

Owens

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and code enforcement.

Although there may be fewer structure fires, HFD responds much more than before. Not only do firemen respond to fires but they also respond to all types of emergencies and accidents.

Over the years Owens has received numerous accolades. The wall behind his desk is filled with awards, plaques and certificates for leadership, training certifications, from the military, just to name a few. One acknowledgement he is very proud of and deservingly so, is that he is the first African-American 5-Bugle Chief in Humboldt and in the state of Tennessee. This is the highest rank achievable.

"But the best reward is when

someone tells you, you saved my life," Owens said. "My first call as chief was a house fire with a child inside. The ambulance could not

respond and the child was dying, lying in the street. I used my chief's car and took her to the hospital. The doctors said it saved her life.



I still see her around town from time to time."

Owens attests his desire to help and serve the people from being around positive people.

"I realized how important it is to grow up with positive people in your life," Owens explained. "I did. My mother, Essie Owens, and my sister, Patricia Dennis, were always positive in our house. It depends how you want to live your life."

Owens also praised the late Tommy Shepherd who owned Strasberg's in Humboldt and Harry Mangold who worked at Wayne Knitting Mills. Owens says he is truly blessed to have had positive influences in his life growing up and becoming a young man.

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