



# THE BOTTOM LINE

## Greater Naples Fire Rescue District



### FIRE CHIEF SAPP RETIRES

Thank you to everyone that came out to honor Chief Sapp on his retirement, after serving 46 years in Public Safety. We had about 300 people show up, from near and far, to wish him well and we appreciate everyone's support in helping with the event!



# Awards for 1st Quarter of 2024



LT Jeremy Morgan received his  
20 Years of Service Award



LT Bledsoe received his  
15 Years of Service Award



DE Juan Flores & FF Justin Graeve  
received the Life Saving Medal



Capt. Mike Cruz was named  
2023's Investigator of the Year



Barry Gerenstein - 15 Year Award for  
Verona Walk's CERT Program



Insp. Jared Taylor received the Fire  
Safety Commendation Medal

# Awards continued...because we have a lot of amazing employees!



**FF Alex Ivanisevic**

## Servant Warrior Challenge Coin Awards



**FF Jose Garcia**

## Engineer Pinnings



**DE Spenser Kehoe**



**DE David Rotkvich  
DE Ryan Rogula  
DE Zolan Henderson  
DE Steve Lawrence  
DE Damon Fleming**



**DE Levi Conroy &  
DE Dakotah Gutierrez**



**DE Jesse Temperelli**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# Five Years of Service



**Shabree Finger**



**Levi Conroy**



**Reginald Roseme**



**Damon Fleming & Ryan Rogula**



**Zolan Henderson**



**Jose Alvarado**



**Dakotah Gutierrez**



**Nathan Pratt**



**Steve Lawrence**



**David Ramis**



**Spenser Kehoe**



LT James Youngsman was awarded Firefighter of the Year.



HR/Benefits Coordinator, Deb Pittman, was awarded Civilian of the Year



## RECRUIT CLASS 24-01

GNFD's newest recruit class started their 10-week training session on March 4th. As of right now, we have 17 that are still pushing through and working hard. We are excited to watch them learn and grow and be great leaders within GNFD.

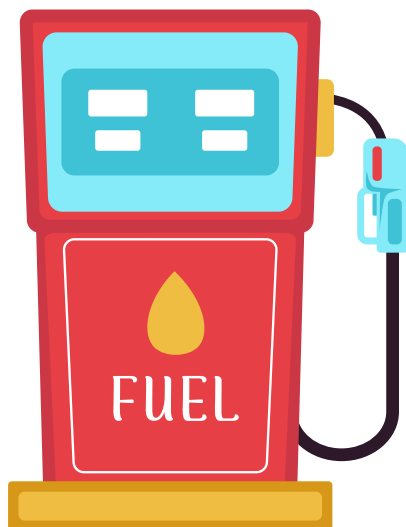
# Importance of Quality Fuel

By: Mark Records



In this edition, we will address how important it is to get fuel from a quality source. We are all familiar with filling up our vehicles but have you ever wondered what the difference is between the different types of gasolines? All gasoline starts as crude oil; it is then put through a refinery process to separate it into different types of fuels. Once the gasoline is refined from the crude oil the different gas companies begin adding their specific additives to the mixture to create their gasoline product. Those ratings you see at the pump are called octane rating, the higher the octane rating the better the fuel is at preventing spark knock, which is a byproduct of the ignition process.

Now that you have some basics on fuel, let's talk about where to purchase it. Fuel is usually stored in an underground tank. From there, a tanker transports the bulk fuel to the gas station then deposits it in the storage tank. Sounds simple right? Well it can be costly to you if this process is carelessly done. For example, if it is pouring rain while the transport is trying to open the underground storage lid water can get in, this can find its way into your fuel tank. When these tankers are pumping fuel into the storage tank, sediment can be stirred up. If the company has old tanks and doesn't keep up with the filters and maintenance of the pump, site debris can find its way into your vehicle causing your vehicle's filter to plug up. So a good tip is to use fuel pumps that are well maintained, make sure the site is busy moving fuel so it does not sit long, and try not to get fuel when the tanker is pumping into the storage tanks.



# Creating a Legacy Worth Following: Lessons from Chief Nolan Sapp's Career

By: Chaplain David Wildman



When we think about leadership, we often think about the here and now—the decisions, actions, and results. But authentic leadership is also about what you leave behind, the path you've paved for others to follow. This is about creating a legacy, and there's no better example of this than the career of Fire Chief Nolan Sapp, who retired in March 2024 after 46 years of dedicated service, including 33 years in Collier County.

Chief Sapp's story is not just a tale of personal achievement but also a blueprint for building a legacy that inspires and endures. His recent retirement ceremony, attended by many colleagues, friends, and community members, wasn't just a farewell. It celebrated a legacy that has touched many lives and set a standard for what it means to lead. Let's take a look at some of the leadership principles we can glean from Chief Sapp's career:

## **Lead by Example**

Leadership is about setting an example, and Chief Sapp's career is a testament to this. From his early days in Kentucky to his pivotal roles in Collier County, he showed what it means to lead from the front. Whether responding to large wildfires or managing the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, Chief Sapp was always there, leading by example. This hands-on approach not only earned him respect but also set a benchmark for leadership within the department.

## **Serve with Dedication**

Chief Sapp's leadership philosophy was based on a deep-seated dedication to service. He believed in putting the needs of the community and his team above his own. This principle of selfless service created a culture of dedication within the department, where every firefighter knew the value of putting others first. It's this dedication that forms the cornerstone of a legacy worth following.

## **Foster Growth and Improvement**

Creating a lasting legacy is more than just leading and serving; it's about leaving things better than you found them. Chief Sapp was committed to improvement, not just in terms of operations and response strategies but in fostering the growth of those he led. By encouraging professional development and mentoring future leaders, he ensured that his legacy would be carried forward by those who came after him.

## **Build Strong Relationships**

A leader's legacy is also about the relationships they build. Chief Sapp understood the importance of strong connections, not just within the fire department but with the community at large. These relationships, built on trust and mutual respect, helped strengthen the bond between the fire service and the community, creating a united front in times of crisis and calm. I remember stopping by Chief Sapp's office one time regarding an issue with my Class A uniform. He picked up his phone and called our dear friend "Rose" at Sewshore, and she picked up immediately. He asked kindly how her day was going and was genuinely interested in how she was doing before he addressed the issue at hand.

## **Inspire the Next Generation**

The most significant aspect of Chief Sapp's legacy is the inspiration it provides for the next generation of leaders. His career serves as a powerful example of what it means to lead with integrity, compassion, and dedication. For those looking to make their mark, Chief Sapp's journey underscores the importance of leadership beyond titles and accolades, focusing instead on the impact one can have on others and the community. I saw his heart on that when he addressed the recent class of recruits on their first day.

As we reflect on Chief Sapp's retirement and the legacy he leaves behind, it's clear that creating a legacy worth following isn't just about what you achieve but about the difference you make in the lives of others. It's about leading by example, serving with dedication, fostering growth, building relationships, and inspiring those following in your footsteps.

To all current and aspiring leaders, Chief Sapp's career offers valuable lessons on building a meaningful legacy. It's a reminder that authentic leadership is not just about your role today but about the path you lay for tomorrow. As we celebrate Chief Sapp's contributions, let's also embrace the opportunity to create our legacies, ones that will inspire, serve, and lead for generations to come.

# Meet GNFD's NEW Associate Medical Director, Dr. Scott Dunavant, FACEP



"Dr. D" is a board certified specialist in Emergency Medicine. After completing undergraduate and medical school at the University of Kentucky, he later returned as faculty in Emergency Medicine. He is an Instrument-Rated Pilot and served as an Aeromedical Flight Physician for ten years providing direct patient care, and served as an EMS Medical Director and EMS Advisory Board Member.

With three wonderful children going off to college, he has increased his work with the international NGO, Global Response Medicine. With GRM he is teaching and providing direct patient care during repeated trips in Kurdistan/Iraq, Ukraine, Mexico, Bahrain, Guatemala and presenting at conferences including UN City in Copenhagen.

While Dr. D has lectured nationally, been published and chaired institutional review boards, his main interest has always remained clinical care and teaching others in Emergency Medicine so they may be appropriately confident in emergencies and "be comfortable in uncomfortable settings."

He still works full-time in the Emergency Department at NCH and expects to for a long time because he still greatly enjoys the work, and is looking forward to an even more active and enjoyable relationship with the men and women of GNFD!

**To learn more about Global  
Response Medicine, their website is  
[www.global-response.org](http://www.global-response.org)**

Pictured far left, bottom row, is Dr. Dunavant. He participated in a very vigorous 1-hr Pilates session with the new recruit class at Station 71.





# ARBORIST TRAINING



Our TRT, along with members from NCFD's TRT, participated in an Arborist Rescue class taught by Elevated Safety and Timber Trimmers Tree Services.

This 16hr course is designed to provide critical skills required to successfully execute a rescue of a victim in a tree. It will serve as the foundation for our team members to build upon and become better prepared for an emergency response to high-angle arborist rescue incidents.

Currently, we have 32 members on our TRT. Many of our members are trained well beyond the minimum and certified in several other specialty areas.

## CCPS FIRST RESPONDER CAREER FAIR

GNFD attended this year's First Responder Career Fair, put on by CCPS, at the Collier County Fairgrounds. The high-schoolers had a great time learning about what we do, trying on some bunker gear, and asked a lot of questions.



**#WeAreGreater**

# Everglades Seafood Festival



We worked at the 54th Annual Everglades Seafood Festival. Firefighters and medics worked side-by-side to help those that needed medical help and also walked around the festival to talk with festival goers. Thankfully, there were no critical incidents this year, as opposed to other years. Everyone stayed safe and had a nice time at the festival. See you there next year!



## Fire at East Naples Middle School

On February 22nd, 2024, crews from station 20 rushed to East Naples Middle School where they found smoke coming through the roof of the front office & heavy smoke inside the front office as well. Firefighters cut a hole in the roof to access the fire. The the fire was accidental and possibly connected to construction on the roof of the school.



# PROMOTIONS



**Billy Cipriano promoted to Driver Engineer**



**Daniel Rojas promoted to Driver Engineer**



**Kristy Ivanisevic promoted to Executive Assistant**



**James West promoted to Finance Director**



**Mercedes Carrillo promoted to Accountant**



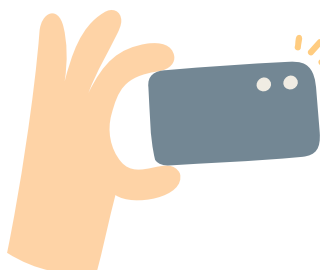
**Amanda Eberl promoted to Accountant**



**Charity Saieva promoted to Accountant**



**Mark Schmitz promoted to Senior Accountant**



**Have a good idea for a social media post?  
Have cool pics from training or an incident?  
Send it to your PIO, Tiffany Wood!  
Text: (239) 212-6101  
email [twood@gnfire.org](mailto:twood@gnfire.org)**

