

ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: June 17, 2011

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Kathi Young, Acting Human Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Death of Retired Assistant Fire Chief Henry “Babe” Bell

DISPOSITION: Read/Post/Destroy 07/22/2011

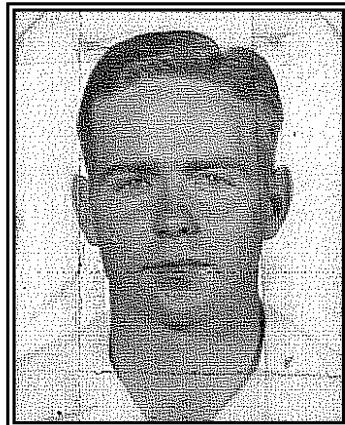
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Retired Assistant Fire Chief Henry “Babe” Bell answered his last alarm on June 10, 2011. He was 90 years old.

Henry (Babe) Grady Bell Jr., was born in Buffalo Gap, Texas on September 13, 1920, and died peacefully at his home in Frankfort, Michigan on June 10, 2011. Henry, known as Babe to many of his family and friends, was the son of Henry Grady Bell Sr. and Ella (Dillard) Bell. Henry’s parents moved to San Diego, California when Henry was a young boy. Henry has one remaining brother, Leonard Bell. He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Lorraine Robinson. Henry and Lorraine were married in San Diego, California in 1941, until her death at age 76. Henry and Lorraine raised four children: Barbara Howell (Ed), Jim Bell (Gail), Jeanne Stransky (Fred) and John Bell (Karen). At the time of his death he had 10 grand children, 33 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

Henry attended Hoover High School in San Diego and graduated in 1938. He served as a forestry fire fighter in San Diego before entering the service at the beginning of World War II. He served in the Navy aboard the USS Klondike. Upon his discharge from the Navy he became a member of the San Diego Fire Department. Henry retired in July of 1972, after serving 30 years and six months with the Fire Department. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Chief, he was a Battalion Chief for four years. Additionally, he served as a captain for six years, a lieutenant for six years, and an engineer for six years.

Henry was active in youth programs during his career with the Fire Department. He spent 17 consecutive years managing Little League baseball and was honored in 1970 when a Little League field was named after him.



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Henry will be remembered for his incredible loyalty and devotion to his family and friends. He was a self-made man who was bigger than life to those who knew him. Services will be held in Michigan. After cremation, his ashes will be placed next to his wife in the Rosecrans Cemetery for Veterans.

Condolences can be sent to:

Jeanne Stransky (daughter)
P.O. Box 2134
Frankfort, MI 49635
231-352-6108

