

# Central Fire District

## From the desk of the Chief

In a nation that seems to be enamored with media celebrities and sports stars sometimes the real heroes get overlooked. Today I had conversations with two CFD members who both said exactly the same thing, "I am not a hero, I'm just a person who does their job." I am going to take exception to that comment. You can agree with me or not but it is my right to express my opinion. Especially here on this page.

I think a hero may indeed be the guy who faces a machine gun bunker or throws himself on a hand grenade to save his friends. There is no doubt that the men and women who have run into burning buildings to save someone's child are heroes. But many other things make you a hero.

Heroes come from every walk of life. They are men and women, black and white, full-time professionals and part-time volunteers. They are experienced veterans approaching the end of their careers, and confident young people just beginning theirs.

They work in gritty urban areas and in green, leafy suburbs. They respond to emergencies in rural townships and in neighborhoods all over the country. They rush to brush fires and boating accidents, to factory explosions and burning homes. They rescue motorists from crumpled masses of metal, jump-start hearts that have stopped beating, stop the bleeding of victims of many different types of emergencies.

In a time when everyone is struggling to just pay the bills and keep their heads above water, they give up their own personal time to train diligently to answer the call they hope never comes.

Some choose to be firefighters because it's what their fathers did, and their grandfathers, and their brothers. Some are drawn by the desire to help others. Some live for the adrenaline rush that comes from walking into a burning building. Most of you do it just because you have a desire to help others. That makes you a hero.

Despite the contrasts in life styles, CFD firefighters and EMT's share a common bond. In Central Fire District that bond is symbolized by a decal emblazoned on each fire engine, tanker and QRU. *Central*

*Fire District* it says in large letters. I watch you proudly wear t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and jackets with *Central Fire District* printed on them. And you are proud to wear them and each one of you are proud to belong. And you should be.

Not only are you rightfully proud to be a member of CFD but the members of the community are proud of you. They think you are heroes and are grateful for what you do. If you don't think you are a hero just look into the eyes of those little kids on the street as you drive by in your big yellow, or red if you're from Menan, fire truck. They look up to you....heck they want to be you.

I think you're heroes, each and every one of you. It's okay to be humble and not get to thinking you're a big shot but never forget that in the eyes of everyone around that really matters you truly are the "Last American Heroes."

Thanks for letting me be a part of Central Fire District.

Jim