

David Gildner, 1939-2021

By Jason Baker, Pine Knoll Shores Fire Chief

Recently the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department lost a great friend and volunteer with the passing of David Gildner. Affectionately known as Mr. Dave by those of us at the department, he brought excellence and an attitude of service to his volunteer efforts on behalf of the town—as he did to everything he undertook in his professional and personal life.

Mr. Dave served in the US Air Force before going to work for Xerox Corporation, where he remained for 29 years. During his time with Xerox, he moved up through the ranks and received many awards for customer satisfaction and work excellence.

Following his retirement from Xerox, Mr. Dave and his wife, Nan, moved to Pine Knoll Shores—but a quiet retirement of rest and relaxation was not to be for him. His son, Michael, told me recently that his dad found retirement boring—and once he became involved with the fire department in 1994, it was obvious he was a man who liked to stay busy.

He served as a firefighter II and pump operator for years and later served as a captain for five years. He helped to establish a retirement program for the firemen through the Fire Relief Fund and also served as the treasurer of that fund, president of the Fire Auxiliary and communications officer. He was chosen as Fireman of the Year two times during this service to the department and was always an advocate for the department and its members. Mr. Dave was instrumental in the fire department's ability to acquire a new thermal imaging camera that not only allowed firemen to spot victims in a burning building but also allowed them to see flames hidden by smoke—both important rescue and safety features. He researched and helped the department obtain half the cost of the camera through a grant from the Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program.

Mr. Dave was willing and able to repair many items, and was known as "Mr. Fixit" to his neighbors and friends here at the fire department. He would not turn down the challenge of trying to fix a broken piece of equipment—and even made repairs on the firemen's turnout gear. Oftentimes our gear is damaged or torn in training or during a fire call, and Mr. Dave would take it home to his professional sewing machine and bring it back good as new. In addition to that, he worked to extend the life of radios and other equipment to save the department the cost of unnecessary replacement.

Serving as a volunteer fireman often appeals to people, but once they experience the time required for training, the jangled nerves caused by the sound of a pager at all hours of the day and night and the potential for ending up in harmful or even life-threatening situations (all for no pay), they don't last very long. It takes dedication to the mission and a heart for service for a volunteer to stick with it for more than 25 years—which is exactly what Mr. Dave did.


The members and volunteers at the Pine Knoll Shores

Fire Department will always remember the contributions made by Mr. Dave and the example he set for dedication and service. His are shoes that won't be easily filled—and he will forever be a part of this station and its operations.

Reflective Address Signs Available



Minutes matter in an emergency. To help medical, fire and police responders find your home as quickly as possible, the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Auxiliary is making reflective address signs available. For a donation of \$20, signs that meet the specifications set out by town ordinance will be made up by a fireman on duty. A post is available for an additional \$10, and a fireman will install it in the proper location for an additional \$10. Visit the public safety building at 314 Salter Path Road to order your sign.



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located inside

RESTAURANT
THE INN
AT PINE KNOLL SHORES

Take out & Curbside Pickup Available

<p>MONDAY - STEAK NIGHT</p> <p>8 oz. flat iron steak \$16</p> <p>Ribeye steak \$23</p> <p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Flounder Plate w/ slaw & fries \$15</p> <p>WEDNESDAY - CLOSED</p> <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Shrimp Plate w/ slaw & fries \$12</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Oyster Plate pieces w/ slaw & fries \$18</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Chicken Parm w/ angel hair pasta, side salad & garlic bread \$16</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Blackened Mahi w/ mango salsa, rice & veggies \$15</p>
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Prices, Menu & Times Subject to Change
Ask About Our Daily Breakfast & Lunch Specials

511 Salter Path Road • Pine Knoll Shores • 252-247-4155

All ABC Permits • Open daily Monday - Sunday 7:30am - 1pm and 5pm - 8pm.