



Firehouse Notes

JULY
2005

New Additions to the St. George Family

Firefighter Bert Saucier (C-65) and his wife, Rose, proudly announced the birth of their first child, a daughter. Elli Kailah Saucier was born on June 11th.

Malia Elise Williams was welcomed into this world on June 21st by her parents, Chief of Fire Prevention Darian Williams and his wife, Brenda. Malia is the couple's third child.

All of us at St. George celebrate with our brothers and their families. We are grateful that both sets of moms and daughters are doing fine, and that the dads seem to have come through the births OK, as well.

Legislative Notes

The 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature adjourned on June 23rd, and we are still here. That's always good news. The Department had a visible presence at the capitol. Even before the session started we co-hosted (with the Central Fire Department) a legislative breakfast to voice some of our concerns. Our two greatest concerns going in were the required retirement contribution level and efforts to impose limitations on our Board of Commissioners regarding *ad valorem* tax matters. There were a number of other matters in which we had an interest, but had decided to not take strong positions on. Such issues as firefighter sick leave, presumptive cause of hearing loss, and others were things that we could live with however they turned out. The retirement and tax issues are critical to our being able to carry out our mission.

Our efforts in the area of *ad valorem* taxes were quite successful. Over a dozen bills were introduced which could have hindered the ability of our Board of Commissioners to roll tax millages forward following reassessments. Not one became law. In the area of retirement costs, a study commission was formed to look into how the retirement systems estimate returns on investments and use those estimates to determine contribution rates.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share?

Is there a new addition you'd like to introduce to your associates at St. George? A special family event, graduation or wedding? If so, pass it on to the PIO in person, by phone or via E-mail. We'll be happy to put your news in our next issue.

Other St. George Family News

Clarence (Clay) Polk, the son of Communications Officer Randy Polk and his wife, Linda, was honored as a United States Achievement Academy National Award Winner. Clay was nominated for the award by Redemptorist H. S. head football coach Guy Mistretta.

Jefferey Sanford, the son of District Chief Frank Sanford (A-606) and his wife, Yvonne, has signed a baseball scholarship to Belhaven College in Jackson, MS. Jefferey is a graduate of the Dunham School, where he was an outstanding athlete.

Public Education Demonstrations are Important to St. George's Mission

The opportunity to meet members of the public on something other than the worst day of their lives; the chance to let the public see who we are, the professional manner in which we conduct ourselves, and, quite frankly, how much we care is something we need to take advantage of every chance we get.

In my six months as your PIO, I've not seen any member of our Department conduct themselves publicly in anything other than an exemplary manner. That sure makes my job easier. The folks I've worked with on Fire Safety Trailer demos have all been very good at getting our message across to the public; the children AND their parents.

This brings me to the point of this article; We need more help. I know there are a number of good reasons that a few hours of OT on the "Smoke House" don't fit your schedules. That's quite understandable. I ask you though, to make every effort to participate in at least one of these details a year if you possibly can. It's an important part of our overall mission.