



# IABPFF "SMOKE"

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

September 2020

Online Fall Edition



**Carrie Edwards-Clemons**

*First African American Female President of the  
International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters*

# Remembering 9/11



Our Brother Firefighters  
#WeWillNeverForget



On September 11th, 2001, 2996 people were killed (including the 19 terrorist) and over 6000 injured from a terrorist attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. I remember that day vividly and remember how quickly this country, and the world, were forever transformed by such tragic events.

Of the 2,977 victims killed in the September 11 attacks, 412 were emergency workers in New York City who responded to the World Trade Center. This included 37 police officers of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department, 23 police officers with the New York Police Department, eight emergency medical technicians, 1 patrolman from the New York Fire Patrol, and 343 firefighters of the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY). Of those 343, 12 of them were black.

Black firefighters make up only 3% of FDNY and in an eerie coincidence; the 12 black firefighters who were killed on 9/11 represent just about 3 percent of the FDNY's total deaths. While paying respect to ALL the lives lost and impacted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this post is dedicated to the 12 Black firefighters, whose names, faces, and stories are seldom told. Not all heroes wear capes. In this edition and forever, we honor the lives of Gerard Baptiste, Vernon Cherry, Tarel Coleman, Andre Fletcher, Keith Glascoe, Ronnie Henderson, William Henry, Karl Joseph, Keithroy Maynard, Vernon Richard, Shawn Powell, and Leon Smith Jr.

*We will Never Forget!*







# International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

**ORGANIZED:** Organized in Hartford, Connecticut, October 3, 1970.

**FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS:** Vulcan Society Inc., New York, N.Y., Phoenix Society Inc., Hartford, Connecticut, Vulcan Pioneers of New Jersey Inc., Newark, N.J., Vulcan Pioneers of Hudson County Inc., Jersey City, N.J., Valiants Inc., and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** The Membership of the I.A.B.P.F.F. is comprised of 90 Chapters and represents 5100 fire service personnel and a 200 Lifetime Members.

**NOTE:** In September of 1969, black Fire Fighters of all ranks from municipalities across the United States met in New York City for two days of discussion on the injustices that exist in the following categories: The recruitment of black youth into the fire service, firefighters-community relations with special emphasis on relations with the residents of neighborhoods inhabited by blacks, inter-group relations and practices in fire departments, and the need to improve fire prevention programs in the areas of greatest need.

That meeting was very productive and out of it was born the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters. In October of 1970, the first convention of Black Professional Fire Fighters was held in Hartford, Connecticut. The constitution and the proposed structure of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters was adopted. To address the lack of substantial access into the Fire Service and upward mobility opportunities, it became therefore incumbent upon our membership to press for wide-scale reforms. In the course of dealing with these problems, we expect to reduce the number of fire deaths and property loss in our respective communities and society as whole. We are convinced that the black community has an abundance of untapped talent to offer the fire service. Conversely, we expect to improve the economic development and employment opportunities for minorities. As black fire fighters, it is our challenge to make the fire service more relevant to the needs and aspirations of minority citizens. The I.A.B.P.F.F. will ensure that black and minority fire department officials become full partners in the leadership and decision-making arenas of the fire service.

# International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

## Executive Board



**Carrie Edwards-Clemons**  
IABPFF President



**Gary Tinney**  
Vice President



**Kenny Adams**  
Executive Director



**Keisha Wilson**  
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**Sandra Richards**  
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Treasurer



**Shawn Gary**  
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**Tonia Reed**  
Sergeant At Arms



**Brenda Brooks**  
South East Region

# International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

## Executive Board



**Tony Jones Jr.**  
**North Central Region**



**Alvin Douglas**  
**South Central Region Director**



**Bruce Bouyer**  
**North West Region**



**Lionel Newby**  
**South West Region Director**



**Frank Tidwell**  
**North East Region**



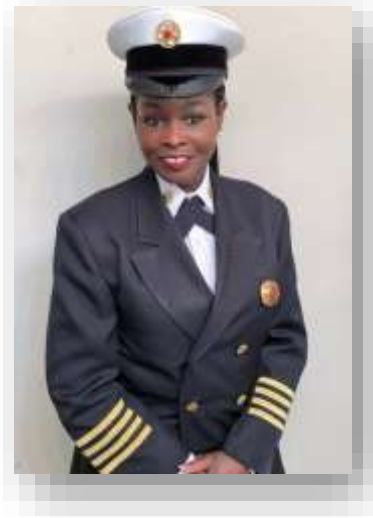
**Addington Stewart**  
**President Emeritus**







## Message from the International President



I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as International President. I am humbled that you would place your faith and trust in me. Now more than ever, our membership deserves transferrable partnerships, relationships and accessible resources designed to help us excel and navigate in our ever-changing world. The tone is set; transparency, communication and inclusion is key!

The IABPFF was founded to address unfair treatment and inequality within the fire service and to increase prevention efforts in our communities. “SMOKE” is being re-instituted in accordance with our Constitution and by-laws as our official newsletter.

As President, I am working to establish transferable partnerships and relationships to ensure a seat at the table both now and in the future.

As we prepare to move forward, I am truly thankful for each of you! I would also like to thank our Founders, Past Presidents’, current and past Executive Board members, Black Women in the Fire Service, Black Chief Officers Committee, IBFF-Foundation, Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute and our partners for getting us to such a pivotal place in our history.

Fraternally,

*Carrie Edwards-Clemons*

Carrie Edwards-Clemons  
President

# A CALL TO ACTION

## Black Fire Fighters Take a Stand against Racial Injustice



Dozens of members of the African Society, an 80-year-old organization founded to combat racial discrimination within the FDNY, stood tall on the steps of Rensselaer Borough Hall on Sunday, June 7. (Catherine Gammon for New York Daily News)







## HEALTH AND WELLNESS WITH TERRI REID

# Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Since 1999, September has been recognized as National Prostate Awareness Month. In this month, health professionals, researchers, survivors and families take special efforts to increase public knowledge, promote screening, increase education and support research. In 2018, it is estimated that nearly 165,000 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. The men who are diagnosed before metastasis occurs have a nearly 100% 5-year survival rating and a 98% 10-year survival rating. On the contrary, men whose cancer has spread to other areas of the body only have a 5-year survival rating of 30%. This survival discrepancy highlights the importance of early detection and all its relevant factors. The prostate is an important gland, which remains somewhat mysterious to many people.

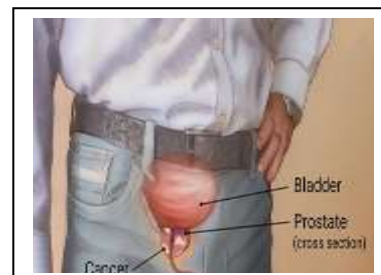
It is a relatively small organ, which sits under the bladder, in front of the rectum, in men. It secretes a fluid, which is a part of the composition of semen. The prostate gland is not usually experienced in any significant way, at least when in good health. Changes in function are usually what spark a recognition that something may be wrong. These symptoms include changes in urination, such as weak and interrupted urination, urgency in urination, increased frequency of urination, trouble beginning or emptying the bladder, and pain or burning in urination. These symptoms usually result from the prostate being enlarged and the impact this has on the urinary tract. Other symptoms include blood in the urine or semen, pain in the hip, back and/or pelvis that does not go away, and shortness of breath and paleness due to anemia.

An effective and cost-efficient way to reduce prostate cancer mortality is to increase early detection through screenings. These screenings can help find prostate cancer before symptoms appear. The Digital Rectal Examination (DRE) and the serum Prostate-Specific-Antigen (PSA) are the two major screens in use currently. While new technologies in prostate cancer identification and treatment are too being developed, aiming to address the issue of so-called “false-positive” findings which tend to unnecessarily increase anxiety.

Theranostics is a relatively new field, which encompasses specific targeted therapies based on specific diagnostics. For example, prostate cancer cells have prostate-specific membrane antigens, which identify them with specific imaging. This is extremely useful when understanding the extent of the cancer and potential metastasis. This same antigen can be used for targeted therapies, which spare healthy tissue. With education, pre-screenings and a continual effort towards innovative treatments, eradicating prostate cancer is possible. Especially in this month of September, the National Foundation for Cancer Research aims to spread this message, increase optimism and provide support to those in need.

#### References:

- <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/prostate-cancer/statistics>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27264113>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0032722/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5494343/>
- <https://www.pcri.org/insights-blog/2018/7/3/prostate-cancer-theranostics>



# They did that...



**So that we can do this...**



**Voter registration deadlines for the November election are right around the corner. It is time to get our family and friends registered!**

**<https://www.vote.org/>**



For information and submissions, contact  
[dthompson@iabpf.org](mailto:dthompson@iabpf.org).

Visit our website at [www.iabpf.org](http://www.iabpf.org).