



# Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting

<http://HallOfFlame.org>

## Hall of Flame Truck Featured at Phoenix ZooLights

Visitors to 2020's edition of ZooLights at the Phoenix Zoo, one of the largest holiday lights displays in the southwest, will also get a glimpse of Arizona firefighting history. The Hall of Flame, a neighbor to the Phoenix Zoo across Van Buren street, has donated a historic fire engine from our collection, a 1957 Diamond T/Van Pelt Pumper from the Flagstaff area, to this year's ZooLights displays.



This year, ZooLights is a combination of "Cruise Nights" and "Walk-Thru Nights" allowing holiday revelers the opportunity to either drive or stroll through the light

display. ZooLights glows bright with more than 2.5 million twinkling lights, hundreds of armatures and nearly 70 lanterns.

"It's a privilege to share a piece from our extensive collection, which represents the fire service worldwide, with our friends and neighbors at the Phoenix Zoo just a few hundred yards away," says Hall of Flame Museum Executive Director Chuck Montgomery. "Visitors to ZooLights will have an opportunity to scan our QR code from the exhibit, which will take them to our website, which features a variety of videos further introducing the collection."

"We are excited to showcase the added element of a historic fire engine during ZooLights this year," says Bert Castro, President and CEO of the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo. "The fire engine will be displayed on the Zoo's Africa Trail, near the front of the expansive Savanna habitat, allowing the perfect viewing opportunity for guests to snap photos of this piece of Arizona history."

Purchased during the tenure of Chief E. J. "Pat" Hogan, the engine served Flagstaff

Volunteer Fire Department from 1957 until 1980, when it was purchased by the northern Arizona communities of Timberline/Fernwood (now covered by the Summit Fire Department). It was both a structural and wildland fire rig, armed with a centrifugal pump capable of delivering more than 1200 gallons of water per minute, as well as a Hardie high pressure fog pump for brush fires. During its time in Timberline/Fernwood, the rig acquired its trademark cheerful firefighting squirrel on the doors. The department donated the rig to the Hall of Flame in 2001.

Based in Oakdale, California, Van Pelt was a major supplier of custom fire apparatus to the western United States from the mid-1920s until the early 1990s, often building its rigs on Diamond T chassis. The Hall of Flame Museum has another handsome 1957 Diamond T/Van Pelt, which served the City of Mesa, now on display in Gallery 3.

Founded in 1962 by Robert Maytag of the famed Maytag appliance family, the Phoenix Zoo has grown into a premiere institution for wildlife conservation and education, beginning with its program for helping to pull the endangered Arabian oryx back from the brink of extinction, and extending aid to species ranging from the Mexican gray wolf to the white rhinoceros to the California condor. In 1991 the Phoenix Zoo began offering ZooLights, an annual after-hours holiday lighting extravaganza; growing more elaborate throughout the decades, it has

become a beloved holiday tradition for thousands of families throughout the Phoenix area, and a favorite of countless visitors to the Valley as well. For more information, go to [phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org).

**New Store Items!**



**COOL & DRY HOF RED & GOLD CAP**



**AHRENS FOX CIRCLE**

**Volunteer with a “Lifetime Interest in Firefighting”**

If you watch the 2010 episode of *Antiques Roadshow* in which the Hall of Flame Museum is featured, you’ll see our ‘30s-era Ahrens-Fox “Quad” from River Forest, Illinois emerge majestically out of the roll-up door. If you look not at host Mark L. Wahlberg but at the driver, smiling behind old-timey turn-outs and a fake mustache, you’ll see one of the Hall of Flame’s finest volunteers.

Richard R. Stuve, known around the Hall of Flame as Dick, has been tirelessly serving the world’s largest museum of firefighting history since 1993, sharing his expertise in numerous capacities, from driving rigs to working on the Museum’s electrical systems. In his life back east, however, he was a veteran firefighter.

Dick spent three years with the fire department in Merrick, New York, where he grew up, followed by 17 years with the department in Massapequa, Long Island. Among the most memorable calls he responded to during this time, he cites a 1979 plane crash. A Cessna 182 that had just taken off from Zahn’s Airport, bound for Oswego, struck a house nearby, killing six people, four on the airplane, two asleep in the home.

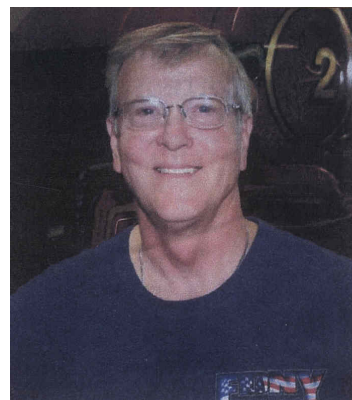
Dick recalls that the accident made the front page of the *New York Times*.

He also recalls participating in fighting a fire in a doctor’s office in which the floor began to collapse beneath the fire crew.

Fortunately, Dick lived to tell the tale.

But, like most volunteer firefighters, Dick also had day jobs all those years. After vocational education in electronics and computer circuits in high school, he served as a Ground Radio Specialist in the New York Air National Guard. This led to a 47-year career in IBM Mainframe Support.

Dick and his wife Diane have been married since 1970--she lived next door to his fire station in Merrick. Some years after settling here, Dick visited the Hall of Flame and decided to join the ranks of the volunteers.



“I’ve had a lifetime interest in firefighting,” he says, “and I thought I could help maintain the Museum’s collection.”

And very right he was.

## Children’s Museum of Phoenix Hosts HOF Firetruck

**A**s a general rule, kids love fire trucks. So it makes sense that the Children’s Museum of Phoenix would welcome having a vintage fire truck as part of their collection. The Hall of Flame Museum was recently able to assist the Children’s Museum in attaining that goal and, in the process, give a new role to a fine old fire truck that spent some years in our care.

The truck in question is a 1945 Mack pumper with an industrial background. It served a Hawthorne, California facility for the aviation company Northrop Corporation, developer of the “Flying Wing” and other famous military aircraft (in the ‘90s, the company merged with an east coast aerospace powerhouse and became Northrop-Grumman).

The Mack eventually became part of the collection of Valley resident and Hall of Flame volunteer Jeff Trevas, who allowed us to display it in Gallery 3 at the Hall of Flame. Jeff also donated an impressively-restored 1916 New England Truck Company (NETCO) hose truck from the fire department of Worcester, Massachusetts to the Hall of Flame’s collection.

After several years on exhibit, however, Jeff’s 1945 Mack was moved into storage in the Hall of Flame’s warehouse, where it had remained, out of public view, for many years. Recently the management of the Hall of Flame arranged a meeting between Jeff and his wife J.R. and Kate Wells, founder and Executive Director of the Children’s Museum of Phoenix. During this meeting, Jeff made the decision to donate the rig to the Children’s Museum, so that it can once again be placed on public display; it will now be an interactive feature of the Children’s Museum’s outdoor space.



Founded in 1998 under the name Phoenix Family Museum, the Children’s Museum inhabits the renovated Monroe School building on 7<sup>th</sup> Street just south of Van Buren. Its self-proclaimed mission is “... to foster joy of learning” in kids from birth to age ten. It is committed to: *“Provide engaging projects, exhibits and programming for young children and their families; Educate parents and caregivers about child development and parenting*

*techniques; Build cultural understanding, positive social interaction, and celebrate diversity; and serve as a gateway to other cultural institutions and community programs.”*

Like most museums worldwide, the Children’s Museum of Phoenix faced a period of closure in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. This was compounded, in the case of this museum, by its focus on touchable, interactive exhibits. It reopened, by reservation only, for outdoor-only play, in October, with limited hours (9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday), reduced capacity, increased cleaning and various other safety restrictions. For current information on the status of the Children’s Museum of Phoenix, or to book your visit, go to [childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

The Mack is now installed at the north end of the historic building, constructed in 1914, and is visible to traffic passing on 7th Street and Van Buren. It’s a long-overdue fate for a beautiful truck that has been far too long out of sight.

**New Firetruck Added to Hall of Flame Collection**

**F**or Halloween of 2020 the Hall of Flame received a major treat: we added a 1968 International Harvester fire engine to our collection. The rig, currently on display in Gallery 3

of the Museum, was donated by Mike Whalen, fire chief of Limestone, Illinois, who restored it with his son.

The truck, a Loadstar 1700 with a front-mounted Barton-American pump, represents family as well as community history to Whalen. Limestone Fire Protection District acquired the vehicle in ’68, during the tenure of Mike’s grandfather Edwin Whalen as chief, for use fighting both structural and brush fires in the small community in Kankakee County, south of Chicago. Mike’s father, Jerry Whalen, was also a Limestone firefighter who served on the truck, and Mike can remember playing on it as a kid. Whalen also remembers watching the four-wheel drive vehicle showing its off-road capabilities, rolling across ditches and into open fields to fight fires. Though Mike’s father told of damaging the rig’s pump mount on its maiden voyage, fighting a brush fire at a quarry—it was repaired by International Harvester the following day—it racked up a long and celebrated history during its more than 20 years with Limestone, culminating with its participation in a Phillips Petroleum pipeline fire in which it pumped more than two million gallons of water over more than three straight days.

In 1991 Limestone sold the rig to the town of Plainville, in southwestern Indiana. Three years ago, Whalen was on a trip to nearby French Lick, Indiana, and decided to make a detour to see how it was holding up.

When he was informed that the Plainville department planned to sell or junk the truck, he offered the chief \$500 dollars for it. The offer was eagerly accepted, Whalen and a friend soon returned to Plainville with a flatbed, and the '68 International Harvester made its return to Limestone.

Mike Whalen and his high-school age son Luke, now the fourth generation of Whalen to serve the town’s fire department, had originally planned to restore a '67 or '68 Camaro as a father-son collaboration in return for good grades in school. The former Limestone fire truck became the replacement for that project. Once restored, the truck spent a short time back in Limestone, serving area parades and other such events. Sadly, but fittingly, it carried Mike’s father Jerry Whalen’s casket in June of this year.

Around the same time, Mike Whalen was contacted by Hall of Flame Executive Director Chuck Montgomery, who had read about his project. Montgomery visited Limestone and drove the vehicle, and the decision was made that it would be given a permanent home at the world’s largest museum of firefighting history. It fills a gap in the collection of the Hall of Flame, which did not previously include a fire truck made by the famed manufacturer of tractors, trucks and other agriculturally-oriented heavy equipment, which operated in Illinois from 1902 to 1985.



In late October, Whalen’s friend Matt Witovet transported the vehicle to the Hall of Flame, where it arrived the day before Halloween, just in time to be a part of our “Trucks and Treat” socially distant trick-or-treat event. The next day, it was placed on exhibit in Gallery 3.

Now, for Luke Whalen’s sake, maybe he and his dad can finally get started on the '67 Camaro.

**Hall of Flame Wins Best of Phoenix**

The Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting was honored in 2020’s Best of Phoenix edition of *Phoenix New Times*. The world’s largest museum of firefighting history was honored with “Best Museum for Kids” by the Readers’ Choice in the annual issue of the Valley’s top alternative weekly newspaper, which offers a compendium of favorite restaurants, attractions and other cultural amenities from the area. As part of the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Best of Phoenix, the theme of

which was "Fantastic Phoenix," the Hall of Flame found itself in company with such other Readers' Choice winners as Phoenix Art Museum, Mesa Arts Center, Desert Botanical Gardens and the Orpheum Theatre, among other local institutions.

Along with the visual appeal of dozens of fire trucks on display, the Hall of Flame gives kids the opportunity to play on a real fire truck and in the "Safety House." The Museum also offers a variety of fun and educational tour programs for children of all ages (and adults), ideal for field trips, home school classes, scout tours, STEM/STEAM-relevant education and so forth, and a YouTube Channel with both tour content and storytimes for younger kids.

**Golden Hydrant Event**

In the days following the earthquake that struck San Francisco in April of 1906, the city was ravaged by disastrous fires. Many of the town's water mains failed, leaving the hydrants useless. But one ordinary-looking hydrant, at Church and 20<sup>th</sup> Street, is said to have mysteriously and miraculously kept pumping, allowing the Mission District to be saved from the blaze. Ever since, this hydrant, now sometimes known by the nickname "Little Giant," has been ceremonially re-painted gold every year on April 18.

The Hall of Flame Museum recently installed a vintage hydrant in our parking

lot as a decoration, and on Friday, October 9, it was painted gold in commemoration of San Francisco's Little Hydrant That Could. The painting was done by employees of Family Service Aides, led by CEO Michelle Cerniglia, for their generous donation (making FSA a Benefactor Level donor). We hope to make this re-painting ceremony a fun annual tradition at the close of Fire Prevention Week, to be performed by a donor or other friend of the Hall of Flame who has made a particularly notable contribution to the museum's programs in the previous year.

**Hall of Flame Hosts Blood Drive Event**

Arizona firefighters, police officers, military service members and the Hall of Flame Museum helped to ensure an ample patient blood supply by donating during the First Responder Holiday Blood Drive Challenge on November 17, 2020. The event was in collaboration with Vitalant, the nation's largest independent nonprofit blood service provider.

Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve is the most difficult time of the year for to Vitalant maintain its blood supply. In appreciation for giving blood on November 17, donors were thanked with a voucher for one complimentary

admission to the Hall of Flame Museum.

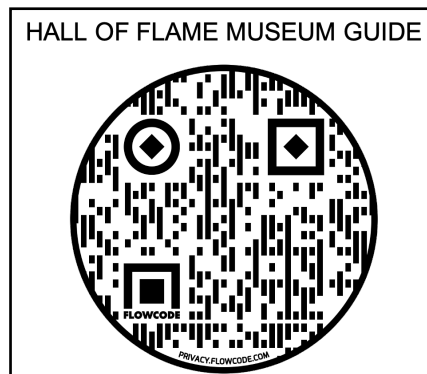
The First Responders Holiday Blood Drive Challenge helped replace donations lost from school and business closures and built supplies for the winter holiday season. "With many schools transitioned to virtual learning and businesses in work-from-home situations, 376 blood drives were cancelled in November and December alone, resulting in approximately 8,000 uncollected donations," said Sid Lewis, Sr. Director of Donor Recruitment for the Vitalant Southwest Division. "Since blood has a shelf life of 42 days, donations given in November can help save lives through New Year's Day." Donors of all blood types are needed for the holiday season, especially O-negative, the universal type used in emergencies and traumas.

Among our donors on November 17 was Phoenix Police Officer Santos Robles. Officer Robles contracted COVID-19 on July 4 in the line of duty. A few days later, he passed out due to the lack of oxygen from pneumonia. When his son found him hours later, he was rushed to the hospital with a broken face, punctured lung from a rib fracture and an oxygen level

one-third below required levels. Five convalescent plasma transfusions helped him hold onto life during two hospital ICU stays. Officer Robles was finally recovered and well enough to return to work in late October after fighting COVID-19 for 12 long weeks.

Vitalant continues to test blood and platelet donations for COVID-19 antibodies to find potential donors who could give convalescent plasma in the future. Donors whose blood tests positive for antibodies can help a COVID-19 patient with their plasma while their other blood components could help a cancer patient, trauma victim or someone with another serious medical condition.

For more information and to schedule a donation, visit [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) or call 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825).





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## **MEMBERSHIP**

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### **Benefactor**

Michelle Cerniglia  
Marc & Monica Hawkins

### **Contributing**

Kingman Firefighter Assoc.  
Mike Olsen

### **White Helmet Brigade**

Lynn Hardin  
Chuck & Holly Montgomery  
Michael Piekarski  
Decker Williams  
Stephen Miller  
Chad LaValle

### **Red Helmet Brigade**

William Page  
Joe Hinkle  
Richard Reinard  
David Jasie  
Gary Groomer  
Steve Pilafas  
Sandra Martinez  
Kevin Walsh  
John Ferry  
Kyle Linn  
Bernard Punte  
Michael Keppler  
Tom Ohmart  
Dan Orem  
Bob DiVenti  
Bert Castro  
Chris Pardi

### **Black Helmet Brigade**

Joseph Siaki  
Tammy Ellis  
Jinks Family  
Gregory Lawrence  
Patrick Schuller  
Lara Mulchay  
Dick Stuve  
Ralph Glasman  
Sean Oliver

### **Fire Professional**

Edward Tuffy  
James Morand  
John Patterson  
Linden Massey  
Nick Vacca  
George Dahl  
George Moore  
Wesley Cerniglia  
Jeff Tresness

**WORLD'S LARGEST FIRE MUSEUM!!!**



**Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting**

The Hall of Flame sponsors the National Firefighting Hall of Heroes, which honors firefighters who have died in the line of duty or who have been decorated for heroism, in nearly an acre of indoor Air-conditioned comfort, artifacts dating from 1725 to 2001.



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**MUSEUM STAFF**

**Executive Director**  
Chuck Montgomery

**Curator of Education**  
Mark Moorhead

**Executive Assistant**  
Hillary Brodowski

**Docents**  
George Dahl  
Rick Goulian  
Sharon Moore  
Pat Schuller  
Claudia Garcia Quinones  
Robert Weedman

The Hall of Flame is in the Phoenix Papago Park, across from the Phoenix Zoo.

**President NHFF**  
George F. Getz

**Vice President NHFF**  
Bert A. Getz

**Sec/Treasurer NHFF**  
Michael J. Olsen

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm.

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Contributions to the National Historical Fire Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NATIONAL HISTORICAL FIRE FOUNDATION**

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