

## Regarding Initiative

*Without Initiative, few would begin..., and fewer would overcome the obstacles.*

*Be a Starter and take your life to the next level. Be determined to finish whatever you initiate.*

*You demonstrate the substance of your initiative by how faithfully you complete the projects you start.*

*When everyone takes consistent initiative and functions within the system, employers and managers can trust one another and function as a team.*

*As we adjust to the citizens' needs, the whole organization will gain direction.*

*When we treat the citizens with respect, the organization will develop a welcoming atmosphere for helping those in need.*

*Take Initiative vs. Idleness*

### NEVER-WIN AND DIDN'T DO

*Mr. Meant-To has a comrade, and his name is Didn't-Do. Have you ever chanced to meet them?*

*Did they ever call on you?*

*These two fellows work together in the town of Never-Win, and I'm told the town is haunted by the ghosts of Might-Have-Been.*

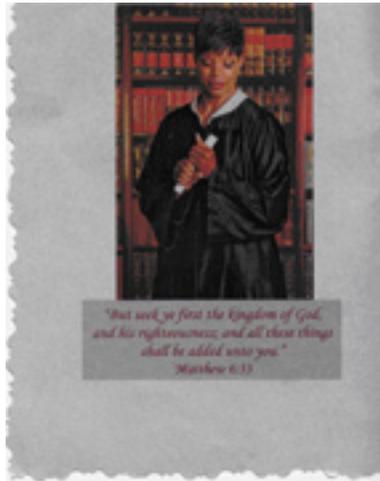
*Anonymous*



*submitted by  
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HEC 9-1-1 PSAP Supervisor*

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## current events at the Houston Emergency Center



### he Promise

Sr. Fire-EMS Telecommunicator, **Elizabeth Boyd** graduated from Texas Southern University, and received her Bachelor of Science in Administration Justice (Minor in Business) last May 2009.

Ms. Boyd stated, "the night before her father passed away, a promise was made to him that she would return to school and receive a degree."

Many years followed many achievements for her as she received a certificate in Information Technology at Galveston College (May 2004) and awarded an Associates of Applied Science in Health Information Management Program from San Jacinto College (December 2005).

In the spring of 2005, she enrolled in Texas Southern University seeking a Bachelor of Science Health Information Management program. During her senior year, though, she changed her major to Administration Justice to follow in her father's footsteps.

As her journey continued, obstacles would often surface and some discouraging friends advised her to quit...only to proceed with the choices she had made to herself and her father.

During difficult times, she wished her father was there for guidance and support but her spiritual beliefs made her strong. It helped her understand that life is full of decisions which results in consequences of good or bad.

The outcome of her decision, to remain in school, eventually allowed her to walk across a Texas Southern University stage to receive a Bachelor Administration of Justice with a minor in Business.

The promise to her father had been fulfilled and, inadvertently, allowed to set an example for her children and grandchildren that anything is possible if one believes in themselves to set a goal and pursue it at all costs to make it come true.

It all starts with a promise to oneself.

### Keeping up the great work...

This past January, **Elizabeth Boyd** received a call from a woman who had suffered a cardiac arrest at her home. She dutifully followed call handling procedures and alerted dispatched units to inform them that the caller's husband had performed CPR.

The caller was saved by HFD members who responded to the incident and, soon afterwards, Elizabeth was recognized as a key link in the woman's survival.

For her part, Elizabeth was presented a plaque with a group picture honoring another life saved.

### Proud Parent

Sr. Fire EMS Telecommunicator **Jeri Mason**'s daughter, Kayla J. Mason, is an accomplished sophomore member of the Westfield H.S. Debate Team, who'd lettered in her freshman year. Her ambition led her to the following awards:

- 2nd place at Alief Elsie (T.F.A.) 2008 Novice poetry
- 2nd place at Woodlands H.S. 2009 Novice Poetry
- 3rd place Woodlands TEA 2009 Novice Humor Interpretation
- 3rd place in Oratory (U.I.L. Conference)
- 4th in Dramatic Interpretation (U.I.L. Conference)
- 4th in Debate Congress (held at Cinco Ranch)
- 10th out of 54 people in Dramatic Interpretation (allowing her to qualify to attend the Catholic Forensic League National Speech Tournament in Albany, New York on May 21-25, 2009)



^ Kayla Mason

According to her proud mother, Kayla has always been outgoing, adventurous, and willing to participate in all school activities.

"I support my "baby girl" with all of my heart and, hopefully, by next year, I will no longer have to be her private chauffeur," joked Mason. "I am so proud of my daughter's accomplishments."

### 2009 NAED

At the end of April 2009, Fire-EMS Supervisors Larnetta Brown, Latonia Moutra, and Tamaria Patterson were honored to participate in this year's National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED).

The conference was a true success as members from across the world celebrated thirty years of priority dispatch system protocol.

Throughout the years, NAED has been committed to the research, practice and support of a unified protocol application for a world wide medical, fire and police dispatching.

The week also consisted of hosting workshops on topics such as Coaching Skills, Somebody Answer That, Psychology of 9-1-1 Call.

A worthwhile and learning experience in the world of emergency communications!



*“Fools live  
to regret  
their words,  
wise men to  
regret their  
silence.”*

- Will Henry

**Awards Committee Notifications (cont')**

- Father's Day Basket winners: HFD Deputy Chief **Rodney West** and HEC IT **Lee Mays**
- Cake Raffle winners: **Connie Ethridge, Wesley (Pat Johnson), Jackie (Pat Johnson), Margaret (Pat Johnson), Erika Barnes, Rudy De La Fuente, and Lynne Horn**
- Black History Quiz winners: **Verlene Jones, Jane Stagnitta, and Linda Terrell**
- Baby Wall winners: **Flo Carmouche, Gisele Vaughn, Laura Goodwin, and Catherine Hammond**

**Great Strikes**

This past January, Palace Bowling Lanes held a competition termed the "Super Duper Bowl". Several HEC assigned King Pins were recognized for their efforts:

- 1st place – Fire Captain **Steve Ross**
- 2nd place – Fire Fighter **Cheryl Landry**
- 3rd place – Police Telecommunicator **Darlene Dawson**
- Participants – Fire Captain **Jason Shepherd** and Fire Captain **Clarence Prevost**

**Secretarial Day**

Fire-EMS secretary, **Charissa Burnett** received flowers for Secretarial day

**Basic Telecommunicator Training Class Graduates of May 2009**

Day Shift/Day Swing

- **Erika Garcia Gilbert Bailey Dion Lewis Terrisita Williams Jeanette Newsome**

Evening Shift

- **Emma Coleman Terica Cleveland Daphanee Pratt**

Night Swing/Night Shift

- **Kimberlyn Davis Florda Alexander**



< Derrick Giles, son of Sr. Fire-EMS TC **Linda Terrell-Giles**, is working as an Aviation Engineer in the US Navy



^ **Cheryl Murrell** enjoyed the flowers given to her by her Fire-EMS

Tiffany Wafer, daughter of 911 Telecommunicator **Pam Wafer**, received her Masters Degree of Education of Supervision from the University of Phoenix >



^ Vonda Kay Ware, niece of Sr. Fire-EMS Supervisor **Thelma Yancy**, graduated "Cum Laude" with an Associates in Applied Science, majoring in Paralegal Technology



^ The Awards Committee of the Texas Chapter of APCO Inc. announced Fire-EMS Supervisor **Lettie Preston** as the winner of the 2008 Texas-APCO Joe Trowbridge Line Supervisor of the Year

Amanda J. Hunter, daughter of HPD Dispatcher **Judy Hunter** graduated from Spring HS and is currently attending North Harris Community College. She is majoring in Biology and inspires to be a "CSI" >



*"If you think you can, you can."*

*"If you you think you can't, you're right."*

- Mary Kay Ash

## -April -

Christina Longoria 4/1  
 Roderick Jackson 4/2  
 Arlexza Aviles 4/4  
 Stella Branford 4/9  
 Stephen Bissell 4/10  
 Patricia Sneed 4/10  
 Desaray Rodriguez 4/13  
 Susan Walker 4/13  
 Rosa Murrell 4/19  
 Crystal Pech 4/25  
 Joel Casas 4/27  
 Connie Ethridge 4/28

## - May -

Leslie Montante 5/1  
 Sedonia Murray 5/3  
 Sherri Stamper 5/6  
 Tomica Weathers 5/6  
 Jennifer Walden 5/9  
 Angela Williams 5/10  
 Grayson Wagner 5/15  
 Salvador Guajardo 5/16  
 Glenn Johnson 5/17  
 Dyanne Marks 5/19  
 Patricia Rosignon 5/19  
 Latisha Baker 5/19  
 Julia Young 5/22  
 Tina Tran 5/24  
 Michelle Allen 5/25  
 Clay Lorance 5/27  
 David Folkers 5/28  
 Anna Hernandez 5/29  
 Johnnie Warner 5/29  
 Mamie Bonner 5/30  
 David Killebrew 5/30  
 Edward Loomis 5/31  
 Fatima Torres 5/31

## - June -

Patricia Curtis 6/2  
 Lettie Preston 6/6  
 Mamie Moore 6/12  
 Joe Laud 6/14  
 Zulton Henderson 6/19  
 Joslyn Williams 6/20

Andrea Goodman 6/23  
 Janie Lozano 6/24  
 Dawn Hatch 6/26  
 Christina Martinez 6/27  
 Andres Pradia 6/27  
 Crystal Weems 6/28

## - July -

Yokisia Johnson 7/1  
 Dwaysala Anderson 7/1  
 Keisha Hernandez 7/2  
 Martha Rosas 7/4  
 Elizabeth Lerma 7/4  
 Ronda McAfee 7/4  
 Anna Leal 7/7  
 John Sifuentes 7/12  
 Amy Shockley-Hughes 7/13  
 Patsy Bush 7/13  
 Rosalind Bulman 7/14  
 Virginia Wisniske 7/15  
 Donna Williams 7/16  
 Laura Black 7/21  
 Thelma Neal 7/22  
 Briana Zweck 7/23  
 Barbara Brooks 7/23  
 Shirley Rawls 7/27  
 Annie Williams 7/31

## - August -

Jerline Mason 8/2  
 Shacaydra Francois 8/5  
 Arnette Tennessee 8/5  
 Adrian Ford 8/5  
 Jennifer Johnson 8/8  
 Ventra Nelson 8/16  
 Sharon Blue 8/19  
 Alicia Reza 8/20  
 Ylonda Washington 8/21  
 Stephonia Eckford 8/22  
 Allen Corniac 8/22  
 Martha Diaz 8/25  
 Sharon Tucker 8/25  
 Larry Gay 8/26  
 Larnetta Brown 8/26  
 Nicole Brown 8/26  
 Elizabeth Padilla 8/27  
 Richard Delgado 8/27  
 Freddie Lakey 8/29  
 William Stevenson 8/29  
 Tamara Thorn-Jennings 8/30  
 Maria Ruyvakaba 8/31  
 Terry Pierrot 8/31

## Anniversaries

6-yrs for Eugene and Connie Ethridge, 4/2  
 4-yrs for Timothy and Larnetta Brown, 5/15  
 3-yrs for Roderick and Rokenia Jackson, 7/1  
 10-yrs for Liz and Freddie Padilla, 7/1  
 9-yrs for Stuart and Vanessa Staggers, 8/15

Congratulations to our local honeymooners  
 Chris & Michelle Taylor

## New Births

Caiden Javon Estes, grandson of Sr. Fire-EMS TC, Kemmie

Jermorian James Lawrence, grandson of Sr. Fire-EMS TC, Giles-Terrell

## Retirements

Fire Captain Mike Williams (a.k.a. Big Cat) has retired from the Houston Fire Department. after 29 years, of service!

## Welcome Aboard

Tony Cross and Monica Simon, Training Coordinators, Carolyn Humphrey, PSAP Supervisor and Phillippa Thompson, PSAP/QA Supervisor

The Awards Committee congratulates Police 9-1-1 Supervisors Karlos Castillo and Johnetta Wilkins were promoted as Sr. Fire-EMS Supervisors. Jennifer Walden and Sr. Fire-EMS Supervisor, Lettie Preston who were also promoted as Training Coordinators.

## Condolences

Connie Jacobs, mother of Phemice Money and aunt of Sr. Fire-EMS TC Yokisia Johnson

Ben Buggs, father of Division Manager Dyanne Marks and grandfather of Sr. Fire-EMS TC Gemar Burnom

Gwen Carson, sister of Fire-EMS Supervisor Lettie Preston



^Wishing well wishes to Kendria and HFD Donald Aldridge



^ 24-yr Toastmaster veteran Grace Sanantonio has been elected President of the HPD Toast masters. Great job!



^ HFD Captain Mike "Big Cat" Williams retired after 29-yrs of service

*“A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up.”*

- Anonymous



Bill White, Mayor  
 David Cutler, HEC Director  
 Barbara Evans, 9-1-1 HEC Asst. Dir.  
 Al Garcia, IT HEC Asst. Dir.  
 Joe Laud, PIO / Editor  
 Connie Ethridge, Sr. 9-1-1 TC / Asst. Editor

Employee Awards Committee/  
 Editorial Board:  
 Pat Johnson, Police TC  
 Lee Mays, IT  
 Vanessa Moore, Police TC  
 Rosa Murrell, SOA  
 Donna Paul, Fire/EMS TC  
 Grace Santantonio, Police TC  
 Robert L. Taylor, Employee Relations Mgr.  
 Pam Wafer, 9-1-1 TC  
 Cynthia Wall, Administrative Coordinator  
 Yolanda Washington, Police TC  
 Kathleen Yzaguirre, HPD Dispathcer