

**WELCOME TO THE 20th ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
OCTOBER 5, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.**



Order of 20th Annual Service * Saturday Evening * October 5th

Welcome & Emcee	Keith Smith, Memorial Foundation Chairman
Posting of Colors	Columbia Fire Department Honor Guard
Pledge of Allegiance	Kenneth Hoover, Foundation Vice Chairman
Invocation	Bishop Robert D. Farr, United Methodist Church, Columbia
Candlelight Address	Bishop Robert Farr
Tribute to Hero's	Keith Smith & Blue Ice Productions
Benediction	Bishop Robert Farr
Lighting of Candles	Introduction by Keith Smith
Two Songs	Services concludes following the 2 nd song

This program book starts with our fallen hero line of duty names followed by the honorees from 2023 • 2022 • 2021. Those who have passed in 2024 will be honored in our 2025 services *if* we are made aware of their passing.

RAYMOND WYNN • KANSAS CITY FIRE DEPT

LAST CALL * MARCH 27, 2021



June 21, 1958 – March 27, 2021

Captain Raymond Wynn was with the Kansas City Fire Department for 32 years. He was extremely proud to be a firefighter and always said, “If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.” Several words that best describe him are passionate, loyal, and positive. He was fiercely protective of his three independent, responsible, and talented kids on both sides of our blended family, and his brothers and sisters on the job while serving his community. In 2016, he joined Aspen Contracting as a New Construction Project Manager.

Ray will be remembered not only for his strong advocacy on behalf of firefighters, but also for his love of music, golf, and football.

Ray was often the life of the party. Never one to shy away from a punchline and always, without fail, finding the positive in every situation. He was the kind of man that could find humor in the mundane, a light in the darkest corner, and reason when there was seemingly no reason to find.

Ray will be remembered not only for his strong advocacy on behalf of firefighters, but also in playing the guitar, playing music louder than might be comfortable, and dancing the night away. He could draw, sing, cook, and build anything with his hands. He loved sports and some of his greatest joys were witnessing Kansas City take both the Super Bowl and World Series titles in the presence of family and friends.

Survivors include his wife and best friend, Jean; children, Monica, Julie and Daniel; his 3 grandchildren; Riley, Cullen and Maggie, sisters; Mary Draisey, Judy Luellen and Rita as well as many nieces and nephews.

TAD NOLAN RUSSELL • BRUMLEY FPD
LAST CALL * AUGUST 13, 2021



November 28, 1984 – August 13, 2021

Tad Nolan Russell, age 36, of Brumley Fire Protection District, passed away on Friday, August 13, 2021, at Lake Regional Health System in Osage Beach. He was born in Tuscumbia on November 28, 1984, son of Leonard and Tina (Forbis) Russell.

Tad was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, barbecuing, and spending time with his family and friends. Tad volunteered for the Brumley Fire Department for many years and was employed with Horsepower Ranch in Brumley.

Tad is survived by his mother, Tina Russell (Joey); fiancée, Tiffany Maes; three sons, Layne Nolan (Russell) Fisher, Robert David Leonard Russell, and Ivan Gene Russell; daughter, Nevaeh Lynn Russell; stepdaughter, Audrey Bradbury; paternal grandfather, Ralph Forbis; brothers, Gail Russell (Theresa), Eugene Russell (Carol), Rick Russell (Patti), Randy Russell (Toni), and J.D. Russell (Gail); sisters, Cathy Whittle and Joyce Beabout (Mark); and numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Tad was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Russell; daughter, Charlotte Creed Russell; sister, Geraldine Russell; and grandmother, Margie Forbis.

LLOYD M. RUEDIGER • NEW HAVEN-BERGER FPD
LAST CALL * JUNE 26, 2023



October 26, 1938 – June 26, 2023

Lloyd M. Ruediger proudly served his country in the United States Army from October 1961 to September 1967 in the 92nd Artillery in Germany. As a civilian Lloyd worked as a truck driver for Kellwood Manufacturing most of his life.

Lloyd was a member of St. Paul's Church in Berger and a very dedicated member of the Berger Community Volunteer Fire Department, which would eventually become the New Haven-Berger Fire Protection District. Lloyd selflessly gave his life in the line of duty on June 26, 2023, having served his community for 59 years and badge #006.

Lloyd served within many ranks and in many capacities throughout his volunteer career, including chief, assistant chief, second assistant chief, captain, lieutenant, secretary, and treasurer. Lloyd's professional fire service accomplishments include Firefighter of the Year in 1999, 2004, and 2013; Officer of the Year in 2007 and 2017; lifesaving award in 2014 where 3 lives were saved from a house fire and a CPR save in 2014.

In the few moments Lloyd wasn't serving his community with the fire department, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Lloyd is survived by two sons, Greg and Rick, daughter Lisa, four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

TO THE FAMILIES:

While the following names are being honored as non-line of duty tonight, we want to **very clearly indicate** that some of these names are currently awaiting administrative determinations regarding their passing as a “Line of Duty Death” (LODD) at the State or Federal levels and may be recognized as an LODD at a future date.

If your loved one is one of those names being honored in this way tonight, but awaiting this protracted review process, we are not making a determination in this presentation or listing of their name. We are only recognizing their service to their community for now and await with you regarding the future.

If it is determined their service was in the Line of Duty, those Honors will then be presented to them and their family regardless of any timeline. There is no expiration date for Line of Duty service.

With regard to the selection of non-line of duty names for these October services, we honor the names presented to us using a 3-year sliding scale. This starts with the prior year of 2023 plus an additional two previous years previous of 2022 & 2021 in case we have missed someone. Names are being presented in alphabetical order including those prior to 2023.

INTRODUCING THE NON-LINE OF DUTY NAMES FOR 2023 & PREVIOUS

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Donald R. Abramovitz • April 26, 2023, served 47 years with the **Creve Coeur Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief before retiring in 2012. Don was a US Navy veteran and served in the Vietnam war. After his enlistment, Don started employment with McDonnell Aircraft. In 1989, Don was instrumental in creating the St. Louis Co. Hazmat Response Team. Don was an avid boater, water skier & loved tinkering on projects in his garage.



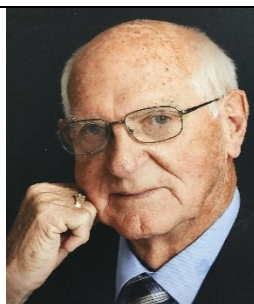
Earl "Skip" R. Adams • September 1, 2023, served 22 years with the **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD). Skip was a US Air Force veteran during the Vietnam era. After his enlistment, Skip initially worked as a 911 dispatcher. Skip is remembered as a great storyteller and jokester. He was known for a calm demeanor and nerves of steel. Skip loved all things outdoors related to fishing, camping boating, his motorcycles and a good book.



George Raymond Allen • April 8, 2023, served 3 years with the **Rivers Pointe Fire Prot. Dist.** in West Alton. George was a US Marine Corps veteran from 2011-2015. George enjoyed fishing, video games, working on cars and most of all playing with his daughter, Leah. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life and service of George Raymond Allen.

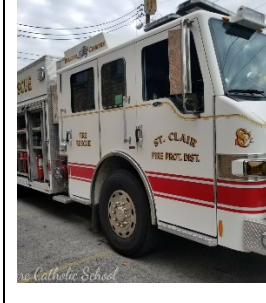


Howard "Mitch" Alspaw • August 17, 2022, served 20 years with the **Buffalo Township Fire Protection District** in Louisiana, MO. achieving the rank of Fire Chief. Howard started work with the Pike County Sheriff's Department in 2013 and resigned from the Fire Department in 2014 to focus on law enforcement. Howard moved to Louisiana in 1995 and employed at Karl's Lawn care for many years. Howard enjoyed fishing and family in his spare time.



William Ray "Bill" Anthony • April 12, 2023 • served 13 years with the **Holts Summit Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief. Bill taught vocational agriculture, worked in broadcasting, then in school administration and retired as Assist. Principal at Jefferson City High School. Bill volunteered w/ Samaritan Center, the Consumer Advisory Board of National Medicare Rights, Missouri Dept. of Insurance Advisory Board and the Cole Co. Citizens Corps.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



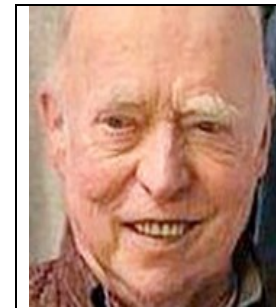
Charles Earl Baker • March 13, 2023 • served 53 years with the **St. Clair Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief for 10-years. His working career was in construction as a carpenter and millwright initially with Able Construction and then superintendent with Alberici Construction. Charles was a proud member of Carpenters Local 1839. Charles enjoyed many things in retirement, the fire house for coffee, Cardinal baseball, fishing, welding, mechanical and wood working.



Galen Loren Beasley • January 27, 2023 • served 25 years with the **Independence Fire Dept.** retaining the rank of Firefighter through his career. Galen was a hippy, a biker and an all around funny and cool individual. Galen was a collector of cool cars and cooler stories. He loved all animals and was considered to be a “Dog Whisperer”. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life and service of Galen Loren Beasley.



William Becker, Jr. • October 1, 2023 • served 37 years with the **University City Fire Dept.** retiring as Firefighter/Engineer. Bill was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era. During his career his second jobs included spirits delivery driver and exterminator. Bill was very active with Am Vets and loved their trips to the Ozarks. Following that it was vacationing with family in Arizona. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of William Becker Jr.



Arlie A. Berg, Sr. • April 13, 2023 • served 21 years with the **Marthasville Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. Arlie was totally involved in community including Rusche Park Board, Marthasville Community Club, Ambulance Board Dir., Little League and City Council. Arlie was a talent in the construction industry and considered of the best fast pitch soft ball players in the state totaling over 400 career victories with the New Haven Cubs.



Barry Allan Bise • July 23, 2023 • served 24 years with the **Butler Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Captain. Barry was a US Marine Corps veteran, started his working career at Bates Co. Memorial Hospital in the lab retiring in 2015. When Barry was not volunteering with the fire department he could be found fishing and hunting. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life and service of Barry Allan Bise.



Gerard “Butch” Blomberg • December 18, 2023 • served 30 years with the **St. Elizabeth & Meta Fire Depts.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief. Butch worked on cars for 40+ years in Jefferson City, Meta and surround area. He was on the Community Center Board and EMT with COMM-Unity Ambulance. His wealth of knowledge and passion for the Fire Dept. was a huge asset to the community and instrumental in establishing the St. Elizabeth Fire Prot. Dist. and new fire station.



James Tony “JT” Boothman • October 10, 2023 • served over 30 years in the fire service with the last 12 years as a Boeing Firefighter & Paramedic. His fire service journey started alongside of his father at State Park Vol. FD. Fairview Heights followed for 7 years moving on to Mid-America Airport for 10-years. JT could never sit still; he was either in the garage fixing something or on the grill. If not hosting a party at home, you could find him at his Ozarks Lake house.



Donald “Donnie” Braun • January 29, 2023 • served over 50 years with the **Cole Co. Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving and holding the rank of Fire Chief for 40-years and later as a Board Member. Donnie spent his life building and operating Donnie Braun & Sons Auto Repair & Investments. Donnie was a member of St. Peters Church for 60-years, served on the school board & parish council, member of FFAM, enjoyed boating and fishing several of the Missouri lakes & rivers.

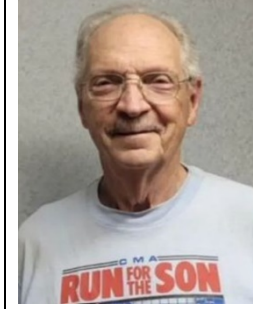


Robert “Scotty” Broombaugh • October 22, 2023 • served a combined 35 years with the **Rock Community Fire Prot. Dist.** retiring in June 2023 when finally realizing it was wiser to run away from burning buildings instead of into them. On the job Scotty was known for his warm smile and sense of humor, always having Swiss Rolls and fishing without a pole. Scotty was a garage-band rockstar, avid Blues fan, collector of cats, trains, and discarded treasures.



Donald Franklin Brown • January 8, 2023 • served 33 years with multiple department. Donald was a US Navy veteran on the Forrestal, It was **Hillsboro Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving Asst. Fire Chief and then in 1998 elected to their board and retired 20-years later as President. Donald was retired from Fenton FPD as a Firefighter/Medic and later volunteered at Cedar Hill FPD, Hillsboro FPD, Valle Ambulance, and Goldman FPD. He was also a dance instructor at Author Murry Studios.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program

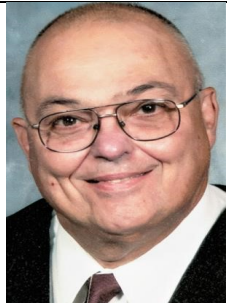


Melvin "Mel" Wesley Callahan • November 24, 2023 • served 3 years with the ***Cole County Fire Prot. Dist.*** largely as a Chaplin. Mel was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era achieving the rank of sergeant. Mel started his career at Missouri Baptist Press and went on to join the local carpenters union until his retirement. Mel was currently serving as the lead pastor at First Baptist Church in St. Elizabeth. Mel served in disaster relief, prison ministries & Christian Motorcycle Assoc.



David Campbell • April 7, 2023 • served years with the ***St. Louis Fire Dept.*** as a firefighter.

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of David Campbell, St. Louis Fire Department.



Charles "Mike" Carman • July 12, 2023 • served 40 years with the ***Washington Volunteer Fire Company.*** Mike was a member of the Rescue Squad section and served as the company secretary for 5 years. Mike was a US Marine Corps veteran. Mike was a member of FFAM, active in the Washington Soccer Association and Scoutmaster of Troop 439. Mike enjoyed all things outdoors especially hunting, fishing and spending time with family.



Joseph "Joe" William Castrop • January 31, 2023 • served 20 years with the ***Boone County Fire Prot. Dist.*** Joe was a US Army veteran and reservist. Joe was a mechanic in Hallsville, owned his own shop and wrecker service. He later went on to work for Boone County Road and Bridge retiring in 2004. Joe loved all things international, collected antique tractors, loved trains, steam engines and international scouts. Joe as also founding member of the Missouri IH Club.



Scott Douglas Catlin • September 20, 2022 • served 10+ years with the ***Buffalo Rural Fire Dept.*** In 1987 he joined the US Army Reserves. Scott had a passion for photography but was also a gifted artist, loved music, history, road trips, an avid sci-fi-fan a voracious reader and showed a keen imagination. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life and service of Scott Douglas Catlin, Buffalo Rural Fire Dept.

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John T. Cave • June 11, 2023 - served 35 years with the **New Bloomfield Fire Dept.** with 15-years as Fire Chief. John was a US Army veteran serving during the Korean Conflict from 1952-1954. John was a lifelong farmer and carpenter, building several homes in mid-Missouri. In his spare time John was an avid outdoorsman especially hunting and fishing. The Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life and service of John T. Cave, New Bloomfield Fire Dept.



Dennis A. Cavin • March 27, 2023 • served 32 years with the **Metro West Fire Prot. Dist. (previously Ballwin FPD)**. Dennis was hired as a Firefighter/Medic and retired as a Battalion Chief 08-2007. Dennis was an instructor at the St. Louis Fire Academy where the 63rd graduating class was named in his honor. He was also part of their incorporating the incident command system. Dennis enjoyed traveling visiting 49 states, 5 Canadian provinces and 9 European countries.



Donald "Donnie" E. Chambers • April 12, 2021 • served 44 years with the **Vichy Fire Prot. Dist.** 38 of those as Fire Chief. Going by Don or Chief, he was a truck driver most of his life with 36 of those as a Redi-Mix delivery driver which span 3 different companies. His fire department credits became numerous over the years. Don was known for his inviting smile, quick wit and fun sense of humor. He loved family, fishing, collecting pocket knives and NASCAR.



Richard Elwyn Clewett • December 13, 2023 • served 1 year with the **Caulfield Fire Dept.** Richard was a US Navy veteran and reservist. He began his working career as a welder and fabricator. He also worked as a crew leader for Ozark Action and then Timberland Forest Products. Sitting in one spot was not for him, constantly on the move. He loved all things outdoors and time with family. The Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life and service of Richard Clewett.



Tina Faye Cook • August 6, 2023 • served 30 years with the **Caruthersville Fire Dept.** Tina began here journey into public service as a single mom, put herself through the Police Academy and took on roles of both police officer and firefighter. Tina later transitioned to an investigator with the Prosecuting Attorney's office. Despite the toughness of her profession, Tina's life was highlighted by her servant heart, playful laughter and appreciation of life's simple joys.

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Max David Craft • September 16, 2023 • served 12+ years with the **Monett City & Rural Fire Depts.** After high school, Max pursued a career as a certified diesel mechanic and farmer. He loved turning wrenches and was employed at Ryder in Monett for 28 years. He loved the farm, gathering eggs, working with animals and working on tractors. His hobbies included fishing, hunting and jigsaw puzzles. Max will be remembered for his big heart with helping friends and neighbors.



David James Crismon • August 18, 2023 • served 36 years in the fire service, 30+ with **University City Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. David started as a volunteer with the Potosi FPD. David was a new firefighter mentor, an Eagle Scout, obtained a Master's Degree majoring in Safety, Security & Emergency Management. David enjoyed traveling to beach destinations with his wife, a Star Wars memorabilia collector and other vintage treasurers.



Howard Lewis Davenport • October 28, 2023 • served 13 years with the **Little Dixie Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Captain for Station No. 3. Howard was a US Army Vietnam veteran and member of VFW post 6276 and member of FFAM. Howard stayed busy as a farmer, lawn maintenance business owner, welder and applicator for MFA. He was also a member of First Baptist Church of Paris. Howard set a lifetime example of how to work hard, love the lord and serve others.



William Woodrow Denson • January 23, 2022 • served 26 years with **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD) achieving the rank of Captain. Bill was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era receiving a Purple Heart and other metals. He joined the department upon returning home. Bill enjoyed fishing, especially for catfish. He was an avid Cardinals fan, a gun collector, a great shot, enjoyed cars and motorcycles, especially his 1968 GTO convertible and Harley.



Gerald DeWeese • December 1, 2021 • served 36 years with **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD) achieving the rank of Battalion Chief. Jerry was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era. He also volunteered at the Cottleville FPD for many years. Jerry and his son Brad loved working on classic cars and enjoyed entering them in car shows. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Chief Gerald DeWeese.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Ear R. "Bob" Dick • March 16, 2023 • served 57 years with the ***Black Jack Fire Prot. Dist.*** working his way up from a volunteer to Fire Chief. Bob had volunteered with Berkley prior to that. Bob is a US Marine Corps veteran but also had stints in the Navy and Missouri Air National Guard. Bob was a member of the Backstoppers for 60 years served on local IAFF 398, 2665 and just retired from the Wentzville FPD Board after serving 16-years. Bob also enjoyed a 63-year marriage.



David "Joe" Dixon • March 31, 2023 • served 24 years with the ***Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.*** (formally Chesterfield FPD) achieving the rank of Engineer and acting Captain. Joe became a firefighter in 1975 with Wellington Fire Prot. Dist. and followed that with Chesterfield FPD as an Engineer and EMT-P. Joe loved nearly everything related to the outdoors especially camping, kayaking, biking, hiking, traveling and an avid motorcycle enthusiast.

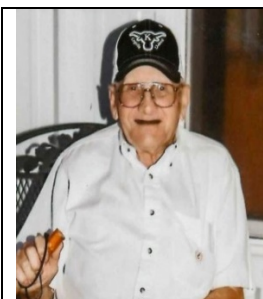


Ramon "Ray" M. Doria • March 24, 2023 • served 31 years with the ***West County EMS and Fire Prot. Dist.*** achieving the rank of Lieutenant. Ray was a US Marine Corps veteran during the Vietnam era. Ray started his fire service career as a firefighter/medic at Maplewood, Richmond Heights and majority of his career at West County retiring in 2011. Ray loved to hunt and spend time on his farm. Ray was a collector of many things, had a witty personality and loved life in his own unique style.



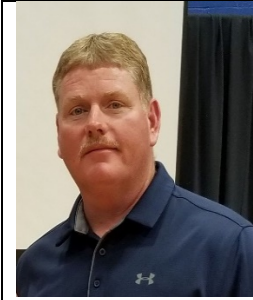
Ronald Gene Eller • April 15, 2023 • served 40 years with the ***Maryland Heights Fire Prot. Dist.*** Ron retired as a *Engineer*. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Ronald Gene Eller, Maryland Heights Fire Protection District.

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Ronald Gene Eller, Maryland Heights Fire Protection District.



Vernon Clare Elliott Jr. • March 29, 2023 • served 44 years with the ***Johnson Co. Fire Prot. Dist. No. 2*** achieving the rank of Captain. Vern was a US Navy veteran and became a rural mail carrier until his retirement in 2001. Vern was a farmer and long-time member of Missouri Cattleman's Association. He was instrumental in organizing the fire district and actively served until retiring in 2012. Vern loved antique engines, farm machinery and member of the CAFMCO Collectors Org.

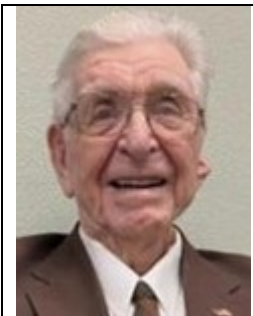
Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Mark Edward Fancher • July 31, 2023 • served 34 years with the **Crocker Rural Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief in 2010. Mark also served as Assist. Fire Chief with St. Roberts Fire & Rescue for 3-years. In 2020 mark started service with the PCAD Board. Mark was a youth league softball and basketball coach. Mark worked at Lakeside Truss Company for 28 years. As an entrepreneur mark owned and operated Fancher Flooring & Construction & Exterior Cleaning Solutions.



Kim Bradley Faulkner • May 18, 2023 • served 19 -years with the **Lee's Summit Fire Prot. Dist.** as an Engineer/EMT. In the spirit of his public service, Brad was also an organ donor. Brad worked in public service as a volunteer firefighter in Johnson County, Kansas and worked in the construction field as a carpenter. Brad had a talent for quality decks, fences, pergolas and lanais. Brad was the loudest dad in the stands, enjoyed making new things in his smoker and cooking with his Blackstone.



James Ellis Ferrell • May 24, 2023 • served 52 years with the **Buffalo Rural Fire Dept.** James was a US Army veteran followed by 25-years in the Army Reserve. Once he returned from the Army James worked 33 years as a Case Analyst for the Missouri Dept. of Family Services. In addition to the Fire Dept., James served 19 years on the Buffalo City Council. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of James Ellis Ferrell, Buffalo Rural Fire Dept.



Kenneth Dean Fiene • October 31, 2023 • served several years with **West Central Fire Prot. Dist.** Kenneth worked for Fiene Plumbing, Heating and Cooling and member of Zion Lutheran Church. Kenneith loved hunting, fishing, pitching horseshoes and being outdoors. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Kenneth Dean Fiene, West Central Fire Protection District.



Jeffery Alan Fowler • June 30, 2023 • served 30 years with the **Valley Park Fire Prot. Dist.** as a Firefighter and EMT.

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Jeffrey Alan Fowler, Valley Park Fire Protection District.

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Lloyd Craig Fox • April 24, 2023 • completed a 43 year fire service career that concluded with 17-years at **Fort Leonard Wood Fire Dept.** mostly as Fire Chief. Lloyd enlisted as a firefighter with the US Air Force achieving several elevating ranks including Installation Fire Chief before retiring after 26 years. Lloyd finished his working career at Ft. Leonard Wood retiring from civil service in 2016. Lloyd loved racing Hobie Cat Sailboats and R/C Airplanes, flying Prism Kites and motorcycles.



Richard "Rick" Frankenberg • April 18, 2023 • served 42 years with the **Washington Volunteer Fire Company** achieving the rank of Lieutenant and member of their Board of Directors. Rick received a CPR save award, two-unit citations for rescue and served as quartermaster for several years. Rick enjoyed a successful career with Spire Gas as an Operations Manager in Franklin Co. and recently retired after 30 years. Rick also served with Washington Ambulance as an EMT for 34 years.



Herman W. Galli Jr. • March 14, 2023 • served 15 years with the **Wheatland Fire Dept. now Central Hickory Fire Prot. Dist.** Herman was Fire Chief most of his time with Wheatland. Herman worked as a salesman for Low-E Insulation while volunteering at Wheatland. Later in life he took a position with the Index as a reporter and photographer. Herman loved racing and later in life became part of this Brother-in-law's pit crew which helped with his second loved activity of traveling the US.



Dale Hayes Galdish • October 14, 2023 • served 22 years with the **Grandview Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Assistant Fire Chief. Dale also owned and operated D&J Fire Extinguishers with his wife for 25 years. Dale was an Eagle Scout, attended the National Fire Academy which was not common at the time. Being a Football player in H.S. Dale loved most thing football, especially the Chiefs. Dale loved traveling, especially Palm Desert, CA and Myrtle Beach.

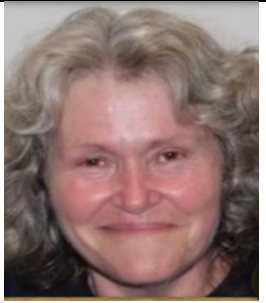


Mason Evans Griffith • March 12, 2023 • served several years with the **Gerald-Rosebud Fire Prot. Dist.** Detective Sergeant Griffith was killed in the line of duty as a Police Officer with the Hermann Police Dept. Mason was also Chief of Police for the Rosebud Police Dept. and Reserve Deputy with the Gasconade Sheriff's Dept. Mason was a Boy Scout and joined the Police Explorers in 2001. Mason enjoyed most things involving the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, trapping and kayaking.

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Kadence Nichole Harris • June 3, 2023 • served briefly as a cadette with the **Aurora Fire Dept.** Kadence was not the typical teenage girl, she loved to work on any type of motor especially motor cycles. She had successfully completed one year at Scott Technical in Monett in the Auto Tech field receiving several certifications in auto mechanics. She planned to attend college in South Carolina to be a Harley Tech after graduation. Kadence enjoyed hunting and fishing with her father.



Betty Maxine Brooks-Hartlein • October 4, 2023 • served 8 years with the **Scott County Rural Fire Prot. Dist.** Betty was known as “Station Mom” and many just called her Mom. Betty was Firefighter of the year in 2021 for her dedication, passion and positive attitude. She focused her service on station duties and special meals and a “Life Coach” to several of the staff. Betty briefly a youth league softball coach, home schooled 4 of her 6 children and very active with her church family at Elm St. Baptist.

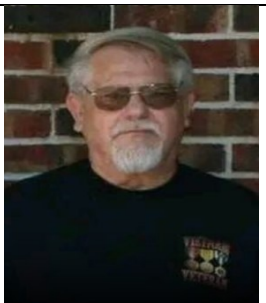


David Hartman • October 7, 2022 • served 20+ years with the **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD) achieving the rank of Engineer.

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of David Hartman, Monarch Fire Protection District.



Justin Dean Hodge • February 9, 2023 • served 20 years with the **Union Star Vol. Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. Justin achieved a degree in electronics and worked 18 years for Herzog Services before recently joining BASF Agricultural Service in St. Joseph. Justin was a talented man allowing him to build his own home, restore a classic car and winemaking. Justin loved a good one liner, jokes and pranks. He answered to several nicknames and most fire calls.



Edward Leon Hoover • July 19, 2023 • served 26 years with the **Little Dixie Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. Leon was a US Army veteran, served in Vietnam and recipient of the Bronze Star. On returning to the US, Leon became an instructor at Fort Leonard Wood, retiring as a Major. On returning to Mexico Leon worked for Western Southern Life Insurance and retired from Mexico Public Safety as a shift Sergeant. Leon is the brother of Ret. Chief Kenneth Hoover.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Robert E. Hopper, Jr. • June 5, 2023 • served 27 years the **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD) and achieved the rank of Engineer. Bob was also a volunteer firefighter for the O'Fallon FPD for 25+ years. Bob was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era and volunteered twice. He loved horses growing up with his parents' stables. Bob was a volunteer athletic trainer at St. Charles West H.S., part of the security team at his church and collector of small item fire memorabilia.



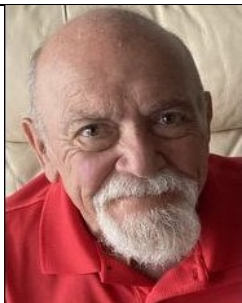
Richard D. Howell • November 15, 2023 • served 30 years with the **O'Fallon Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief before retiring. Richard was a US Navy veteran and spent most of his time after service on the family farm. Richard loved boating, water skiing and travelling all over the world. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Richard D. Howell, O'Fallon Fire Protection District.



Donald Raymond Ince • January 30, 2023 • served 52 years in the MO. fire service with 37 years at **Louisiana Fire Dept.** Other departments included Montgomery City and Centralia. Don was the Secretary & Treasurer most of his time at Louisiana. Don was a US Navy veteran, assisted with Great River Honor Flights and inducted into Legion Post 370. Don retired from the La Crosse Lumber Company in 1998 with 48.5 years of service. Don was Citizen of the yr. in 1983 & Rotarian of the yr. in 1988.



Donald Lee Johnson • March 11, 2023 • served 18 years with the **St. Clair Fire Prot. Dist.** Donald worked in construction and union carpenter by trade. This also included the Wire and Lathing unions retiring after 40-years in these trades. Donald loved to play golf, go fishing, hunting and collecting coins. Donald was a member of St. Clair Elks Lodge 2651. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Donald Lee Johnson, St. Clair Fire Prot. Dist.



Michael Bennett Johnson • February 15, 2023 • served 25 years with the **MO Div. of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal** retiring as a Regional Chief Investigator in 2009. Michael was a US Navy veteran. Following his enlistment, he started a 15-year career in Law Enforcement, 7-yrs. with St. Louis City and 8-yrs. at Butler Co. Sheriff's Dept. in Popular Bluff. Michael tried to do as little as possible in retirement outside of hunting, fishing & telling his wife Linda how to drive.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



William "Bill" Jones • August 2, 2023 • served 37 years with the **Perryville Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. Bill was also the Assist. Police Chief for City of Perryville. He started his career in law enforcement with the city in 1983. His favorite days at work were those interacting with children and that included both uniforms. Major Jones trained hundreds of officers at the SEMO Law Enforcement Academy and many new firefighters. He was a member in over a dozen organizations.



Al "Alfie" LaPointe • March 2, 2023 • served 23 years with the **Rock Community Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Battalion Chief. Alfie completed a total of 34-years in the fire service starting with the French Village FD in 1989. Alfie was inspired to join the fire service by his Grandfather. Alfie received numerous awards including Medal of Valor, Cert. of Merit and numerous clinical saves in his career. Other interests included Med-Star Ambulance, Emergency Mgmt. and the Moose Lodge.



Harold Gene Lasley • December 18, 2023 • served several years with the **Olympia Fire Dept.** Gene was a US Army veteran and one of the founding fathers of the fire department when started in 1981. Gene ran a mechanic shop in gas station in Montevallo with his farther for many years. In 1982 he started a career in Law Enforcement working in Vernon and Dade County and later in Lockwood retiring in 1998. The Foundation salutes his military, fire & law enforcement service.



Robert Lee Latimer, Sr. • October 16, 2023 • served 37 years with the **Newark Rural Fire Dept.** Robert was a founding member of the Newark Volunteer FD and served as the Treasurer. Robert was known as "Hoss" by his friends and worked for MFA fertilizer in LaBelle for 42 years. He retired in 2014 but continued working seasonally until 2018. He loved being the greeter at the Fire Dept. fish fry. Robert read his bible daily, loved Gunsmoke, John Wayne movies, football, word search puzzles and cards.



Kenneth Ray "Kenny" Lause • December 7, 2023 • served 48 years with the **Union Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Captain receiving numerous awards and recognitions. Kenny was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era receiving the Bronze Star and other medals and rank of Sergeant. Kenny enjoyed a successful 30 year career with Chrysler Automotive in Fenton. Kenny loved working with the vintage fire apparatus of the department, especially the hand pumper.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



George Leo Little, Sr. • March 5, 2023 • served 40 years with the **Shelbina Fire Prot. Dist.** George was a US Army veteran, employed at Pace Industries as a die caster for 36-years and hunter safety educator for 33-years. George volunteered at the local food bank and served 8-years on the Shelby Co. Ambulance Board. George enjoyed camping, coffee with friends, watching NASCAR and his grand children. The Memorial Foundation of MO. salutes the life & service of George Little.



Thomas Edward Long • September 26, 2023 • served 38 years with the **St. Louis Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief. Thomas was a WW-II Navy Veteran.

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Chief Thomas Edward Long, St. Louis Fire Department.



John J. Lucas • June 3, 2023 • served several years with **Clarksburg and Moniteau Fire Depts.** John was Fire Chief for Clarksburg Vol. FD and a firefighter with Moniteau FPD. John worked in and held many jobs. He was a 911 dispatcher for Moniteau and Morgan Co., a jailer for the Moniteau Co. Sheriff, CPR instructor, EMT w/ Mid-MO Ambulance, crew leader for MO. Dept. Transp. & rescue diver. John was a member of Freedom of the Road Riders and an ordained minister.



Shawn Michael Malone • April 11, 2023 • served 20years with the **Tunas and Louisburg Volunteer Fire Depts.** Shawn focused his working life on the family farm and local farms. Shawn loved being outside. In his spare time, Shawn loved to cook and watch truck and tractor pulls. Shawn loved music and being the DJ at parties and events. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Shawn Michael Lucas – Tunas and Louisburg Volunteer Fire Departments.



Kenneth Mark Mast • February 6, 2023 • served years with the **Moreau Fire Prot. Dist.** Ken was a self-employed over the road trucker. A true country boy, Ken liked trucks, dogs, hunting, camping and the west. Ken loved the lord, family and neighbors. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Kenneth Mark Mast with the Moreau Fire Protection District.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



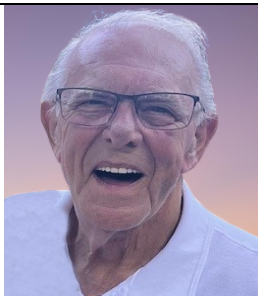
Ronald W. McAfee • April 23, 2023 • served 26 years with the **MO Div. of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal** retiring as an Investigator in 2010. Ronald started in Law Enforcement with the Bowling Green Police Dept. for 12 years. Ronald loved fishing, especially the Mississippi River for catfish or Southern Missouri for spoonbills. Ronald spent retirement tinkering with old cars, watching old westerns, attending auctions for that great deal, catching an opra show and family reunions.



Sean-Michael Bryan Middleton • May 22, 2023 • served 15 years with **St. Clair Fire Prot. Dist.** Sean was employed by Parker Hannifin in Washington as a machinist for 23 years and most recently working as a FedEx Driver. Sean enjoyed working on his tractor, hunting, fishing boating and going to his children's sporting events. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Sean-Michael Bryan Middleton, St. Clair Fire Protection District.



Jerry Alan Moeckli • June 15, 2023 • served 28 years with the **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD) and achieved the rank of Captain. Jerry was a US Air Force veteran and reservist of 22 years. For a short time following retirement, Jerry served as Fire Chief for Holts Summit FPD. In his spare time, Jerry coached youth sports and served as a Chaplin. Jerry lived a full life, traveled the world and most of the States. In the rare time Jerry was sitting still, he in his boat fishing.



David Lee Moellering • October 29, 2023 • served 32 years with the **Brentwood Fire Dept.** retiring as a Sr. Captain in 2001. David was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era. Jerry was a member of American Legion Post 208 in Manchester. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of David Lee Moellering, Brentwood Fire Department.



Edward Louis Muff • January 17, 2023 • served 30+ years with the **Buffalo Township Fire Prot. Dist.** as a firefighter and founding member of the board. In 2019 BTFPD House 1 was dedicated in his name. Edward was a US Army veteran serving as a aircraft mechanic instructor. Following his military service, Edward joined his father's carpentry business, Paul Muff and Son. Edward joined Carpenters Union Local 1008 in 1958 and served as trustee and treasurer for 16-years.



Leonard Kay "LT" Musser • September 24, 2023 • served 25 years with the **Gower Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief. Leonard began with the Gower Community Fire Association and remained with the Gower FPD. Leonard worked 42 years for Frazier Oil delivering fuel and propane until retiring in 2018. Leonard was a member of the Gower JC's, coach for the Gower Merchants slow pitch softball team and member of the Gower Old Timer's Hall of Fame.



Ed Nauman • July 17, 2023 • served 10 years with the **Boles Fire Prot. Dist.**

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Ed Nauman, Boles Fire Protection District.



David Lee Nichol Jr. • August 3, 2022 • served 26 years with the **Independence Fire Dept.** retiring as a Captain in 2020. David joined the Army Reserves in 1983. David loved camping, play the guitar and sneaking chocolate chip cookies or Reese's PB Cups to his grandkids. David enjoyed anything on 101 Fox radio and watching the Chiefs. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of David Lee Nichol Jr., Independence Fire Department.



Robert H. Niemeyer • July 11, 2023 • served 50 years with the **Brentwood Fire Dept.**, 30 of those as Fire Chief. Robert was a US Army veteran. Following his service Robert started with the City of Brentwood as a Dispatcher and then Police Officer (both combined were 2 years). Robert received numerous commendations throughout his career including the Medal of Valor. His son David followed him into the fire service and currently a Captain with the Brentwood Fire Dept.



Gary Dean Oerly • August 6, 2023 • served 30 years with the **Boone County Fire. Prot. Dist.** Gary was the managing Captain for BCFPD Station 8. Gary also served at Stations 12 & 14 and as a Fire Investigator for 9 years. Gary was also known as the Boat Captain for 807. In his regular job, Gary worked as a supervisor for Farm Bureau Insurance. Gary was one of the primary operators of the 1954 Parade Engine, Truman's Taxi". Gary will be remembered as a true leader and mentor within BCFPD.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Charles H. Ossenfort • June 1, 2023 • served 28 years with the **Monarch Fire Prot. Dist.** (formally Chesterfield FPD) retiring in 2002. Besides being an outstanding firefighter, Chuck was also very instrumental in the mapping of the district as it grew which were used in responding to emergencies. Chuck was their comedic relief at the time and very good at drawing cartoons of the district's highs and lows of daily operations.



John Henry Parison • November 17, 2023 • served 21 years with the **Kansas City Fire Dept.** John was pinned Captain as a Firefighter for his faithful service on Nov. 15, 2023. John was in Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), a Fire Apparatus Operator (FAO), a Medic, a mentor and counselor to new firefighters. One of his proudest moments was to pin his son John Parison IV as a 3rd generation firefighter. John was an Chiefs fan, loved cooking and famous for Fried Chicken Friday's.



Russell James Otis • April 10, 2020 • served 28 years with the **Vichy Fire Prot. Dist.** Russ also served on the VFPD Board of Directors. His passion was fundraising for the VFPD and cooking in their fundraising dinners and auctions. Russ was a concrete truck driver for Weiberg Ready Mix in Vichy. Russ loved all things outdoors especially hunting, fishing, competing in rodeos and horseback riding. Russ was a member of Community Church and professed his strong Christian faith.



Charles T. Paxton • June 27, 2023 • served 20 years with the **Hannibal Fire Dept.** retiring as Asst. Fire Chief. Prior to that Charles was a Hannibal Police Officer. Charles was a US Marine Corps veteran. Charles enjoyed camping, boating on the Mississippi, playing cards, gilling, watching cooking shows and St. Louis Cardinals. Charles loved his trips to the beaches of Mexico, the mountains and time with family. He enjoyed listening to 80's Rock, especially AC/DC and Led Zeppelin.



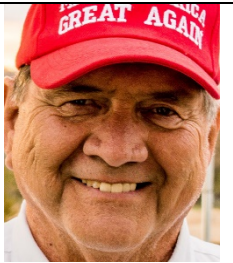
Ameila Ann Pearson • September 7, 2023 • served 7.5 years with the **Battlefield Fire Prot. Dist.** as a Volunteer and held the rank of Lieutenant. Ameila was a Registered Nurse, completed a Masters in Counselling and completed over 50 years in healthcare. Ameila held various positions as a nurse, mental health supervisor and instructor of nursing at St. Johns' School of Nursing in Springfield. Later in her career she became a compliance surveyor for the states of Missouri and Arizona.



William "Bill" George Pezold • December 25, 2023 • served with the ***Elsberry Volunteer Fire Dept.*** for 22 years. Bill was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era, was a member of the Knights of Columbus and VFW. After retirement from Sears, Roebuck & Co. in 1997, Bill started Earth Energy Solutions, a cellulose insulation business. With his son-in-law. His employees were never given tasks but offered opportunities. Bill loved, raised and showed horses including being a farrier.



Peter Gerald Prewitt • August 22, 2022 • served 25 years with the ***Springfield Fire Dept.*** retiring as an Engineer and total fire service of 27-years. After a bachelor's degree Peter joined the Joplin FD for 2 years before hired at Springfield. Peter followed in his father's footsteps who was Fire Chief in Neosho. His son Isaiah is a 3rd generation firefighter serving in Bolivar. The fire service has been a family calling. Peter had a servant's heart assisting people on and off the job and the king of corny jokes.



Jeffrey "Jeff" Reid • February 3, 2023 • served several years with the ***R-4 Fire Prot. Dist.*** which included the community of Maywood. Jeff was a farmer reflecting a 51-year journey and 5th generation of the Reid family. Jeff served on the Lewis County Farm Bureau board and relished every opportunity to join the Great River Walk to Emmaus. As a husband to a Pastor of St. Francesville & Lurary UMC, Jeff help with playing music for worship or any request for assistance. Jeff loved gospel & 70's music.

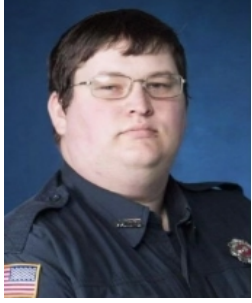


Charles Ruedlin, Jr. • January 13, 2023 • served 30 years with the ***Boles Fire Prot. Dist.*** and served out of the Villa Ridge station. Charles worked most of his life as a union painter. Charles and Shirley enjoyed their golden years traveling with other seniors. They loved playing bingo and going out for dinner with family. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Charles Ruedlin, Boles Fire Prot. Dist..



Dennis Sanchez • June 15, 2023 • served several years with the ***Festus and Crystal City Fire Depts.*** Dennis had recently retired as a paramedic first working for Joachim Plattin Ambulance District and then working as a dispatcher and paramedic for Abbott Ambulance. Dennis was a long time member of the Fesus-Crystal City Elks, collected old police cars, firefighter memorabilia and model trains. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of MO. salutes the life & service of Dennis Sanchez.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Justin Levi Sanders • April 1, 2023 • served 12 years with the **Mansfield Fire Dept.** Justin started his working career at Town and Country Supermarket in Mansfield and worked there for 10 years before going to work at Emerson in Ava for 6 years. Justin was currently working as an EMT for Mercy Hospital. He was also an active and very proud member of Mansfield Lodge #543. In his spare time Justin liked hunting, fishing, riding ATV's and hanging out with friends.



Richard "Scott" Satterwhile • October 27, 2023 • served 30 years with the **Sedalia Fire Dept.** achieving the rank of Inspector on retirement. Scott was instrumental in assisting with establishing the Fire Fighter's Memorial in Liberty Park. Scott was an avid hunter and fisherman, an accomplished woodsman, encyclopedia of natural history, vegetable farmer, houseplant whisperer and caretaker of a rotating lineage of livestock. Scott was a storyteller, loved music and a collector of albums.



Howard Schafer, Jr. • March 30, 2023 • Served 31 years with the **Kirkwood Fire Dept.** retiring in 2004 as an Engineer. Howard was a Vietnam veteran. Howard was one of the first paramedics licensed in St. Louis County. Howard also worked for Fick Supply Company for many years and a long-time member of the Masonic Lodge. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Howard Schafer, Jr. – Kirkwood Fire Department.



Robert "Bob" W. Schlingmann • July 21, 2023 • served a combined 60 years with the **Hillsboro and Goldman Fire Protection Districts.** Bob also served with the Hillsboro Police Dept. and Jefferson County Arson Investigation Team. His service help to save lives and his dedication helped forward the progress of the fire service. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Robert W. Schlingmann, Hillsboro and Goldman Fire Protection Districts.



Max L. Schmoll • November 1, 2023 • served several year with the **East Lynn-Gunn City Fire Prot. Dist.,** 27 years as Fire Chief. At age 3, Max's mother rescued him from their house fire which lead to her passing. This inspired Max to join the fire service. Max was a farmer his entire life raising cattle and row crops. His family was presented with "Farm Family" of the year in 1986. Max served on many boards and associations. He was given credit in getting 911 passed and operational in Cass County.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Tommy John Seegers • May 5, 2023 • served with the ***Desota Rural Fire Prot. Dist.*** as a firefighter and paramedic. Tom was very proud of his son following in his footsteps as a firefighter and EMT. Tom loved hockey and watching his son play. During his time as an assistant coach, they won the State Championship. Tom was a student of learning through his entire life. Some said he would have been a professional student if allowed. Tom loved fishing, camping and the guitar. Idle time was not his friend.



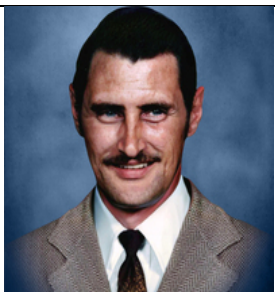
David L. Shepherd • April 12, 2023 • served 38 years with the ***Maryland Heights Fire Prot. Dist.*** retiring as a Captain. David started with Pattonville FPD 5 years prior to that. David was a US Navy veteran and member of both IAFF and FFAM. David served 21 of his 38 years as a Captain. David loved travelling, golf, fishing and refurbishing old fire trucks and cars. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Captain David Shephard, Maryland Heights Fire Prot. Dist.



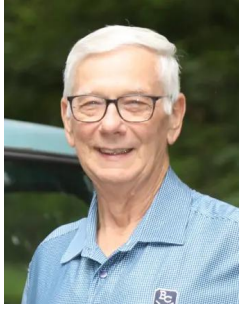
Neal Leroy Smith • March 17, 2023 • served 30+ years with the ***Fort Osage Fire Prot. Dist.***, This was previously the Buckner Fire Dist. which he helped to shape and create. Neal was a volunteer paramedic and one of the first Chiefs of the department. He was past president of the Board of Directors of the Fort Osage FPD. Neal worked for Hallmark as a plant manager, loved working on his farm, riding motorcycles, hunting, fishing, bingo and working with the elderly at Buckner Sr. Center.



Dwayne Stombaugh • April 3, 2023 • served 33 years with the ***Hannibal Fire Dept.*** retiring as Fire Chief. Dwayne was a US Army veteran. Dwayne worked exceptionally hard hold two jobs most of the time. He owned Right Way Disposal Service and worked at Quincy Compressor. In 1968 he became a firefighter and held other jobs. Dwayne loved golf, hunting, fishing, feeding the birds and keeping the grass mowed. In the winter he spent hours in his shop building bluebird houses and fixing things.



Raymond Stoneking • February 12, 2023 • served 20 years with the ***North Central Carroll Fire Prot. Dist.*** Throughout his career Raymond enjoyed many different working opportunities including the Carroll County Sheriff's Dept., maintenance at Life Center, maintenance supervisor at Riverview Heights and grocery store stocker at Mulch's. Raymond also owned and operated his own plumbing business, love deer hunting, camping and collecting guns, knives and coins.



Terry Allen Sullentrup • November 22, 2023 • served 54 years with the **Washington Volunteer Fire Company**, achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief and served in the rescue section most of that time. Terry was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era and continued in the reserves. Terry received numerous FF commendations and awards. He was a founding member of the Dept. Honor Guard and its commander. Terry was named FF of the yr. in 1974 and 2016. He was also VFW Post Commander.



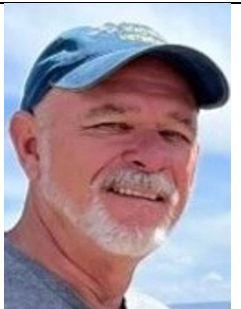
Steven G. Taylor • June 17, 2023 • served 8 years with the **MO Div. of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal** as an inspector before retiring. Prior to that Steven was a firefighter paramedic serving 8 years with Harrisonville, 7 with Cameron and 3 with Belton. Steven was a member of the Boy Scouts of America troop 87 and an Eagle Scout. He joined concerns of Police Survivors in 2011 when his son was lost in the line of duty. In retirement his focus was on grandchildren.



Jerry D. Thomas • November 1, 2023 • served 56 years with **La Plata Community Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief. Jerry was a US Army veteran. Jerry served on the La Plata City Council and Mayor two different terms. Jerry rode with the Patriot Guard, served with area Honor Guards and a devout Christian. Jerry was a member of the La Plata Christian Church, American Legion Post 282, lifetime member of VFW, Macon Co. Ambulance Board, American Red Cross and many other orgs.



William Edward "Hoss" Thomas • May 27, 2023 • served 35 years with the **Louisiana Fire Dept. and Buffalo Township Fire Prot. Dist.** retiring as a Fire Chief. Hoss obtained a degree in auto mechanics and practiced during some of his working career. He was also a school bus and semi-truck driver. Hoss was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leader. He played Smokey the Bear on many occasions for fire safety. Hoss enjoyed being a mechanic, racing, flea markets and fishing derbies.



Richard Dale "Rick" Thompson • September 3, 2023 • served 30+ 15-years with the **New Bloomfield Fire Dept.** Rick was recently appointed to the role of Mentoring Fire Fighter. Rick was a US Navy veteran, a member of American Legion Post 202 and part of the Honor Guard in military ceremonies. Following his military service Rick worked 38 years with Ameren's Callaway Nuclear Power Plant. Rick was a true outdoors enthusiast finding joy with all cycling and hiking activities.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Charles Eugene Toler • July 24, 2023 • served 15 years with **Dadeville Rural Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. He graduated from Pittsburg State University with an automotive tech. degree, but started turning wrenches with his grandfather as a boy. He worked 15 years as a field mechanic for MODOT, loved farming, hunting, fishing and coaching baseball and basketball. In 2003 his H.S. basketball team made the State Final Four.



James T. Trapani • November 3, 2023 • served 26 years in public safety with 8 years at the **MO Div. of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal** as an Investigator. Jim also served 5-years with the **Cole Co. Fire Prot. Dist.** James started his law enforcement career in 1996 and joined the Fire Marshal's office in 1998. Following that James was a reserve police officer for several department until August 2023. His wife Becki retired as the Division Training Chief and son Anthony is a FF.



David L. Ullery • November 22, 2023 • served 30+ years with the **Dolan-West Dolan Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief. David was a US Army veteran. David was currently serving on the Fire District Board and previously as an officer on the Cass Co. Fire Chief's Assoc. David was a business accounting manager for several car dealerships in the area. David was a life-long member, treasurer, music director and organist for Freeman Presbyterian Church.



Robert J. "Bob" Voss • September 6, 2023 • served 40 years with the **Webster Groves Fire Dept.** retiring as a Batt. Chief in 1999. Bob was a US Navy veteran during the Korean War and hired following his service. Bob enjoyed farming, gardening, hunting, fishing and time with family/grandchildren. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Battalion Chief Robert J. Voss, Webster Groves Fire Department.

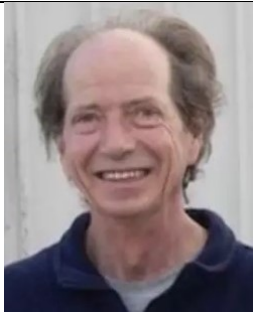


Lloyd D. Ward, Rev. • August 10, 2023 • served 25 years with the **Boles Fire Prot. Dist.** as a Chaplin and Vol. Firefighter. The Ward family started in the State of New York pasturing in Buffalo and then Norwich before moving to Missouri pasturing at a Deaf Church in St. Louis. After moving to Gray Summit and preaching at the Assembly of God Church Rev. Ward becoming involved with the Fire Dept. He will be remembered for his snow cones & heavenly hash at the Fireman's Picnic each year.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



John W. Watson • June 2, 2023 • served 12 years with the **Central Callaway Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief on leaving in 1991. John was also instrumental in starting the Fire District, worked for AP Green 34 years and Sutherlands for 10 more. John was a member of United Steelworkers, loved tinkering & fixing things. He was the first person to mess up a family picture with fingers over a head or turning his hat backwards. At Sutherlands he was your guy for assistance.



Rodney Lee Webster • July 4, 2023 • served 14 years with the **Western Lewis Co. Fire Prot. Dist.** as a Firefighter and Engineer at district station No. 3. Rodney was a truck driver and mechanic by trade, operated Webster Salvage Yard and Janitor as Highland High School since 2015. Rodney was a modified race car driver for nearly 20 years, loved dirt bikes and dune buggy courses. Rodney was devoted to his church, enjoyed fishing, working on older and classic cars.



Keith Weffelmeyer • July 6, 2023 • served 35 years with the **Fenton Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Deputy Chief of operations in 2001 before retiring in 2008. During his service, he received two commendations. Keith enjoyed fishing, spending time at the lake and hanging out with his 7 Grandchildren. In death, Keith wanted to continue helping others and donated his body to educate future medical providers.



Albert William "Bill" Westhoff, Jr. • October 17, 2023 • served 60+ years and made an immeasurable contribution to the fire service. After OSU Bill started teaching Firemanship Education in Columbia which later became MO. Fire Training Institute. Early member of Central MO Radio Squad which is now Boone Co. FPD as Fire Chief, then Chief of Columbia. Worked several years as a writer & editor for IFSTA training manuals and first director of IFSAC, lifetime achievement awards FFAM and International Chiefs. A family business as grandson is 5th generation.



Gerald Ray Wheeler • February 17, 2023 • served 43 years with the **Higbee Area Fire Prot. Dist.** achieving the rank of Fire Chief and holding that for many years and board member for 26 years. Gerald was a US Army veteran. His father was in the logging business where Gerald worked as a logger, repairman, barrel maker and morning coffee maker. Gerald enjoyed working on small engines, hunting and fishing. Gerald will be deeply remembered as a wonderful mentor and the best teacher.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



Donald Ray Willming • June 22, 2023 • served 29 years with the **Washington Volunteer Fire Company**. Donald was also an honorary member for 6 years. Donald worked for Chrysler until his retirement in 2000. Don served as a Lieutenant & Captain in the traffic section of the fire company and worked on several FFAM Convention Committees over the years. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Donald Ray Willming, Washington Volunteer Fire Company.



Richard Wood • March 23, 2023 • served 40+ years with the **Houston City and Houston Rural Fire Depts.** serving as Asst. Chief in both departments. Richard was involved in several occupations early in life including newspapers which his parents owned, home building and food service which he embraced and created a focused career owning his own facilities. Richard was the Texas County Emergency Mgmt. Director and worked on radio equipment for fire, police and the Sheriff.



Elmer L. "Ted" Woodsmall, Jr. • August 27, 2023 • served 20+ years with the **Wayland Volunteer Fire Prot. Dist.** and a member of the Clark County Rescue Squad. He was reported as a highly dedicated responder. Elmer was employed at Steel Castings in Keokuk, Iowa. Elmer enjoyed reading, especially Stephen King and deer hunting. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service Elmer Woodsmall, Jr., Wayland Volunteer Fire Protection District.



Ronald "Ronnie" Gean Wright • June 17, 2023 • served 58 years with the **Mount Vernon Fire Prot. Dist.** Ronnie and Donnie were twins and did most things together. Early in life, both worked at the grocery store, became commissioned Sheriff's Deputies, part time police officers. And both served as Volunteer FF with Mt. Vernon. Later the brothers both worked as carpenters and roofers and Ronnie best known as a taxi driver until age 73 transporting over 268,000 passengers.



Michael Linn "Mike" Yates • November 2, 2023 • served 30 years with the **Ironton Fire Dept.** reaching the rank of Asst. Fire Chief. Mike worked for the Arcadia Valley School District was a welding instructor and was a golf instructor for several years. When Mike was not teaching or coaching, he and Sara were camping & hosting family and friends and avid deer hunter. The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service Michael Linn Yates, Ironton Fire Dept.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program



James "Jay" Andrew Young • May 4, 2023 • served 33 years with the ***Kansas City Fire Dept.*** retiring in 2011 as an Engineer. Jay was a US Navy veteran during the Vietnam era and served on the USS St. Louis receiving several unit and individual medal awards. That was no different in the KCFD receiving unit and individual citations, awards and recognitions. Jay loved camping, boating and telling of stories. Jay frequently said he had the "BEST JOB" in the world.



Eric Stephen Young • July 21, 2023 • served 11 years with the ***Richmond Heights Fire Dept.*** as a Firefighter/Paramedic.

The Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri salutes the life & service of Eric Stephen Young, Richmond Heights Fire Department.

Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri – 2024 Candlelight Service Program

If you become aware that we have missed someone from 2023, please bring this to our attention. We would be honored to present their name in 2025.

You may contact one of the Foundation members here tonight or later using our email address of INFO@firememorial-museum.org

Another option is our mailing address Firefighters Memorial Foundation, 5550 Dunn Drive, Kingdom City, MO 65262.

You may also visit our website at <https://mofirememorial-museum.org/>



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Don Wilmesher – Past FFAM Director, Union Fire Protection District

Terry Wynne – FFAM Director, District 1

Brian Zinanni – Missouri State Director, Supporting Heroes

The Board of Directors would like to thank so many people and organizations which continue to support the Foundation. Special thank you to Blue Ice Productions which donated their time in producing the Tribute to Hero's Power Point Presentation. Also, assistance from Wildstory Productions for their video, sound and production support.

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