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Palmer Ranch fire station to be dedicated March 30 to former fire chief John H. Albritton

Fire Rescue Station No. 15 in Palmer Ranch will open March 30 with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony in honor of former Fire Chief John H. Albritton. The 9 a.m. event will be held outside the station at 9102 Bloomfield Blvd., Sarasota.

Albritton retired in 2001 after 35 years of public safety service. He began his career in 1966 as a forest ranger and became a firefighter in 1970. He was promoted to fire chief in 1995 and appointed executive director of Sarasota County Emergency Services, including the Fire Department and Emergency Management, in 1999. He played a major role in the development of local emergency services, including the consolidation of the county and city of Sarasota fire departments.

The \$4.5 million project included extending Bloomfield Boulevard to the east of Honore Avenue and constructing an 8,600-square-foot building. The station is designed for fire suppression equipment (Engine 15) and an advanced life support ambulance (Rescue 15) for immediate response to the Palmer Ranch communities. The station will provide 24/7 service with firefighter/paramedics and firefighter/emergency medical technicians.

The station is expected to be certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

“Green” features include:

- Capture of rainwater to clean apparatus and fill fire suppression tanks
- Solar hot water
- Indoor lighting controls
- Energy-efficient appliances
- Environmentally friendly outdoor lighting
- Parking for alternative transportation
- Native Florida landscaping.

The station is a storm-hardened facility capable of withstanding Category 4 hurricane wind gusts. Miami-based Tower OHL Group Inc. of Florida was the general contractor and the station was designed by BMK Architecture of Sarasota.

For more information about the new fire station or the dedication ceremony, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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