



# FULTON COUNTY FIRE RESCUE Monthly Bulletin

OCTOBER 2016

PEOPLE ♦ FAMILIES ♦ NEIGHBORHOODS

Volume 9 Issue 70



## CONGRATULATIONS Recruit Class 16-01 Graduates

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### Our Mission

To provide fire, life safety, and support services that are relationship focused and results oriented.

### Our Motto

“Service to All; Second to None”



Congratulations to FCFRD Recruit Class 16-01 on successfully completing the initial training requirements and receiving their Georgia State and NPQ certifications.

The last few weeks of training were extremely demanding on students and instructors alike; environmental conditions and a demanding physical schedule made for long and tiring days; however, the recruits prevailed.

The 14-week recruit training program culminated in a graduation ceremony on September 27th held at the Chick-fil-A Oakmont Auditorium.



Recruit Class 16-01—(Standing L-R) Captain Stan Hudgins, Training Coordinator, FF Marcus Brown, FF William Roberts, FF Nicholas Young, FF Fred Miller, FF Camille Dunnings, FF Kenneth Perea, FF Marquavious Taylor, FF Mikel Hernandez-Tito, FF Ricardo Carey, Assistant to the Training Coordinator

(Kneeling L-R) FF Matthew Maxwell, FF Quentin Dunn, FF Brandon Morton, FF Sylvana Davis, FF Dylan Karr, FF Joshua Carden, FF Sterling Hill, FF Brendon Serna, FF Janoah Fann

# Recruit School Graduation

FCFRD would like to extend a special thank you to Fulton County Chief Operating Officer Todd Long for his attendance at our graduation. A special thank you also to keynote speaker Darnell Fullum, former Fulton County Fire Rescue Deputy Chief and current Fire Chief of DeKalb County Fire Rescue. Chief Fullum provided a personal perspective of professional experiences and advice for our graduating recruits to begin their careers on a positive note.

Among other awards presented were the Top Dog Award and Lion's Heart Award. The Top Dog Award, presented to Firefighter Marcus Brown, is the highest honor bestowed upon a fire recruit and reflects excellence in academics, skills and physical abilities. Firefighter Camille Dunnings was presented the Lion's Heart award for consistently demonstrating determination, caring, and a never-give-up attitude.

Our new firefighters began shift work as of 1900 hours on Tuesday, October 4th.



Top Left: Keynote speaker DeKalb County Fire Chief Darnell Fullum; Top Right: Top Dog recipient FF Marcus Brown pictured with Captain Chris Parker and FF Ricardo Carey; Bottom Left: Recruits reciting the official oath of position; Bottom Right: Lion's Heart recipient FF Camille Dunnings with FF Ricardo Carey.



The graduation ceremony was also a fitting occasion to recognize our newly promoted officers, including:

Battalion Chief Timothy Marcus  
Captain Glenn Washington  
Captain Jerry Jones  
Captain Kyle Cato

Captain David Bailey  
Captain Darryl Davis  
Captain Jerry Nears



Captain Kyle Cato



Captain Jerry Nears



Captain Jerry Jones



Mrs. Linda Hudgins pictured with Captain Ralph Patterson



Captain Nikolas Cooper



Captain Glenn Washington

Noticeably absent from the graduation ceremony was Training Coordinator, Captain Stan Hudgins. While traveling home on Friday, September 23rd (before graduation on Tuesday), Captain Hudgins was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident.

Captain Hudgins works tirelessly insuring the best possible training for our recruit firefighters and department members. His wife, Linda, attended the recruit graduation ceremony knowing first hand the dedication and commitment of her husband to insure a successful outcome of the recruit training program.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear friend and brother firefighter as he continues to recover from his injuries.



Captain Stan Hudgins

## Message From the Fire Chief

### New Firefighter Recruit Graduation

On September 27th, 17 new recruit firefighters of the Fulton County Fire Rescue Department graduated from the 14-week recruit training program. The graduation ceremony was held at the Chick-fil-a complex on Buffington Road. Chick-fil-a has become one of our strong commercial supporting partners and have hosted other events for the Fulton County Fire Rescue Department.

Captain Stan Hudgins and Firefighter Ricardo Carey of the Training and Member Development Division oversee the recruit training program and did an excellent job training our newest members. Assisting with the training were several other department members who have special skills and abilities. At this time, I would like to commend this entire group of dedicated individuals that worked so diligently and contributed to the overall success of the recruit training.

To the recruits---I want to congratulate each of you for the hard work and dedication that you put forth leading to your graduation. But, do not let your training end there. You have learned the basics, but there is much, much more to be learned. I support any firefighter that seeks to receive fire training in an effort to better yourself. Seek advice from our training leaders and your company officer on which classes would be most beneficial to you at this juncture in your career.

Lastly, I would like to again acknowledge Captain Hudgins. As you all are aware, he was involved in a serious accident just days before graduation. The past thirty days have been rough for him; however, Captain Hudgins is making steady improvement. Please keep Stan and his family in your hearts and minds in a positive way as he continues to convalesce.

Again recruits, congratulations on a job well done.

*Chief Few*



*Chief Few administering the official oath to Recruit Class 16-01*



# Hurricane Matthew - GSAR Deployment

By: Captain Tracy Packer, Station 2C

**Georgia Search and Rescue**

The Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Response System provides for the coordination, development, and maintenance of the regional effort with resources to locate, extricate, and provide immediate medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures, and to conduct other life saving operations.

On October 6th, Governor Deal declared a state of emergency in southeast Georgia due to Hurricane Matthew. GEMA units throughout Georgia went into standby mode to deploy resources to the areas of concern. Members of the Fulton County Fire Rescue GSAR team were notified and reported to Station 2 to prep for deployment. On October 7th at 1300 hours, Captain Tracy Packer, Captain Eric Patterson, Captain Ralph Patterson, FF Bobby Morris, FF Barry Mills and FF Wayne Hines departed to Clayton County to link up with other units from the Metro Area GSAR Task Force (Task Force 7).

Task Force 7 departed Clayton County in a convoy escorted by GSP headed to the Guardian Center in Perry, GA. Upon arrival, all participants were required to sign in and attend briefings regarding the mission, assignments and planned actions for future movements. On October 8th, a convoy stretching two miles left the Guardian Center headed to Waycross, GA. This destination was to become the home base for operations into areas affected by Hurricane Matthew. Once arriving in Waycross, Recon teams were deployed to the coast to see what resources, if any, were going to be needed. In the meantime, task force members began assembling a tent city equipped with power, lighting and air condition.



The Recon teams returned about four hours later and stated that no help was needed. Following a short briefing, we were advised that there was still a possibility of being deployed the following day. Consequently, on October 9th, we were advised that assistance would not be needed and that we were released to return home.

Even though we were not deployed to the hot zones, the process of the deployment was still a great educational experience for all of those involved.



# Fire Prevention Week Activities

During the week of October 9-15, station crews and the staff of Community Risk Reduction were spreading the word about fire safety. The theme for Fire Prevention Week was **“Don’t Wait—Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years.”** The theme represented the final year of the three-year effort to educate the public about basic, but essential, elements of smoke alarm safety. Crews visited schools, day care and senior centers, and even visited with the employees at the Service Center at Fulton Industrial Blvd.

## Darnell Senior Multi-purpose Facility



The annual Fire Prevention Week activities kicked-off at the Darnell Senior Multi-purpose facility. The Fire Safety House was on hand and the crew of Engine 19C manned a booth to distribute fire safety literature and materials to the seniors. A question and answer session took place during lunchtime where the seniors had to answer fire safety questions based on what they learned in the Fire Safety House.

A special thank you to Mrs. Anita Woods (Director), who continues to partner with Fulton County Fire Rescue to ensure that the annual event is a success.



## Country Gardens Senior Assisted Living Facility



FF Fred Brown and Educator Monique Jordan visited the Country Gardens Senior Assisted Living Facility located on Lester Road; seniors are considered one of the top high risk groups to be harmed in a fire. On this day, the seniors attended a fire safety class; the fire escape plan was discussed and the residents were taught how to properly operate a fire extinguisher. They were given several brochures on fire safety tips and particularly enjoyed receiving their firefighter helmets!

# Fire Prevention Week Activities

## Color Us Kids Childcare



A visit to Color Us Kids Childcare on Thoreau Circle proved to be fun for everyone! Engine 3/B and the Fire Safety House was onsite for demonstrations. After the children visited the Fire Safety House to learn about fire prevention and escape techniques, Engine 3 demonstrated their gear and equipment. The children (and teachers) were given an opportunity to squirt water with the fire hose - a special treat that they always enjoy! It was a fun-filled educational day for everyone.



## Fulton County Service Center at FIB



One of the last steps of the week was at the Fulton County Service Center at Fulton Industrial Blvd.

Consistent with the other booths, Fulton County employees were presented with fire safety and education materials for themselves and to share with family and friends.

Thanks to the crew of Engine 13A for their participation at this event.

Fire Safety and Education

**Community Risk Reduction**

**Smoke Detector Blitz!**



**Smoke Detectors Save Lives**

Keeping in line with the Fire Prevention Week theme, the crews of Engine 1A and Engine 3A participated in a Smoke Alarm Blitz on Keldan Ct and Keldan Circle. The crews canvassed the neighborhood educating the residents and inspecting or installing smoke detectors in the homes.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), recommends one smoke alarm on every floor, in every sleeping area, and in every bedroom. In new construction, the smoke alarms must be AC powered and interconnected. For additional protection, it is recommended that smoke alarms be installed in all rooms, halls, storage areas, finished attics, and basements where temperatures normally remain between 40 degrees and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Homeowners should also make sure that no door or other obstructions could keep smoke from reaching the smoke alarms. To that end, smoke alarms should be installed:

- on every level of the home, including finished attics and basements;
- inside every bedroom, especially if people sleep with the door partly or completely closed;
- in the hall near every sleeping area. If the home has multiple sleeping areas, install a unit in each area. If the hall is more than 40 feet long, install a smoke detector at each end.
- At the top of the first-to-second stairway, and at the bottom of the basement stairway.



Smoke Detector Blitzes are conducted regularly by the Fulton County Fire Rescue Department; just another service provided in an effort to keep our citizens safe.



*Pictured with the appreciative homeowner are the crew of Engine 5A - FF Marcus Williams, FF Victor Brown and Captain Ralph Patterson*





# Engine 15A Visits Evoline C. West Elementary

It's always a treat (for students and firefighters alike) when we are invited to visit an elementary school.

Students enjoyed Firefighter Sullen reading to them and then took a trip outside to see the fire truck.

On this particular day, E15A (FF Sullen and FF Clay) had the great opportunity to visit the students of Evoline C. West Elementary School on Rivertown Road. The Pre-K stu-

It was a beautiful fall day to visit with the beautiful little children at Evoline C. West!

## Great Job E15A!



Firefighter William Sullen with his captive audience and with Firefighter Alan Clay explaining the gear worn by firefighters.



Around FCFRD

## Service Award Recipients



**Congratulations** to our third quarter service award recipients; each of these members are celebrating 20 years of service with the department. We applaud and appreciate your dedicated efforts and congratulate you on your service milestones.



Capt Tony Ferguson



Capt James Luster



FF Sammy McClarity



FF Garrison Couch



FF John Grier



Lt. Maurice Chapple



FF Antonio Reed



FF Chris Anderson





# Around FCFRD



## It's Tough Being "The Rookie"



To the other 16 graduates of Recruit Class 16-01...how did you spend your first days in the station?

On his first day, in addition to running calls, Firefighter Marcus Brown assisted his crew with a repair to the pipe that the 12-ft. pike pole fits into requiring *more* confined (and we mean really confined) space activity.

In true "Top Dog" fashion, he completed the repair and even smiled for the camera documenting his "first shift" highlights.

But, that was just the beginning. Read more below and you'll see why it's tough being "the rookie!"



## 2016 Fire Safety Expo

The great crew from Station 11B participated in the 2016 Fire Safety Expo hosted by neighboring College Park Fire Department.

Captain Debbie Dollar and Firefighters Chris Anderson, Antonio Reed and Marcus Brown, assisted in distributing fire safety materials, with expo events and FF Brown even took a turn in the dunk tank (voluntary or otherwise---we're not really sure). Nevertheless, it was a great opportunity to partner with our neighbors and counterparts in support of community safety.



Pictured with College Park Fire Chief Wade Elmore are Captain Debbie Dollar, FF Chris Anderson, FF Antonio Reed, and [good sport] FF Marcus Brown (taking one for the team in the dunk tank!) **Great Job!!!**



GREAT JOB! • AWESOME! • TWO THUMBS UP!

# MDA HOSTS PIZZA PARTY FOR FULTON FIREFIGHTERS

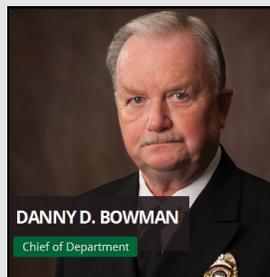
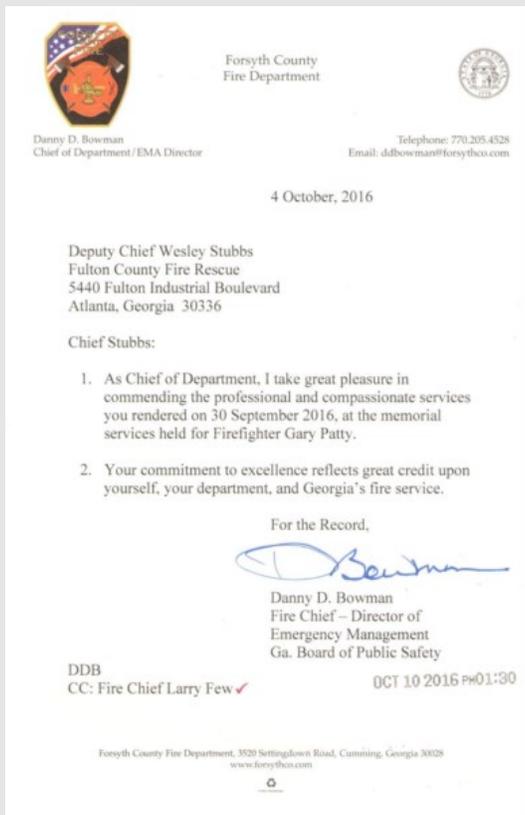
\$11,047.24 - represents the grand total of money raised by Fulton County Firefighters in support of MDA. To show their appreciation, MDA representative Veronica Oladeji visited Fire Station 11C and treated our awesome firefighters to delicious pizza; 3rd Battalion C-shift raised the most money during the recent annual boot drive.

While there, Veronica explained to the firefighters where the proceeds would be spent, stating that the FDA has granted accelerated approval of *eteplirsen* for the treatment of some forms of Duchenne muscular dystro-

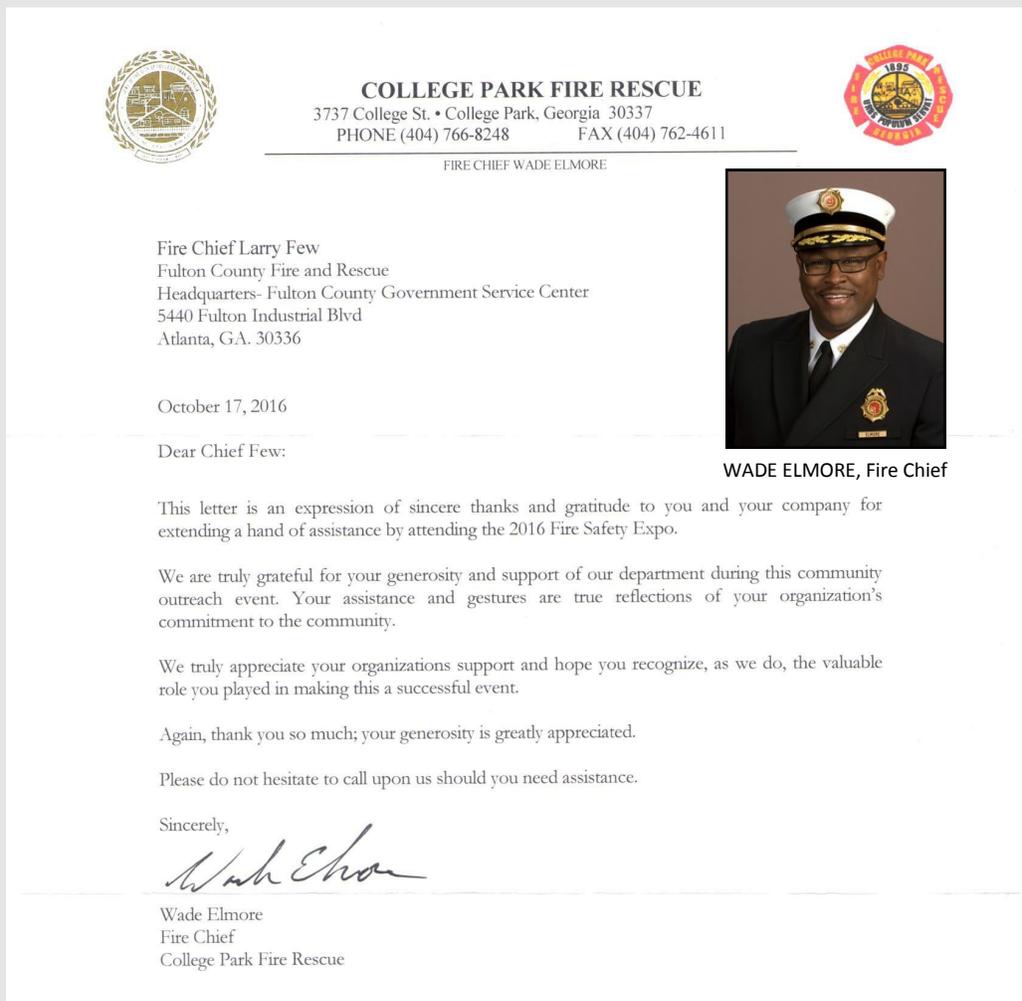
phy (DMD). She went on say that decades of MDA fund-raising have paved the way for this landmark development, and that it wouldn't have been possible without the unyielding support of the Fulton County Fire Rescue Department. "Fulton County Fire Department's commitment to MDA has helped to fund this cutting-edge research. We want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the tremendous support that's bringing more strength, independence, and life to the kids and adults we serve who are fighting these life-threatening diseases."



# Letters of Appreciation



Forsyth County Fire Department



# 2016 Project Hope Campaign



**Fulton County Firefighters Care!**

Many, many thanks to Fire Rescue Department members that participated in the Project Hope Campaign.

Project Hope provides an opportunity for employees to make donations to the charities of their choice. This year, Deputy Chief Stubbs worked with campaign organizers to add the Georgia Fallen Firefighters Foundation to the long list of charitable organizations.

Great job by Cyntrell Kenard, Fire Department Project Hope Ambassador. Cyntrell visited various fire stations encouraging participation and assisting members with their charity fund enrollments.



## Get Well Wishes for Stan

While they were completing their Project Hope forms, the crews also took time so sign cards and prepare some special get well wishes for Captain Hudgins. Members from the Planning and Community Services Department also took time to extend their get well wishes.



# Welcome Back Retirees

October 14th was a special day indeed as we welcomed back our retirees to the Annual Fulton County Fire Rescue Retiree's Breakfast. For the past nineteen years we have invited our retired members back and treated them to a delicious traditional firehouse breakfast prepared by some of our greatest cooks. The morning is filled with great fun and fellowship as we reunite friends and former co-workers.

Many thanks to the crews of Station 11A and Station 2A for preparing the food and the crew of 11C shift for preparing the station the day before.

The retiree's breakfast is one of the highpoints of the year; this year there were approximately 80 retirees in attendance.

**Trailblazers**



Fulton County Fire Rescue Retiree's Breakfast—2016



Some of our door prize winners (L-R) Paul Chaknis, Roger Cowart and Donald Anthony

# Retiree Breakfast Highlights

Like our fire crews, the retirees had Captain Hudgins on their minds and sent plenty of get well wishes his way -- all of which are being forwarded to him with frequent get well cards.





# Fulton County Fire Rescue *Family Album*



**Congratulations** to Firefighter Quentin Dunn and his wife Brandy on the birth of their daughter Jet Ge'ior Dunn born September 24th.

The beautiful little girl weighed in at 6 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. She was welcomed at home by her siblings, Sevyn (age 5) and Greyson (age 3).

Jet was only a few days old when she attended her father's graduation from recruit school on September 27th! Baby Jet fit just right into her father's helmet!

Congratulations again to the Dunn family on your proud addition.



## First Time Grandfather!

Congratulations to first time grandfather, James Luster (Station 3C).

Little Nova Mari Luster was born October 27th and arrived weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 18-1/2 inches long. Both baby and mommy (Taj J. Luster) are doing well.



# FULLY INVOLVED

As is customary, we include a section in our monthly newsletter that will be focused on a training topic. The training may be fire, administrative, inspections/investigations related or anything else that we feel will keep you “fully involved” with departmental processes, policies and procedures. Additionally, we invite any of our members to submit training articles that you feel will be beneficial to others.

## ~~2016 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial~~

I would like to take a moment to let my fellow firefighters know about my experience at this year’s National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

First of all, I would encourage each and every member to attend at least one memorial event, especially since one of our own brothers is among the fallen. I promise you, it would be an eye opener for each of you. You would have a better understanding of why we refer to our profession as a fraternity of BROTHERHOOD and SISTERHOOD.

This was my second time attending the memorial; at this year’s event my assignments were more up close and personal. I had the honor of standing guard during the Saturday evening candlelight ceremony in the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. This was the opportunity when families got a chance to reflect back and think about their love ones. I was also given the assignment of being security and a family escort at the Sunday event. The Sunday event is the time when we honor the families and our fallen brothers and sisters; this is always very emotional for all of those in attendance.

I was especially pleased at the turnout this year despite the threat of Hurricane Matthew. Those that attended made this year’s National Fallen Firefighter Memorial bigger than oneself. You have the chance to meet different firefighters from different departments from all over the nation. I have met so many different brother and sister firefighters and we have decided to keep in touch throughout the year, not just for that weekend.

Another impressive aspect of the event that you rarely are afforded is a chance to hear different pipe/drum members from across the country come together for this event. If you’ve never heard pipes/drums played before then look it up to get an idea about what I am referring to.

I have definitely decided this will be a trip that I will take every year and I encourage each and every one of you to do the same. This is an experience I will take with me long after my career has ended.

*Chris*



Christopher Lavalais is an eleven year member of the department currently assigned to Fire Station 7C on Buffington Road in College Park

*Remembering*

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS  
MEMORIAL WEEKEND  
OCTOBER 8-9, 2016

# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Marquavious Taylor*</i>	2 <i>Thanh Nguyen*</i> BOC Meeting 1000 hrs - FGTV	3	4 <i>Bobby Morris*</i> <i>Danny McClain*</i>	5
6	7 <i>Monique Jordan*</i> <i>Garrett Kent*</i>	8 <i>Jess Upchurch*</i>	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16 <i>John Grier*</i> BOC Meeting 1000 hrs - FGTV	17	18 <i>Keyron Smith*</i>	19
20	21	22 <i>Eric Bostick*</i>	23	24 	25 <i>County Holiday</i> 	26
27	28 <i>Chuck Miller*</i>	29	30			



\* Indicates  
Happy Birthday  
Wishes!

**Veterans Day**, formerly known as **Armistice Day**, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

## Fulton County Fire Rescue Department

Fire Headquarters  
5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30336

Business Office: 404-612-5700

**EMERGENCY: Dial 911**



The Fulton County Fire Rescue Department was placed into service on January 1, 1978.

The department is comprised of 10 fire stations, strategically located throughout unincorporated Fulton County, and 171 full-time members.

*Proudly Serving the Citizens of Fulton County  
for  
Thirty-Eight Years*

Editor: Penny Wolfe

[penny.wolfe@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:penny.wolfe@fultoncountyga.gov)

# Words of Wisdom - Lessons Learned...

***I've learned that...***sometimes the best thing that you can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, not obsess; just breathe and have faith that everything will work out for the best.

***I've learned that...***the past cannot be changed.

***I've learned that...***there's something wrong with your character if opportunity controls your loyalty.

***I've learned that...***every experience, no matter how bad it seems, holds a blessing of some kind; the goal is to find it.

***I've learned that...***if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten.

***I've learned that...***your beliefs don't make you a better person, your behavior does.

***I've learned that...***everyday you should try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.

***I've learned that...***a good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything.

***I've learned that...***good things happen when you distance yourself from negativity.

***I've learned that...***you should be so happy that when others look at you, they become happy too.

***I've learned that...***when you've reached the end of your rope, you should tie a knot and hang on.

***I've learned that...***you never look good trying to make someone else look bad.

***I've learned that...***when you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.

