Fire and EMS Training Center Named After Assistant Chief

Story on Page 6
ABOUT THE COVER: The Board of Commissioners approve the naming of the Cherokee Fire Training Complex after Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson.

Photos and Story on page 6

American Legion Post Honors Public Safety

Receiving awards from the American Legion Post were (Front row – left to right) Michael Priest, Stephanie Barton (Cherokee County 911), Michelle Ice, Scott Coppola, Capt. Kevin Lanier and Raymond Rollins, Commander of the American Legion Post. (Back row – left to right) Josiah Gnanamuttu, James Laughlin and Chris Ginn.

Thomas M. Brady Post #45 of the American Legion, located in Canton, Georgia, honored several firefighters and staff members with Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services during their annual Community Service Awards Banquet that was held May 28th at the legion hall.

After a wonderful meal, Commander Raymond Rollins presented awards to several employees with Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services.

Recognized at this year’s banquet were:

**Battalion 1 Firefighter Award** – James Laughlin

**Battalion 2 Firefighter Award** – Capt. Kevin Lanier

**Battalion 3 Firefighter Award** – Chris Ginn

**Volunteer Firefighter Award** – Michelle Ice

**EMS Employee of the Year Award** – Scott Coppola

**Fire Administration Award** – Michael Priest

**Special Operations Award** – Todd Weidman

**Explorer of the Year Award** - Josiah Gnanamuttu
Mother Gives Daughter the Gift of Life

This past Mother’s Day was a very special day for Brianna Rackley and her mother, Tricia Chumley. Brianna’s mother gave her daughter the ultimate gift, one of her kidneys during a time of need.

Brianna’s kidneys stopped growing at the age of six. In July of last year, Brianna became very ill and later learned that she had a kidney disease called Nephron phthisis. She was placed on dialysis until they could find a donor for a kidney transplant. Fortunately, Brianna’s mother went through the testing and was later notified that she was a match for the transplant.

The operation for the transplant was performed on December 18th, 2014. According to Tricia, “After the surgery I don’t really remember what all happened. My husband said I was very sick after the surgery and complaining about chest pains. The hospital was thinking it was acid indigestion or something. I was sent home from the hospital which I don’t remember being at home. Rodney, my husband, stated I wanted my back rubbed and was hurting not wanting him to stop massaging my back.”

Later that evening, Tricia’s husband woke up and noticed that she had turned blue and called 911. EMTs and paramedics from Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services responded to the scene to transport Tricia to Northside Cherokee Hospital. Tricia was unconscious, but she did have a heartbeat. She was later transported to Emory Hospital in Atlanta and firefighters worked hard to maintain her vital signs as they headed south. After they arrived at the hospital, she was put on dialysis to save her kidney. “I don’t remember anything after the surgery prep, except for prayer with my husband and friend, Pastor Lamar Rackley, who is Brianna’s Grandad. I woke up later in the intensive care unit” she added. Tricia had to do rehab and two weeks later, she walked out with no problems.

On Friday, May 1st, Tricia traveled to Station 22 near Bridgemill to thank the men who responded to her call. “I’m here because of this 1st response team & my husband. Thank you just doesn’t seem enough,” stated Tricia.

Most of the time, firefighters with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services never see their patients again after the leave the hospital. It is always gratifying to see someone who benefited from the EMTs and paramedics care.

To learn more about Tricia and Brianna’s experience or to make a donation to help them pay for medical expenses, please go to http://cotaforteambriannar.com/

A mother’s love is very special especially when she gives you the “gift of life.”
Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Training Turns Into True to Life Situation

Cherokee County firefighters learn about large animal rescue including putting straps around the horse.

large animal from entrapments (trailer wrecks, ditches, mud, barn fires) in local emergencies and disaster areas.

On one of the days of training, the Cherokee and Milton firefighters in training got a true-to-life experience when they were called to rescue a half-ton bull that fell into a well in south Fulton County. The bull’s owner stated that the 3 year old bull fell through some rotted wood covering up an old well overnight. Rescuers were able to rescue the animal by placing straps around the bull and pull him out of the 15 foot well. Experts expect the bull to be OK.

The firefighters continued their large animal emergency rescue training after rescuing the bull.

Cherokee County firefighters worked hard to pull the horse mannequin out of the hole.
Fire Explorers Hold Senior Night


Cherokee County Fire Explorer Post #469 held their annual Promotion Ceremony and Senior Night on May 12th at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center located off Highway 5, just south of Holly Springs. Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, Lt. Scott Deal and Michael Sims spoke to those gathered at the event.

The Cadet Officers for Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services’ Explorer Post 469 there were promoted for 2015-16 are Captain Brooke Ice, Lt. Jake Pohlman and Lt. Kenny Robinson.

Ten explorers, who are seniors this year, were also honored with certificates. Seniors receiving certificates were: Emily Blackwell, Carson Caglioni, Josiah Gnanamuttu, Sukie Jules, Nick Leslie, Morgan Leslie, Sarah Logan, Georgia Perez, Ethan Sanders and Christopher Simmons.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the explorers and their families enjoyed refreshments at the plaza area of the training center.

The explorer program is a career based learning opportunity and is open to young men and women ages 14 (and completed the 8th grade) and not yet 21 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of Fire & Emergency Services.

The Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services Explorer Post features a hands-on program that exposes participants to many career experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within fire and emergency services and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their communities and country. For more information about Explorer Post #469 you can contact Advisor Michael Sims at 678-644-1377 or by email at mrsims@cherokeega.com.

Seniors recognized at the event were: front row (left to right) Georgia Perez, Christopher Simmons, Sarah Logan, Emily Blackwell and Morgan Leslie. Back row (left to right) Sukie Jules, Josiah Gnanamuttu, Nick Leslie, Ethan Sanders and Carson Caglioni.
Training Center Named in Honor of Assistant Fire Chief

On June 16th, during the regular meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, an honor was bestowed upon Cherokee County Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson.

After the invocation and the pledge, Chairman “Buzz” Ahrens, came forward to read a proclamation naming the Cherokee County Fire & EMS Training Center after Chief Robinson.

According to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, “As we started construction on Phase II of the Cherokee County Fire Training Center, I started thinking of a way to honor Chief Robinson for his vision and commitment to not only his contributions over the many years to the training program of Cherokee County, but, to his vision and commitment to designing, constructing and operating a fire training facility. It was at my sole request and direction to approach County Manager, Jerry Cooper, and the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners to seek approval to name the new training facility, specifically the formal classroom training area, the Chief Eddie Robinson Fire & EMS Training Center in honor of his commitment to excellence and his passion to deliver superior training to the firefighters. As you know, I received unanimous support and approval of Mr. Cooper and the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.”

Robinson came to Georgia in 1989 and began volunteering with the Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department in 1995. In 1999, Robinson became a full-time firefighter with the county. Robinson became the Health and Safety Officer for the department in 2001 and was named the Division Chief of Training in 2009. In October of 2011, he was appointed as the Assistant Fire Chief. “Chief Robinson began his leadership in our training program nearly 20 years ago and has probably been directly responsible for training better than 70% of the current department employees,” added Prather. “I am grateful, but humbled, by this honor,” stated Robinson. “However, the success of this department is not because of me, it’s because of all the staff and guys and gals working in the field,” he added.
Phase 2 of Chief Eddie Robinson Training Center Has Grand Opening

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services held a grand opening for phase 2 of the Chief Eddie Robinson Fire and EMS Training Center that was held on Friday, June 26th, at the facility, located at 3985 Holly Spring Parkway, in Holly Springs.

The latest phase of the training center contains large and small classrooms, offices, library and meeting room. The first phase was opened on December 10th, 2013 and includes a burn building, training tower and apparatus building.

After the official welcome and the invocation by Raymond Gunnin, Commissioner for Cherokee County District 2 and retired Cherokee County Fire Chief, the Cherokee County Fire Honor Guard made the presentation of colors followed by a musical interlude by the Georgia Public Safety Pipes and Drums. The event, which was hosted by the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, featured speeches from Jeff Rusbridge, Chairman of the Chamber board, L. B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, Tim Prather, Cherokee County Fired Chief and Eddie Robinson, Assistant Fire Chief.

The facility was recently named in honor of Cherokee County Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson.
New Fireworks Law in Effect

House Bill 110 amended several Georgia code sections to allow for the sale, purchase and use of consumer fireworks. The new Georgia law covers any small fireworks which are intended to cause a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, and deflagration, detonation that includes blank cartridges, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, bombs, sparklers, and other combustibles of like construction including Roman candles. Refer to Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) for specific details.

Based on Title 25, Chapter 2 O.C.G.A., the following items are part of the new state law legalizing consumer fireworks:

- Fireworks can only be sold or used by persons 18 years of age or older.
- Fireworks cannot be used indoors.
- Fireworks can be used daily between the hours or 10:00 a.m. and midnight. On January 1, July 3, July 4 and December 31, fireworks can be used from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 a.m.
- Fireworks cannot be exploded within 100 yards of a nuclear power facility or a gas station, or a facility that refines, processes, or blends gasoline.

If you enjoy watching fireworks, the Cherokee County Fire Marshal's Office recommends you attend one of the many professional shows put on at various locations around the county each 4th of July.

In addition to the lawful prohibitions above, if you choose to use fireworks, be sure to follow the recommendations below by the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks. Only those 18 and older can legally use fireworks in Georgia.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don’t realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.

**WARNING:** Persons choosing to use fireworks should be cognizant of their responsibility to discharge them safely without endangering other persons or property. Please be advised that you have a legal duty to exercise reasonable care in using fireworks and are presumed to intend the natural and probable consequences of your acts. As a result, you may be subject to potential criminal and/or civil liability for any damage to persons or property resulting from your use of fireworks.