

HISTORY PAGE, CURTIS DADY—NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This month the Houston plumbing community is celebrating (lamenting?) the retirement of two of our prominent members, **Ken Borski** and **Robert Cross**. Both of these men have had significant impact on our industry and both will be missed.

Ken Borski retired earlier this month, from the City of Houston, as the Chief Plumbing Inspector. Ken's daughter in Coconut Grove (Miami), Florida had a baby (Brian) who is now 6 months old. Both parents work away from the house so Grandma Valerie (Ken's wife) had gone down to play nanny while they were away at work. Timing was good for Ken to retire, thus enabling Ken to follow her there.

Ken LOVES retirement! "Are you thinking of moving?" "My wife probably has but my deer lease and everything I like is in Texas".



Ken is a native Houstonian and graduated from St. Pius X High School. After attending college at Stephan F. Austin, Ken became involved in the local plumbing profession when he met his future wife, Valerie McGinty. Following the advice of her father and grandfather, who were both very active in Plumbers Local 68, Ken joined in 1980. Ken went on to serve on the apprenticeship committee for 25 years. Ken has also served as a member of the IAPMO Board of Directors and as President of the local chapters for both IAPMO and ASSE.

Carlos Flores is the interim Chief and has applied for Ken's position. Ken said it is not so clear as to who will replace Carlos. Carlos' contact information is: Carlos.Flores@houstontx.gov (832) 394-9284

Houston native **Robert Cross** studied 3 years of Construction Technology at U of H before joining the apprentice program at Local 68 in 1974. Dating a girl that later became his wife, he noticed that one of her neighbor's was an HVAC tech that got home late every day and then spent time reorganizing his truck. HOWEVER...the neighbor on the other side was a plumber that came home early, hooked up his boat and headed for Texas City to *wet a line*. The latter was appealing to young Robert so you might say he was....LURED into the trade!

During Robert's career he worked for Natkin and Keith Plumbing and Heating. Robert served on the board of ASSE International for 8 years and was the President during 2007. As early as 1979 Robert started teaching at Local 68 and became the Director of Training in 1995. Robert completed his college studies with a degree in Labor Education and History through the UA National Labor College.

Robert is a 46 year member of Plumbers Local 68 and has been an ASPE member since October of 1986. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Kathy, with whom he will have been married 45 years this coming August.