

ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: November 17, 2015
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Curt Glaser, Human Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Death of Retired Firefighter Andrea Gaxiola

Retired Firefighter Andrea Gaxiola answered her last alarm on November 16, 2015. She was 53 years old.

The following was provided by Mike Fleming, one of Andrea's close friends:

"With a heavy heart, I would like to pass on to our Firefighter community that retired Firefighter Andrea Gaxiola lost her battle against cancer last night. She left this world surrounded by loving friends, as it should be. Andrea's life was dedicated to helping others. She was the backbone of the SDFD Facility Maintenance/Logistics Dept for many years, which was a perfect fit for her. She was there when the Department had the most work to do. She helped oversee six "D" Division crews and numerous other station projects by crews, along with many Bond projects and new stations. Her motto always was "I will take care of that," or "How can I help". That was the way she lived her private life also. Her neighbors talked to her friends about how she was always there for them when anything came up. After she was finished with all she went through with the first battle with cancer, she started buying food and cooking dinners for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. It was just how she lived her life!

Andrea wanted to thank all of her Fire Department family and friends for all the work, prayers and visits that you gave to her in her time of need. Thank you to all of you who came by to celebrate her "I am not Dead Yet!" party at Jill Murray's home. These things let her know that she wasn't alone with her fight and showed her how much she meant to all of us. She was blessed to have a great friend in Deb Carlson. Deb left her life behind in Washington to come to help Andrea when she really needed it. The time and care she gave Andrea was truly amazing, to put it mildly! Though, if you asked Deb, I know she would say, "It just had to be done and she needed me".

There will be a Celebration of Life in about 6 weeks. Andrea leaves behind her brother, a niece and nephew, and all of us.

If you would like to make a donation in Andrea's name, please do so to the Retired Fire and Police Hand and Hand organization or The Firefighter Aid Fund with the Relief Association. These two organizations helped Andrea immensely."

Andrea joined the Fire-Rescue Department in October 1990. She career advanced to Firefighter II in February 1991. She retired in March 2012 with more than 21 years of service.

Condolences can be sent to Andrea's full-time care giver for the last several months:

Debbie Carlson
Deborah.carlson54@gmail.com