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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Stacy Singleton has worn at least two different hats since June 1991. One hat was as a volunteer fire captain for the Burleson Fire Department. The other hat stood for his job as the City of Burleson's fire marshal.

The volunteer firefighter program was phased out in October 2010. The department's six volunteer firefighters received special honors at the March 22 annual firefighter banquet. Singleton was honored with an axe for his 26 years as a volunteer firefighter/captain. He joined as a volunteer firefighter on March 15, 1984.

The 48-year-old Burleson native was grandfathered in by the state after he challenged the state test to become a certified firefighter. He caught the bug for fighting fires when he was just 10 years old.

"I started following the fire trucks around when they responded to my neighborhood," Singleton said. "At that time, volunteer firefighters JC Ware and Gary Bailey were my neighbors. I always thought it was cool that they took off all the time to go on fire calls, so when I got old enough I joined the department."

Since Burleson is his hometown, Singleton wanted to give back.

"Even when the Burleson Fire Department was totally run by volunteers (the first career firefighters were hired in 1998), the department was known throughout the state as one of the top departments around," Singleton said. "The firefighters are family and we help each other out all the time."

Gary Bailey and longtime volunteer firefighter Foy Dunaway were Singleton's mentors on the department.

Singleton worked for Western Emergency Haz-Mat Response Company and as a volunteer firefighter before taking on the role as full-time fire marshal for the city in June 1991.

The Burleson fire marshal's office is a law enforcement agency. Singleton and his fire investigator are both certified police officers. The fire prevention department is responsible for enforcing federal, state, and local codes, conducting inspections of buildings and facilities, providing public education

programs (Patches and Pumper, Fire Safety House, and tours and visits), examining development site plans, and thoroughly investigating all suspicious / accidental fires and any unauthorized release of hazardous material products.

As a firefighter, Singleton advanced not only to the level of volunteer captain, but he also earned certifications as an advanced firefighter, advanced arson investigator, advanced fire inspector, certified driver/operator-pumper, certified Fire Officer II, certified Fire Service Instructor II, and master peace officer certification.

The honoree's father worked for AT&T as a PBX installer. His mother was a stay-at-home mom. Singleton was one of two boys in his family. He and his wife, Janet, have a 16-year-old son, Tanner. The family includes a basset hound named Sadie and a donkey named Rudy.

The mentoring of future generations of firefighters doesn't stop with Singleton. His son was just accepted into the first fire academy at Centennial High School in Burleson.