



South Kingstown Veterans Firefighter's Association

## **THE ABERDEEN UPDATE**

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

2025 was a great year for the South Kingstown Veteran Firefighters Association. I wanted to take a moment and highlight the year and thank you for your participation.

In May, Foreman Brain Ballou, Vice President Dave Gates, and myself took a trip to Massachusetts to attend the New England State Veterans Firefighters League annual meeting. We were able to meet a lot of new contacts and found this meeting very helpful in the growth of our organization.

Unfortunately, this year we saw the passing of Dennis Grande. Dennis was a longtime captain of PDFD and an active member of our association dating back to the early 90s.

The annual meeting/social hour was held in June. It was very well attended with almost 70 members present. The guest speaker Jack from the hand tub T W Lane (Mystic Connecticut) was very informative and entertaining. The meeting also raised over \$600 in membership donations.

In July, we went online with our new webpage, [www.SouthkingstownVFA.com](http://www.SouthkingstownVFA.com). We would like to extend a big thank you to Tyler Parks and Ryan Boettger from the Tuckertown Fire Department. Check out the website!

In September, a contingency of about 15 firefighters along with members of the Love family took a ride to the Worcester Memorial Burial Grounds. We were greeted by the Paxton Fire Department, and escorted to the gravesite of Lieutenant Byron Love. Lieutenant Love gave his life in the line of duty in 1968.

The following day, with about 20 members, we proudly walked through downtown Main Street with the Aberdeen at the annual UFD firefighter's memorial parade. This was followed by a social gathering.

In early October, we had our first ever golf tournament. The committee was chaired by Kathy Mack and Dave Gates. This event was an overwhelming success and raised over \$6000 for our organization. A big shout out to all of those who participated, especially all of the committee members who worked so hard to pull it off.

In 2026, with your help, we are hoping to continue the success of our organization.

In June, we will hold our annual meeting/social hour. At that time, I am hoping to be able to share more information about the UFD's proposal to do some renovation/repairs to the Aberdeen barn, as well as the opportunity to take possession of the 1930 Seagraves fire apparatus currently in possession of Dwight Escalera. This beautiful antique fire truck is the oldest known fire apparatus from the town of South Kingstown.

Thank you for your help in preserving the history and tradition of fire fighting in the town of South Kingstown. Look forward to seeing you in 2026.

Happy New Year!

President Tim Redmond

