthdays R. Hope could potentially lead to a bear identification resulting in delayed delivery of bears. The bear picture for the Bear of Hope product may not represent the bear delivered. In 2009 2010 bear used a brand name on daffodils the American Cancer Society will 2010 Bear of Hope orders using bear previously offered from the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days Bear® by Enesco® bear product line before filling these orders using the Birthdays R. Hope bear.

http://daffodil.acevents.org/ca | 877.642.4982 cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

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# Photo Album



PHOTOS: B shift crews light the first fire in the new training burn trailer; Joe Reed practices intubating and bagging a patient while wearing a Level B suit; Nikko competes in jumping contest at Bass Pro Shops; RPD Air1 lands to pick up Deputy Chief Pentz as an observer in a recent river bottom fire; Tim Odebralski poses with Sheryl Crow and friends backstage at meet & greet at FOX Theater

## CERT CPR Class



CERT members practice CPR skills in monthly advance training. In this class Captain Peurifoy taught 12 CERT members on adult, child, and infant CPR as well as how to use an AED. CERT members are now offered advanced and refresher training once a month. We now have over 300 volunteers in the CERT program. Thanks to the hard work of Gina Perez, our CERT program is growing and becoming more active.

The next class is scheduled for Feb 5-7.



(cont.)

**Email from Kim Sabatello and Roni Forst on Jan 14:** Well it's that time of year again. Where we all get together and let our hair hang down, act wild, crazy and raise money for a good cause. Once again we will be joining together as one to participate in the Relay for Life Riverside; it will be held **on May 22-23 from 9am to 9am.**

This year Roni and I would like to get as many people as we can involved in helping to make this year's event more fun. We would like to dedicate our participation in this year's event to Eric Botkin. Our goals this year are to raise more money than we've done in the past, ask at least one other person to come out and join our team, participate more in the events and to have the most luminarias to light the track than any other team.

The luminarias are \$10 each and would be a touching tribute to not only Eric's memory but to all of the people we know and love who have battled or are battling this disease. You can purchase your luminarias either online at the link below or through one of us.

We would like to invite everyone who would like to come out and join us for the day. I have attached a flier of the Relay. If you would like to start now to collect funds for the American Cancer Society call me, and I will get a packet out in the mail to you. Registration is \$10. However, if you register online before January 29<sup>th</sup>, registration is FREE! The website is [www.relayforlife.org/riversideca](http://www.relayforlife.org/riversideca) and the team name is **Friends of the Riverside Fire Department.**

This is a time where we remember all the love ones we have lost to cancer and all of those who have kicked the butt of this horrible disease. But most importantly a time to be thankful we are still here able to be apart of something greater than ourselves. A special "Thank You" to RCFA for its continued support of this event.