



NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2013

Firefighter Alvin Newton Memorial to Air on Santa Maria Community Television

Alvin Newton, a Reserve Firefighter with the City of Santa Maria Fire Department, died fighting the Bradley Hotel fire on the evening of April 25, 1970. On the 43rd anniversary of this tragic loss, a memorial service in his honor was held at the site of the former hotel, on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main streets in Santa Maria, as part of the year-long 100th anniversary observance of the founding of the Santa Maria Fire Department.

Santa Maria Community Television videotaped the service and will be broadcasting the program starting Monday, June 10 on the Government Channel, Comcast Cable 23, in the Santa Maria/Orcutt service area. Playback times will be 7:30 p.m. on Mondays, 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 6:00 p.m. on Sundays through July 8.

Alvin Newton was a 35-year-old father of three and a seven-year veteran of the SMFD, known for being at the center of the action at the fire calls in which he participated. At the Bradley Hotel fire, a large wooden structure which was vacant and scheduled to be demolished, Firefighter Newton was on the top of a retaining wall adjacent to the structure, directing water down on the flames, when the building imploded and he was pulled into the fire. Mr. Newton was also a reserve Santa Maria Police Officer, and was employed by the City's Water Division.

Speakers included Mayor Alice Patino, SMFD Fire Chief Dan Orr, and Randy Newton, son of Alvin Newton, as well as several retired and current members of the SMFD. The Santa Maria Police Department Honor Guard and the Central Coast Pipes and Drums also participated.

Questions may be directed to Santa Maria Community Television, 925-0951 ext. 501.

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