

THE SECOND ALARM

BRINGING VALUABLE RESOURCES & NEWS
ONE ALARM AT A TIME

MAY 2015

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12



VALDOSTA FIRE
DEPARTMENT

A Department Without Limits

Editor:
Sgt. S A Miller



BIRTHDAYS:

**SGT ALLEN
CARTER** 05/06

**FF DARREN
WILLIAMS** 05/07

**FF MATTHEW
DAVIS** 05/13

**LT TERRY
CLARK** 05/22

FF KEN TAYLOR 05/29

**LT MICHAEL
WALDEN** 05/29

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submissions to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel free to submit photos with your submissions
- Have a strong opinion about a topic of concern to our fire department? Feel free to submit a piece for review and possible publication in the newsletter

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

I received a lot of positive feedback from my recruit school graduation speech. Although it was prepared for the new firefighters I have modified it to send a similar message to everyone else. I found a quote called, "who are you" by an unknown writer. The quotes reads,

who are you
really?

you are not a name
or a height, or a weight
or a gender
you are not an age
and you are not where you are
from

you are your favorite books
and the songs stuck in your head
you are your thoughts
and what you eat for breakfast
on Saturday mornings

you are a thousand things
but everyone chooses
to see the million things
you are not

you are not
where you are from
you are
where you are going
and i'd like
to go there
too

The reason I choose this quote is because I want you to ask yourself the same question, "Who am I"

A lot of people can't understand

why I introduce myself as Freddie Broome instead of Chief Broome. I am proud of my position and my accomplishments but the reason is, I have only been Chief Broome since 2009. I have been Freddie Broome since April 1, 1973.

The reason why it's important for me to remember who I am is because it makes me the Chief that you see.

When reading my bio, you see a lot of interesting facts about Chief Broome. But let me tell you a little more about my story.

On, March 15, 1973. My grandfather died of an unexpected heart attack at the age of 41. Less than 3 weeks later on April 1, 1973 I was born. I was the only grandchild and only child at the time and my mother and I lived with my grandmother.

I never understood my story and purpose until I was talking to my aunt one day. When I was hired as a firefighter she told me she was so proud of me and that my grandmother couldn't stop bragging on me. After the passing of my grandmother, I had a hard time. I saw my aunt out one day and



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief she told me, I should be proud of who I am and what I'm doing with my life. She explained that my grandmother would not have made it after my grandfather's death if it hadn't been for me. When she had bad days, I was the one who gave her hope to keep her going. As the conversation continued, she said why do you think she use to bragged on you? She bragged on you because she was convinced your purpose in life was to help others and there's no greater way to serve that purpose than being a Firefighter.

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ATTA BOY—DONE DID GOOD



The Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta send their thanks to the Valdosta Fire Department for our help with their Parent Resource Fair. They say that the fair would not have been successful without our



participation. Pictured left to right: Lt. Herpin and Sgt. Coppage pose for the camera; FF McBride mugs it up with some of the kids in front of Engine 1.

VSU Mass Media Student, Cassandra D. Massey, sends her heartfelt thanks to the Valdosta Fire Department for helping her this semester, without which she feels her "A" in the class would not have been possible. Special thanks go to Chief Broome, BC Boutwell, BC Skrine, Capt. Clinkscales, Lt. Thibodeau, and Sgt. Staples. Ms. Massey has produced six packages about the fire department and will make sure to get us a copy after she compiles them to CD.

RUMOR MILL—HAPPENINGS AND GOINGS-ON?

Chief Broome is taking away Mrs. Collins duties and responsibilities with Esuites.

False, VPD has used Esuite for almost 2 years and VFD is the last largest department to start using the system; which will eventually be used by all city employees.

Chief Broome is modifying the Administrative Battalion Chief work schedule so Chief Boutwell can work his part-time job at EMS. **False,** with a modified work schedule for the Administrative Battalion Chiefs the department will now have 2 additional BCs available to assist on all working structure fires between the hours of 7 AM and

6 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, the Administrative BCs will work a rotating on-call schedule and respond to structures fires after hours. This will help with trying to maintain and/or improve our current ISO rating by putting more VFD personnel and Chief Officers on the scene.



CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH CONTINUED...

Firefighters are part of a unique profession. We have a passion for the profession that no one else can explain other than firefighters. We are not loved because of our ranks and titles; we are loved because of who we are. We are the brave men and woman who will enter environments to save a life where no other profession is willing to go.

I no longer question my purpose because as John Lennon once said, "There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be..." I was meant to be a firefighter. But what keeps me grounded is knowing who I was before I was a firefighter. My grandmother passed in 2000, and even today I still have her picture as my screensaver, I have a teddy bear in my room that I gave her when I first moved away from home. I keep those memories to remind me of who I am and to motivate me to where I'm going.

In closing I want to share the words on the last card my

grandmother gave me, which is titled, "Believing in Yourself" the card has a message from Emily Matthews which reads, "believe in yourself, in the power you have to control your own life, day by day. Believe in the strength that you have deep inside and your faith will help show you the way. Believe in tomorrow and what it will bring. Let a hopeful heart carry you through, for things will work out. If you trust and believe there's not limit to what you can do!"

I wouldn't be honest if I was to tell you that the journey ahead of you would be a smooth path. But as long as you never forget who you are, believe in yourself and remember to keep Faith, Family and then the Fire Department in chronological order. You will be okay.

Trust me. I think I turned out okay, and so will you. So I will ask you again, "Who are you?"

EMPOWERING BUGLES—NOTES ON LEADERSHIP

The Top 10 Ways to be an Extraordinary Leader Today

1. Work on internal environments. You can't control the external world, but you can control the way you do things internally. Grab the bull by the horns, *if you don't like what you see when you look around.*

2. Define wins in behavioral terms, not just by results. Identify, honor, and recognize behaviors that *produce* great results. Leaders who focus only on results *use* people. Leaders who focus on behaviors *develop* people.

3. Drive toward clarity and simplicity. Complexity is a lazy leader's legacy. Any fool can make something complex. It takes wisdom to simplify. *The path to simplicity and clarity is painful. Chaos happens all by itself.*

4. Ignite and manage momentum.

- Set short-term goals.
- Celebrate imperfect progress.
- Remember the big picture.
- Repeat...

5. Feel the emotion of others. Feel sorrow with the sorrowful and happiness with the joyful. Be upset when others are upset, at least a little. *Lack of empathy makes others feel you don't understand them.*

6. Connect the dots. Remarkable leaders explore how

plans impact employees, customers, and the people actually doing the work. *One way to connect the dots is to include the people doing the work in making the plans.*

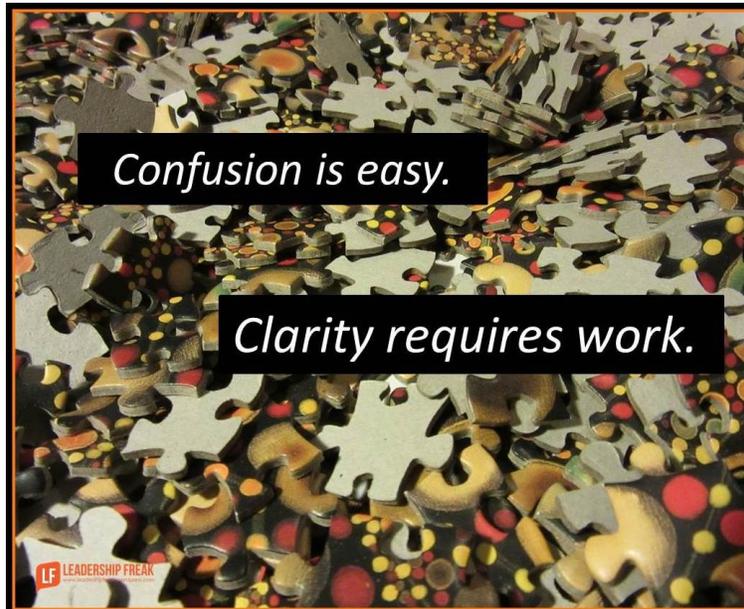
7. Relentlessly focus on imperfect forward movement. Spend less time perfecting before-you-go and more time adapting as-you-go. Try things.

8. Spend more time energizing the energetic than reigniting long-term burn-outs. (I'm not suggesting you completely ignore black holes. But, if you're better off without them, admit it.)

9. Dive under the surface when things go wrong.

- What's the whole story?
- What did you actually try? Remarkable leaders don't accept general statements like, "I tried but it didn't work."
- What didn't work?
- What will we do next time?

10. Dive under the surface when things go right.



Which one of these leadership behaviors is most important for you today? How might you put it into practice?

What behavior would you add to the list of 10 ways to be an extraordinary leader?

Reprinted from:
<https://leadershipfreak.wordpress.com/2015/05/03/the-top-10-ways-to-be-an-extraordinary-leader-today/>

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Welcome to all the Recruits now graduated into Probationary Firefighters for the City of Valdosta Fire Department. Though your first paycheck came many weeks ago, nothing feels better than making it official. Congratulations to all.

EVENTS—HAPPENINGS AND GOINGS-ON

01May—1830-2130 First Friday, Downtown Valdosta

01May—1700-2100 Art & Wine Walk, Downtown Valdosta

02May & 16May—Farm Days, Downtown Valdosta, Old Courthouse Lawn

09May—1100-1600, Build a Bouquet for Mom, Downtown

Valdosta merchants

11May thru 15May—1130-1330 Brown Bag Lunch Concerts

If your church, club, or organi-

zation has a special event that you want the Valdosta Fire Department members to know about, please send that information to the editor by the 18th of each month.