

WHAT'S WRONG WITH COMPANY PRIDE?

At what point in time did Company Pride become such a bad thing? I mean, help me out here. Let's take the Army for example, it doesn't matter if you're with the 1st Group Special Forces, 82nd or 101st Airborne, they all have Company Pride. It oozes out of them, they wear their unit patch, have their company insignia painted all over their barracks, helicopters, etc, and would stick up for or die for their Brothers or Sisters if that is what it came down to, and we all know it has. My point is this. They all belong to a different unit and have pride in that unit, but they all know and are proud of the fact that they are in the U.S. Army. They also have that patch on their uniform!

Are we not a semi-militaristic organization? What is wrong with having Company Pride in your fire station? Do you really think it's a bad thing for a Company to think it has the best engine or truck in the department? Is it a bad thing for that company to go out and train and teach and learn new information so they can be better at their job, so God forbid they may save someone's life, whether it's a child, an adult or one of our own? Is it a big deal that fire hydrant in front of a station gets painted the station color code because for years it looked like crap and no one from the city had done a thing about it? Or a street box, or a door! As long as these things are done right and look professional what is the problem?

Why is it that some stations get to have their roll up doors painted red and other companies who want it done can't get the city to do it, or the approval from the fire department to do it? I know for a fact that Stations with, do I dare say it, Company pride would be happy to buy their own paint and do it for free, just so their firehouse looks good. Don't you get the fact that people take better care of the engines, trucks, medics and stations when they have Company Pride? When we pull up to a house fire and do our best to make sure we do it right, that's Company Pride! When things don't go as good as they should have and we care enough to learn from our mistakes so we, or others won't make those mistakes again, that's Company Pride! When we check out our equipment to make sure it's in good working condition so we can do our best everyday, that's Company Pride! When we wash the engine or truck everyday and care about how we look to both the public and other companies, that's Company Pride! When we want to have a T-Shirt or patch that represents who we are as a Company, that's Company Pride! When the Chief and our Brothers and Sisters know they can count on us when the chips are down, that's Company Pride! So please, if people want to put something on their rig, or their shirt, or on a wall in the station that represents their Company tell me why Company Pride is bad again.

We are all proud that we work for the Sacramento Fire Department, and I believe that Company Pride makes every Engine, Truck, and Medic in our organization that much better, which in turn makes the Sacramento Fire Department that much better. So please, tell me again why Company Pride is a bad thing!