

Oral History Interview with AFC Queen Anunay 10/6/2024

00:00:03 **Kate Fogle**

Today I am talking with AFC Queen Anunay via Zoom. It is Sunday, October 6th, 2024. AFC Anunay, can you please state your name and spell out your last name?

00:00:23 **Queen Anunay**

Sure. Queen Anunay. That's A n u n a y.

00:00:29 **Kate Fogle**

Wonderful. I'm Kate Fogle. I'm the photo and film archivist for the DC Fire and EMS Foundation. My name is Kate Fogle, F o g l e. To begin, let's kind of start at the beginning of your career, Ms. Anunay. How and why did you join the DC Fire Department?

00:00:56 **Queen Anunay**

Kate, that is a wonderful question, and I said this story to many people before. But again, it rings in my mind as if I was making the decision back in 1991. I made the decision to join the Fire Department based on the current war situation in 1991. My original plan was to be in the military, and I was going to join the US Army. But at the time, Desert Storm was going on, and I had to make a plan b very quickly. That's where I came to the decision to join the Fire Department. I went to Eastern High School and they had a few programs at the time. They had the MPD Cadet program, the Fire Cadet program. Of course, there was always the option of going to college. But for me, uniform, structured career was what I've always seen myself doing. In looking at MPD versus Fire, I was more comfortable joining and serving my community. It was a no brainer. That's when I decided to join DC Fire and EMS Department.

00:02:24 **Kate Fogle**

That's incredible. It's really interesting to hear that. I think you might be the first person I've spoken to that was really obviously looking for that structure, but also the fact that there was this military option. But then some fighting is going on. Looking back, Ms. Anunay, could you briefly trace your career as you advanced through the ranks? Also, I have to ask, as part of that request, when did you maybe first perceive that you could advance to the level that you did? Did you ever expect that you could advance to that level?

00:03:14 **Queen Anunay**

Sure. The Fire Department was pretty organized from the time that I joined as to what the upward mobility opportunities were promoting through the ranks. It was pretty laid out. Again, that's how my mind is wired. I'm a planner, so I was able to look at the potential of making rank at certain phases in my career. But, just to give you a snapshot of my career, when I first joined in 1991, I really didn't know what to expect. As I said, I had to choose between two public safety agencies and what I saw with the Fire Department that always rung in my head pretty clearly was opening the fire hydrants and water to cool off on summer days, but I really didn't know what the actual duties were of firefighters outside of that. When I joined, I was a sponge. I was eager to learn. I got into the Cadet Program and they began with the basics and ran us through. This is a battering ram. This is a ladder. This is a truck. This is an engine. It was a lot to keep up with because again, I had no previous experience in the fire service. But soon after I joined I thought, well, this is cool, but there weren't a lot of women. I noted that when you walked into firehouses, it was like, oh, here's a female, we're getting a female. I had to process that before I could even think about upward mobility. It took me probably about five years to kind of get my feet on the ground, understanding the role that as a leader, if I were to aspire to be an officer, what that would include. After five years, I also started investing in real estate really young. I made up in my mind that I'm not going to pursue upward mobility. I'm going to be a real estate investor. I'm going to buy property in my community, and I'm going to do my 25 years, and then maybe I'll go to Fire Prevention. Because a lot of women went to Fire Prevention, through a natural attrition through time. It was the less physical option to take. That's why you saw a lot of the women kind of retire and tap out at that position, Fire Inspector. Again, didn't have a plan to promote. Had a plan to do my 25. Maybe take a desk job and leave. But as I got closer to the 15 year mark, mind you, now, 15 years later, I'm a mom, I'm a wife, and I have more experience in the Department. Also, I had the opportunity to meet Beatrice Rudder, who was already blazing the trail, trailblazer.

She was soaring through the ranks and earning a lot of respect while doing it. Kate, you can imagine my perspective changed within that 15 year time block. That's when, laying in my bunk back at Engine 31, I still remember, at that point became a paramedic, which was an intermediate paramedic, which was a big step. It was a big step in the Department. That was my true first promotion. The reason I say that is paramedics on the back of fire trucks was a very modern thing. That was new. That was something that the Department wasn't doing. I decided to take that challenge. As a paramedic, when you're on the scene, a medical scene, you're responsible for the call. You're responsible for the patient outcome. You're also giving instruction to other firefighters. The officer who is in charge kind of gives you the floor to run the call. That gave me a lot of experience in making decisions and taking leadership steps among the crew. After that decision, I decided, well, I am investing, I now have three kids, what's next, Queen? What is next? I said to myself, I'm ready to take the challenge of becoming a company officer. From there, it kind of went lightning speed for me. I made sergeant. I was sent to one of the busiest fire companies in Anacostia, and at that time, I was a sergeant and a paramedic, which is two different positions. Again, that's a lot of responsibility. As I conquered that role in a very busy area, I felt my confidence growing. The people that I saw before me, meaning women, that I saw before me in those positions, were starting to retire. I knew at that point that I wanted to set an example and continue to test. I went from sergeant to lieutenant. I found some mentors within the organization. Chief Rafael Sa'adah. He kind of pulled me up and said, hey, I see you're doing well in the Operations, but I want to see you do well in administrative capacities. That's when I started taking on different tasks. I went to become the Paramedic Recruiter as a sergeant, which was a day work position. I worked at the Training Academy, got promoted to lieutenant, and from there I took the test for EMS Captain and it landed me back in Operations. Whereas the EMS Captains currently oversee the entire battalion, responsible for all EMS services and training in regards to EMS. I was doing pretty good at that point. I was proud of myself. I'm like, hey, I'm a captain, because that was one of my visions that I had when I was laying in my bunk at Engine 31 and I said to myself, I want to be a captain and a medic. Those were my personal goals and I accomplished that. Just like anything else, the goalpost continues to move as you experience or attain your goals. As an EMS Captain, I was pretty comfortable. Usually, when you're comfortable, you're not growing. I had to make another decision. Do you go back to the fire truck and take the test for Fire Captain? Yes. The answer is yes, because at that time, there was a glass ceiling. If I were to remain as an EMS Captain, I would not be able to take the test for Fire Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief or Assistant Chief. I had to dust off the boots. Recommit. And, take the challenge of becoming a Fire Captain. Although a Fire Captain and an EMS Captain were considered the same rank and it was the same pay, the duties and responsibilities were totally different. As a Fire Captain, you're back in Operations running a firehouse. You're responsible for the entire firehouse and every shift. I took the test, I got promoted, and it was interesting because I got assigned to Engine 16, the company that is first due to the White House. That is a prestige company. There had not been any female captains. It was a big assignment. I kind of thought to myself, oh wow, what will I do? This is one of the the scariest things to take on at this point, but I said, hey, you're here, so you got to keep moving. I got there. I knew how to be no one but me. I brought my professionalism, my expectations, my love for people, and serving the community to that position. It worked out. It was one of the best assignments that I had in my entire career. You couldn't have told me that on the day that my name appeared on the promotion register. But it was wonderful. I met wonderful people. It was amazing. From there I stayed there almost two years, and I was promoted to Battalion Chief. From Battalion Chief, I went back, remained in Operations, and then I took the assignment of Assistant Fire Marshal. From there, I made Deputy Chief of EMS during COVID in 2020. Then I was blessed to become the Assistant Fire Chief of EMS after that. It's been an amazing ride and each turn was something different. It challenged me in different ways.

00:13:04 **Kate Fogle**

Am I correct, Ms. Anunay, that you were the first woman to serve as a uniformed Assistant Fire Chief, is that correct?

00:13:16 **Queen Anunay**

Yes, I was, yes. That's pretty astonishing.

00:13:23 **Kate Fogle**

That's amazing.

00:13:24 **Queen Anunay**

I called Beatrice Rudder, who was the first to serve as a Deputy Chief, and her and I remain close, and we talk, and she's a mentor, so she was always cheering me on. Look, you're going to go further than I did. You keep going. You're wired for this. I would tap back in and say, how did you deal with this? Et cetera, et cetera. But when it happened, it was surreal. I don't know how to explain it. I felt overwhelmed. I felt excited. I was so happy for the women that were in pursuit of being promoted at the time. I thought that was very encouraging. I took it really, really serious. It was a big thing and it still is. I believe now, that that was obtained, there is one step left which will be Fire Chief. I've always said that you stand on the shoulder of giants to reach your goal. I know that I did my part by getting women one step closer to becoming the Fire Chief.

00:14:45 **Kate Fogle**

That's truly wonderful. You sort of already answered my next question, but I really wanted you to talk about maybe some specific colleagues that served as mentors and also supported you throughout your time and service. I know you mentioned Rafael Sa'adah, Beatrice Rudder, of course. Were there others? Usually when you're kind of advancing and trailblazing, of course, that's a very singular experience, right? But there's definitely people that help you along the way.

00:15:25 **Queen Anunay**

Yes, there were. Debbie Edison was the first to be number one on a promotion register, and I believe she was number one on the captain list. That was very instrumental. We were in the same fire station for a short period of time, Engine 27. Watching her navigate was important. She also had a sister, Diane Irby, who was in Inspections, and she was really instrumental. Pete Pearson was my Deputy Chief when I mentioned the time at Engine 16. He was there, and I could have conversations with him about the culture, and I would go and talk to him about things. Cancer became very prevalent for firefighters who were retired and not get to experience a long retirement. In 16 Engine, I would talk to him about the need to take showers, to rinse carcinogens off. That wasn't a popular thing to do at the time, but I knew that it could give us a longer time retired, healthy. I took that on. He was instrumental in saying, look, Captain, you got to make decisions that's going to benefit everybody, not just you. You got to be comfortable being uncomfortable. Pete Pearson was one, but there were many. Romeo Spaulding, Garland Graves—he was my cousin who was a Battalion Chief. He retired as a Battalion Chief. But again, he was the one that I called before I joined. I hope that if anyone is listening and they were left out, that it's not personal. It was just so many examples, but to name a few, those were the ones that are just sticking out currently as we talk about it.

00:17:34 **Kate Fogle**

That's wonderful. Forgive me, I'm actually coming at these interviews as a little bit of an outsider, right? I haven't been steeped in the culture obviously as long as your career took you through. Was single role already phased out by the time you started your career? Because again, I know you mentioned you came in through the Cadet Program in '91. Also, in tailing on to that question, and I kind of feel like you already answered this as well, which is wonderful, but I wanted to know about your idea of public service in the sense did it always include both Fire Response and the EMS side? Considering now there's just dual role, right? That's just how it works.

00:18:31 **Queen Anunay**

Yeah, sure, Kate. When I first joined, there were single role members in the department. There were and it still is. It was two unions, so there was an option. As time progressed and up to today, I'm sure we're probably very low numbers of single role providers. Public safety at that time was a shared responsibility between EMS and Fire, but the culture was very divided. Those that were interested in EMS remained EMS and were advocating for EMS, and those who wanted to ride a fire truck took pride in riding the fire truck. It was based on an individual perspective. But together we took care of the city public safety at that time in the 90s. We had a lot of crime going on and a lot of fire, and we ran a lot of fire calls. But the majority of what we did was respond to medical locals. The relationship between the single role employees and all hazard depends on where you were, what house you were assigned, and whether or not the companies got along well. But I would say, we depended on our single role providers to get us back in service, to go answer the next call. Oftentimes, great relationships formed in those firehouses because of it.

00:20:17 **Kate Fogle**

It seems that you were definitely comfortable pursuing both sides also as a kind of a medical responder. Am I understanding that correctly—

00:20:29 **Queen Anunay**

Yeah.

00:20:30 **Kate Fogle**

—for your own career?

00:20:32 **Queen Anunay**

Yeah. I think it happened for me around... We call when you have 15 years on the Department, you're vested. You're maxed out. There's no other way to go higher other than becoming a company officer. But when the opportunity came for all hazard members—which were suppression members, and that's how I differentiate between suppression and EMS single role providers—we had that opportunity to sort of jump over the fence and do both. That really intrigued me. I had spent significant time, 15 years on the backstep, putting out fires, responding to medical locals, but being limited in what I could do on the medical locals. On the medical calls, I could take blood pressure, I could bandage, I could do very minimal EMS skills. But, once you crossed over to become that paramedic, you were running the call. That was impressive to me. That was another challenge for me, and it interested me because I didn't feel helpless waiting on the medic to arrive. I was actually able to make a difference in the patient's outcome while on the scene. I was attracted to that paramedic and EMS perspective of the job.

00:22:03 **Kate Fogle**

That's amazing. It seems very much like who you are, Ms. Anunay, in terms of you were talking about this idea of being maxed out. Maybe that's a common understanding for being 15 years in. But I just love this idea of wanting to always grow your experiences. It's just very, very interesting and neat to hear. You've already mentioned Ms. Rudder kicking off the integration of women into DCFD, which was in 1978. And she definitely persevered through a lot of misogynistic treatment by some of her colleagues. Can you talk about some of your own experiences as a woman in DCFD, both at the start of your career as well as when you left the Department as an Assistant Fire Chief? Also, how had the climate towards women changed and in what ways, if you could speak to that as well?

00:23:21 **Queen Anunay**

Sure. Of course, when I entered in 1991, graduating in 1992 out of the Academy, it was a shockwave sent through the Department. My class was the first to have nine women at one time enter the organization. From facilities at the Training Academy to entering into our companies from cradle, from the beginning, to the end of our training period, it was media worthy. I'll say, within the Department you would hear rumors of, hey, we're getting nine women. People's feelings about having that many women at one time. The training staff had to prepare showers. We rotated, one at a time, through a trailer that they had put in place, and everything was just new to the organization. As we got out into the organization, there were just a lot of comments about just our arrival at the fire stations. It's a lot of men for us, at that time, we were 19 years old. We were in a male-dominant career. A lot of men, you know what happens with 19-year-old women? You're at the peak of your social life. Things that we would experience, that a normal 19-year-old woman would experience in college was exaggerated in a male-dominant field. You had a relationship with someone. If you were to not do as well on your probation test, things as detailed as carrying the smoke ejectors, which are the large fans. Oh, well, a man can carry that. She needs help. It wasn't all bad, and it was definitely uncomfortable, but it was a growth period. It was a growth period for our organization that did not have experience with that many women at one time. When I came on, it probably had around 50 women on the job. When I left, we were over 200. Sure, that's a span of—I did 31.5 years—but there were waves when women would come in large numbers and recruit classes, and then they would still have classes where you were the only woman in the class, or maybe one of two. The Department grew up with me and my class and my generation. I think our generation grew the Department up with women, and we were from the inner city. We had a total different approach to this career. We did not know rank and file. We pretty much tested the limit of company officers. We were vocal. We disagreed when we felt that we weren't getting the treatment that we wanted. Our personal lives were commonly exposed. Who you dealt with, who you had a relationship with, who was she pregnant by. It was just more of a lot for people to just

grab a hold of. You just didn't walk in a firehouse as a firefighter, a male firefighter, without all of the attention and scrutiny. You had to develop thick skin, as everybody do in the fire service. But as a woman, it was twice as much attention. The change took place as we started, and me being a part of it, started to get together collectively and say, hey, we need to address things that is for women by women. That's when we formed some of these organizations, Women Advisory Council, empowering women to lead. What really helped the organization to absorb our presence is when we did well. And we started as women, as a collective, taking that as our personal responsibility to when we get in these positions, not to take them for granted and look like it was a favor, but to hold your own and do well in those positions. It wasn't out of the norm for you to have an excellent sergeant, an excellent technician that knew the routes just as the men knew, excellent firefighters who went in and made rescues and did the job equally as well as men. The evolution of women in the fire service took off through women taking ownership and responsibility for laying a path forward for women. When I left, as I mentioned, we had the Women Advisory Council. We had the Empowering Women to Lead with Amy Mauro, who, she was a game changer. When she came in, at that level, of the Assistant Fire Chief civilian. There's two different perceptions of a woman in uniform and a woman in a civilian capacity. But what Amy did, she came in with her knowledge of the law, being a Washingtonian, understanding the need for women to show up and be supported. That's what we were missing. Fast forward, it pushed us to levels that we probably would still be struggling with if we didn't have Amy in that position, fighting and advocating and putting work behind the talk and having those conversations in rooms full of men. Before there was an AFC in a uniform that was a woman. It was a lot of things that pushed us forward. As I left in 2022, I could see that I had a couple of decisions to make. What do you do at this point? Where are women today? At the table? At the AFC position? How effective is it? I did what I did, I said what I said, and it was time to move on. What I mean by that is, in the room, I made my voice heard. I had several conversations about things that I feel still needed to change. When you hit your ceiling of making change, for me, that's no different from when I hit my ceiling when I was the EMS Captain and I needed to become a Fire Captain to go higher. I hit the same ceiling in my mind as an Assistant Fire Chief, where I was at the end of my career, but I don't think that the environment was ready for a female voice to be heard, as it should have been at that time. For me, that warranted more growth and going to a different level in a different organization to build my voice and build my experience. With that, I decided that it was time to retire and join another organization, which I did.

00:31:46 Kate Fogle

That was really wonderful to hear. I will say it's like a counterpoint. I just recently spoke with retired Battalion Chief Shelly Nickelson. She was mentioning how oftentimes when women would do well or they would be promoted, there was a kind of a not even so much whispering, but like, you would hear, oh, she must have gotten there because she slept with so-and-so. I'm wondering, did you yourself kind of still experience some of these really backwards ways of your male counterparts, their experience of watching you excel? Or were you just kind of so focused on, like you said, making sure to take up your space that you were due, et cetera, so that that was just kind of noise and it never really got to you.

00:32:48 Queen Anunay

It was interesting. I think what Chief Nickelson, Shelly Nickelson experienced, a lot of women that came before, they took on a lot for us. But I will say that Chief Clemencia, who was promoted to be Battalion Chief, it was different for her. She did experience a lot of that. For me, I just thank my focus. I did hear certain things that was more relative to how well we would do as a Battalion Chief. The fact that we don't fight fire like guys fight fire, or we weren't necessarily trusted with the decision making on the fireground without first proving ourselves. For instance, if a guy were to be promoted to Battalion Chief and he's now the Battalion Chief of Fourth Battalion, he was given the opportunity to give instruction, and his instructions were correct. When I made Battalion Chief, everybody wanted to hear, well, why did she say that the company—and I'm just going to keep it relative for the audience—why would she put a truck company in charge of vent, as opposed to give a truck company an assignment to check the utilities. I'm trying to keep it very generic without it being specific. But you were under scrutiny for any task or any decisions that you made on the fireground. I still remember my first call that I ran. Of course, everybody was listening. I got calls saying, you did a great job. But then there were those oh, did you hear what she said? She said, truck one as opposed to truck two? There were just people that really wanted you to justify your being there, and it took time to build that respect. Whereas men walked into the respect. They walked in day one and they got the respect. That's what I experienced more as a woman in the job as far as adversities, just constantly having to prove yourself. People being more focused on your personal life as opposed to your professional life. Those were my experiences.

00:35:40 Kate Fogle

You're doing wonderfully in terms of kind of easing into my next questions, Ms. Anunay. But I guess knowing how far you got in terms of your own career and knowing that you felt best to kind of step away from the DC Fire Department. What areas do you think could be improved for women going forward that might actually lead to the finality of achieving the goal of Fire Chief?

00:36:29 **Queen Anunay**

I think it's the evolution of time needed. I think we're really, really close in DC Fire to seeing our first female chief. I do believe that there will always be a drive to sustain male dominance in that position. I think it's really going to be incumbent upon the mayor to support and see the need to stand behind the position of, this is what I want for the city and this is why I want it and to see it for what it is. I think we're really, really close to accomplishing that. Inside of the Department and the acceptance of a female chief, I think the Department is ready. I think the Department understands because on a national basis, you can see where women are fire chiefs all over the country. It's becoming pretty much the norm. Even when I think about today's Union Local 36 leadership, Local 36 leadership portrays a readiness for that next step for the organization. Being at the Assistant Chief level, I could see that the Union leadership would be supportive of a female fire chief. I do believe that even the mayor of today would be supportive. It's just a matter of getting there. It's a matter of women being motivated to not stop. I've already been in that room, and there were challenges in the room just based on everybody around there had the same amount of time that I had on. We were growing together. Chief Donnelly took a huge step in supporting the move for me to go to Deputy and Assistant Chief. The playing field is level, but it just has to happen more and more and more. We can't leave that seat empty for long periods of time. The Assistant Fire Chief seat has to be filled. You have to have women at every level able to speak to it and show their willingness and professionalism and ability to lead. It takes strong leadership, such as the Fire Chief, John Donnelly, in which he did. He appointed me. It takes recognition from the unions to understand the benefit of a diverse executive leadership team. And it takes a mayor to understand that when there is a candidate that is worthy, to support it.

00:40:11 **Kate Fogle**

I think it was a really good point that you made too. It's probably going to be a mixture of those things, with the element of time included, too, right?

00:40:25 **Queen Anunay**

Yes. Today, I still remain very close with a group of ambitious women. They are coming. They are coming forward to claim that seat. I encourage that. We are doing more as a collective on the Department with the girls camps. We have one of the female chiefs, Chief Omasere, who just tested for Deputy. That will be two Deputy Chiefs. Chief Clemencia, who will probably be retiring soon. She has one year less than I have. The evolution of time and life, it just is what it is. You can't stay stagnant. But what I do like is that Chief Omasere, Karen Brown, who's going to make captain, and Lieutenant Mason, it's just I know now that all of it was worth it, because we fill seats at every rank. If the seat stays vacant, it won't be long before it gets filled. Two of the women were here visiting me in Las Vegas on a conference, EMS World. One of the young women is going to make lieutenant. I remember having conversations with her about being professional, making your time count, your words matter, your image is important. She's received that. When I saw her at the conference, I saw her in her new space and her new mind space as a growing professional woman that's going to want to make a difference in this Department going forward. Also speaking to Chief Liriano, who is the only female EMS Battalion Chief. All of these positions are new, when you look at the time span. But women are showing up. It gives me peace in saying, yeah, it was all worth it. From Chief Nickelson to Chief Rudder to Captain Addison. It's wonderful to be a part of the movement. Again, like I said, Amy Mauro's timing in the agency, it all worked together for the good of everyone, for the better of the Department. Im excited to be a part of it.

00:43:14 **Kate Fogle**

I just have to say how just wonderful it is to hear that a part of watching this evolution is the fact that you've now become a guiding voice. You're still available for these women that are up and coming to talk to. I think that's just so fantastic because that's going to be part of that equation, too. You keeping in touch with these women and encouraging them. That's just really incredible. Moving on, could you speak to maybe some of the milestones of your career?

00:44:01 **Queen Anunay**

Milestones for me would be, one, becoming a paramedic. That was one. Second milestone, I think, was showing that it was okay to get out of Operations when you were judged by Operations and going into the Fire Marshal's office. That was a milestone for me, becoming the Assistant Fire Marshal. Lastly, being committed to EMS, Emergency Medical Services, where for years and years and years, it's always been the stepchild of the Department and remaining vigilant as the Deputy Chief of EMS and being promoted as the first Assistant Fire Chief, but serving the EMS Division and Bureau, which later included Communications. That was something that Chief Donnelly and I talked about. That was a beautiful feeling for Chief Donnelly to entrust me with the responsibility of Communications, the 911 Center. To me, that was a new chapter in including that EMS Assistant Fire Chief now has responsibility of not just EMS, but also as the Chief responsible for the Office of Unified Communications Liaison position. Because the call starts with the 911 call and it ends with who we send to your address to help you. Having those dynamics together was a great achievement. I was proud of that.

00:45:53 **Kate Fogle**

How would you say your career in the DC Fire Department continues to impact you today?

00:46:07 **Queen Anunay**

I wouldn't be who I am today. It impacts me when I encourage my daughter, who is a first-time mom, who was a member of the US Navy for five years in a male-dominant area of weapons, where there just were not a lot of women there. It propels me forward when I join an organization, as I did here in the city of Las Vegas, and I've been given even more responsibility in this organization. I look back at the times with Chief Craig Baker, who ran Operations, and no one really understood his way, but he was such a critical component of moving the Department forward. I call him today and say, when I sat beside you at that table, as a AFC, and you appeared to be the man in DC Fire. Everything was under you. I often wondered, how I would handle that power. Now, I'm given this opportunity in the city of Las Vegas. I oversee Operations. I oversee EMS. And I also oversee Communications. That time in DC Fire, when I was working with OUC as a liaison, and I had staff there, here in Las Vegas, I am the Chief over Comms. That is not a independent agency. That agency is in the Fire Department. Under my leadership, that experience in OUC and working, gave me the confidence to come here and understand the communication center in Las Vegas. My experience in DC Fire is a part of my being, a part of how I manage, how I lead, and everything is a reflection back on DC Fire. It helped me to be who I am today. Not just at work, but even at home.

00:48:31 **Kate Fogle**

We've come to the last question, Ms. Anunay. What do you want visitors of the Foundation's website and this history project that we're doing, what do you want them to know about the DC Fire Department?

00:48:56 **Queen Anunay**

I want the visitors and the Foundation to continue to understand that DC Fire and EMS changes lives for not only the people they serve, but for the people that join the organization. That DC Fire creates legends and changes lives for ordinary people every day.

00:49:34 **Kate Fogle**

That's amazing. Is there anything else that you might want to say about your time? Or do you feel we've we've pretty much covered everything that you've wanted to talk about today.

00:49:55 **Queen Anunay**

I think we have. I just look back after our interview and some of the questions you've asked. I really have not. It's been nine months for me since I've retired. Conversations such as these make you reflect and look back on some of your accomplishments. It's been an amazing ride. I never thought running through the hallways of Eastern Senior High School, trying to make a last minute decision would have allowed me to meet my husband, to have the kids that I have, to make history in my own city. I'll say, as I always say, that was the best last minute decision that I've made in my life, was to join DC Fire and EMS, and it's been an incredible journey and

I'm humbled and thankful. I thank God every day for my experiences and my opportunities.

00:51:10 **Kate Fogle**

Well, thank you for that, Ms. Anunay.