

SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

# FlashPoint

**SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE**

Volume 4 Number 1

*To Protect and Preserve Life, Property and the Environment*

Summer 2004

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*FlashPoint* is the  
official newsletter of  
the Shreveport (LA.)  
Fire Department

### Historic Old Station Closes Doors After Last Alarm

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Shreveport Fire Department ended one chapter in its storied history by closing the historic Central Fire Station located downtown at the corner of Common and Crockett, and began another as the new Dallas W. Greene Jr. Central Fire Station opened at 263 North Common. The day was filled with both sadness and joy and emotions seemed to sometimes overrun as the department said goodbye to an old friend and hello to their future.

Built in 1922, the station had



undergone ■ see Closing, pg. 3

### Dallas W. Greene Central Fire Station Opens

A decade long vision and later mission that spanned several city and fire department administrations and involved a host of dedicated and extraordinarily gifted individuals became a reality on June 19, as the new Dallas W. Greene Jr. Central Fire Station opened among much fanfare following the closing of the old station just moments before.

As one ceremony ended, the other began. With fire trucks, sirens blaring, ■ see Opening, pg. 3

# Chief's Column

*Editor's note: the following is a transcript of the remarks by Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran at the opening ceremony of the Dallas W. Greene, Jr. Central Fire Station on June 19, 2004.*



**Kelvin J. Cochran**  
Fire Chief

## OPENING CEREMONY AND DEDICATION OF THE SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT DALLAS W. GREENE, JR. CENTRAL FIRE STATION

By:  
Kelvin J. Cochran, Fire Chief  
June 19, 2004

This is the easiest and most difficult assignment I have ever had since becoming a member of the Shreveport Fire Department. Easiest because the contributions of this giant of a man are so many. Difficult because I don't have the four hours allocated to me that are necessary to itemize his accomplishments and difficult because words are not adequate to express the impact he has made on the City of Shreveport, the Shreveport Fire Department and generations of firefighters, and the American Fire Service.

Dallas W. Greene, Jr. was hired on April 15, 1942, as a firefighter. Six years later he advanced to the rank of Fire Driver on October 1, 1948. He promoted to Fire Captain on November 1, 1952. In each rank he was assigned to Central Fire Station. As Captain he was assigned to Engine One and served as the House Captain of the historical Central Fire Station. On April 16, 1965, Dallas W. Greene, Jr. was appointed Fire Chief of the Shreveport Fire Department. After forty-seven years of faithful service, twenty-four as Fire Chief, Chief Greene retired on November 1, 1989.

Under his leadership, the Shreveport Fire Department would experience phenomenal growth. At the time of his appointment, there were 14 fire stations, 15 engine companies, and 3 fire districts. The department had a fire insurance rating of Class V.

At the time of his retirement, the department had grown to 19 fire stations, 24 engine companies, 8 aerial apparatus, 7 medic units, 2 rescue trucks, 3 aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles and 5 fire districts. The department achieved a Class III fire insurance rating.

Everything grew under Chief Greene. The Fire Line grew to nearly 500 members and a new state of the art training facility was erected.

The training division staff grew from two to five members. Fire Communications grew in technology and staffing. The Communications' facility was renovated in 1984 and led the way to the development and utilization of a Records Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch.

Fire prevention expanded and moved to city hall to include not only fire inspections and fire investigations but added one of the strongest public education programs in the United States - still known today across the country as "Fire Prevention Shreveport Style". In 1969 a new fire maintenance facility was constructed, improving and maintaining a wholesome fleet of fire apparatus.

He began the first program of training Emergency Medical Technicians to enhance first response EMS and in 1983 was thrust into the EMS emergency transportation business, providing one of the best fire-based EMS emergency systems in the country. Additionally, Chief Greene provided special operations to meet the needs of the community to include hazardous materials response and underwater rescue and recovery teams. He braved new frontiers by hiring the first African American firefighter in 1974 and the first female firefighter in 1981. Chief Greene established a legacy of customer service and public relations that is alive in every Shreveport Firefighter today.

He has received numerous awards over the years. His leadership and contribution to the fire service has been recognized by national, state and local organizations and by individuals from president Richard Nixon to judges and fire service colleagues. He was inducted into the Fire Chief's Hall of Fame for the State of Louisiana on August 7, 1987.



**Retired Fire Chief**  
**Dallas W. Greene, Jr.**

I can't help but feel that I am cheating this occasion by complying with time constraints for this part of the program. I also realize, that, to pay tribute to Chief Greene the way he deserves a tribute would take generations. So for the many things I could not say, the name of the wonderful facility will pick up where I leave off. We love you Chief, and we are eternally grateful for all of the many things that you have done and still do for the Shreveport Fire Department. So today, we dedicate this fire station in your honor, for generations to see and to know how much you meant to the City of Shreveport and the Shreveport Fire Department.

FIREFIGHTERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE WELCOME TO THE PODIUM ONE OF THE GREATEST FIRE CHIEFS IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FIRE SERVICE AND THE GREATEST FIRE CHIEF IN THE HISTORY OF THE SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT - CHIEF DALLAS W. GREENE, JR. ⚡

Cont. from pg. 1

## Closing Old Central Station Emotional

several face lifts, the last in the early 70's when an additional engine room bay was sculpted from the existing structure. Hundreds of fire fighters have walked the halls, slept in the beds, dined at the tables, slid the brass poles, and responded to thousands of emergencies from the old station. A large number of those were at the ceremony to say goodby to the landmark.

The ceremony began with Chief Cochran introducing a number of retired firefighters to reflect on their time at the downtown station. Retired Chief Robert N. Robinson Sr., retired Chief D. C. Hall, and retired Assistant Chief of Training Pat Johnson all spoke reverently about the station and each relayed a personal story or two about their time at Central.

Current member, Assistant Chief Robert "Bobby" Roberts, Jr. then spoke on behalf of the current members of the department and spoke on the historical significance of the event and how "we" were all fortunate to have worked for such a great organization. He ended with his trademark, "This is the best job in the world."

Following the remarks, attention turned to the flag pole where the Fire Department Honor Guard ceremoniously lowered the flag for the last time. With Taps playing in the background, followed by a fading bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace, the last flag to have flown over Central Fire Station was folded and presented to Mayor Keith Hightower by Fire Chief Cochran.

At the conclusion of the ceremony closing Central Station, the alarm sounded and an announcement was made by retired Chief of Communications William Jordan that "It was the last alarm for this Old Station." Then on cue, the bay doors came down and met the cement tarmac of the engine room floor, officially closing Central Fire Station at 09:45 hours on June 19,



**Shreveport Fire Department retirees at Central Station Closing Ceremony.** From left to right, Terry Howard, Wayne Gates, Retired Fire Chief Bo Roberts, Worley Bridges, \*, Margie Bryant, D.C. Hall, Terry Hayes, Retired Fire Chief Dallas W. Greene, Pat Johnson, George Tucker, Randy Hood, William Jordan, Robert Robinson, W.F. McInnis, Gerald Lewing, Tom Watson, Charlie Fredieu, Retired Fire Chief Dale Martin.

Cont., from pg. 1

## Opening of New Station

leading the way, crews of Central Station proceeded north on Common Street to their new home at 263 North Common - where they were greeted by a large crowd of well-wishers. Many came to see what some said would never be. Others were there for retired Fire Chief Dallas W. Greene, for which the station was named. Mostly though, they were there because they understood the significance of the event. This was truly history in the making and not soon to be forgotten. This would be something firefighters would share with their children and grandchildren for years to come.

The morning was unusually warm but the threat of rain that had plagued the area for most of May and June was no where to be seen, giving way to a blue sky and warming temperatures. Assistant to the Fire Chief Brian Crawford opened the formal program with remarks that reviewed the chronological history of the project and recognized key players, including Mayor Keith Hightower, Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran, retired Fire Chief Bo Roberts, former Mayor Bo Williams, Captain Rex Shamburger, project manager, the Central Fire Station Building Committee, Chief Henry Simons, City Data Processing and the CAO's office, Alliance Architecture, and Brown Builders.

Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran followed and spoke of the man that he had come to work under - former Fire Chief Dallas Greene. He spoke of Chief Greene's years of service, both to the fire department and the community, and the significance of the new station bearing the name of the former leader. As Chief Green's family sat and listened, some were moved to emotion when Fire Chief Cochran reviewed the storied past of a man that served as the Shreveport Fire Department's leader for more than 25 year. A clearly touched Chief Greene then moved behind the podium, first recognizing his wife Alice, and then speaking about his life with the department and the way in which the members shaped the future and made, "a day like today possible."

Chief Greene, always the consummate politician, also remembered to thank area citizens and voters for the years of success that he masterfully cultivated during his tenure of which the department still enjoys the benefits of today. He closed as he opened, by recognizing those closest to him - his friends and family. Margie Brown, Chief Greene's longtime secretary received special recognition.

Following Chief Greene, Union President Jamie Touchet reviewed the significant contributions of IAFF Local 514 to the department through the years. Attention then moved to the front of the new station where in lieu of a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony, a fire hose uncoupling was done in front of the station's six bay doors. As the four sections of specially designed hose broke apart, the bay doors opened, spilling red, white, and blue balloons across the face of the station and into the skies above.

Inside, the Spouses Support Group, led by President Joy Duke, had prepared an incredible display of fire department memorabilia into a huge center piece where refreshments of hot dogs, provided by Local 514, soft drinks, cake and cookies were being served. The Support Group was also responsible for all of the decorations throughout the station.

Some in the crowd, seeing the station for the first time, looked in awe. Most made their way through the 22,000 square foot fire station, marveling at its massive bay area, workout room, decontamination capabilities, storage space, individual sleeping quarters, and a kitchen fit for a gourmet chef. There was also plenty of interest in the administrative wing that houses the fire chief's staff and the new EMS offices. The Fire Chief's office was of particularly interest, having been elegantly decorated only the night before by Bonnie and Charlotte Shamburger.

As the ceremony began to wind down, one by one the crowd began to seek out Chief Greene. As he and Alice sat in the cavernous engine room enjoying refreshments, firefighters and their families, friends of the department, and honored guests, began to file past him and expressed their gratitude, for as he stated earlier in his address, "making the day possible." ❖

# Dallas W. CENTRAL FI

The new Dallas W. Greene, Jr. Central Fire Station, is a state-of-the-art facility that took the best designs, ideas, and safety measures promoted by other fire service organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association and U.S. Air Force, and incorporated them into one unbelievable station.

In the engine room, there are six bays, including four that are drive through. Each bay area is equipped with an exhaust removal system. This system keeps toxic and carcinogenic exhaust fumes from lingering in the station and onto firefighters. Also in the engine room is an enclosed locker area for firefighter bunker gear and the drivers have an enclosed office. A decontamination shower provides a measure of safety against exposure to dangerous chemicals and contaminants if needed. There is also abundant storage for materials and supplies housed in the station.

As you ascend the two-tiered staircase on either end of the building, you enter an area that leads to the favorite room of firefighters - the kitchen! Here, the designers of



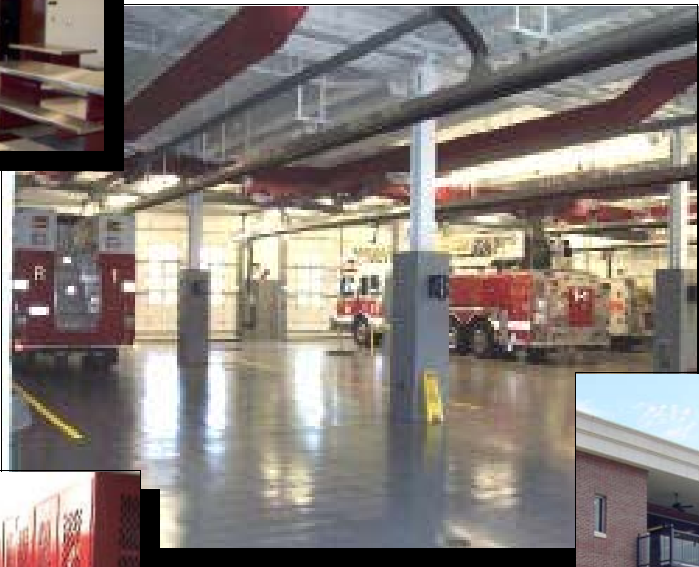
Alliance Architect were sure to incorporate enough space for even two chefs to move with ease. Each of the three shifts also has their own pantry and refrigerator. In the dormitory area, each firefighter has separate sleeping quarters and there are

separate women and men's restrooms and shower areas. The Operations office area accommodates space for the Assistant Chief and a separate office for his aide, District Chief, Captain's work-area, and an office for the E M S



Supervisor.

The entire building is equipped with a state-of-the-art alerting system. The First-In@ Fire Station Alerting System, provides visual notifications of alarms and at night, awakens the firefighter with night vision lighting to provide



low intensity red light to illuminate the dormitory and exit corridors. These features reduce the cardiac and optical stress of night alarms, enhancing the quality of life for fire personnel in the station.



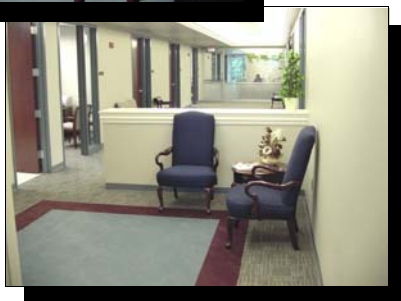
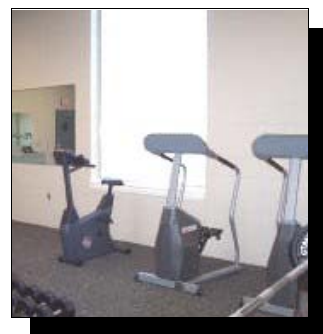
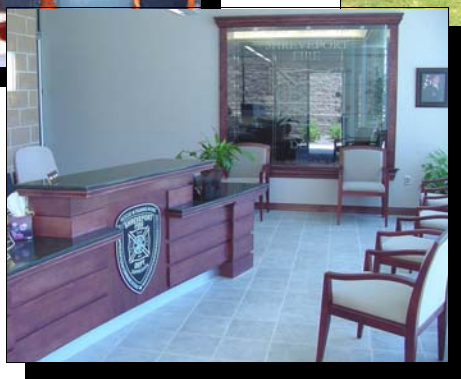
# Greene, Jr.

# RESTATION

The administrative wing is a separate 6000 square foot building, attached by a covered and, on one side, glassed in walkway. Inside are the offices of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant to the Fire Chief, and Chief Safety Officer, as well as work-areas for support staff.

The conference room, is adorned with a large portrait of four former fire chiefs donated by Harrington House Photographic Studio & Gallery. The room is designed to accommodate a variety of executive functions. A digital projector hangs from the ceiling and can be operated by remote control. The conference table is wider in the middle than the ends. This unique design is so that when sitting at the table, those engaged are looking at everyone from an angle and not straight on. This has been proven to be a more productive arrangement in meetings. A large glass etching of the fire department's logo (Maltese Cross), separates the room from the reception area. A vertical blind can be used for privacy during a meeting. The Fire Chief also has direct access to the room from his office.

The offices of the EMS division can also be found in the Administrative wing and occupy space at the north end of the building. A glass and metal partition with an ECG heartbeat etched in the glass and an access door separate these offices from Fire Admin.



The new fire station is interiorly a technical wonder, complimented by its attractively rugged exterior. If you missed the Grand Opening and have not had a chance to visit the new station, stop by 263 North Common Street any time and you too can marvel at specter of the Dallas W. Greene Jr. Central Fire Station. ✪

*Editor's note: Photographs provided by Shreveport Fire Administration and the Signal 51 Group.*

## Fire Department Launches Domestic Violence and Abuse SafeHouse Program

■Twenty fire stations to be points of contact for victims of domestic violence and abuse

Each year thousands of women and children are the innocent victims of domestic violence and abuse. Just this month in Shreveport, a woman was killed by her estranged boyfriend at her place of employment.

Responding to daily emergency incidents involving physical violence or abuse is all too common to city firefighters. However, experts theorize that the majority of actual incidents go largely unreported.

According to Roxann Johnson, director of the local Shreveport YWCA, most victims

of domestic abuse and violence do not report the incident or seek outside assistance because they feel they have no place to go and are uncertain where to seek refuge in a crisis.

The Shreveport Fire Department, in cooperation with the Shreveport Police and local chapters of the YWCA and Gingerbread House, hopes to remove those barriers with their new domestic violence and abuse *SafeHouse* program. The program will open the doors of the 20 Shreveport fire stations across the city and provide victims of abuse a safe and secure place to find refuge and assistance. The *Safehouse* program will allow these individuals, including those who have been sexually assaulted, a place of comfort in seeking medical attention and/or law enforcement. Additionally, the program can provide them with literature or link them with victim advocate groups, such as the YWCA or Gingerbread House.

The *SafeHouse* program will provide a last resort alternative for those experiencing this type of physical abuse and will only be a short-term solution until the victim can be connected with the proper authorities to assist them. If medical conditions warrant the transport to an area hospital, then this extended service will be provided by the department.

In preparation for the new program, domestic violence and abuse awareness training was provided to firefighters by Shreveport Police Detectives Rita Caldwell and Paula Moreno. Traffic Engineering has placed large signs with the *SafeHouse* logo in the front of each fire station - easily identifying them as places of refuge. A formal policy outlining the program as well as handout literature was provided by Fire Administration to each fire station.

Similar programs are currently in place in several other metropolitan fire departments, including the model for Shreveport application, Indianapolis, Indiana, and are meeting with great success. Similar results are expected in Shreveport. ✪



## Station 13 Prepares to Open

■New fire station serving the west end of the city set to open in early August

The Shreveport Fire Department's newest station will open in August. Ground was broken for this \$1.3 million dollar project in July of 2003, but the planning began even before the 2001 bond issue that funded the station. New Station 13 is located on 70<sup>th</sup> Street east of Pines Road. As a part of maintaining the Department's Class 1 ISO rating, this strategic location will reduce response times for west Shreveport residents.

The station is designed like Station 20. The three bays are drive through, with sleeping quarters on one side and the kitchen, community space and offices on the other. Because of its location on a corner, equipment can enter from Cottonwood Street, and exit directly onto 70<sup>th</sup> Street, eliminating the need to tie up this busy street to back into the station. Crews from the North Market Station 13 have been responding from new Central Station while the finishing touches are being done to new Station 13. Once settled into their new home, these ARFF trained personnel can also respond to emergencies on the nearby Regional Airport property. ✪



**Fire Station 13 at W. 70<sup>th</sup> and Cottonwood** - Scheduled to open in early August serving the Western Hills community of Shreveport. (below) Kitchen area for new station.



The new SafeHouse program comes on the heels and in concert with the "Infant Relinquish" program. You may remember this program is where fire stations can be safe places for a newborn to be left by those parents who cannot keep the infant. State legislation was passed several years ago to accommodate parents in crisis situations, to motivate them to leave the baby at a fire station instead of leaving the child exposed or abandoned in, say a dumpster. There are no reprisals or questions asked if a parent leaves the child in the designated safe locations.



## The Last Flag

Lowering Ceremony performed by the Shreveport Fire Department Honor Guard at Central Fire Station during the closing ceremony on June 9, 2004.

## New Way to Hire: Expecting and Getting the Best

by Asst. Chief of Training Louis Johnson

"Hey man what's new with the hiring? I heard that they're changing some of the process. And what is this C-PAT thing everyone's talking about?"

If you are reading this article, I'm sure that these questions sound familiar. The Academy wanted to take this time to update all members of our department and give some clarity as it relates to the process used to hire new firefighter recruit candidates.

Last year when it came time to evaluate the hiring process, careful analysis and comparisons were done to assess existing criteria with new and more innovative ways to ensure that the best candidate was selected. The goals were: do it by the law; create a diverse applicant pool; and have a level field for all applicants.

In establishing a new process, Fire Department Administration and Training worked closely with a contracted attorney and in concert with the U.S. Justice Department. This group took time to extensively review the way the department hired in the past and implemented changes that would make the process better in the future. This ensured that the process was not only fair but that it would have the best chance at withstanding legal challenges.

To guarantee the hiring process maintained consistency and uniformity, the department

dedicated two personnel to temporary assignments at the Academy. The sole responsibility of Captain Glen Robinson and Fire Inspector Jimmy Hall was to facilitate the process and record keeping thereto. Though these positions worked the daily aspects of the hiring process, they did so under the direction of the Chief of Training Brian Hollins and had oversight by Fire Administration. Having someone dedicated full-time to the process allowed for accountability, availability, and an accessible applicant point of contact.

Another important component of the new process was its openness and inclusiveness. The hiring process of the Shreveport Fire Department was not a secret. In fact, this process was open to any interested member with questions at any time. Each step of the new hiring process included volunteer personnel from the Fire-Line and support divisions. These dedicated members received extensive professional training in the areas which they participated.

An added feature to the new process is continuous and close monitoring, before, during, and after each basic class is hired. There are careful and crafted analysis performed to ensure that the process is effective in its design. If the data indicates that changes are needed, then the

policy can be adjusted accordingly. As always, to make sure that our hiring process is consistent, successful and meets the goals of our department, it takes a team effort. The competency of the hiring team has raised the standard not only for the new firefighter recruit but for us all. ☺

## Promotions & Appointments

### TO DISTRICT CHIEF

James T. Carpenter, June 10, 2004  
Frank H. Wright, June 10, 2004  
Michael Echols, June 10, 2004  
Patrick Miciotto, June 10, 2004  
George A. (Andy) Mathews, June 10, 2004

### TO CAPTAIN

John Clark, July 15, 2003  
Martin Hall, Nov. 1, 2003  
Samuel Youngblood, Jan. 1, 2004  
Roderick Casey, Jan. 1, 2004  
Kenneth Hendrickson Jr., Jan. 1, 2004  
Gary Roan, Jan. 1, 2004  
Robert Debusk, Jan. 1, 2004  
Michael Perser, Jan. 1, 2004  
Darrell Braniff, Jan. 1, 2004  
Kenneth Frazier, Jan. 1, 2004  
David Kerley, June 1, 2004  
Roderick Arterberry, July 17, 2004

### TO DRIVER

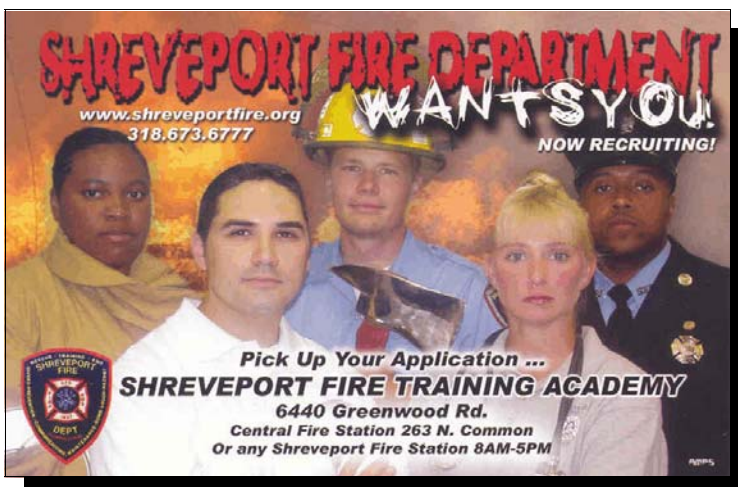
Tracy L. Johnson, July 15, 2003  
Darryl Smith, Nov. 1, 2003  
Billy Glass, Jan. 1, 2004  
Michael Scott Johnson, Jan. 1, 2004  
Goldwyn Hutto III, Jan. 1, 2004  
Gregory Tyndall, Jan. 1, 2004  
Donald Webb, Jan. 1, 2004  
Eric Clark, Jan. 1, 2004  
Calvin Thompson, Jan. 1, 2004  
Chad Falls, Jan. 1, 2004  
Patrick Hawthorne, June 1, 2004

### TO FCOII

Veronica Graham, Nov. 1, 2003

## Retirements

Cpt. Jeff Boyd, Nov. 1, 2003  
FCOII Billy Jordan, Nov. 1, 2003  
Dist. Chief Joe Thorton, Jan. 1, 2004  
Dist. Chief Murphy Foster, Jan. 1, 2004  
Dist. Chief Paul Waldon, Jan. 1, 2004  
Cpt. Raymond Cartwright, Jan. 1, 2004  
Cpt. Rodney Greening, Jan. 1, 2004  
Cpt. Cater Sanders, Jan. 1, 2004  
Cpt. Scott Hammond, Jan. 1, 2004  
Dist. Chief Danny Glass, June 1, 2004  
Cpt. Tommy Hayes, July 17, 2004



*Editors note: The following litany was led by Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran and recited by fire department members prior to the doors at old Central Fire Station being closed for the final time.*

## Ode to Central Fire Station

Eighty-two years ago, to the delight of the citizens of Shreveport and the Shreveport Fire Department, you were erected. Your beauty, integrity and character is symbolic of the beauty, integrity and character of our community and our department.

In you, many lives were committed to the service of protecting lives and property. Through you we responded to thousands upon thousands of emergencies.

Because of you we have achieved great things for our citizens. Millions of dollars were saved through our fire fighting efforts. Thousands of lives have been saved through rescue and emergency medical services. Because of you we are here.

Because of you we have achieved great things for our members. You have produced great leaders who have inspired us to be what we are today. Generations of firefighters have been raised in your protective walls.

You are a treasure chest of memories. If you could speak, oh the stories you could tell. You have stirred our emotions to great depths. In you we have laughed until our

sides hurt. We've cried in your hiding places. In you we have been counseled. In you we have offered generations of prayers.

Many seasons have come and gone. Bitter cold winters riding the tailboard, freezing from our helmet to our bunker boots. Hot steamy summers in our pin-striped khakis.

Our spouses have known you to be a competitor for our love. We have loved you as a mistress. Our children come to you as a mother. Therefore, leaving you is a difficult thing to do.

When your doors close, we will never be the same. We will never forget you. You will be forever in our hearts. ★

# FlashPoint

An official publication of the Shreveport Fire Department

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