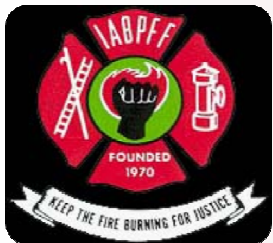


FIRST ALARM!

APRIL 2010



Dallas Black Firefighters Association, Inc.



Chapter of the
International Association of
Black Professional Firefighters
Life Member of
NAACP



A Proud History . . . A Bright Future

FIRST ALARM!

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Letter from the Editor

Past the seeker as he prayed came the crippled and the beggar and the beaten. And seeing them...he cried, "Great God, how is it that a loving creator can see such things and yet do nothing about them?" God said, "I did do something. I made you." ~ Author unknown.

A few weeks ago, when the ice storm came through Dallas, I made a run for breathing difficulty while riding the engine to check on an older woman in her 70s. After checking her vitals and her breathing, it was decided that she needed to be transported. She was extremely weak, feverish, and was shaking so hard that her dentures were rattling. She asked me to find her a robe because she was cold and not wearing any underclothes. She told me where to look and as I searched, a paramedic told me that he did not have time to wait while she got dressed. I was ordered to stop and help them get the stretcher. One of

the firefighters that was on the engine with me said, "This is someone's mother and possibly grandmother. How would you like it if someone treated your family this way? What would you say if you saw them wheeling your granny outside in 30 degree weather with only a gown on? You can wait five minutes while we find this lady some clothes." He then proceeded to help me search for her clothes and even found some blankets to wrap her up in. As I helped her put her robe and socks on, she kept repeating while still shivering, "thank you so much, thank you so much." Sometimes we get so carried away with the task at hand that we forget to have compassion. Remember that saying...What would Jesus do? I understand that there will be times when these actions are not an option, but when there are a few minutes to spare...you have a choice to do the right thing...will you?

President's Seat



Lt. James Hunter
President

Hello Dallas Black firefighters Association and friends. Let's welcome back the *First Alarm* newsletter where we continue to employ our focus of being *Our Brother's Keeper*. Flashing back, I see the things that were not available for us within the Department. Be aware that we should never forget that from which we have come. When we forget, we tend to repeat our past which only takes us backwards, not toward the future. We must remember we *Live in the Red*. We have made many sacrifices but we still owe all those who have gone before us. Isn't that what we have learned that life is about? It is stated of the Lord that "He learned obedience through the things that He suffered", however, we don't want to suffer yet still want all things the way we want them to be without redeeming the time. Yes, I know some of you will say we don't want to hear a sermon from the president's seat, I will always be me and I have always stated as president we would be about "**RIGHTEOUSNESS**". Not looking out for our own best interest but for the best interest of others.

Over the last several years, many things have taken place in the way of the work force. Chief Burns came in with a bang in view of changes in areas of education, training, promotional opportunities for all members, enhancements to CAD system, EMS, certifications pay for all and the list continues. I am asking all of you to do this for yourselves. Take part in the advancement of the department because this is your future. While taking an active role, you will become knowledgeable in the areas that will make this department the best it can be. No department can flourish without the team members being aware of the development directions and goals. Chief Burns has been having SWAT analysis meetings all over the department informing the members of how things are being addressed and allowing firefighters to ask questions. Several chiefs accompanied him to address the concerns of our fellow firefighters directly.

We must make it our sworn duty to work diligently to serve the public in the areas of our sworn duty. I like thought provoking statements, so, think upon this one please: "**I don't want to be like what I don't like**". We tend to contradict ourselves when we get caught up in complaining, grumblings, and murmurings of the workforce. We can be about the business of taking care of the jobs that have been entrusted in us. Be encouraged by God's word, "when I can trust you with a little then I can trust you with alot". Let's do the job as unto God as we allow Him to exalt us and no one can defeat our purpose. Communication has always been an asset. Again, I solicit your help in order to help you. The word of mouth is and still proves to be the best way to get the information out. Let's reach out and share what we have learned. You tell someone, I'll tell someone and so on and so on, but let's be careful to only pass on the facts.

Now from the other side of the table let's just hear and see what we see and hear, with a true understanding. Notice how much hypocrisy we must endure. Notice how the "*common thread*" shows the same even for our current President of these United States. Nothing that he does is acceptable and when he attempts to make a change, it is challenged from the roof tops no matter how much good it may cause for everyone. Not one, but *every* Black Chief we have in position has been challenged on their ability to do their jobs. Members, be it understood we should not allow others to set standards for us. We too often allow the standards to be set by those who clearly let us know that they don't care one iota about us, especially as a people. Please don't misunderstand my position on this. Not everyone we work alongside of thinks this way. Yet, those who do (don't hear and see their views), wondering why you are suffering. Don't believe the hype, gather all the facts, and select the best alternatives making a sound conclusion. When we come to the table let's have a well thought out solution.

Let me speak for a second about what is happening in the Dallas Black Firefighters Association. I am happy to say that many of you are working diligently in the communities and surrounding cities. The *DBFFA* is expressed in a positive way when you give of your time and wisdom to the young, assisting the elderly as well as each other. Our *Mentoring Program* is gaining force everyday thanks to the Mr. and Mrs. Willie Reynolds and those who assist them. We are actively working with *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, *International Smoke Fire Grant Program* and many other ventures that we have undertaken. James Hill, media board member, has been keeping us abreast of the work that we must do to achieve our goals. In all that we do in our profession and in our personal lives, please remember this "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and **His righteousness** and all these things will be added unto you" Mt 6:33.

Lieutenant James Hunter, BFFA President

YOUR HEALTH

The Dallas Fire-Rescue and Dallas Police Department Annual Health Fair is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 15-16, 2010, from 0700 to 1230 at the Dodd Miller, Jr. Training Center, Academy Building Apparatus Room, 5000 Dolphin Road.

The 2010 Health Fair is open to all Fire-Rescue and Police Department civilian and uniformed members along with their families. The fair will also be offered to retirees. Health screeners will provide complimentary and charged services. Appointments can be made in advance for lab testing, ultrasound imaging, and massage services. Free twelve lead ECG screening and medical evaluations conducted by medical staff will be available. Vision screenings will also be included in the program.

This year, University of Texas Southwestern's mobile mammography unit with digital mammography services will be on-site April 15th only. Pre-registration is required.

Please call 214-645-2560 on or after March 15th for an appointment.

This year, our Health Fair will feature the George Florence Jazz Band on Friday, April 15, 2010 from 1230 to 1400.

NO SMOKING

unless you're on fire



For vendor information and appointments, please contact Allison Green RN via e-mail at myrtle.green@dallascityhall.com or at 469-323-5775.

DO YOUR PART... VOLUNTEER!!!!!!

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. ~ Martin L. King, Jr.

We are the lucky few who have an opportunity to be positive role models for our children. We have careers that enable us to provide all their needs and most of their wants. But there are kids who are not as fortunate. The mission of Dallas BFFA Mentoring Program is focus on youth mentoring through peer to peer and youth-adult interactions. We provide a supportive educational and early career coaching environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, develops leadership skills and the strength of character necessary for success in life.

Now, in order to implement our mission, we need volunteers from you, our members. We have selected five high schools within the DISD to provide a caring relationship of guidance and support. The schools are James Madison, Carter, Lincoln, Pinkston, and Town view. If you are a graduate of any of these High Schools here is a perfect opportunity to give back and be a part our program.

IN THE KITCHEN

Spinach-Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms

healthy living



average rating

★★★★☆ (103)

prep time 15 min
total time 35 min
makes 4 servings

Submitted by
Christopher
Williams

Saturated fat	1.5 g
Carbohydrate	11 g
Protein	10 g
Calcium	25 %DV
Total fat	3.5 g
Sodium	490 mg
Sugars	2 g
Vitamin C	50 %DV
Calories	110
Cholesterol	10 mg
Dietary fiber	3 g
Vitamin A	270 %DV
Iron	25 %DV

Healthy Living Information

Good source of vitamin A or C

Diet Exchange

2 Vegetable + 1 Meat (L)

Nutrition Bonus

The spinach stuffing in this meatless entree is nutrient packed. Not only is it high in both vitamins A and C, but it is also a good source of iron.

what you need!

- 4 large portobello mushrooms (1 lb.), cleaned
- 1/4 cup KRAFT Light Zesty Italian Dressing, divided
- 1/4 cup chopped red peppers
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 pkg. (10 oz. each) fresh spinach
- 1/4 cup KRAFT Grated Parmesan Cheese

make it!

HEAT oven to 375°F.

REMOVE stems from mushrooms. Chop stems. Use spoon or sharp knife to scrape gills from caps; discard gills. Brush 1 Tbsp. dressing onto rounded sides of caps; place, rounded-sides down, in foil-lined 15x10x1-inch pan.

HEAT remaining dressing in large saucepan on medium-high heat. Add mushroom stems, red peppers and garlic; cook and stir 2 min. Add spinach; cover. Simmer on medium-low heat 4 min. or until spinach is wilted, stirring after 2 min. Spoon over mushroom caps; top with cheese.

BAKE 18 to 20 min. or until mushrooms are tender.



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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The BFFA's presence was STRONG in this year's Martin Luther King Parade! Many BFFA members attended and brought family members to participate in the festivities. A continental style breakfast of fruit and pastries was provided from 8 a.m. until every morsel disappeared. There was also plenty of that firehouse coffee and hot cocoa to warm everyone from the inside out before they braved the morning chill. This year, the BFFA was very lucky to get a spot in the very front of the parade. A beautifully decorated float showcased the executive board but

the truck pulling the float carried the most precious cargo: the children of the BFFA members. It was a joy to see their eyes light up as they got to wave at the crowd and listen to the calls of "Keep up the good work! We're so proud of you black firefighters! Way to represent us!" The love shown between the members at the parade is a peek of what Martin Luther King's dream was really about.

~R. Trail



Special Thanks to all the members who took the time to decorate the float and to the members who volunteered the use of vehicles to pull the float and carry the children in the parade. Your generosity did NOT go unnoticed!!



Special thanks to Suzanne Braddick and [redacted] for capturing these beautiful moments and allowing us to share them with you.



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK
PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS
SUPPORTS
THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION'S
INSTALL. INSPECT. PROTECT. CAMPAIGN
Encouraging residents to install smoke alarms and sprinklers

St Louis, MO – More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of whom are in homes without a working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring a nationwide Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign designed to raise awareness about how working, properly installed smoke alarms can lower a person's chances of dying in a fire. The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters is supporting this critical effort to reduce injuries and the loss of life. The USFA's Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign is aimed at encouraging Americans to practice fire safety by installing and maintaining smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, which can help save the lives of residents and fire fighters, practicing fire escape plans, and performing a home safety walk-through to remove fire hazards from the home. The campaign is promoting fire safety through a free Campaign Toolkit disc; educational materials; print, radio and television PSAs; children's materials, community organization-sponsored events and a consumer-friendly campaign Web site. "The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) is proud to be a partner with the USFA in this very relevant campaign. Far too many people have died in fires as a result of not having working smoke alarms or sprinklers. One person killed in a home fire is just too many," said Johnny Brewington, Vanguard of Cleveland Fire Department. "Together, we can educate our communities and help save lives."

"If a fire breaks out in your home while you're asleep, how will you know? Having a working smoke alarm is like having a fire safety official on duty in your home, 24 hours a day." said Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn A. Gaines. "Working smoke alarms will alert you to the fire and we know conclusively, a residential sprinkler system can help put the fire out." Gaines adds, "Smoke alarms and sprinklers are able to provide residents the time it takes to get everyone out of the house, before firefighters have to come in." When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent, when compared to a residence without either. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2003-2006, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

The USFA offers a few helpful tips on smoke alarms and sprinklers:

- o Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- o Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- o Get smoke alarms that can sound fast. The U.S. Fire Administration recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- o Inspect and test smoke alarms monthly and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.
- o If possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.
- o Avoid painting or covering the fire sprinkler, because that will affect the sensitivity to heat.

I SEE YOU LOOKING!!



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MEET & CONFER

The city of Dallas' top managers and representatives for Dallas police officers and firefighters have long met to hash out concerns about salary, benefits and working conditions.

But in a 12-1 vote Wednesday, the City Council for the first time formally approved "meet and confer" teams for management and first responders.

The council was required to take action on meet and confer in the wake of a 2009 state law that created guidelines for cities to follow when dealing with public safety employees.

Council member Ann Margolin was alone in opposing the measure, saying she is concerned that the policy and others like it can cut into the state's pro-business tradition.

"If we approve this item, we are signaling a new and different message and a new direction," she said.

Margolin, who stressed that she supports public safety workers, asked that the city's voters be given a say in approving or denying meet and confer privileges.

Many have viewed meet and confer as a sort of creeping collective bargaining that could shift the balance of power between the city's

management and its employees.

Mayor Tom Leppert and others on the council rebuked Margolin, saying that police officers and firefighters have earned the right to formal meetings with the city's management.

"Meet and confer is not an obligation ... It's simply a process not unlike mediation," Leppert said.

www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/dallas/stories/022510dnmetdalCouncil.432f5a2.html

RELAX



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

MAKE ME BRAVE FOR LIFE

God, make me brave for life; oh, braver than this.
Let me straighten after pain, as a tree straightens after the rain,
Shining and lovely again.
God, make me brave for life, much braver than this.
As the blown grass lifts, let me rise
From sorrow with quiet eyes,
Knowing Thy way is wise.
God, make me brave, life brings
Such blinding things.
Help me to keep my sight;
Help me to see a right
That out of dark comes light.
~Author Unknown

Please keep Chaplain Robert Winters, his wife and their entire family lifted in prayer. Let us also remember our brother Joe Nelson and his entire family. Let us pray that his family heals quickly. A kind word, a hug, a handshake, or even a nod can do wonders to lift a burdened soul, but *nothing* heals like the power of prayer.

22nd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and Seminar

On April 28-29, 2010, CFSI will host the 22nd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and Seminars in Washington, DC. And the IABPFF will host is 2010 Day on the Hill. It is an extraordinary opportunity to engage Congressional leaders and Administration officials in discussions about federal programs, legislation and issues important to the mission of the IABPFF. Throughout the two-day event, CFSI will host a series of seminars addressing issues that directly relate to the safety of first responders. These seminars will be held at the Hilton Washington. The IABPFF will arrange meetings with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other Legislators. The IABPFF will organize affordable lodging for our members who attend. This is the fire services' day in Washington. Prior to your visit, we would encourage you to schedule meetings with your members of Congress to exchange information and share ideas on how the federal government can address the challenges of the fire services and how it affects us both nationally and locally. CFSI and the IABPFF has built time into the seminar program and meetings to allow these visits. Complimentary shuttles are provided to Capitol Hill from the Hilton Washington. There are many reasons you should attend the Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner/Seminars and International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters Day on the Hill! This event is considered a unique opportunity to meet with Congressional leaders about fire service legislation. You will have an opportunity to meet with your United States Congressional Leaders and their staff and deliver your message about the IABPFF, our priorities, our objectives and we can help them to help us. You also have the opportunity to network with other fire service leaders from around the country. The seminars are great learning tools and provide useful information for ways you can get involved in the legislative process and take advantage of federal grants and programs. Plan your time to attend! More information will be posted on the IABPFF website soon at www.iabpff.org. Thanks!



ALWAYS LOW PRICES
 CITY CREDIT UNION
 American Airlines
 250 Cities 40 Countries
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 Sheraton HOTELS & RESORTS
 THE WESTIN CITY CENTER DALLAS
 MONSTER ENERGY
 GET YOUR SUPERPOWERS This is big

DALLAS BLACK FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
 12th Annual
 SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT
 The Golf Club at Castle Hills
 Lewisville, Texas
 September 11, 2010

Dallas Black Fire Fighters Association
 12th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament
 New York City
 September 11, 2010
 Four Person Scramble
 Saturday, September 11, 2010
 Registration: 6:30 a.m. Shotgun Start: 8:00 a.m.
 Fees: \$100.00/Player \$400/Team
 The Golf Club at Castle Hills
 699 Lady-of-the-Lake Blvd. Lewisville, Texas
 972.899.7400
 For more info contact:
 Daman Washington 214.518.1851 or email smokejacket@yahoo.com
 William Furd 972.824.0219
www.tournevents.com/dbffa2010



Contact: Jason L. Evans
(214) 670-7949 or (469) 323-5881
Jason.evans@dallascityhall.com

Calling All Chefs!

Whether you've spent the duration of your career as a full-time cook or you habitually pray to the 'Dice Gods' that you don't roll snake eyes, we've all had our share of opportunities to explore our imagination in the station kitchen. Each shift you try to concoct the next culinary masterpiece, all in an effort not to offend anyone's taste buds. No matter if you're a self-proclaimed chef or the Real McCoy, if you think you have what it takes to put some of those imaginative recipes to the ultimate taste test, then here's your chance.

On Sunday, May 2, 2010, the Milestone Culinary Center will be hosting their 1st Annual Texas Chefs Association 'Chefs on Fire' Competition, to benefit the Parkland Burn Center. The competition will consist of 31 teams (two DFR members and one professional chef) in a 'heat-style' competition. Five heats of six teams will compete with the best of each group moving on to the finals. The 31st team will be the team that raises the most money through contributions. Their reward is an automatic spot in the finals.

Food will be judged by five impartial judges, including Fire Chief Eddie Burns, Sr., on flavor, texture and presentation. Cash prizes will be awarded in the amounts of \$3,000 for 1st place, \$1,500 for 2nd and \$750 for 3rd place. All other money raised for the event will go towards the Parkland Burn Center's 'Beads of Courage' Program.

The event will take place at the Milestone Culinary Center and encompass the two city blocks between McKinney and Cole Avenue just South of Knox Street. All members are encouraged to come out, whether you are competing or not. Several attractions will be on hand that appeals to both children and adults, so bring the entire family out for a good time!

Entries are open to ALL DFR MEMBERS; so whether you carry a nozzle, pair of pliers, a sidearm or an inspection clipboard, trade it in for a day and don your chef's hat and apron for what promises to be a memorable event.

If you are interested in being a participant, please contact Jason L. Evans at (214) 670-7949 (office), (469) 323-5881 (Blackberry) or jason.evans@dallascityhall.com and I will forward you additional information on the event – including an entry form. Keep in mind that you will be in teams of two firefighters and one chef; so, if you have a partner you prefer to cook with, and they are interested too, please let me know. Those that are not paired will be done so randomly at a meet and greet that will be held later. The deadline for entry submissions is March 19, 2010 @ 15:30.

Dallas Fire-Rescue 1500 Marilla Street, 7AS Dallas, Texas 75201 f: 214.670.0669

Member Business Listings

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each other...Who will?

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Lyndon Britt, Owner

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters 2010 Training Conference and Convention

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to join us at our International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters Training Conference and Convention August 2-6, 2010 in beautiful downtown New Orleans, Louisiana.
Host Hotel

Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center
859 Convention Center Boulevard
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Nightly Rate: Single/Double: \$119

Triple/Quad: \$139

Additional Person: \$25 Rollaway

Suites: \$300 Junior

Reservation

www.iabpff.org click New Orleans Conv. pg.

Phone: 1-504-613-2888

Toll-free: 1-800-305-6342



We are pleased to present to our members and guest from around the world, all over the USA, the Caribbean and the United Kingdom, front line fire fighters to Fire Chiefs, members such as Chief of Departments, Safety Directors, Training directors, Human Resources Chiefs, and Emergency Medical Leaders to name a few. Our International Conventions will provide educational and career development workshops for the participants as well as an opportunity to meet vendors and sponsors whose products support the delivery of safety programs to cities across the country and around the world. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

We invite you to check out what we have scheduled so far for you, register as soon as possible, help us by getting sponsors or purchasing an Advertisement by going directly to the website at www.iabpff.org click New Orleans Convention page. Join us at this event as an active participant in our 2010 Biennial Convention. Hope to see you at the IABPF 2010 Biennial Convention. Visit our website for more information at www.iabpff.org click New Orleans Convention page, request info via email at IABPFFExDir@aol.com or call 314-558-4132.

Thank you!

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE
22ND ANNUAL APRIL 28-29, 2010
WASHINGTON, DC
NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
DINNER AND SEMINARS

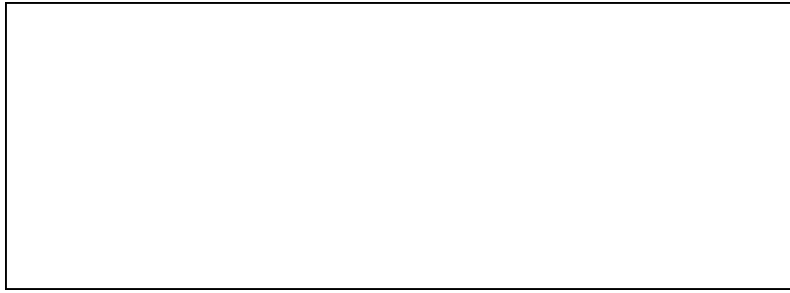


January 19	Concord, NH
February 3	Arvada, CO
February 17	Lafayette, CA
March 3	Burien, WA
March 17	Lansing, MI
April 7	Mahweh, NJ
April 20	Forsyth, GA
May 12	Independence, MO
May 18	Dallas, TX

Dallas Black Fire Fighters Assoc.

1830 Park Row

Dallas, TX 75215



We need your articles! If you have an article or announcement that you would like to submit, you may drop it by the BFFA house, fax it to (214)428-7565, or if needed you can email it to firstalarmeditor@dallasbffa.org. We want to start announcing weddings, births, retirements, and bereavements. Your fraternal brothers and sisters are here to rejoice with you in your triumphs and achievements as well as support you in your trials and tribulations. We also wish to start a list of business and services offered by our members. If you offer a service or have an off duty business, please send us that information by one of the preceding methods as well. If you have feedback, suggestions, or wish to become a part of the newsletter staff, please let us know. We need your help to make this newsletter a success. Thank you & God Bless.

Dallas Black Fire Fighters Association, Inc.

