



Victor L. Reed
Fire Chief
201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: 760-839-5400 Fax: 760-739-7060
Vreed@ci.escondido.ca.us

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Carol Rea

PHONE: (760) 839-5411

Retired Deputy Fire Marshal Remembered

Fred Aguilar, 55-year-old former Deputy Fire Marshal for the Escondido Fire Department was killed while riding his motorcycle Wednesday morning, December 21. Although Aguilar had retired 17 months ago, his loss is deeply felt throughout the Escondido Fire Department; "Fireman Fred" left a legacy of dedication and caring among all ranks.

Aguilar started with the Escondido Fire Department in 1975 as a firefighter and accepted the position of Deputy Fire Marshal, which had been meant to be a temporary assignment, in 1983. He liked the job so much he requested the position as a permanent assignment and held the job until he retired in July of 2003.

The Deputy Fire Marshal position was multi-faceted and Aguilar assumed all roles with equal ease, whether he was monitoring the weed abatement process, investigating fires, or teaching the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

Aguilar was a strong proponent of fire safety and spent a great deal of personal time installing smoke alarms for seniors who were unable to do so themselves and often wound up making small repairs or just listening to lonely seniors who cherished his visits. Aguilar installed thousands of smoke alarms during the last 10 years of his career

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in the fire service. His friendly attitude extended to all age groups; he greatly enjoyed operating the department fire hydrant robot, “Curby” and donning his firefighter protective clothing and equipment for kindergarteners.

During the Vietnam War, Aguilar served as a cook in the US Navy, honing skills that would lead to a reputation for good wholesome cooking, especially in large quantities. He was often found behind the grill or in the kitchen for fund-raisers for St. Claire’s Homes and various other Fire Department events.

Aguilar’s outside interests were extensive, as well. He was a member of the American Legion Post 149, a Scoutmaster to Boy Scout Troop 649 for 14 years, and a prominent member of the Escondido Mounted Posse.

Fred Aguilar touched the lives of many throughout his career and he will be greatly missed by his Escondido Fire Department family.

Obituary - Alfred Daniel Aguilar, Jr.

VALLEY CENTER – Alfred “Fred” Aguilar, resident of Valley Center, died December 21 at the age of 55 as the result of an accident while riding his motorcycle. He was born February 28, 1950 in Los Angeles, California.

Serving as Escondido Fire Department Deputy Fire Marshal until his retirement at age 53, Fred started as a Firefighter in 1975. He was an active member of the American Legion Post 149 and an Assistant Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 649. He was also a member of the

Escondido Police Department Mounted Posse. Fred served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War aboard the destroyer, Dennis J. Buckley, from 1968 to 1972. In 1992, he joined fellow Escondido Firefighters when they traveled to New York for St. Patricks Day events honoring fallen firefighters following 9-11.

Fred was preceded in death by his mother, Dolores Aguilar. He is survived by his children, Isaac and Michele Aguilar, both of Escondido; grandchild, Dayja Aguilar, father Alfred Aguilar of La Mirada, California; two sisters, Rossana Aguilar of Danville, California and Diana Jones of Hacienda Heights, California; and his very dear friend, Mary Kouma of Valley Center.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 on Wednesday, December 28 at St. Mary's Church, 130 E. 13th Avenue, Escondido. A reception will follow at American Legion Post 149 at 230 E. Park Place, Escondido.