

## Ávarpa tigna gesti.

Ladies and gentlemen. Let me congratulate Chief Benavidez and Chief Beniker, two great persons who will long be remembered.

My luck in life was to know and work with many great Chiefs of our time in the Fire Service. Fire chiefs like Waverly Sykes, Chief McAhern ,Al. Cuthriel,. Big Ben Clark, Dave Butler, Clarence Rout , Jim Manser and Bill Killen

. With years passed since my retirement I am astonished that you remember me for induction into the Hall of Fame. I know it is greatly because of what the great people who worked with me did and accomplished to make our service greater.

The brightest era in my time was with Mr. Jim Manser A legend who will live forever in our memory, he taught me to be what I am and Mr. Bill Killen who persisted through all the tough times to become a significant symbol of dedication to the fire service not only in DOD but in the Fire Chiefs Association.

As I talk I am reminded of Bill Beniker my friend and colleague and a retired Marine. I am reminded of a story of an atheist professor who was preaching that God did not exist to new University students. The professor dared God to knock him down where he stood to proof his existence, he said I give you 15 minutes to knock me down, nothing happened, but suddenly a Marine recently retired got up form his seat and knocked the professor cold so he fell off to the floor. All fell silent in shock and the Marine sat down in his seat. The professor slowly regained his consciousness and when he saw the Marine he asked why did you do that?

The Marine looked at the professor and said God sent me he is busy. Thank you very much for this great honor, inducting me into the Hall of Fame it makes me, my wife, family and all the men and women who worked with me in my 50 years of service very proud. God Bless all of you.