

**Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: 10-23-12

Agenda Date Requested: 11-1-12

Time Requested: 5 minutes

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Melanie Bruketta, HR Director

Subject Title: Information item: Recognition of Dan Albee, Micah Horton and Chris Mason for their outstanding performance during the Mustang Complex Fire.

Staff Summary:

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

☐ Resolution

☐ Ordinance

☐ Formal Action/Motion

☒ Other (specify)

Does this Action Require a Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Recommended Board Action: N/A

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: On July 30, 2012, a lightning caused wildfire started in the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho. A request for additional resources was made, and Chief Giomi responded to the request by sending Carson City Fire Department personnel, Captain Dan Albee, Operator/Driver Chris Mason and Firefighter/Paramedic Micah Horton. Following their response, John Molloy, a homeowner in the affected area, wrote the following to Chief Giomi, "With its continued uncontrollable rampage heading towards our property, the certain and ever-deteriorating circumstances thus led us to meet the three fine individuals from your department... Dan, Micah and Chris are some of the finest people we have ever met, and showed a genuine concern for both us and our property... In this day and age there are very few people worth paying compliment to, as true honor and clearly evident integrity are virtues that have virtually disappeared from the American character... When their fourteen days were up, they could have simply left and headed home. Instead, they chose to stay and see the fire through to the end, a least in relationship to our property... the honorable thing to do was to request a short extension from your office so as to remain here to help defend this little piece of property and everything on it- these buildings which were erected by this family over almost two decades, the culmination of our lives and that of our long marriage... these three men are the "best of the best", and of them both you and

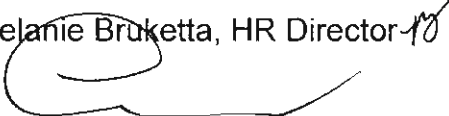
your entire department should be well proud. Thank you for granting them the short extension of time to remain here and "finish the job", to see it through to the end. We cannot express how grateful we are to them and your department for their performance here. They are all superb examples of what it means to be a fireman and more- to be men. Thank you."

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

Fiscal Impact: N/A

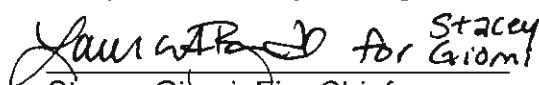
Explanation of Impact: N/A

Supporting Material: E-mail from John Molloy dated September 26, 2012.

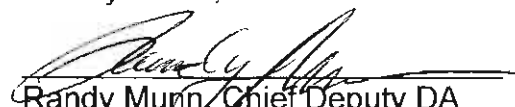
Prepared By: Melanie Bruketta, HR Director 

Reviewed By: 
Larry Werner, City Manager

Date: 10/23/12


Stacey Giomi, Fire Chief

Date: 10-23-12


Randy Munn, Chief Deputy DA

Date: 10/23/12

Board Action Taken:

Motion(s): _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nays
2) _____

(Vote Recorded By)

Melanie Bruketta - Re: Fwd: Mustang Fire Complex - Carson Fire Department Personnel

From: Larry Werner
To: Giomi, Stacey
Date: 9/26/2012 5:07 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Mustang Fire Complex - Carson Fire Department Personnel
CC: Albee, Dan; BOS-6/2012; Bruketta, Melanie; Horton, Micah ; Mason, Chris

Very nice- will share with the BOS and HR. Thank you Dan, Chris and Micah.
 Larry

>>> Stacey Giomi 9/25/2012 6:37 PM >>>
 Larry,

This is a very nice e-mail that got sent to me today. It is a little long winded, but he eventually gets to the point. Just thought I'd share.

>>> John Molloy <sixinidaho@centurytel.net> 9/25/2012 10:46 AM >>>
 To: Chief Giomi

From: John Molloy

Sir,

As a matter of introduction, I and my wife (of 32 years) Pam are the owners of the property in North Fork, Idaho to which the following Carson City Fire personnel were generally assigned: Captain Dan Albee, Driver/Operator Chris Mason and Firefighter/Paramedic Micah Horton. Outside of their occasional and quite questionable deployment to watch over a Pizza joint some miles away (whose greatest danger would have been from an electrical fire rather than the forest fire), these three gentlemen were stuck with us for the duration of their assignment.

It must be first noted that our property is situated inside the Salmon-Challis National Forest, surrounded on all four sides by said forest. Pam and I are what most people would consider to be "independently minded", perhaps by some to an extreme, as we are "off the grid" by choice and built our own small hydro-electric system for our power needs. We heat our home with wood that we cut, and in general, mind our own business and like to be "left alone". As an illustration, it is not uncommon during the winter to not have a single vehicle pass by our property for a month at a time, a circumstance that we find rather pleasing. Moreover, we home-schooled our four children with great success, with the two eldest graduating from noted colleges/universities (Gonzaga and Elmhurst respectively) with honors, as well as our third child performing at a similar level as he matriculates through college majoring in computer engineering. Our fourth child, Rob, age 16, still resides here with us and we expect similar results from him once he enters the university system. From the perspective of the vast majority of the population, we are "those" kind of people, but we simply don't care a whit what they think.

Known in your profession as an absolute (but generally dismissed as such by the average person), the world is an extremely non-linear place. Indeed, yet never believed by the vast majority of people, bad things do happen on a fine day like this, fire being one of them. Regardless of how seemingly idyllic the surroundings, the "picture postcard" locations presented by the ever-greedy realtors and the money-grubbing Chamber of Commerce types who pander on as they do to ever-desiring yet never satisfied egos, even there things can and do go to hell wherever and whenever and oft times in less than a moments notice. Wildfire is one of natures soulless clubs which is wielded with brutal indiscretion; a destructive force that is as non-linear as can be imagined. With its continued uncontrollable rampage heading towards our property, the certain and ever-deteriorating circumstances thus led us to meet the three fine individuals from your department mentioned above.

Prior to their arrival we already felt as if we were under a sort of invasion, with Forest Service personnel crawling all over the place replete with helicopters buzzing overhead all day long. At night, type six engines were ever-present and idling as their crews constantly studied the sky and forest for firebrands and spotfires. A "pumpkin" and sprinkler system had been set up at our shop, a handline dug behind our home, as the house sits right at the toe-of-slope of a fir-covered mountain. The Carson City team became the crew that was there each and everyday, prepared while up at the shop when not being called for the all-too-rare moment when the F.S. believed some small direct attack on the fire might be in order.

Initially Pam and I were somewhat standoffish with them in that being independent, it seemed that not only had we had not just been invaded, but there was also a sort of "occupying force" parked on the property 24/7. The night crews were easy enough to deal with as the personal interaction was limited due to the time of day but quite to the contrary, the daytime crews were there during most of the waking hours, and not unlike myself, had the same sort of "Type A" personalities required to perform the tasks at hand. Moreover, for decades Pam and I had pretty well assumed that we were in this mess and against any fire by ourselves, thus accepting the fact that there was actually a crew of competent firemen there to help us took us several days to actually comprehend, particularly since the night crews were changing every few days on an unpredictable cycle. The personnel and truck from your department turned out to be a different matter entirely - they were there to help, and as it turned out, for the duration.

Dan, Micah and Chris are some of the finest people we have ever met, and showed a genuine concern for both us and our property. As the days passed they educated us more and more about fire, fire behavior, what we could do that we had not already done (we've been "firewise" for a long time), and with their "matter of fact" professional approach helped us to remain "calm, cool and collected" as the fire drew close from both sides. As they have likely related to you, our place was initially hit by fire from the north on Tuesday evening, September 11, and then again from the south during the afternoon and evening of Sunday, September 16th.

In this day and age there are very few people worth paying compliment to, as true honor and clearly evident integrity are virtues that have

virtually disappeared from the American character. At the end of the day all the aggrandizing words and glorious platitudes mean nothing until the moment for action is called, for it is a man's actions that truly defines who and what he is, and as often as not either a man is never called to action in a crisis or fails miserably when that moment arrives. When one surveys the landscape of humanity today, all we ever hear are empty words of praise to the undeserving and it is rare that we are ever witness to actions of laudable note. Contrary to the failed and disappointing character exhibited by the vast majority of so-called "Americans" today, what Pam and I witnessed day in and day out from Dan, Chris and Micah was professionalism at its best, and when it really mattered, honor and virtue that extended well beyond professionalism. When their fourteen days were up, they could have simply left and headed home. Instead, they chose to stay and see the fire through to the end, at least in relationship to our property.

Ninety nine out of one hundred would have simply said, "We're done", and that would have been that. Instead, these three men knew full well that the fire was going to come into the place from the south within three days after their assignment was up. Aside from Pam and I, who knew the layout of the property better than did they and how to best defend it against the fire when it arrived? No one.

The easy course of action to take, that oft-chosen "path of least resistance", was to simply leave and go home. To the contrary the honorable thing to do was to request a short extension from your office so as to remain here to help defend this little piece of property and everything on it - these buildings which were erected by this family over almost two decades, the culmination of our lives and that of our long marriage. What was their choice? Instead of putting themselves first, with honor they asked for your permission to stay and protect both us and the place.

Sir, these three men are the "best of the best", and of them both you and your entire department should be well proud. Thank you for granting them the short extension of time to remain here and "finish the job", to see it through to the end. We cannot express how grateful we are to them and your department for their performance here. They are all superb examples of what it means to be a fireman and more - to be men.

Thank you - John A. Molloy