

# AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL

*Serving Federal Firefighters through Knowledge and Strength*



80 F. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

CEO Administration: James Hill  
CEO Policy/Program: Tina Bryant  
Legal Counsel: Sandra Adams-Choate

January 30, 2011

## **IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS THAT THE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL REPORTS THE DEATH OF TWO RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROFESSION**

On January 2, 2011 GEORGE WILDER died at home. His passion was fire fighting and he dedicated his services throughout his life. His journey started at 9 years old as a lantern boy for the Phoebus, VA Vol. Fire Department. Later, he joined the federal fire and emergency services where he served in many positions including the Chief's position at several installations. At the time of his death, he was the Pacific Command Fire Protection Specialist for IMCOM. Celebrations of George's life were held in San Antonio as well as at his family home in Phoebus, VA. George is survived by his wife, Debbie and his children Pam, David and Cindy.

On January 29, 2011 VERNE WITHAM died after a long battle with cancer. Verne was Ft. Carson's Fire Chief for many, many years. His colleagues often referred to him as the "God of Fire", a tribute that is a testimony to his many valuable contributions to the Army Fire and Emergency Services. After his retirement, Verne served as the City Manager for Manitou Springs, CO where he and his wife made their home. Service arrangements are not known at this time.

The AFGE Firefighters Council extends their sympathy to the families of George and Verne. May your thoughts and prayers be with them as well.