

Hello. I would like to take a moment to introduce...

Firefighter/Artist Allan Albaitis

And the leader in high quality fire/rescue collectible artwork...

FireArt ...based on over a quarter of a century
in the trenches of American Fire & Rescue



Allan Albaitis is not simply an artist who has chosen firefighting as his subject matter. He is a **decorated veteran combat firefighter** who creates art inspired by his profession.

Since 1982, Albaitis has been a firefighter with Las Vegas Fire & Rescue. His professional achievements include 1989 and 1999 nominations and 2000 finalist for the distinguished **Firefighter of the Year Award**. In 1997, along with his crew from Engine Company #6 and Rescue 3, he received a **Unit Citation of Valor and Special Congressional Recognition** for Heroism and Valor "above and beyond the call of duty" for a dramatic structure fire rescue of a trapped and clinically dead Las Vegas woman. She recovered fully and returned home within two weeks.

Albaitis' many design achievements include the official **State of Nevada, Department of Motor Vehicles, Professional Firefighter License Plate**, the LVFR's Limited Edition **50th Anniversary Badge**, and the globally recognized "**Card Patch**" that has graced the shoulders of all uniformed LVFR personnel for many years.

In 1995 Albaitis burst onto the scene of emerging artists with the **series** of prints entitled **NO GREATER LOVE**. Among others, the collection includes the powerful **Return to Glory**, the thunderous **Guardians**, the spectacular **Millennium Challenge**, the wall-of-fire heart-stopper **Earth Angels**, the long-awaited **Guardians II - Sunrise**, and the magnificent pair of paintings **American Grace and Some Gave All**, his personal tributes to the sacrifices of 9/11. Collectors as far away as Sweden, Ireland, Germany, and the Virgin Islands have purchased Albaitis' work.

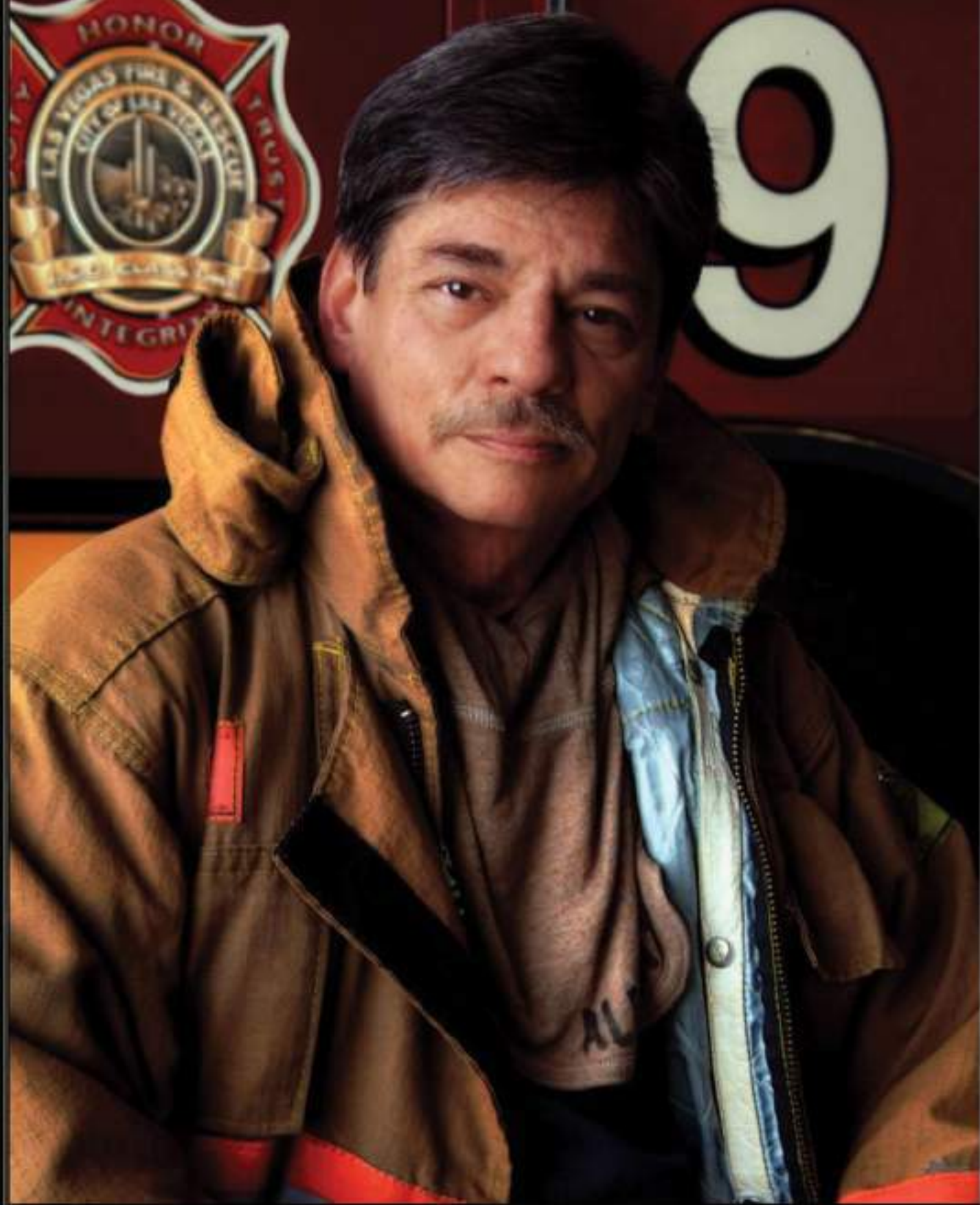
In 2003 the work of firefighter Albaitis caught the eye of the world-renowned **Bradford Exchange**. The first undertaking was a three-plate addition to a series entitled **Visions of Valor**. A second project **Maltese Cross: Badge of Bravery** debuted in early 2006. The most recent Bradford projects include a Maltese Cross collectible clock and an incredible motorcycle model embracing the fiery theme of his "**Bad To The Bone**" poster.

Beginning in February of 2004, and continuing with each season, the FX Network requested and was granted permission to use prints of the art of Firefighter Albaitis as part of the firehouse set on the drama/comedy series, **Rescue Me**. For his contribution, Allan received a personal thank you from Mr. **Dennis Leary**, the show's producer and lead actor.

Gallery quality reproductions of Mr. Albaitis' artwork are now available as signed and numbered limited editions (lithographs and giclées), as well as signed open edition giclées. Each stunning piece is technically superb, emotionally connected, and shot from the heart. The collection offers an intimate glimpse into the heroic world of the professional firefighter. With this body of work, the world of collectible fire and rescue artwork has been turned on its heels. Allan Albaitis' work transcends any art of this unique genre to date.



9



Firehouse®

Heroism and Community Service Awards

Honorable Mention

The Firehouse® Magazine Heroism & Community Service Awards program recognizes the following firefighters for their acts of heroism and community service:

Allan Albaitis, Las Vegas FD
George Anderson, Newark, NJ, FD
Anthony Branchcomb, San Francisco FD
Lawrence Brennan, Boston FD
Richard Cadotte, FDNY
Ralph Carlens, Metro-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami
Joseph Carlemagno, San Francisco FD
John Carney, L.I. MacArthur Airport FD
Matthew Danaher, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, MD, Rescue Squad
Don Daucher, North Patchogue, NY, FD
Joseph E. Duggan, Boston FD
Maria Figueroa-Rodriguez, Metro-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami
Joseph Finn, Boston FD
Frank Frasco, Menlo Park, CA, FD
Chad Gabriel, Columbus, OH, Div. of Fire
Rosendo Gonzalez, L.A. County FD
Tommy Grayson, Las Vegas FD

Jeffrey Hourie, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, MD, Rescue Squad
Cal Henrie, Las Vegas FD
Howard Hiltbrand, Route 377 VFD, Morehead, KY
Frank Jewett, Nyack, NY, FD
Raymond Krug, Buffalo, NY, FD
Don Kruschik, Edwardsville, IL, Fire Co. 1
Charles Lanza, Metro-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami
William Lynch, Worcester, MA, FD
Greg Mays, Menlo Park, CA, FD
Eddie McCleese, Route 377 VFD, Morehead, KY
Timothy Moore, Columbus, OH, Div. of Fire
William Mariarty, Rochester, NY, FD
Donald Miller, Boston FD
Michael Nix, Rochester, NY, FD
Al Pasha, FDNY
Matthew Piccione, Rockaway Point, NY, VFD
Agnes Rodmond, Rockaway Point, NY, VFD
Mark Robles, Las Vegas FD

Jeffrey Shaw, Columbus, OH, Div. of Fire
William Smith, Columbus, OH, Div. of Fire
Richard Tanner, Memphis, TN, FD
Julian Tavelaris, Occochee, NY, FD
Tim Taylor, Clayton County, GA, FD
Ken Teeters Jr., Las Vegas FD
Ryan Tomassone, L.I. MacArthur Airport FD
Lawrence Tucker, Indianapolis FD
Robert Ventura, Wallington, NJ, FD
John Voelker, San Francisco FD
Tommie Williams, Metro-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami
Gerard Yanovitch, Boston FD

UNIT CITATIONS

Boston Fire Dept. - Engine 42, Rescue 2
Boston Fire Dept. - Engine 50, Tower 1, Ladder 1
Boston Fire Dept. - Ladder 15, Ladder 26
Cutchogue, NY, Fire Dept. - Boat Crew
Memphis, TN, Fire Dept. - Engine 16-C, Squad 6-C
Occochee, NY, Fire Dept. - Ladder 2442

Firehouse/April 1998

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Engine Co. # 6/Paramedic Rescue #3



Captain Cal Henrie
FF Allan Albaitis
FF Ken Teeters
Paramedic Tommy Grayson
Paramedic Mark Robles

In the early morning hours of April 22, 1997, firefighters and paramedics from Las Vegas Fire Department Engine Company 6 and Rescue Company 3 were called to the scene of an apartment fire. A young woman had already jumped from an upper unit and the firefighters were told an elderly woman was still in one of the burning apartments.

The firefighters had to fight their way through the flames, crawling to the back of the apartment to retrieve the lifeless body of the trapped woman. Fighting their way back through the inferno, extinguishing the flames as they went, firefighters delivered the woman to safety. Paramedics began resuscitating the woman while firefighters returned to battle the blaze.

Special Congressional Recognition

awarded to

Allan Albaitis

For Heroism and Valor
Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



November 12, 1997
Date

John E. Condy
John E. Condy
Member of Congress

FireArt, Inc. - A Dream Evolves

It's been a long and winding road from my first idea to create firefighter artwork over a decade ago, to now. However, my personal hard work is only a part of what it has taken to launch FireArt, Inc.

In 1994 I created the first FireArt piece, Pullbox (very soon to be made available again.) Actually, it was my final exam for an illustration class I was taking at the behest of Fire Engineer, Randy Marsh (also a climbing guide and excellent photog). In November of that year, I was asked if I had a piece that I could donate to the Festival of Trees and Lights, a holiday season Downs Syndrome charity fund raiser. I matted and framed Pullbox. Several firefighters were present when I gave it to Pat McAllister, one of the coordinators of the event and the wife of Fire Captain Jim (Jaws) McAllister, an academy classmate. A few asked if it would be possible to get a copy of Pullbox. Chief Bill Whealan, another academy classmate, suggested that if I were to sign and number them he would also buy one. FireArt was born.

The beginning of FireArt was humble to be sure. There was only myself and then girlfriend, Isa. She believed in me probably more than I did. Her spirit and sense of prosperity (as well as her excellent bookkeeping) was an essential part of the project. I was working in my 500 sq. ft. apartment selling mostly to other guys on my department. Now, eleven years and over twenty published prints, (and several lucrative licensing contracts) later, it has grown into a business, which relies on the input and assistance of many others. From marketing and advertising agencies, publishers, gallery owners, printers, suppliers, advertisers, software designers, attorneys and legal consultants, web designers, accountants and bookkeepers, to computer techs, public relations consultants, media liaisons, sales and distribution people, packaging and production personnel, ground & air freight companies and message/answering services as well as the brotherly help and support of my fellow firefighters and administrative personnel of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, the list is long.

Special thanks also go out to retired Firefighter/Paramedic Larry Wrangham, Captain Frank Muñoz, retired Firefighter David Helton, Captain David Arenaz, Captain Mark Fleischmann, Captain Dean Fletcher, Captain Rusty McAllister, Captain Angelo Aragon, PIO Tim Szymanski, Deputy Chief Jeffery Morgan and Former LVFR Fire Chief Mario Treviño. I thank the officers and members of the LVFBA, the IAFF (local and national), former General President Al Whitehead and Local 1285 for believing in FireArt.

Without the thousands of people who now have my work hanging on their walls there would be no story to tell. I can't express my degree of appreciation. My promise is to strive to make each new painting worthy of such honor. Hang in there folks. There are many more works to come.

Without the hard work of my immediate staff I would have orders strewn about like confetti and prints would be falling out of every available door and window. Much thanks goes out to my brother-in-law and Office Manager, Michael Ricigliano who keeps the insanity at a minimum and puts out those "other" fires that, at times, have me on the threshold of a primal scream. My (now) wife, Isa January-Albaitis, who has managed the FireArt database since the beginning. (and has had to endure an obsessive/compulsive, manic/depressive, hyper-critic perfectionist in the throes of pentagenarian decline, depression and desperation) Shipping Coordinator Meghan Curtis and Customer Service Mgr. Diana Walther. Former FireArt crewmembers include Melody Helmick, Chuck Loitz, Firefighter/Paramedic Carl Combado, and Firefighter Kelly Doran. I can't omit our super-cool UPS driver, Joel Topping who has gone out of his way many times to make sure that the orders get out. If these folks can handle my elation/despair roller-coaster (artists can be like that) they can handle anything. Thanks, everybody. You're the best.

Last but certainly not least of the mortal beings, my family has been there for never-ending moral support. To my father Alex, my mother Olga, my son Aris who has been updating the website, and again my wife Isa, thank you all. I couldn't have done it without you.

And, of course, I thank the Old Master Painter himself for all the blessings that have turned FireArt from a dream into a reality.

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

FIRE FIGHTER

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®
AFL-CIO, CLC

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1998
VOL. 81, NO. 5

Fire Fighter/Artist Captures Essence of Proud Profession

Sometimes it takes the intimate knowledge of a fire fighter to capture the harsh reality and the rewards of the profession. A Las Vegas Local 1285 member has done just that.

On June 25, 1998, during the IAFF Western Regional Conference in Reno, NV, IAFF member Allan Albaitis made a special presentation of one of his unique works of art to General President Al Whitehead.

Albaitis gave Whitehead a copy of his newest print, "Guardians." It is the latest of a collection of fire fighter artwork in a series the artist has entitled, "No Greater Love... a tribute to the American Firefighter." Albaitis has been a fire fighter in Las Vegas since 1982.

His artwork can be seen at www.fireart.com, and can be ordered toll free at 1-877-ALBAITIS (1-877-252-2484).



Detail from the latest work by Allan Albaitis. The piece, entitled "Guardians," is available by phone or the Internet.

This is the article that appeared in the Sept.- Oct. 1998 IAFF Newsletter. "Guardians" was my first self-published piece and the beginning of FireArt on a national scale.



Tech Report

08/03/99 - Updated 10:09 AM ET

Small businesses flock to Net

By Bill Meyers, USA TODAY

The electronic commerce revolution is spreading like wildfire at the grass-roots level.

A new study shows that 1.2 million small businesses with fewer than 100 employees had Web pages at the end of 1998, more than twice the number in 1997.

The fast-rising figure is expected to nearly double in 1999 to 2.1 million small companies, according to Ray Boggs of IDC, a market research firm based in Framingham, Mass.

A second report, just released by Bank One, reveals that about 20% of small businesses with 10 or fewer employees now have Web sites.

"If you own a small company and you're not on line or planning to be on line within the next six months," says Jane Applegate, a small-business expert, "you're heading toward obsolescence and you'll ultimately go out of business."

Small companies have embraced e-commerce because setting up a Web site is now so inexpensive and easy. ImageCafe.com, a cyberstore stocked with hundreds of elegant Web site designs, lets small firms customize, register and launch home pages for \$300 to \$700.

And IBM's Home Page Creator helps businesses catalog 500 items for sale and conduct secure credit card transactions for as little as \$29.95 a month.

"This is a terrific way to get into business," says Keenie McDonald, vice president of small and midsize business services at IBM. "You now have the ability to create a virtual storefront, but you don't have to plow hundreds of thousands of dollars into brick and mortar."

Experts agree that the key to online sales success for small firms is keeping it simple.

"The more focused your small-business Web site is, the more effective you'll be on line," says John Robb, president of Gomez Advisors, a consumer e-commerce market research firm. "You need to be in a niche product area."

Adds Joan Keller, co-owner of Le Travel Store in San Diego, which sells wheeled luggage that turns into a back pack and generates about 45% of its revenue on line: "Web pages have to be designed so search engines can easily find you."

Allan Albaitis wouldn't dispute that. A 17-year veteran of the Las Vegas Fire Department, Albaitis has painted all his life. Combining work and hobby, he set up a unique Web site that sells fire engine art last year. Since then, online sales have exceeded \$100,000.

Entrepreneurs also are using advertising to drive business to their new Web sites.

Rosemary Zraly, whose Champagnelady.com site offers visitors a taste of the bubbly, has spent \$3,000 on ads.

"The goal," says Zraly, who has had 4,000 customers since March, "is to create a buzz."

A FIERY SUCCESS STORY

Firefighter Allan Albaitis and his company, FireArt, which markets reproductions of his spectacular paintings, ride the giant wave of technology into the new millennium in style.

"The FireArt website had been operational for just over a year when I was contacted by **Authorize.Net**, the company who handles the transaction particulars of FireArt's e-commerce. Although it's only a few lines in a larger article, it is exciting to have caught the attention of such a prestigious publication," Albaitis states proudly.

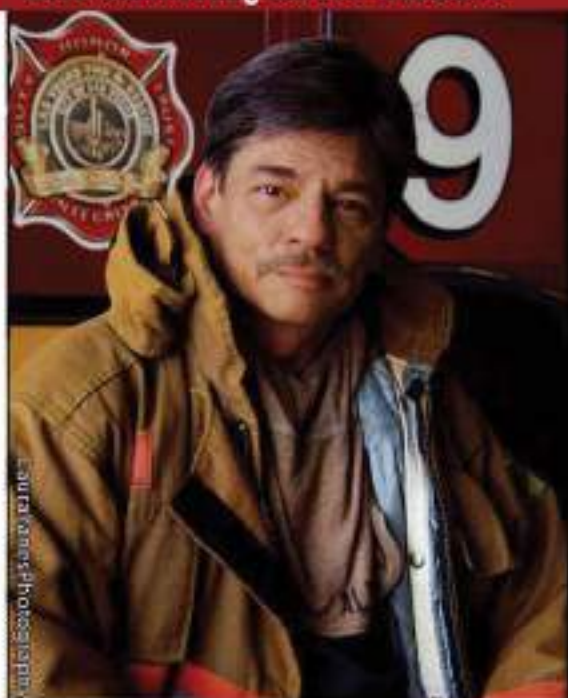
The internet was the new main-street and dot coms in a few short years grew at an exponential rate.

Like nearly all businesses in the year 2000, FireArt was at the mercy of the toppling of the tech tower which caused many dot coms to fold. But not FireArt. On the contrary, at the behest of the publisher of Firehouse Magazine, the undisputed king of the Fire & Rescue trade publications, Albaitis created the cover of the Millennium issue and became a part of the highly admired culture's history.

With an expected seven years left of a slated 25 year tour of duty, Allan has stated that he will be working on the business basics until retirement. After that, the world of Fire & Rescue had better brace for a quantum leap from FireArt.

It is obvious that we have seen just the very beginnings of something grand. Any unexploited niche is the holy grail of the entrepreneurial world. And this one is owned lock, stock and barrel by firefighter Allan Albaitis and FireArt.

Life Imitating Art... FireArt



Las Vegas' No. 1 Firefighter hangs up his helmet after 25 years of service. At 60, entrepreneur and artist Allan Albaitis turns from fighting fires to painting them.

To quickly explain, "Number One" refers to the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue training number, similar to a badge number, assigned to Firefighter Allan Albaitis when the digital system was implemented nearly 25 years ago. And now after as many years of service, he has also moved into the coveted "Number One" firefighter seniority slot. He says it really doesn't mean anything but his Nevada Professional Firefighter license plate (which, incidentally, he designed) reads simply, "ONE".

Honorably discharged from the military in 1969, and after years of travel with dead-end bar hands Allan arrived at the eventual conclusion that a change was needed.

A self-confessed adrenaline junky, Allan knew that wherever the change would take him, it had to be close to the edge. For him, the cliché anthem of the pedal to the metal Baby Boomers, "Born To Be Wild", wasn't so much a theme song as a statement of obvious truth. "For 15 years, my only transportation was my Harley", he states matter of factly. His fellow rescuers saw him not so much as a firefighter who also rode a Harley but as a biker who was also a firefighter. (He still rides the Harley he has had for over thirty years.) During this period, the late 70's, a TV show that caught his interest was the Jack Webb creation, "Emergency". It featured the exploits of Johnny Gage and Roy DeSoto of Los Angeles County Fire Dept. and revealed that there was adrenaline aplenty in Fire & Rescue. These were the formative years of the Paramedic program and for Allan, a foreshadowing of his future. His first emergency response was in 1977 and began nearly five years as a medic with Mercy Ambulance, a private company, now AMR. On January 18, 1982 he rode his Harley to his first day on the job as a professional firefighter with the Las Vegas Fire Dept. He had arrived... at the edge.

His art, however, was never far from his side. In the late 70's and early 80's, he cranked out a monthly cartoon strip called "Frank & Ziggy" for a 4-state motorcycle magazine. There were always calls from the guys at other fire stations with a situation that demanded an Albaitis cartoon. There is no shortage of material for "gotcha" cartoons in any firehouse. The "toons" evolved eventually becoming FireArt by Albaitis and now FireArt Inc. In 1995, Albaitis' first national release "Return To Glory" was unveiled. In 1997, FireArt published "Guardians" which features the spirits of long-gone old timers in a flashing thunderhead assisting their counterparts below in dousing a house fire. The edition of 2500 prints sold out through his website, fireart.com, in 2002.

Like "Guardians", many of his paintings have hidden or ambiguous images. For instance, his "American Grace", a tribute to the responders of September 11th, seems to center on the image of an American Flag. Actually, the "flag" is a clever arrangement of a firefighter's pike pole, the light and shadow play on the long vertical beams of the towers, and the lights of a tall building in the distance creating a convincing illusion. "If there is an underlying theme or philosophy to my work it is simply, look again. As with all things in life, there's more than what meets the eye," he says. "Look deeper and more shall be revealed."

"American Grace" and several other FireArt paintings caught the attention of the world-renowned Bradford Exchange in 2003. The most recent of the Bradford projects is an exceptional item entitled, "Maltese Cross: Badge of Bravery" which is providing some of the exposure necessary for his niche artwork. The next phase of FireArt now that Albaitis has retired from combat firefighting will include additional collaborations with the Bradford Exchange.

"The day I hung up my gear for the last time was one of mixed emotions to be sure", Albaitis says. "No doubt, I will miss the esprit de corps, but the camaraderie that develops through time and shared experience of such intensity doesn't disappear upon retirement. And of course, through my art I will always stay in touch with those very special men and women. Fire and Rescue has defined more than half of my life. Retirement will be a new chapter, but it's the same great book."

FireArt at work in the State of Nevada and Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

Over the course of my career with Las Vegas and Rescue, I have been chosen on several occasions to design items which have since become City and State Fire/Rescue Icons.



State of Nevada Dept. of Motor Vehicles
Professional Firefighter's License Plate



These "unofficial" station patches still pop up from time to time.



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE

On August's Cover:

The Cover Of Firehouse

Albaitis is the only firefighter ever to have his artwork as the cover of this, the number one International Fire/Rescue Magazine.

In celebration of our special Millennium Issue, we asked Las Vegas firefighter and noted artist Allan Albaitis to develop a work of art for the cover depicting the fire/EMS/rescue service in the year 2025. Truly out of this world!

A Perfect Venue:

The Office Of Chief Pratt

My name is Merritt Pratt and I am the Fire Chief for NASA-JSC White Sands Test Facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

We are entering a new era of flight hardware testing at our facility that has seen Apollo and Lunar Landers, and now work for the International Space Station. I look forward to obtaining a copy of Millennium Challenge to hang prominently in our station here at WSTF.

A sincere, thank you from all of us here for capturing the firefighters "spirit" in your work.

NASA
Fire Chief

PROUD OWNER OF
FIREART PAINTING



Merritt L. Pratt, Fire Chief
NASA White Sands Test Facility

VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

NEVADA'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE NEWSPAPER

A Daily Newspaper

Street Edition



Jim Larkin/Review-Journal

A fire at Haycock Distributing Co. Inc., 715 W. Bonanza Road.

rtega

Nicaraguan leader... the United States... elections... are in jeopardy...

The painting, "ThunderBall" (opposite page) was created by firefighter Albaitis using only these two newspaper photos as reference. Less than one minute later, the tanker detonated in a 50 foot ball of fire and freight train shockwave. Detail from painting below left.

es shoot skyward



Las Vegas firefighters Alan Albaitis, left, and James Thomson battle a gasoline tanker truck fire Wednesday morning at Haycock Distributing Co. Inc., 715 W. Bonanza Road. See story, Page 1E.

McKay says state can reject dump

The attorney general claims state laws prohibit a remedy from being...



Air Force calls Stealth bomber detectable

The state-of-the-art plane still can elude attacks by ground-based missiles and aircraft, a new report says.

INSIDE

House approves minimum wage boost

The House voted overwhelmingly to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$3.35 to \$4.25 by April 1991 and create a new, lower wage for teenagers with less than six months work experience.

Page 3A

Robinson named manager of year

Frank Robinson was a great player who is working on becoming a terrific manager, too. Robinson's managerial skills were recognized on Wednesday when he was selected the American League Manager of the Year.

Page 1E

Oxygenated fuel debuts in county

Wednesday was officially the first day Clark County gasoline station operators were required to offer nothing but oxygenated, anti-knocking gasoline. Residents of Las Vegas were treated.

Page 1B

Minami Tower clears another hurdle

The proposed Minami Tower cleared another hurdle Wednesday when the Las Vegas City Council accepted a feasibility study recommending the city take on the tower's construction as a redevelopment project.

Page 1D

Fetal research ban extended

A top federal health official said Wednesday he intends to extend indefinitely the current ban on federal money for fetal tissue research because "such tests were successful, we'd have more abortions."

Page 3A

Temperature trends

Red boxes show highs and lows for the week; blue boxes show highs and lows for the month.



David B. ...



BETWEEN THE FIRE AND THE ART

THE MAKING OF

AMERICAN GRACE



1. FIRST ROUGH SKETCHES WERE IN MID FEBRUARY OF 2002.

2. SOMETIME IN MAY I DECIDED TO USE THREE FIREFIGHTERS.

3. THIS DRAWING WAS THE BASIS OF THE WORK FOR OVER 60 DAYS. THEN, IN MID JUNE I DECIDED THAT I COULDN'T USE MY NON-REFERENCED FIREFIGHTERS.

4. NORMAN ROCKWELL WOULD, AT THE LAST MINUTE, CHANGE MODELS OR RE-SHOOT REFERENCE PHOTOS. ME TOO. AT 8PM JUNE 26, 2002 I BECAME THE MODEL. 82 PHOTOS LATER I WAS READY TO REDRAW THE "SUBJECTS."



5. ONCE I HAD THIS FOREGROUND ELEMENT DRAWN I KNEW THE WORST WAS OVER. THE DESIGN WAS THERE. IT WAS NOW ALL UP TO THE COLORS AND TEXTURES. IT WAS THE 4TH OF JULY AND THE CLOCK WAS TICKING.

6. I WAS JUST STARTING ON THE FIREFIGHTER ON THE LEFT. IT WAS JULY 20 AND I HAD TO CALL TO CANCEL MY VACATION. GETTING THIS DONE IN TIME FOR THE IAFF CONVENTION WAS GOING TO BE A CHALLENGE.

7. UNBELIEVABLE! FINISHED AND FRAMED WITH A DAY TO SPARE. AGAIN, MY GUARDIANS WERE WITH ME. THIS IS ONE FOR THE AGES. IT IS AUGUST 10, 2002 AND IN THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF MICHELANGELO, AFTER HE PAINTED THAT COOL CEILING,

"THIS SUCKER IS DONE!"



FireArt as remembrance for ages

I do not charge for the licensing of my artwork when used for private, non-commercial posthumous endearments. The next pages are a few such examples.

This wasn't the first such request for usage of one of my FireArt images, but it is certainly the most elaborate application. "Nip" told his son, also a firefighter, that he would like "Earth Angels" on his headstone. When I was contacted for permission I told him I would be honored. And now, there he is.

Rest in peace, Nip.
We'll be along soon.

Alan Albatis



FireArt In San Diego

A CLASSIC IS ETCHED IN GRANITE FOR COURTYARD CENTERPIECE.

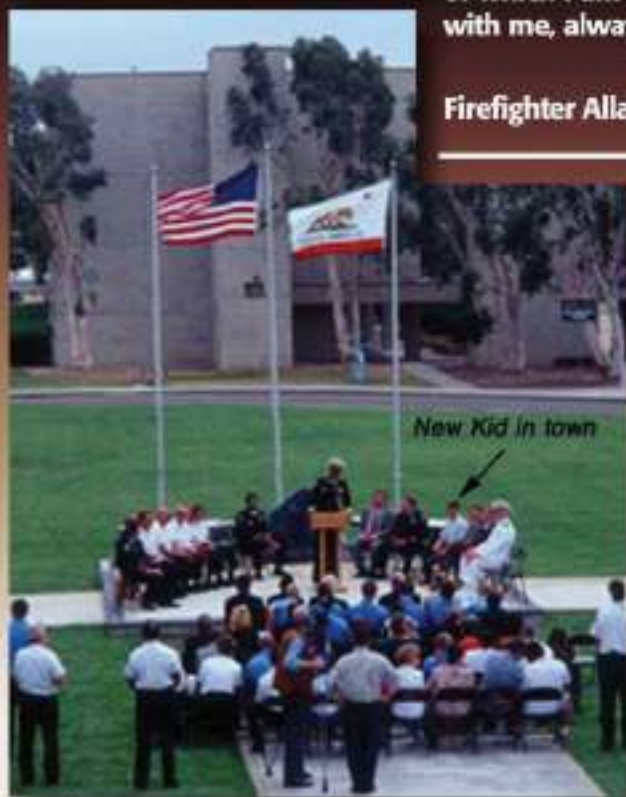


In 1999 an email from Chief Steven Bowlin of the San Diego Fire Dept. explained that the department was building a new memorial courtyard and that the centerpiece was to be a black granite monument featuring a laser etched firefighting scene. They were looking for a painting that had a spiritual tone to it, and still a down-to-earth combat firefighting theme. He then said, "With your permission, we would like to use your painting, "Guardians."

Bearing in mind that this courtyard is where many of the graduations, presentations and ceremonies will take place, I was especially honored.

Of course, nothing is forever but this stately memorial will be around far beyond my time. It was and is a thing of which I am very proud and a memory that I will have with me, always.

Firefighter Allan Albaitis



FIREART®

AS SEEN ON
the FX Network's

RESCUE ME



Thermal Eclipse



Tougher Than Hell



*I received a personally
signed photograph from
Dennis Leary
(Firefighter Tommy Gavin)*

CHARITIES

Donating either existing artwork, time, or on occasion, designing work for specific institutions, FireArt will always contribute to a legitimate group or cause. Clockwise:

- ★ FFSN Burn Foundation has used Allan's illustration since 2000. During fundraisers you will see this on huge banners on the LVFR engines, rescues and truck companies.
- ★ The Las Vegas Senior Law Project has often featured FireArt prints at silent auctions.
- ★ This 60" x 40", framed American Grace was Allan's personal print. During the Labor Day Boot Drive after 911 he removed it from his living room wall and gave it to the MDA to be auctioned during the Telethon.
- ★ The association between firefighters and the MDA is legendary and Chins Humanitarian Award is a high profile testimony to that fact. The framed print in this photo is "Earth Angels" which was the basis for the "Standing Strong" poster, below.

FIREFIGHTERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
BURN



FOUNDATION



MDA

STANDING STRONG...



...for
THOSE WHO CAN'T

© 2007 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS



FireArt is popular choice on skin

FOR THOUSANDS OF FIREFIGHTER TATTOOS



Editor's Note: The inspiration for this tattoo is from a painting by the remarkable artist, & firefighter, Alan Albatis. The painting is entitled 'Guardians of - Sunrise' to purchase a print visit Alan's site at FireArt.com.

John Longmire

Country: United States

State: Florida

Fire Dept: AFD

Year Started in Fire Service: 1999

Rank: Lieutenant

Description: This picture was in the time frame of was born. I liked the old timers up in the clouds ice fighters and backing them up with hose lines from 1 took 50 plus hours and about a year and 3 months

Tattoo Location: Full back

Year Inked: 2006-2007

Studio: *Miss Heidi's Tattoo*

Artist: Miss Heidi



StrikeTheBox.com

StrikeTheBox.com



StrikeTheBox.com

StrikeTheBox.com

StrikeTheBox.com

check out "StrikeTheBox.com"

and you will find dozens of tattoos of Albaitis' work which is only a small percentage of the skin art of his work that actually is out there.

FIREART ADORNS AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS IN IRAQ

June 2, 2008

Firefighter Alkaitis,
I am an American Firefighter working for a contractor in support of our troops in Baghdad. I can not tell you too much in detail except we do have 5 fire stations in direct support of our troops. Since I've been here I have noticed one of your many posters on the main fire station/HQ hallway walls, "Bad to the Bone". We currently have our own patch but thought of a way to reinvigorate life back into these heroic firefighting men and women. So I am asking for the possibility to take your Bad to the Bone painting and make a Tee-Shirt or a patch or even better both. A coin will go over fistballs here in wall anyway, let me know what we can or can't do.

Thank You
Monke Congdon
Fire Crew Chief



Allan Albaitis
Firefighter/Artist

Monke

June 4, 2008

I am flattered and honored that you would consider my artwork for your patch/shirts, etc. I like that one myself. This is usually a licensing issue but since it's my work and copyright I decide who I can give it to. Therefore, you have my permission to use it.

To remain legal, it can ONLY be used for the (3) stated purposes in your email and as described in the attached licensing/permission form which states the specific limitations on number as well.

Rock on, Brother. Send me pics and a couple of patches and I'll when done.

Stay cool, Stay low, Stay safe.
Allan Albaitis



NOTE: THESE DESIGNS ARE FIRST LEVEL ILLUSTRATIONS FOR REVIEW AND CRITIQUE ONLY. THEY ARE THE COPYRIGHTED CONCEPTS OF ALLAN ALBAITIS AND ARE NOT OFFICIAL IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

FIREARTIS...



Jim Leslie/Review-Job
A fire at Haycock Distributing Co. Inc., 715 W. Bonanza Road.



Flames shoot skyward



...BEING THERE!

Las Vegas firefighters Alan Attala, left, and Eric Thurnston battle a gasoline tanker truck fire Wednesday morning at Haycock Distributing Co. Inc., 715 W. Bonanza Road. See story, Page 15.



NORTH LAS VEGAS

JULY 4, 2007

FIRE TO ART

Firefighter retires from his job at the station, pursues art

By BEVERLY BRYAN

VIEW STAFF WRITER

Firefighter Allan Albaitis found himself surrounded by friends, fellow firefighters and fans at his retirement celebration July 2 at Las Vegas Fire Station No. 9, 4747 N. Rainbow Blvd.

Some, like Jerry Jones, knew him as someone they could depend on over years of navigating burning buildings together.

During the 1992 Rodney King riots, Albaitis rescued Jones from a collapsing building. Albaitis was freelancing, or flouting procedure, when he went back into the building, but Jones survived, albeit with two broken legs, because of Albaitis'

mettle.

Jones has been retired seven years but came down to the station to congratulate his old comrade.

Captain Chris Brewer said of Albaitis: "He's the kind of guy, you feel better if he's on the scene, because he's seen so much. It's hard to surprise a guy like this."

Members of the same platoon, Brewer and Albaitis have been on many fires together. Brewer said Albaitis made him proud to be a firefighter.

Other well-wishers, Albaitis said, knew him mainly through the painstakingly detailed portraits of firefighters at work he created during

▶ SEE ALBAITIS PAGE 12AA



MARLENE KARAS/VIEW

Las Vegas firefighter Allan Albaitis, right, of Las Vegas Fire Station No. 9 looks through a scrapbook of his artwork at his retirement party on July 2. Albaitis paints his prints digitally.

Page 12AA • Tuesday, July 24, 2007

a

View

▶ ALBAITIS: Art depicts the full range of situations firefighters encounter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

his 24-year career.

The artist completes his paintings digitally and sells them as signed giclée prints or limited edition lithographs under his own imprint FireArt, Inc. The prints depict the full range of situations fire and rescue workers encounter.

"The Fog of War" is a tribute to firefighters who battle wildfires. In "Santa Ana," commemorating the 2003 Cedar wildfire in San Diego County, two firemen cut their way into a burning house surrounded by tall pines. And "American Grace" shows three New York firefighters containing the all-too-recognizable rubble of the World Trade Center.

There is even one print, initially commissioned for the cover of the August 1999 issue of Firehouse Magazine, which shows teams of firefighters in space craft flying to the aid of a burning space station.

Albaitis went to New York for four days with a group of Las Vegas firefighters to cover the shifts of New York firefighters who needed leave to attend funeral services in the October following the destruction of the World Trade Center. But he said he didn't begin work on "American Grace" until a year later, in part, at the urging of others. He said he waited deliberately.

"I didn't want to accidentally

make a nickel on that horrible thing," Albaitis said.

A series of his works, "Visions of Valor," have been released on plates by the Bradford Exchange. The company released a second series, framed by a Maltese cross, in a piece called "Badge of Bravery."

Battalion chief, Diane Moyne, has known Albaitis for 22 years and said it was five years before she knew he was an artist.

But, "he was always one to stretch out an idea," she said. Moyne pointed out, "very few people see a firefighter their whole career," making his achievement as a firefighter as impressive as his artistic contributions.

Albaitis received special congressional recognition with his unit "for heroism and valor above and beyond the call of duty" in the rescue of a 62-year-old woman from a building fire.

Albaitis also underwent training to help counsel other firefighters who had gone through a traumatic fire or lost a close co-worker on the job. He sometimes went to the scene of a fire to help a professional counselor immediately after a deadly accident. He said it was often easier for one firefighter to open up to another.

"It was a little bit hard for me to do," he said.

Albaitis designed a number of things for the Las Vegas Fire

Department while he worked there, including the badge commemorating its 50th year, which he wore on his uniform on the day of his retirement.

His own experiences and the experiences of the other firefighters nearest him serve as his continual inspiration. Many of the models for his dramatic images of heroic firefighters have been the men and women he's worked beside. Some of the images, such as "Thunderball," which depicts the 1989 fire at the Haycock Petroleum distributing facility, were inspired by newspaper photographs. Albaitis can be seen in the foreground of the print as he appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal news photo.

The idea for one of his pieces came from another firefighter, Sheri-Lee Bass, who persuaded him to make a print depicting firefighters from days gone atop a rain cloud, spraying protective rain from their hoses down on a blaze attended by firefighters of today. The finished print, "Guardians," quickly became a best-seller.

A painting like "Guardians" starts out as a pencil sketch and usually goes through several versions before Albaitis scans it digitally and begins to work on it in Photoshop.

He started using computers to complete his pieces reluctantly in 1994 when he took a course on computer design programs with another firefighter.

"I said, 'I'm an artist, man, I



MARLENE KARAS/VIEW

Artwork of firefighter Allan Albaitis is displayed at his July 2 party. He said he plans to continue his artwork now that he is retired.

don't touch that stuff," Albaitis said. He quickly changed his tune when he saw what the illustration programs allowed him to do.

Born in Muskegon, Mich., Albaitis studied art in college but never graduated. He played the drums in rock bands for a time, opening up for unknown acts — some of which went on to be known as The Silver Bullet Band, Rare Earth and Grand Funk Railroad. A wrist injury sustained in fire curtails his drumming, but he does hope to play drums in the fire department honor guard now that he's retired. He said his drumming brought

him to Las Vegas.

"I thought I was going to make the big time," he said.

Instead he became an emergency medical technician and, in 1982, a firefighter. He became a firefighter, he said, because he wanted a job with more of a future but also because he "wanted to do more."

The new retiree will stay in Las Vegas for now but said he dreams of moving to Aspen, Colo. In the meantime, Albaitis is working toward opening a small gallery and studio to pursue art full-time.

More information on Albaitis' work is available at www.fireart.com.

ALLAN ALBAITIS

Fire becomes art

Former Las Vegas firefighter finds second career detailing blazes on screen

By BEVERLY BRYAN

VIEW STAFF WRITER

Firefighter Allan Albaitis found himself surrounded by friends, fellow firefighters and fans at his retirement celebration July 2 at Las Vegas Fire Station No. 9, 4747 N. Rainbow Blvd.

Capt. Chris Brewer said of Albaitis: "He's the kind of guy, you feel better if he's on the scene, because he's seen so much. It's hard to surprise a guy like this."



Members of the same platoon, Brewer and Albaitis, have battled many

fires together. Brewer said Albaitis made him proud to be a firefighter.

Other well-wishers, Albaitis said, knew him mainly through the painstakingly detailed portraits of firefighters at work he created during his 25-year career.

The artist completes his paintings digitally and sells them as signed giclée prints or limited edition lithographs under his own imprint FireArt, Inc. The



prints depict the full range of situations fire and rescue workers encounter.

In "Santa Ana," com-



MARLENE KARAS/VIEW

Retired Las Vegas firefighter Allan Albaitis produces his artwork by drawing preliminary sketches on paper. Below, Albaitis designed the artwork represented on the state's firefighter license plate.

memorating the 2003 Cedar wildfire in San Diego County, two firemen cut their way into a burning house surrounded by tall pines. And "American Grace" shows three New York firefighters confronting the rubble of the World Trade Center.

Albaitis went to New York for four days with a group of Las Vegas firefighters to attend funeral services for New York firefighters in October following the destruction of the World Trade Center. At the urging of others, he began work on "American Grace" a year later.

"I didn't want to accidentally make a nickel on that horrible thing," Albaitis said.

For the past five years, the 6-foot mural has been on tour with "World Memorial," a collection art and artifacts commemorating the attacks on the World Trade Center. This year, Albaitis got a call from New York saying the work had found a permanent home at a fire station near the site where the World Trade Center once stood. "World Memorial" had been on display at Battery Park.

Battalion Chief Diane Moyes has known Albaitis for 22 years and said it was five years before she knew he was an artist.

But, "he was always one to sketch out an idea," she said.

Albaitis designed a number of things for the Las Vegas Fire Department while he worked there, including



► FIRE: Former firefighter designed 50th anniversary badge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2AA

the badge commemorating its 50th year, which he wore on his uniform on the day of his retirement, and the Nevada firefighter plates.

A series of his works, "Visions of Valor," has been released on plates by the Bradford Exchange. The company released a second series, framed by a Maltese cross, as a piece called "Badge of Bravery."

His own experiences and the experiences of the other firefighters nearest him serve as his continual inspiration. Many of the models for his dramatic images of heroic firefighters have been the men and women he's worked beside. Some of the images, such as "Thunderball," which depicts the 1989 fire at the Haycock Petroleum distributing facility, were inspired by newspaper photographs. Albaitis can be seen in the foreground of the print as he appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal news

"He's the kind of guy, you feel better if he's on the scene, because he's seen so much. It's hard to surprise a guy like this."

CAPT. CHRIS BREWER
FIREFIGHTER, SPEAKING ABOUT
ALLAN ALBAITIS

photo.

A painting like "Thunderball" starts out as a pencil sketch and usually goes through several versions before Albaitis scans it digitally and begins to work on it in Photoshop.

In retirement, Albaitis can focus on making FireArt into a full time affair. He'd like to open his own studio gallery in Las Vegas one day, but he said that day may be a long way off. So far, as with any new business, it's been slow going. Right now, he is developing a business plan and putting together a media



MAPLE KARAN/VIEW

The artwork of retired Las Vegas firefighter Allan Albaitis hangs on a wall of his home. In addition to his framed pieces, Albaitis is working on a coffee table book of his images and a line of greeting cards.

kit with Derrick DeShazo, whose role in the project translates roughly to general manager. "He handles all the little things that come up, all the little fires," said Albaitis.

Since retiring, he has been approached by the FASNY Museum of Firefighting in Hudson, N.Y., about carrying some of his prints in their gift shop.

Meanwhile, Albaitis is working on a few gifts of his own, namely a coffee table book of his pieces, a

collection of short stories he wrote about his days as a firefighter and a set of greeting cards featuring his work.

"There's nothing for a firefighter who wants to send a card that has their thing," he said.

But Albaitis said he is focusing on the personalized "Moment of Truth" prints that show a firefighter entering a burning building. Albaitis created a series of templates so that "Moment of Truth" can be

printed with a particular firefighter's name and uniform illustrated down to the last detail. Albaitis said there are 200,000,000 possible permutations, which has taken him five years to complete.

The new retiree said he also is working toward a gallery show in the spring and would like to try a few sculptures and get back into oil painting, as well.

For more information on Albaitis' work, log on to www.fireart.com.



Allan Albaitis

Retired #1 - 2007

Thank You For 25 Years Of Dedicated Service

Your L.V.F.R. Family



Allan's work on a card.



Nevada Federal Credit Union (NFCU) of Las Vegas, Nev., recently teamed up with the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Foundation to provide Visa Gift Cards for use by needy residents.

"Our Foundation is working hard to raise funds for the firefighters to provide NFCU Visa Gift Cards to those in need in the Las Vegas valley. We are lucky to have such outstanding men and women serving as firefighters in our community, and are proud to be able to equip them with Visa Gift Cards for use by those in need," said Julie Murray, President, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Foundation. Firefighters and paramedics will give out the cards when they find residents in urgent need of food, milk, or other essentials.

In the summer of 2006 LVFR firefighter Allan Albalis was contacted by the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Foundation to procure the use of one of his many paintings as the basis for the card's design. His work can be seen on his website www.fireart.com