



# ATFAR NEWS

**ALL THAT FUN AFTER RETIREMENT**

NOVEMBER 2022

**Make your plans now for RENDEZVOUS 2023—Huntsville, Alabama. May 7-11**

## RENDEZVOUS 2022 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

A good time was had by ALL! This past April found the ATFAR crew collected in the poultry capital of the world; Gainesville, Georgia.

From boat rides and gold panning to golfing and shopping ATFAR members had a great time! Special thanks to Jim and Pam Snell, Brad & Teresa Cole, Jan Higginbotham, Ronnie and Donna Forrester, Larry and Sharon Newkam and Ann Simmons for hosting the 2022 Rendezvous. It was FANTASTIC!

*More RENDEZVOUS 2022 photos inside.*



*A table of goodies donated by ATFAR members for the nightly raffle and auction.*



## ATFAR Co-Hosts 50th Anniversary Celebration

This year the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives celebrated it's 50th anniversary as a Bureau. The ATF Association of Retirees (ATFAR) and the ATF Association (ATFA) teamed up and co-hosted a 50th anniversary celebration to mark this occasion. The celebration, held June 28th, at the Wharf in Washington DC was attended by over one hundred and fifty people including several retirees, three former ATF Directors and numerous current ATF employees. Hors d'oeuvres and an open bar were available throughout the evening thanks to the generous donations of our corporate sponsors.

ATFAR is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization committed to keeping retired ATF employees active, up to date and in touch with each other. Our motto says it all:

**Fellowship Based on a Lifetime of Service.**

**ATFAR**

**Box 547  
Mountain Home TN  
37684**

**Jimm Langley  
Executive Director**



*Guest pay close attention as ATFE Acting Director Marvin Richardson discusses the Bureau's future.*



# FUN AND FELLOWSHIP GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

RENDEZVOUS 2022  
Jim Snell

The ATFAR Rendezvous in Gainesville, Georgia was filled with activities ranging from gold and gemstone panning in the mountain city of Dahlonega, Georgia to a houseboat cruise on the beautiful 38,000-acre Lake Sidney Lanier.

After a scenic drive on a chartered luxury bus, the attendees were afforded the opportunity to tour the active mining site and learn the exciting art of gold panning while panning for gold and gemstones at Crisson Gold Mine. Those who were successful in panning were able to keep their find or have it made into a beautiful keepsake custom piece of jewelry by the inhouse lapidarist.

Some ATFAR members enjoyed a tour of the gold museum housed in the old Lumpkin County Courthouse building on the town square while others took a guided tour of the Historic Dahlonega downtown area.



Another ATFAR outing included boarding a charming trolley and traveling to a local marina where a 40-foot Houseboat waited to take us on a misty but very scenic cruise on Lake Lanier. We were entertained on the Houseboat by a local musician and enjoyed a real Georgia BBQ lunch.

Of course, the nightly hospitality room was the happening place! Participants enjoyed an open bar, make your own S'mores Bar, hors d'oeuvres and games to include Poker and Mexican Train Dominos. New friendships were made, and old friends and coworkers were reunited exchanging many war stories of which some could even be believed! So many items were donated for door prizes and auction items this year. All enjoyed the anticipation of the prize drawings each night.

On the last evening of the Rendezvous, everyone enjoyed a southern style chicken (Gainesville is known as the Poultry Capital of the world you know!) and beef tip dinner complete with southern sides and bountiful southern desserts. We were able to visit with some of the local Firemen as they picked up our excess after dinner.

Thanks to all who attended this year and all who worked so diligently to make this year's Rendezvous a huge success!



*Tim Buns was the high bidder for this highly sought after ATF cutting board*



*Flag, flown over the U.S. Capital on July 4th, 1976 was one of the great items in the nightly auction.*



*Legends: Bill Wood and John Hauschildt*



*There is mischief brewing at this table....*



*I'm talking about Panning and that starts with P which rymes with T and that stand for TROUBLE*

**CANT WAIT  
TILL  
RENDEZVOUS  
2023**

***More photos available on the ATFAR Facebook page.***



A DAY ON  
LAKE  
LANIER

# Rendezvous 2022 Gainesville, Georgia

THARS  
GOLD IN  
THEM  
HILLS

PAGE 3



*ATFAR members relaxed and enjoyed a barbeque lunch and live music on cruise around beautiful Lake Lanier*



*No one got rich but we sure had fun panning for Gold!*



*Carlos Baixauli showing Some of the auction items, A Whiskey Delta watch, made and donated by ATFAR member Bill Dekoff, and some really great honey donated by ATFAR member Billy Blair,*



*Several retired agents shot the LEOSA course of fire at the local range.*

**ANOTHER  
GREAT STORY  
FROM AN  
ATF LEGEND.**

# My History at Firestone Station

Submitted by ATFAR member Fritz Campbell

At the time I was working in the Metro Squad at the Los Angeles Field Division (LAFD). One day in early 1982 I got a call from two Deputies from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department from Operation Safe Streets (OSS) Street Gang Unit from their Firestone Station which is in the Florence Park area of L.A. and adjacent to Watts. They said they wanted to know what ATF could do in assisting in impacting Street Gangs in Los Angeles County. I said I didn't know, but let's sit down and see what ATF can do to help with impacting street gangs. This started a working relationship that lasted until the summer of 1992, when one of the ASAC's pulled me out, as he said I was getting too close to the Sheriff's Department.

I went to the Firestone station and we had several discussions on what ATF could do. After talking with the OSS Captain, and three Lieutenants with OSS we came up with a plan that would work for them and ATF. One of their priorities that no BS cases would be presented to the United States Attorney's Office for prosecution, and that I and ATF were committed to seeing this through. I presented this to the SAC at the LAFD, and he said go ahead and see what you can do. I was given pretty free rein on my activities.

During the time I was at Firestone, I presented 29 Criminal Cases for indictment and prosecution which were accepted, and assisted in putting together 100+ Criminal Cases with LASD for state prosecution and 1000+ Search Warrants. Basically, I had an office at Firestone, and was there almost 24/7. To say the least it was a very interesting time and very rewarding. Actually, I became a part of the station.

I will recount a few of the more memorable investigations I was involved with. We had a drive by shooting in the 76 East Coast Crips (ECC) hood and a 11-year-old girl was shot and left a paraplegic. One of the deputies and I worked on this determined that the shooter was from another Crip Set. We obtained Search Warrants and an arrest warrant and arrested the shooter. Before I retired, I went back to the Firestone area and drove around with the deputy who I had worked with. We were on 76th Street and I saw the girl who had become a paraplegic in her wheelchair. I stopped and talked to her and found out she still considered herself to be a 76 ECC member.

One time we were gearing up to do a Search and Arrest Warrant. The entry team was wearing the large entry vests that had a flap in the front to protect the groin area. I had given the team some new ammo and they had to replace the ammo in their sidearms and magazines. I was assigned the other perimeter with a uniformed deputy to the rear of the residence. We heard them make entry and it was quiet until the grandmother came out of the house with a Pitt Bull on a leash and it did not like that. She took it and placed it in a building at the back of the property, what the deputy and I saw was that there was a window in the front but it did not have any glass in it. In a flash the dog was out and headed for the house, the entry team was on the way out and the dog grabbed the hand of one of the entry team, he began to shoot the dog, but couldn't hit it, but he did manage to put three rounds in the flap of the vest. The deputy and I were next to the fence, just then two of the entry teams, about two feet away, started to shoot the dog, we did not. A bullet fragment hit one of the deputies in the ear, one of the other deputies had a road flare which he claimed would hold off a dog he threw it and it landed in the neighbor's hedge and started a fire. Someone put out a 999 call that shots had been fired and a deputy had been hit, we had units responding from all over LA County, someone else called the fire department, so they responded. The Lieutenant finally got things under control and talked to me about the shooting wanted to know how many shots there were, I told him nine. Then we found out the ammo I had given them was not authorized, so they went back to the station and changed ammo again. We also got a frozen fish out of the freezer and wrapped the hand of the deputy who had been bitten and transported him to the hospital. Got 2 kilos of cocaine out of the house.

Did you know...

The cost of mailing the ATFAR newsletter is going up and up and up. Also, if you move or have provided us the wrong address the ATFAR newsletter will be returned by the post office to ATFAR at a cost of \$1.00 each! Make sure your address is up to date!!!

Submit your stories for publication in the ATFAR newsletter to [atfarsetup@gmail.com](mailto:atfarsetup@gmail.com)



# My History at Firestone Station.....

PAGE 5



**We need your stories.**

**Help us keep the ATFAR newsletter interesting. Submit your stories and recollections so we can share them with the ATFAR membership.**

**Submit your article, story or your recollections to us at:**

**[atfarsetup@gmail.com](mailto:atfarsetup@gmail.com)**

I have often commented that it was good thing that criminals are not the sharpest tack on the block. We had an CSI that was very committed to putting gang members, especially those that trafficked in drugs out of business. He had made a small purchase of Marijuana from Watts Varrio Grape a Hispanic Street Gang in the Jordon Downs Project. We wrote up a Search Warrant, but the Sergeant wanted some fresh information before we executed it. I said I would go back with the CI and make another purchase. Now, I had short hair and no ear ring, I changed shirts, took off my pistol belt and went back in and purchased some more Marijuana. I then went back suited up and we executed the Search Warrant, nobody in the house recognized me. This was not the last time I worked with this CI making purchases on the street.

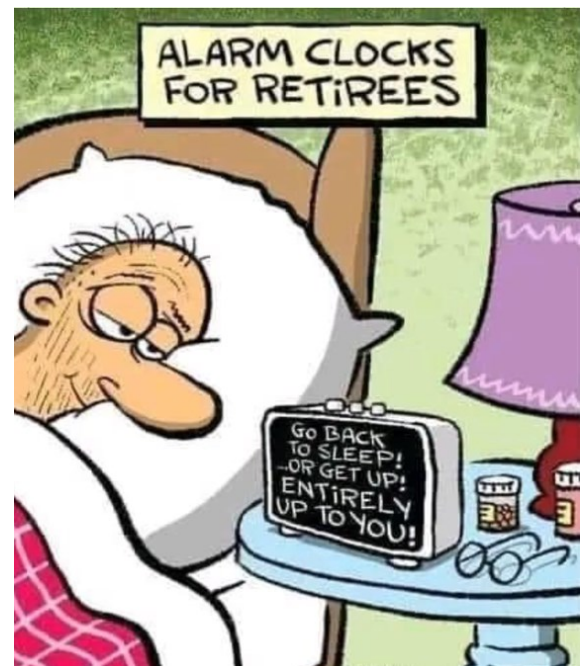
*Wow! Quite an interesting article Fritz! Sounds like you had a great relationship with the local police and the community. Thank you very much for your service, for submitting an article and for being an ATFAR member.*

**Don't forget to pay your dues!**



We really appreciate your prompt payment of your dues and a double thank you to those who have paid several years dues in advance. Remember, you can pay with a credit card on our website.  
**[www.atfar.org](http://www.atfar.org)**

**You can also mail your dues to ATFAR Box 547  
Mountain Home, Tennessee 37684**





# **RENDEZVOUS 2023 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA MAY 7—11**

**Join ATFAR in Huntsville as we tour the National Center for Explosives Training and Research—The ATF Fire Research Laboratory—and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.**



# Rendezvous 2023: Registration \$65.00 per person

Check in Sunday, May 7, 2023: Hospitality Room opens at 5:00 pm.

Monday, May 8: Tour ATF Facility at Redstone. Explosives demonstration / Fire Science demonstration. (\$10.00 per person Transportation fee)

Hospitality Suite

Tuesday, May 9: Range—LEOSA / Golf Outing / Shopping / Botanical Gardens

Hospitality Suite

Wednesday, May 10: Tour U.S. Space and Rocket Center. (\$40.00 per person)

ATFAR annual business meeting.

ATFAR annual banquet

**Rendezvous Registration fee: \$65.00 per person**  
**Hotel: \$99.00 per room per night.**

Best Western Plus  
9035 Madison Boulevard  
Madison, Alabama 35758  
256-772-7170

Rooms blocked under ATF Association of Retirees  
Rooms must be booked by April 22nd to receive  
the \$99.00 discounted rates.

You may contact the hotel direct or go to [ATFAR.org](http://ATFAR.org) and use the link to make your hotel reservations online. You may also register for the RENDEZVOUS at [ATFAR.org](http://ATFAR.org) by mail using this form.

ATFAR Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of attendees x \$65.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total number ATF transportation fee x \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total number U.S. Space & Rocket x \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: ATFAR

Mailing Address: ATFAR  
BOX 547  
Mountain Home, Tennessee 37684

You may tear this page from your newsletter or make copies. Registration forms are also available at [ATFAR.org](http://ATFAR.org)



## Welcome New ATFAR Board Member Donna Skinner Forrester



During the last RENDEZVOUS the ATFAR board of directors added a new member! By a unanimous vote Donna Skinner Forrester was added as our newest Director.

**Congratulations and welcome aboard Donna!**

## My Retirement Life so far...

By Carlos Gonzalez—

Hello to my ATF family of retirees.

My name is Carlos Gonzalez and I retired on December 31, 2019 as a Special Agent from the Miami Field Division. Looking back I realize what an awesome job I had with ATF! I had a job that I loved so much I looked forward to going to work each and every day.

One of the best things about ATF was that we all took care of one another because we knew, things could change in a heartbeat! We would cut up and bust on each other, at times using the crudest of language and meanest insults but it was all done in fun! The crew that I worked with over the years were a rare breed who unlike today's millennials, could say things to each other and not get offended!

We all look forward to retirement and we can't wait to do so. But we all know the saying "be careful what you wish for!"

At the time I retired, I was living in Juno Beach, Florida, population 500 to 1000 during the season

(winter). I lived two blocks from the ocean and walked or rode my bike to my pristine beach every morning, selecting just the right spot and carefully spreading my towel. After going home smelling of cooked meat a few times I asked myself just how many times a week can you go to the beach and tan yourself to medium well while consuming copious amounts of

alcohol. Yes, I had become a walking advertisement for skin cancer and a pickled liver. Seems that my happy hour kept starting earlier and earlier every week! I had to find something else to occupy myself. I needed something with no stress and no responsibility. I also, more importantly, needed to baby my liver and stay in the shade for a while.



**ATFAR CHALLENGE COINS**  
**Beautiful High Gloss Gold Colored Challenge Coins**  
**with ATFAR logo and ATF Retiree badge**

**2 coins for \$26.00 includes shipping via USPS**

**Priority Mail**

**[www.atfar.org](http://www.atfar.org)**



After 18 months of suntanning , day drinking and liver abuse, I applied as a Police Volunteer for the Juno Beach Police Department (JBPD). I thought wow, what a great gig, patrolling the beach on an ATV looking at beautiful, scantily clad women. I was so happy and excited and my liver was very thankful. But after a few short weeks of bliss the Chief changed the dress code and no longer allowed me to wear shorts and frowned upon me taking pictures of the aforementioned scantily clad women.. Bummer! But it was still an awesome easy gig! One of the departments high ranking officers, a Major, also ran a janitorial company and recruited me to be his Operations Manager (OM). The Major was paying me twenty dollars an hour for 20 hours a week to do dome light book keeping? Easy money! Boy was I wrong.. After a couple of employees decided to take the Covid money and stay home I went from an easy book keeping management position to working as a janitor. Supposedly this was only suppose to last until the Major could find a replacement but it seemed that the replacement he found was me. After a few heated words were exchanged between him and me I decided that my janitorial career was over. The major did not take my leaving the wonderful career of toilet cleaning very well and instructed one of his underlings, the one that ran the Police Volunteers, to ride me like a rented pony.

To make a long story a little shorter, suffice it to say that the next few weeks were pure hell. I even got reprimanded for not waving back to citizens as I drove my ATV down the beach and for not parking correctly in the police garage. Enough was enough and I had had enough! My Juno Beach Police Department Volunteer career came to a screeching stop and I new that my liver would soon be unhappy.

A few weeks later I moved to North Palm Beach into an apartment that is on a canal that lead to the ICW. (Intra Coastal Water Way). I returned back to my life of dancing with skin cancer and liver abuse and neither was doing my third marriage any good.

So one day, on my way into Total Wine (TW) for my liver medicine. I spotted a Total Wine delivery van and I said to myself, I can absolutely do that job delivering liquor to rich folks. So that very day I found the manager and applied for a job. The manager was a young kid who looked like he still had two years of high school ahead of him. He offered me the merchandiser position, which is a glorified word for stockboy. Fine by me, I'll be the best stockboy ever. I'll be out of the sun and wont be able to drink for eight hours at a time. Everybody wins!

I started my first day as a stock boy on September 2, 2022. I spent the first four hours behind a computer watching training videos. I had flashbacks of being back at work with ATF having to complete my online "Learn ATF" training. The next four hours I received training on how to stock shelves. I received very complicated instructions like "take a box of rum from the stockroom and refill shelves where rum bottles are missing". Followed by the same instructions for Vodka, Whiskey, Tequila, Gin and... you get the idea.

Up next came training videos on the Total Wine employee communication system. All Total Wine employees wear these headsets so we can talk to each other, but we really don't talk to each other, we talk to a computer that translates what we say and then puts it out on everyone's headsets. There is no direct communication between humans. Naturally the computer could not understand my accent and kept saying " I didn't quite get that. "Can you repeat?" " I didn't quite get that" "I'm having problems understanding you."

As my day is progressing and I'm getting into the swing of my air conditioned gig. I'm killing it as a stockman and the shelves never looked so good! Suddenly, in my headset I hear the computer saying "cart run" and she says it over and over again. I didn't know what the hell a cart run was so I ignored it. Moments later, I spot the chubby kid Kevin, who's been teaching me about the art of shelf stocking. His eyes were fixated on me. It scared me because it was like a fat kid looking at a piece of cake. Kevin walks up to me and grunts "we

have to go to the parking lot". When I asked why He looked at me, like I have a third eye and a duck on my shoulder and says "Didn't you hear "cart run?" I said,

"Yeah but what the F&%K is a "cart run?" Kevin tilted his head in the opposite direction and said, "You can't say that word!" I asked "What word?" Turning red in the face, Kevin says "you know what word. That word." I said "What? Cart Run?" He said "No! The F word ! You can't say that!" I laughed and said "Are you F@&king kidding me?" Kevin covered his ears and closed his eyes and said softly, "we have to go collect shopping carts and bring them into the store."

Now being a shopping cart wrangler was not mentioned during my interview and remember it is summer in south Florida. Summer in south Florida is like taking the humidity from a Louisiana swamp and combining it with the heat of the Sahara dessert. This task is for those that want to sweat not those that took a job to stay in the air conditioning. *Continued next page*



***Know someone that is retiring from ATF? Pass along our web page address: [Atfar.org](http://Atfar.org)***

## My Retirement Life so far continued.....

Meanwhile, the arthritis in my left knee and both the arches of my feet were screaming and threatening to go on strike. I wondered why I had went to a special footwear shop and bought \$70 insoles for my sneakers.

On my second day working for Total Wines, the manager pulled me aside and asked me if I told Kevin , "That I was chasing ef-fing bad guys in dark alleys when he was still pooping his diapers." I smiled and proudly said yes, I did, and I don't take orders from people less than half my age. The manager said Carlos you can't talk to people like that here. "Are you F@\$king kidding me?" I asked. He almost fell out of his chair. He whispered, "You can't use that word inside the store even in conversation with me." I thought to myself that everybody that works here must have feathers under their clothes and probably listens to National Public Radio. God I was missing my Old ATF !

On my 3rd day at Total Wine, I threatened to resign. I told them I was not the Cart Run Kinda Guy, so they gave me the cashier job which is the easiest job in the store. After at least an hour of training. I started ringing up customers. I had customers flying through the checkout line for about two hours with no issues when suddenly one of the managers came up and asked me what I was doing. I answered. " Really? What the f@\$k does it look like I am doing? I'm working the register!" And Zing! She got all ruffled and told me that I could not say "that" word in her store! She glared at me, and told me that I had not been trained long enough to solo on the cash register. Looking her dead in the eye I responded "You could teach a frickin monkey to do this in twenty minutes, I got this."

I worked for Total Wine for a whopping total of 29 hours. What did I learn from this experience? That us old guys who spent our time chasing crooks and locking up criminals may not be fit for corporate America. Oh well, at least while I am tanning on the beach now no one can tell me what words I can and cant say!

***Thanks Carlos, that was too funny! You are right, ATF was the best job a person could hope to have. Good luck in finding something to occupy you time.***

**Do you know an ATF retiree that has not joined ATFAR? An ATF employee that is close to retirement? A state and local officer / or fire fighter / arson investigator that has worked closely with ATF in the past?**

**If you answered yes to any of these questions please tell them about ATFAR. Joining is easy and we all know how much fun ATFAR is.**



**ATFAR has a new mailing Address**

**ATFAR  
PO BOX 547  
Mountain Home TN 37684**

**Please send all correspondence and / or payments to the new address.**



**We would like to thank Jonesborough Wine and Spirits for their generous support for RENDEZVOUS 2022. The membership enjoyed your wonderful donations on a nightly basis.**

*Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend. — Theophrastus*



# ATF SPECIAL AGENT JEROME F. GANT PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

ATF Special Agent Jerome Gant dedicated his life to public service serving in the United States Marines, the U.S. Army National Guard, The Florida State Fire Marshall's Office, The Drug Enforcement Administration and with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Jerome, a Certified Fire Investigator, loved sharing his knowledge of Fire and Arson investigations and taught not only for the ATF National Academy but also for the Florida Advisory Committee for Arson Prevention. Jerome Passed away in February 2021.

On March 2, 2022 the Jerome F. Gant scholarship to the Florida Advisory Committee for Arson Prevention (FACAP) was established at the opening ceremonies of the 2022 annual training. Jerome's wife Karen was present and received a plaque establishing the scholarship. The first recipient was Florida State Fire Marshall Joe Pietrafrasa

Thank you ATFAR members! Due to your generosity during Rendezvous 2022—The Jerome F. Gant Public Service Scholarship has been funded into perpetuity.

For more information or to contribute to the Jerome F Gant Public Service Scholarship visit [ATFAR.org](http://ATFAR.org)



## Thank YouThank You

We would like to thank those of you that have made generous donations to ATFAR for the RENDEZVOUS door prizes, auction and raffles. Your generosity allows us to have a little fun during the Rendezvous and raise a little money to help offset the cost.

Special Thanks go out to:

Mike and Freddie Angel for your wonderful donations of the laser engraved furniture.

Billy and Marie Blair for your most excellent wild honey.

William Dekoff of Whiskey Delta Watches for your beautiful Series Achilles watch.

John Nicolai—the ATFAR engraved bottle openers and cork screws.

## TO DO LIST.....

**REGISTER FOR RENDEZVOUS  
IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA**

**MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN  
HUNTSVILLE , ALABAMA**

**BRING ITEMS FOR AUCTION**

**WRITE A STORY FOR ATFAR**

**PAY YOUR DUES**

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT  
ATFAR**

**HAVE A GREAT DAY!**

Executive Director  
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WE SURE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT  
RENDEZVOUS 2023  
IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

WE WILL HAVE FUN  
WE WILL HAVE FELLOWSHIP  
WE WILL MAKE MEMORIES  
WE WILL MISS YOU IF YOU DON'T COME



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correspondence to:

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BOX 547**

**Mountain Home TN 37684**

Please check to see if you are current on your ATFAR  
dues. Thank You