

Banner Elk Fire Chief's Resignation Letter

Written by
Sunday, 26 August 2007 15:49

Below is a transcript of Harry Klinger's resignation letter.

It appears exactly as received by Aisling Broadcasting. Klinger said his resignation had nothing to do with the contract controversy.

It seems at times life can be difficult and sad. At other times it can be passionately beautiful, wonderful, and rewarding. Fortunately, my life has been blessed by a wonderful and loving family, a remarkable career, with friends who love and care about me, and a rewarding 30 plus year career serving my community in the fire service.

I began as a volunteer firefighter and served with several volunteer fire departments over the years. In 1976 I was hired by the Fire Department in Casselberry, Florida. I retired from that department as a Battalion Chief in 1999 culminating a career of 30 plus years.

I am proud of my accomplishments in the fire service knowing that no one was ever lost in a fire under my command, as well as, the saving of lives and property.

Graduating with a degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1970, provided the education, with professional development through work in sales and personnel administration. The fire service presented an opportunity to me in 1976, and I chose to serve. This was done with honor and diligence, as was my service to my Country in the United States Army.

My wife and I came to Banner Elk in 1999 to enjoy the four seasons, the fabulous mountains, and the wonderful people. After building our home, the passion to serve led me to the Banner Elk Volunteer Fire Rescue Department. I became a member in September of 2002 and was appointed chief in November of 2006 by the board of directors.

During my tenure as Chief my granddaughter passed away on November 30, 2006, my wife recovered from a ruptured appendix and my gall bladder was removed in an emergency

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surgery. So much for the good times and so much for the bad. Resigning from the Banner Elk Fire Department leaves me with the feeling of letting down the citizens of the Elk Fire District and the Town of Banner Elk. There are some wonderful members in the Banner Elk Fire & Rescue Department who serve the community with diligence, and deserve praise. However, due to circumstances and situations beyond my control I am resigning from the BEVFR Department effective August 23, 2007.

Harry H. Klinger

23 August 2007

CC: Avery County Fire Commission Avery County Fireman's Association Avery County
Commission Avery County Manager Town of Banner Elk -Deka Tate, Mayor Town of Banner
Elk- Bill Burluson, Police Chief