

First Responder

Volume 2008.07 -- July 2008

Fallen Officers Honored at Ceremony

As announced in our May edition of the First Responder, The Dallas Police Memorial Ceremony was held on May 14. The program included the Dallas Police choir, an honor guard, buglers, a 21 gun salute, bagpipes, a riderless horse tribute, and wreath-laying ceremony.

Also, the name of each fallen officer was read aloud, and those surviving family members in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized.



Mayor Tom Leppert and Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle place a wreath at the Dallas Police Memorial. See more photos on page 3.

Future Pension System Headquarters Now being Renovated

Move-in Target date Set for August

Work is nearing completion on the new home for the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System at 4100 Harry Hines Boulevard.

The 43,000 square foot building was originally built in 1960, and is being totally renovated.

The property is located within blocks of a future DART station, and will provide ample parking, with close to 200 spaces in surface parking and a two-level parking deck.

There will be full kitchen facilities and plenty of room for our education seminars, Board Meetings, benefit counseling sessions, and retiree meetings.

We believe that this new facility will enable us to better serve you, and hope to be move into our new home in August.

For an animated conception of the exterior of the completed project, visit our Website at: www.dpfp.org.



4100 Harry Hines, Dec. 2006



4100 Harry Hines, April 2008

Last “Kennedy-Era” Officer to Retire

Sergeant Graham “Greyhound” Pierce was a rookie just a few months out of the Dallas Police Academy when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963.

Pierce will officially retire in July as the last officer on the department today who was with the department when Kennedy was assassinated

Pierce was working the night shift. At that time, officers shifts rotated, so that one would work nights for awhile, and then rotate to days, or evenings. He remembers coming in that night, and the



Sgt. Graham Pierce

amount of activity at the station, with all the national reporters there.

Pierce got his nickname when he was a rookie working with a senior officer. There was a burglary call, and when they arrived, two burglars fled, and the two officers gave chase. Pierce, who was young and just out of the armed service, caught the suspect he was chasing, while the suspect the training officer was chasing escaped. Because he was quick, and because his initials were G.H., he was dubbed “Greyhound,” and it stuck.

For most of his career, he worked in South Dallas and Pleasant Grove. In 1971 when he was promoted to Sergeant, he went out to Southwest for a year, and then moved to Southeast, where he stayed for the rest of his career. He always enjoyed working late nights, and in 1975 when the department went to fixed shifts, he began working late nights and did so the rest of his career.

He says that he enjoyed his career, even though he describes it as “uneventful compared to some others.”

Graham and his wife, Ruth, have been married for 48 years. They have a son who is an A.T.F. agent in New Orleans, and a daughter who is a schoolteacher in Waxahachie. They also have five grandchildren.

PENSION SYSTEM CALENDAR

- July 4, 2008
Independence Day
(office closed)
- July 10, 2008
Monthly Board Meeting
- August 7, 2008
PREP Seminar
- August 12, 2008
Qtly. Financial Board Mtg
- August 14, 2008
Monthly Board Meeting
- September 11, 2008
Monthly Board Meeting

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES!

FIRE

- Ronald B. Cox
- Blaine A. Danyluk
- Troy J. Looney
- Robert P. Marchant
- Geary S. Miller
- Charles B. Muirhead
- Pat H. Murphy

POLICE

- Keith A. Dressler
- Stanley McDaniel
- Herbert W. Podina

Moving? Please Update Your Address

If you are moving soon, or have recently moved, please update your address with your department, and with the City of Dallas payroll department.

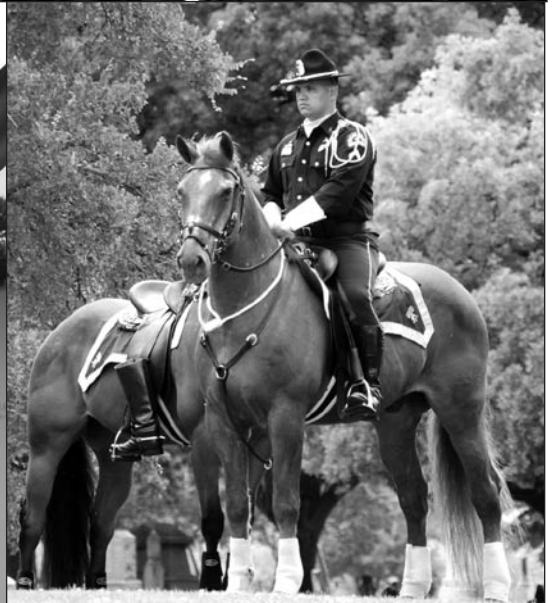
The addresses we use are provided to us by the City of Dallas Payroll department each pay period.

Thanks!



Honoring Fallen Dallas Officers

Dallas Police Memorial Ceremony, May 14, 2008



Photos by Kevin Killingsworth



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- George J. Tomasovic
- Steven H. Umlor
- Richard H. Wachsman



First Responder
July 2008

From the Administrator -- DROP Interest Rate

By Richard L. Tettamant, Pension System Administrator



We wanted you to know that the Board will continue to calculate the DROP interest rate by current methods for the foreseeable future, as provided in Plan rules.

The IRS has issued proposed rules to implement provisions passed with the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that some think could restrict the rate we post to DROP accounts. We don't think the rules should apply to DROP accounts and we have been working with national associations and our legislative consultants to have DROP plans exempted from these rules. Other pension plans in Texas and around the country have been actively working on this as well.

The Texas delegation is united behind us and our understanding at this time is that the fix to exempt DROP accounts is agreeable to all parties involved in Congress and should be added as an amendment to the next major tax legislation. We have every expectation that the law will be fixed.

Again, no IRS action is imminent and we have time to deal with the issue. While there are no guarantees, we are confident that we can set this right. This IRS issue is about interest rate only, and has nothing to do with DROP accounts in general.

(For updates, go to www.dpfp.org)

Sincerely,

Richard L. Tettamant
Richard L. Tettamant

ADMINISTRATION

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- Brian F. Blake
Assistant Administrator
- Donald C. Rohan
Assistant Administrator
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- Mike Taylor
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The ***First Responder*** newsletter is published monthly by the **Dallas Police & Fire Pension System** for all Active Members.

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