



Submitted photo
Chief Tom Healy



COMMUNITY NEWS

Daisy Mountain Fire Department Mourns Loss Of Fire Chief

Staff Report ~ 8/11/2010

The Daisy Mountain Fire Department is mourning the loss of longtime Fire Chief Tom Healy, who died Friday at the age of 67, at his home in Peoria.

Healy was diagnosed with lung cancer in late 2009 and began aggressive treatment for the disease. During his battle Chief Healy remained dedicated to serving the Fire Department and the communities they serve.

Healy served as the Chief of the Daisy Mountain Fire Department for 11 years after a 30 year career with the City of Phoenix Fire Department.

He was born on Feb. 18, 1943 in Los Angeles to the parents of Robert H. and Helen M. Healy. He grew up in California with his brothers Phil and Jerry. He graduated from Lakewood High School in Lakewood CA. before eventually beginning his career as a firefighter.

He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association in 2009 for his contribution to the fire service during the past 40 years.

In a nominating letter Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick commented on Healy's commitment to his job.

"Tom has had a long, successful, productive career in the fire service," he said. "Tom's passion to improve the fire service is never ending. With his participation, creativity and innovation, the future of our firefighters looks very bright."

He began his fire career in 1970 as a firefighter with the Phoenix Fire Department.

His accomplishments included being one of the first groups of firefighters certified as paramedics in the state. He was also responsible for conceiving and implementing the Phoenix Fire Department Health Center and more recently the Glendale Fire Department Health Center, where firefighters not only receive physicals, but receive treatment for other health related concerns.

The Health Center is a continuation of the partnership that began in the late 1970s with the development of the Phoenix Regional Automatic Aid System. This system provides an environment which fosters partnership and consolidation of resources throughout the Valley. The idea of cooperation and partnership within the fire service epitomizes Chief Healy's philosophy.

Healy's final position was Fire Chief of the Daisy Mountain Fire District where he served the past 11 years. He worked with many departments during his 40 years in the fire service and had an influence on people around the country.

He was a member of multiple associations that had a direct impact on the fire service. As a contractor he also built and remodeled many homes although he was most proud of building the four fire stations for the Daisy Mountain

Fire District.

During his time at DMFD, the district has grown from a population of 12,000 with 27 paid employees to approximately 40,000 with a staff of 88 fulltime sworn and 10 fulltime support personnel. In that time the district went from two trailers and an administrative construction trailer to four permanent stations, an administrative office as well as resource and shop buildings.

Away from work he was an automobile and sports enthusiast.

Healy is survived by his wife, Dawn Duran-Healy; 2 sons, Robert and Brent; 4 step-children; 2 brothers, Phil and Jerry; and 5 grand children

The viewing took place on Tuesday with the funeral set for today at 10 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale, located at 9495 W. Coyote Blvd. Interment follows at Resthaven Cemetery, at 6450 W. Northern Ave in Glendale. A reception celebrating his life was scheduled at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale following the interment.

Healy requested that donations be made to the Phoenix Children's Hospital in lieu of flowers.

The hospital can be reached at 602-546-4483 or www.phoenixchildrens.com/way-of-giving/.

During his career as a paramedic he treated and transported many children and was a supporter of the growth of Phoenix Children's Hospital.

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