



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **September 15, 2023**

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"Rock bottom has built more champions than privilege ever did."

—Unk

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The Chief's Desk

(Disclaimer: No one in admin proofread the Chief's Desk this week. These are my comments from the healing fields Monday evening. My editor does not want to be blamed for any grammatical errors, spelling errors, misuse of words, etc. given I had no adult supervision 😊)

My fellow Americans, I would like to welcome you to the 22nd commemoration of September 11, 2001 I'd like to thank Town Manager Gilbert Davidson, Mayor Palguta, the PV Town Council, Healing Fields Committee, CAFMA Planning/Logistics and so many others for making this opportunity available to us. I'd also like to thank all of you for coming out here year after year to ensure the memory of that day and those lost are not forgotten – special thanks to those who've brought your kids along. It's important that they understand the impact of the tragedy and what it means to never forget. We say it and you show every year that we will truly **NEVER FORGET** all those lost as well as all those we've lost since. Many lost to 9/11 related illnesses, and many more lost on the field of battle, as well as far too many lost here at home after their return.

We live in a special community – one that holds our law enforcement members, our firefighters, and our retired and current military in high esteem. Thank you for that support - to my law enforcement partners – thank you for what you do every day. To our current and former military members, thank you for your service – for your willingness to put yourself in harm's way to protect our way of life – our great experiment in democracy and our freedom!

If you notice, I've said thank you a lot so far this evening. That's because I feel like we need to take a collective deep breath and re-center ourselves around the idea of being grateful. We live in an amazing community, we live in an amazing country, and we enjoy opportunities and freedoms that so many others in the world will never experience. Ladies and gentlemen, we've been granted a gift and that gift is choice! We have the freedom to choose whether we react or respond. This means that we can choose to be grateful, or we can choose to walk through life angry. If we want to truly honor those represented by these flags displayed on this field, we will choose to be grateful. They didn't get to go home to their families, we do, they didn't get to see their kids grow, we have, and many didn't get to say I love you one last time, we can.

When I moved here from Missouri ten years ago, it was the first time in my life that I was able to experience such a large sky, sweeping views, and an amazing landscape. Like so many others, I began to realize how much I took for granted growing up in the St. Louis area – not the weather, bugs, humidity, a bit of violence down in the city that was horrible, but the history of the area. I committed on the first day I moved here to thank God every day for the opportunity I've been provided and for the beauty that I'm blessed to enjoy. **Cont. Page 3**

Upcoming Events:

Sept 18-21: Chief at Western Fire Chiefs Presidential Forum

Board Meeting:

Board Meeting: Sept 25
CAFMA – 1700-1830

No easy fix: Fire service, PPE manufacturers struggle to reduce PFAS-related cancer

By: Michael Casey

Boston firefighter Daniel Ranahan had heard about colleagues getting cancer but he was stunned when doctors discovered a large tumor in his chest.

He was only 30 and had been in the Boston Fire Department less than a decade. But as he investigated his diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma in October 2020 and sought successful treatment, he learned he and others wore gear that contained the toxic industrial compound PFAS.

"You always hear about the dangers. You just never think it's going be you," said Ranahan, who stopped working due to the cancer and is among thousands of firefighters nationwide who sued PFAS manufacturers and companies that make firefighting gear and foam, seeking damages for their exposure.

"These guys put this on day in and day out to protect neighborhoods and wherever they are working," he said.

The multi-layered coats and pants worn by firefighters have become the latest battleground over PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances. It's found in everything from food packaging to clothing and is associated with health problems including several types of cancer. In March, the Environmental Protection Agency for the first time proposed limits on the chemicals in drinking water.

The news that PFAS compounds are in their gear — primarily meant to repel water and contaminants like oil and prevent moisture-related burns — is worrisome to firefighters.

Cancer has replaced heart disease as the biggest killer of firefighters, and the International Association of Fire Fighters or IAFF attributes 66% of firefighter deaths between 2002 and 2019 to cancer. Firefighters are at higher risk of getting several types of cancer, according to IAFF, including twice as likely to get testicular cancer and mesothelioma than the general population.

[FireRescue1](#)

The Chief's Desk Cont.

I also committed to being thankful every day for the opportunity to serve all of you. I'm not saying there aren't days that I'm frustrated – I mean, I am from the government and I'm here to help... That's not something that is widely accepted sometimes 😊 What I can tell you is that I am a lower level of government so most of the stuff is not my fault, and I'm here to serve you to the best of my ability.

Ladies and gentlemen, despite the frustrations that exist today whether it's the economy, housing, politics – whatever it is – there is always something to be grateful for – if we take a moment, and dig deep down inside, something is there – family, friends, neighbors – a community willing to come together to celebrate and remember the lives of those lost on 9/11 and all those have been lost since.

A smile – a smile for a stranger in the grocery store, a hello, or a simple how’s your day... these are things that can change someone’s outlook, if even for a moment. We don’t know what others may be going through and how much one smile or nice greeting may make a difference in their day, or their life.

Granted, I understand the difficulty of smiling when having our groceries rattled across the Fry’s parking lot, but that’s a completely separate thing 😊

I leave you with a challenge nearly every year. My challenge to you this year is to never forget 9/11, why we were attacked, and what a great country we’re blessed to live in. I’d also challenge you to find a reason to be grateful in your life each and every day. Take a moment, take a deep breath, and smile. Know that you get to go home and see your family. A smile is good for your health.

Enough from me for the year... Moving on to the important speakers tonight.
