

Honoring and Remembering

ALL THE LINE OF DUTY DEATH'S IN 2022

This program book is dedicated to Chief Charles Oscar Baker with over 80 years of service to the Maryland Fire Service.



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

The Official Publication of the Maryland Fire Chiefs



Chief Gerald "JJ" Lynott Jr.
President 2022 - 2023





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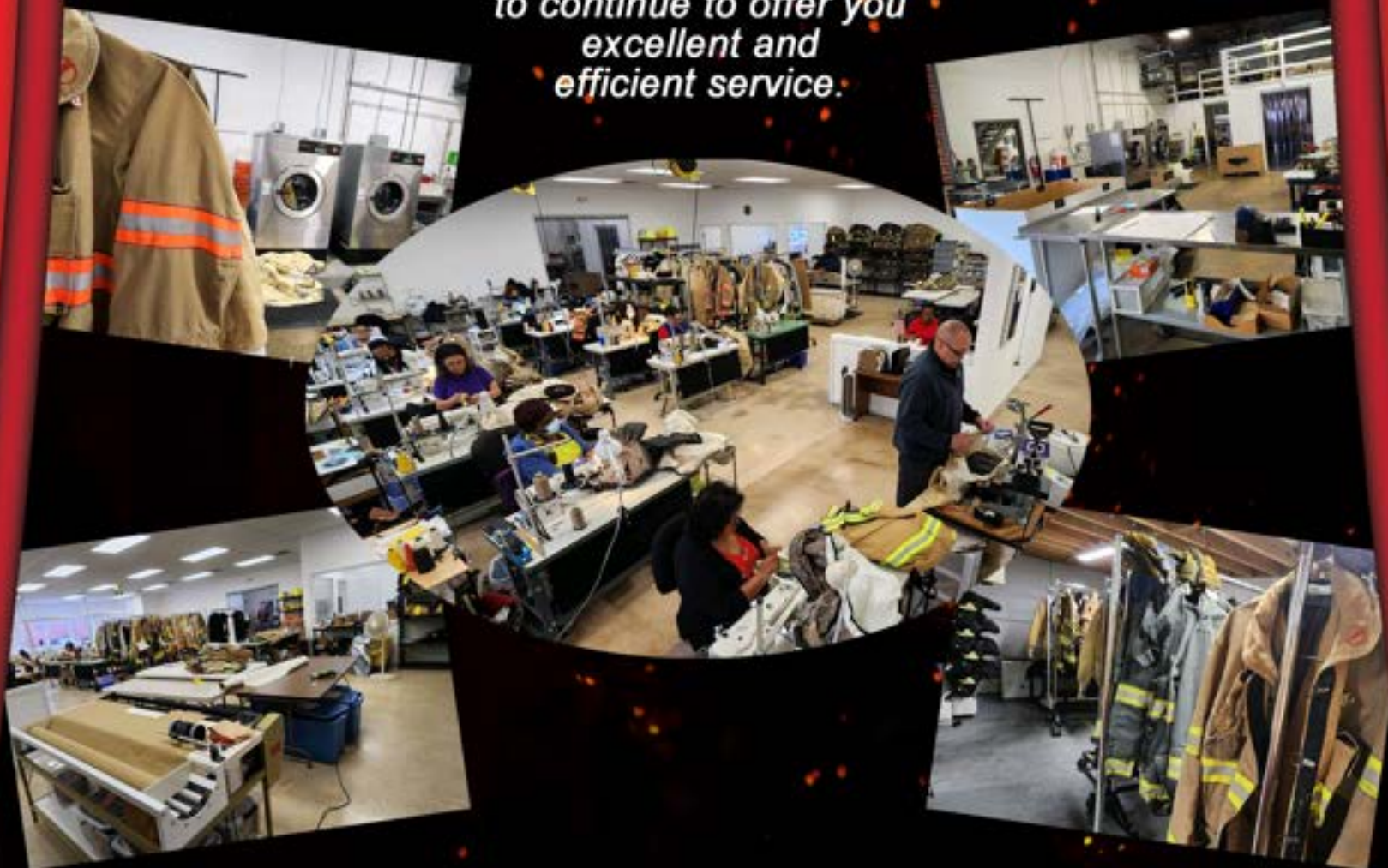


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Maryland Fire Chiefs Association



MFCA Statistical Reports, Activities & Events Page www.mdchief.org

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MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



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REDUCING FIREFIGHTER LOSSES

Firefighters are the first to answer our call when an emergency strikes. Yet, on average, 100 Firefighters die in the line of duty each year.

To reverse this trend, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is leading a nationwide effort to prevent future firefighter deaths and injuries. We support the U.S. Fire Administration's goal of reducing firefighter fatalities by 25% within 5 years, and by 50% within 10 years.

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C. OSCAR BAKER
PAST PRESIDENT
MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 1978 - 1979
PAST PRESIDENT
MT. AIRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Well respected C. Oscar Baker, of Mt. Airy, passed away peacefully Saturday, July 23, 2022 at Lorien Assisted Living in the town he loved. Oscar celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends on June 24, 2022. He was the youngest of three children born to the late Oscar Lee and Bessie Brashears Baker in Mt. Airy.



Oscar was married to the late Edith Baker in 1947. They had three sons, Glenn (Kimberly), of Easton, MD, Jerry (Kathy) of Mt. Airy and Dennis (Stephanie) of Roseville, CA. Grandsons, Seth Baker and Carson Baker, and step granddaughter Courtney Votey. Oscar grew up on numerous farms around Mt. Airy and graduated from Mt. Airy High School in 1939.

He was drafted into the Army in March of 1943, took basic training in Fort Lewis, WA and was selected for the Army's ASTP program starting at University of Idaho and later University of Oregon. He was assigned to the 11th Armored Division under Patton's 3rd where he was sent to England, France and then Belgium where he saw action in the Battle of the Bulge. On January 2, 1945 he was wounded in action and evacuated to hospitals in Paris, France and Scotland before returning home. He entered the Federal Fire Service in 1948 at NOL then transitioned to Walter Reed Hospital.

In 1965 he was chosen as the first Fire Chief at NBS (now NIST) in Gaithersburg. He retired from NBS in 1979 and began work as an Emergency Services Coordinator in Carroll County helping implement 911 and opening the new Fire Training Center in Westminster.

Two passions dominated Oscar's life: fire service and community. He served as President of the PTA, Little League and was the last living charter member of the

Mt. Airy American Legion Post 191. He chaired the committee that brought senior housing to Wildwood Park where Edith and he were the first residents.

Beyond his family, the Volunteer Fire Service was Oscar's life and love. The Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company (MAVFC) was the touchstone of that dedication of which he joined in 1941. At the time of his passing, he was an 81-year member and a 70-year active member. Serving as President from 1952-1956, he was instrumental in acquiring Carroll County's first ambulance, the Mt. Airy carnival grounds and activities building. During these years Oscar was an instructor with the University of Maryland Fire Extension Service. Oscar served as President of the Carroll County Volunteer Fireman's Association in 1965 and 1991. He was the President of the Maryland State Fireman's Association in 1978-1979 after being Chairman of the Maryland State Fire Prevention Committee for eight years. In 2002, MAVFC dedicated their new Fire Station to Oscar and recognized his many accomplishments by sponsoring the Past President C. Oscar Baker Rookie of the Year Award given annually at the MSFA convention in June. This award honors a rookie emergency service provider just beginning his/her career. Oscar always strived to make things better for the volunteers throughout the county and state.

Through his leadership roles, he taught and mentored many people. Oscar's accomplishments were recognized through his induction into the Mt. Airy Hall of Fame, the Carroll County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, and the Maryland State Fireman's Association Hall of Fame. Oscar believed to live a long life "you have to keep an active mind and an active body."



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THE
DATE**

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Safety and Health Committee

Committee Members

David Lewis, Chair
David Black
Joe Chornock
Rhonda Cohen
Dick Devore
Steve Gervis
Jon Johnson
John Long
Steve Maloney
Roger Marks
Pete Mellits
Heather Miller
Meghan Quinn
David Reid

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association was created to serve, promote, advocate, and provide educational opportunities on the best practices for improving the safety and health of all first responders and their families.

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association is pleased to offer a quarterly publication, Back Step Talks. The purpose of this publication is to address critical safety and health issues effecting first responders. We ask that this information be shared with all first responders to understand the risks that we face and show that we support each other to maintain a safe and physically, mentally, and emotionally well work environment.

**View all issues of Back Step Talks at
<http://mdchief.org/page/backsteptalks>
or follow this QR code ———>**



Rest in Peace Chief 13

S. DARRON LONG
FIRE CHIEF EMERITUS
DAMASCUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Emeritus Sumner Darron Long, 72, of Damascus, MD, He was the best friend, loving partner, and husband to Terri Long for over 30 years. Born on July 7, 1949 in Frederick County, MD. He was the son of the late Irvin Leroy Long and the late Betty Sawyers Burdette. Darron grew up in Damascus, MD, graduated from Damascus High School in 1967, attended Frederick Community College, MFRI, MIEMSS, and the MCFRS Training Academy. He received an Honorable Discharge for his service in the Army USAR TC, he earned a National Defense Service Medal, Expert Badge (M-16 Rifle).



Member of the VCAF Committee for the MSFA for the MCFRS, a member of the Damascus American Legion, President of the Heart of MD "T's", Over 50-year member of the AACA, MTFCL, Sugarloaf Mountain Region AACA, and Member of the Nation's Capital Model T Ford Club.

He is survived by a loving family; loving wife Terri, daughter Kim

Darron served with dedication and pride as a Volunteer in the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service and the State of Maryland for over 53 years. He retired as the Volunteer Fire Chief of Damascus after serving in that position for over 36 years.

He worked as the Lead Painter at the Damascus Motor Company for 41 years. He was a Member of Montgomery United Methodist Church, a Life Member of the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department, Past Secretary of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association, Member of the Maryland State Fireman's Association,

(Long) and husband Rusty Roepke, and their daughter Lauren Paylor, Karen Long and family, and Katherine Stefanowicz and family. Stepmother Ruth Brown and her husband Ken and their families. In-laws, Tom Gartner, Sr. and Joyce of Mount Airy, MD and their families, Brother-in law, Tom Gartner, Jr. and Deb and their families. Uncle Stewart Graf of Hampstead, MD, cousin Jeff Graf and wife Jan and their families, Cousin Dave Graf and wife Dawn, and their families. Cousin Mary Kay Dennis and Robert Earl Sawyers of Swansboro, NC and their families. Stepbrothers Donnie Burdette and wife Jeanette of Frederick, MD and their family, and Tom Burdette and wife Wendy of Clifton, VA and their family. He was pre-deceased by both parents Irvin Leroy Long, Betty Sawyers Burdette, a half-sister, Jodi Merritt. Uncle Sumner Sawyers, Uncle Kyle Sawyers, Aunt Carolyn Sue Sawyers, and his paternal and maternal grandparents.

July 7, 1949 to June 28, 2022

Rest in Peace Chief 13



July 7, 1949 to June 28, 2022



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

June 19, 2023



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association at the 75th meeting of your Annual Convention. This year's Convention extends the highest tribute to and recognition of the exemplary service of volunteer firefighters across Maryland.

I am proud to support Fire and EMS personnel by working hard to ensure you have the tools and resources you need to make Maryland a safer place. This year, I introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to help construct and upgrade fire stations across the country. The FIRE STATION Act will create a \$750 million grant program within the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to modify, upgrade, and construct fire and EMS department facilities to support our first responders and their work to keep our communities safe. Additionally, I voted for the Fire Grants and Safety Act which reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) programs through 2030.

Last year, Maryland Fire and EMS organizations received \$22.7 million in competitive funding through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters programs. This includes funding for hiring of firefighters, supporting recruitment and retention activities, and new breathing apparatuses, turnout gear, hoses, and vehicles. I will continue to work to make sure you have the tools and resources you need to keep yourselves and our communities safe and to enable you to serve the residents of Maryland as effectively as possible.

Thank you again for everything that you do for the State of Maryland. I am humbled by and deeply grateful for your bravery and your service.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



www.cardin.senate.gov



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June 18, 2023

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the members of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) attending your annual convention and conference in Ocean City, Maryland. This convention serves as an opportunity to come together to appreciate the brave firemen and women who keep us safe, while providing insightful training and educational sessions for members.

Maryland's fire chiefs play a crucial role in keeping our state safe. Our fire chiefs not only possess the bravery and dedication it takes to fight fires but also the qualities of leader, ensuring that the brave men and women who serve under them are in the best position to do their job. I commend the MFCA for the services and support you provide for the volunteer and career fire chiefs across the state of Maryland. Your advocacy and hard work have enhanced the ability of fire departments to protect our communities and maintained a valuable sense of safety and trust for all Marylanders.

Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of our state by protecting possessions, property, and most importantly lives. As your Senator, I am proud to fight to ensure that you are well equipped to carry out your duties and will continue to do so in the 118th Congress.

You have my best wishes for a celebratory and productive convention.

Sincerely,


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



STENY H. HOYER
FIFTH DISTRICT
MARYLAND



May 23, 2023

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
PO Box 2066
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Dear Friends:

It is truly my pleasure to congratulate you on your 75th Annual Convention for the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association. This milestone serves as a testament to your unwavering commitment to advancing the Fire Service and advocating for the Fire Service men and women of our state. Your selfless dedication and compassion in pursuit of assisting those in danger and in need throughout the past year has been remarkable.

As the Fire Chiefs and figureheads of your organizations you have earned the fullest trust in guiding the firefighters under your command and fostering collaboration with the community. Today, we acknowledge the legacy you have built and offer our sincerest appreciation and admiration.

On behalf of everyone, I want to express my gratitude for the meaningful work you do each day. Your hardwork and bravery in the line of duty serve as an inspiration to us all. I extend my warmest wishes for a meaningful and productive convention.

Again, thanking you for all of your contributions and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steny Hoyer".

STENY H. HOYER





STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wes Moore



June 2023

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2023 Maryland Fire Chiefs Association Program Book.

Since 1946, the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association has been committed to improving our state's emergency response capabilities by providing critical resources and opportunities to fire and EMS personnel.

On behalf of the State of Maryland, we would like to thank the members of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association and our state's first responders who work tirelessly to protect Marylanders while continuing their mission to distribute life saving fire prevention information to the general public.

We are eternally grateful for your service and for your dedication to our state.

We look forward to working together and wish you a successful convention.

Sincerely,

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404
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governor.maryland.gov

**The Officers and Members of the
Hampstead Volunteer Fire Engine and Hose Co No 1**

Carroll County Station 2
Would like to congratulate our member

J J Lynott



President - Maryland Fire Chiefs Association



The fire company took occupancy of the new Events Center on March 31, 2023 as our interim emergency operations building for apparatus and crews. The old fire station has been demolished and the new station is under construction with a projected opening in 2nd qtr 2024.

**Join Our Golf Tournament
Oakmont Green
Fri Sept 22nd 7:30 am tee time
\$380 a foursome \$95 golfer
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<https://www.hampsteadvfd.org>



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Report of the President

Chief Gerald (JJ) Lynott Jr.

1st Vice President Phillips, 2nd Vice President Dulina, Past Presidents, Elected and Appointed Officers, and MFCA members:

It has been my honor to serve as the MFCA President for the last year. I have had the privilege of representing the MFCA at several events and meetings throughout the state and look forward to expanding those opportunities. I hope we continue to make a positive impact on the organization and the Maryland Fire Service.

Over the last year there has been a tremendous amount of work being done “behind the scenes” to set a strong infrastructure foundation for the Association which will benefit us for years to come. Some of the initiatives are the integration of the Salesforce platform to manage our membership rolls, physical inventory and much more. In addition, MFCA does not have a centralized document management (repository), so we will be migrating to Google Workspace within the next few months. This will allow us to store all the Association meeting minutes, documents and such in one location that is cloud based and will allow permission-based access and redundancy. This will be a huge step forward for the Association, since currently documents are usually with the responsible Association officer. We will continue to work towards “centralizing” all accounts and items of the Association. Over the last several years we have been working on a new website. Along the way we encountered several “roadblocks” that drastically delayed the launch of the new site. I am happy to say the new website is now live, and we will continue to work to make it better. I must take a minute and thank Joe Chornock and Brian McGinness for their countless hours dedicated to these initiatives.



In March the Executive Board held a special one day “retreat” at Arbutus VFD with the single topic of the future of the MFCA. This was well attended, and all attendees were engaged and added value to the day. I look forward to taking those ideas and concepts and building upon them to better the association this year and in the future.

Throughout the year the Executive Board met and discussed the business of the Association with the intent to make it better. Sometimes change is hard and there are tough decisions that must be made. I would like to thank all those that served on the Executive Board for your time and dedication to this great Association. Also, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those actively serving on a committee and to those that chair the committees. We would not be a successful organization without the dedicated members who work hard all year long.

In the coming year, I look forward to continuing to serve this great Association as President. As in the past, I will continue to focus on training and improving attendance at general membership meetings by current active members. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact me.

In closing, I would like to thank the Hampstead and Arbutus Volunteer Fire Companies for their support and understanding throughout the years. Lastly, to my wife, Susan, and daughters Jenna, Julianna and Riley for the unwavering support. Thank you for understanding that all the time that I spend away from home is in hope that I’m making a small difference. I could not do it without you!!

Yours in service,
Chief Gerald (JJ) Lynott, Jr.
President, MFCA

Rescue Fire Company

"Proudly Serving the Citizens of Cambridge, MD Since 1881"



President Shyheim Dawson, Chief Adam Pritchett, the officers and members of Rescue Fire Company, Cambridge Maryland would like to extend our best wishes to the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association and President J J Lynott, First Vice President Robert Phillips, and Second Vice President John Dulina



Maryland Fire Chiefs 1st Vice President's Report

President Lynott, 2nd Vice President Dulina, Past Presidents, Elected and Appointed Officials and MFCA membership:

President Lynott started the year off with a meeting of the three Presidents to lay out and organize our goals for the year. With the decisions from this meeting, we went forward getting our goals out to the board of directors and the membership. Some of the main issues we were faced with had to do with the change of date for the NFFF memorial, getting our membership records up to date, putting together an updated budget to meet not only our goals but the cash flow changes, finding new income sources, and getting an updated web site with online store for our merchandise.

This past year we were met with a different schedule for the NFFF Memorial, moving from October to May. This does not sound like much, but with it being five months earlier, we had our work cut out for us. We had to reschedule calendars, people, finances, meetings and many other tasks around to make it special for the families who come to this beautiful memorial. This we did and the final product reflected the hard work many put into making the memorial special for so many others.

We were able to make great strides to get the new web site up and running. Along with the web site change, we also made changes to our membership lists and got the records updated. We now have real time information as to our membership - who is a member in good standing and who is not and the ability to automatically reach out to people to bring them back into the ranks.

Our training seminars and sessions continue to be at the top level. The Training Committee has as usual been very busy with making sure that we provide the training that is required by the next generation of leaders in the Fire/EMS service.

Our Legislative committee was busy in Annapolis this session. There were many new people to be met, people moved from the House to the Senate and people were moved around on the various committees. From day one it was a busy time, and the committee was up to the challenge. There were no less than three regular scheduled meetings each week and keeping up with the almost 2300 bills was a task all its own.

We as an association made the decision to add another golf tournament to our yearly fund raising. This was no minor task and thanks to the committee we were able to generate new revenue to allow us to continue achieving our goals and mission statement.

It is not enough to say thank you to all the individuals who went the extra mile to make all the great things happen this past year. If I were to start listing the names, there is not enough room and knowing me I would forget someone. I will just say THANK YOU to all the hard-working members of our Association for all your efforts. You know who you are, and your efforts are very much appreciated.

Respectfully

Chief Robert Phillips

1st Vice President, MFCA



SOUTHERN MARYLAND
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Patrick Hassler – President SMVFA

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Auxiliary **MARYLAND** **FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**



*The Officers And Members
Of The
Maryland Fire Chiefs
Association Auxiliary
Extend Congratulations And
Well Wishes To The Officers and
Members for a successful year.*

*President Gerald "JJ" Lynott
1st Vice President Robert Phillips
2nd Vice President John Dulina*

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2022-2023



Chief Gerald "JJ" Lynott
President



Chief Hugh Owens
Special Advisor to the Presidents



Chief Robert Phillips
1st Vice President



John Dulina
2nd Vice President



Chief Pete Mellits
Secretary



Rick Hemphill
Treasurer



Joseph Chornock
Membership Secretary



Richard "Chappy" Bower
Chaplain

ABOUT

The Maryland Fire Chiefs Association was founded to represent the volunteer and career Officer Corp of the fire and emergency services of the state of Maryland in 1946. We sponsor education and information for chief officers of the Fire and EMS services as well as represent our members for Legislative and Government issues affecting both the Fire and EMS Services but also the safety of the residents of Maryland which is our paramount concern.

DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN E. FISHER III

OCEAN CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MFCa TRAINING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

"On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Ocean City Fire Department, Fire Chief Richie Bowers has announced the passing of Past Deputy Fire Chief John E. Fisher III.



Deputy Chief John E. Fisher III answered his last alarm on Saturday, January 7, 2023, after a long and dedicated career in the fire service. Chief Fisher joined the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company in May of 1993 and served the citizens and visitors of Ocean City and Worcester County for many years. During his tenure with the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Chief Fisher held the ranks of Lieutenant (1994 to 1996) and Captain (1996 to 2023). He served as Captain of 'A' Platoon and was respected for his leadership, community involvement, and his desire to mentor new members.

John graduated from Northwester Senior High School in Hyattsville Maryland in 1966. He enlisted in the Air Force in August of 1966 and was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base. John was honorably discharged after serving for five years.

"The passing of Deputy Chief Fisher is a great loss to our department. He devoted his life to serving and protecting others, and his legacy will be known as a Chief who touched the lives of many, including the members he mentored," said Ocean City Fire Chief Richie Bowers.

Prior to joining the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, Chief Fisher had an extensive career in the fire service, volunteering with the following departments and held the rank of Fire Chief Mount Rainier Volunteer Fire Department, Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department, and Cottage City Volunteer Fire Department. He also worked as an Instructor for the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute for

45 years and as a Master Firefighter and HazMat Team Shift Leader with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service retiring after 25 years of service.

Also, reflecting on the service of Deputy Chief Fisher, Volunteer Fire Company President Freddie Senger offered the following words, "Deputy Chief Fisher was more than a colleague, he was a friend, mentor, and a devoted member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. He will be deeply missed."

Throughout his career, Chief Fisher was known for his kind nature and his dedication to serving his community. He will be greatly missed by all those who had the privilege of working with him, and his favorite quote, "HotDog!" will always be remembered as an endearing term used to greet his fellow firefighters. At the time of his passing, he had served over 58 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Maryland.

He is survived by his three children, daughter, Jennifer (Michael) Hickman of Berlin, Maryland, and sons, John E. Fisher IV of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and Jason (Kristen) Fisher of Bowie, Maryland; two brothers, Junes Fisher of Huntingtown, Maryland, and Jeffrey Fisher of North Beach, Maryland; four sisters, Jeanette Colea of Owings, Maryland, Joanne Wargo of Owings, Maryland, Julie Smart of Huntingtown, Maryland, and Janice Cooke of Brandywine, Maryland; and two grandchildren, Kendall and Jakob Fisher.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Janet Lucille (Granzow) Fisher, in January 2021





**The Officers and Members of
the Huntingtown Volunteer
Fire Department & Rescue
Squad wish all of the 2022
MSFA incoming officers a safe
and successful year!**





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***VIC WHIPPLE
PRESIDENT***

***JIM CODESPOTE
FIRE CHIEF***

***ROSA MAHER
AUX. PRESIDENT***

FIRE CHIEF JAMES "JIMMY" JARBOE, SR.

TAKOMA PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jarboe was not only a legend in Maryland firefighting, but a true, down to earth gentleman. He never let his knowledge and expertise get to his head, but humbly shared it with those in the fire service and civilian world.

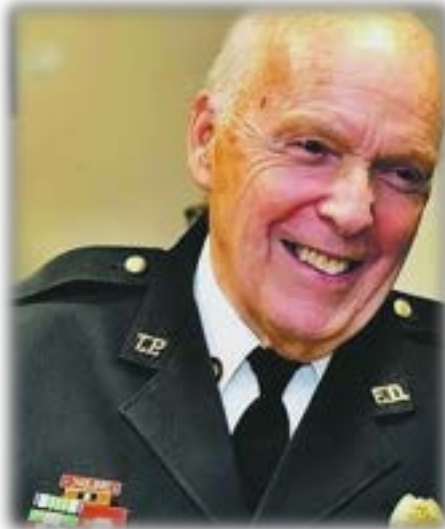
James E. ("Jimmy") Jarboe, was a former fire chief and 65-year life member of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department retiring as fire chief in 2008, He remained active until his untimely passing. He first joined the fire department in December 1956. At the time of his death, he was the only member in the history of the Takoma Park. Fire Department to hold every fire ground rank - Private First Class, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Fire Chief.

In 1959, Chief Jarboe was hired as a career firefighter with the City of Takoma Park, a career that spanned nearly 30-years. He was a true leader and a good fireground manager. Following his retirement in 1988, he continued serving the department as a volunteer and as a recognized state and national leader in public safety education.

Throughout his career, Chief Jarboe received many awards and accolades, for his innovative approach to teaching fire and injury safety to both the young and the old. He helped develop one of the State's- earliest babysitter programs, teaching fire, life safety and infant care to thousands of young children.

James E. "Jimmy" Jarboe passed away after a brief illness on September 10, 2022 in Bethesda, Maryland at the age of 84. He was predeceased by his brothers John, William, Robert and Theodore and he is survived by his beloved wife Barbara and son Jim, Jr. Jimmy was born and raised in Takoma Park, Maryland and graduated from

Montgomery Blair High School in 1957. After two years of service in the U.S. Army, he was hired as a career firefighter with the City of Takoma Park in 1959, a career that spanned nearly 30 years. Following his retirement in 1988, he continued serving the department as a volunteer and as a recognized state and national leader in public safety education. Jimmy was awarded the Firefighter of the Year honor in 1993 by the Maryland State Firemen's Association. Throughout his career, Chief Jarboe received many other awards and accolades for his innovative approach to teaching fire and injury safety to both the young and the old.



In 2004, he was named to the Maryland State Firemen's Association Hall of Fame and recipient of the Marbery F. Gates Service Cup Award in recognition of his devotion to public safety.

At the time of his passing, Chief Jarboe was the only member of Takoma Park Fire Department to hold every rank – Private First Class, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Fire Chief. In his "spare" time, Chief Jarboe served on many state and county fire safety committees as well as the City of Takoma Park Independence Day committee. He loved to interact with children and adults, especially during his many years of volunteer service at the Montgomery County Fair. Chief Jarboe was also a life member and officer with the Takoma Park Lions Club, where he coordinated the club's participation in the annual Halloween parade, Thanksgiving Day meals for families, and the Toys of Tots program. Jimmy's family and fellow firefighters are so proud of the life he led to exemplify the values of service and commitment to the community. He was a kind and gentle man who will be missed by many.





**Maryland Fire Chiefs
Association Officers
2023 - 2024**

**Executive Board
Regional Directors
2023 - 2024**

Executive Board	Representing the Maryland Emergency Services Officers with Progression	
POSITION	NAME AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
President	Gerald "JJ" Lynott, Chief 700 Spotters Court Hampstead, MD 21074	Home: (410) 374-2408 Cell: (443) 992-0301 Email: glycott@mdchief.org
First Vice President	Robert Phillips, Chief 5321 Bucktown Road Cambridge, MD 21613	Cell: (443) 205-5030 Email: rfcchief48@gmail.com
Second Vice President	Robert Dulina, Chief 1258 Sugarwood Circle Baltimore, MD 21221	Home 410-780-3178 Cell 443-865-8638 johndulina@gmail.com
Secretary	Pete Mellits, Chief 2906 Blueberry Lane Bowie, MD 20715	Cell: (240) 508-4128 Email: pmellits@mdchief.org
Assistant Secretary	Ron Watkins, Chief 25120 Woodfield Road Damascus, MD 20872	Home: (301) 253-5285 Cell: (301) 717-1375 Email: rwatkins@mdchief.org
Membership Secretary	Joseph Chornock, Chief 65 Bralan Court Gaithersburg, MD 20877	Cell: (301) 252-1988 Email: josephchornock@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rick L. Hemphill P.O. Box 4610 Hagerstown, MD 21742	Cell: (301) 730-1923 Email: rhemphill@mdchief.org
Assistance Treasurer	Hugh D. Owens, Chief 16026 Alderwood Lane Bowie, MD 20716	Home: (301) 390-3317 Cell: (301) 717-1161 Email: howens@mdchief.org
Chaplain	Richard "Chappy" Bower 13211 Fairfax Road Hagerstown, MD 21742	Cell: (845) 598-1737 Email: rbower@mdchief.org
Deputy Chaplain	Robin Howard 360 East Bayfront Road Deale, MD 20751	Cell: (443) 871-0267 Email: flightgirlhoward@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President	William Smith, Jr., Chief 4260 Piper Lane Marbury, MD 20658	Cell: (301) 247-3060 Email: bsmith@mdchief.org
Ladies Auxillary President	Teresa Crisman 104 Ivy Lane Greenbelt, MD 20770	Home: (301) 345-9032 Cell: (240) 882-6772 Email: tacrisman@mdchief.org

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Regional Directors

Representing the Maryland Emergency Services Officers with Progression

Region 1: (Garrett, Allegany, & Washington Counties)

Rick Blair, PP

rblair@mdchief.org

Cell: (301) 991-2540

Region 2: (Frederick & Montgomery Counties)

Jerry Dorsey, Chief

Swamper3@gmail.com

Cell: (240) 440-4230

Region 3: (Howard, Carroll & Baltimore Counties)

Chuck Bollinger, Chief

cdbbinc@comcast.net

Cell: (443) 847-1163

Region 4: (Harford & Cecil Counties)

Michael Kalck, Chief

11253@hcvfa.org

Cell: (443) 807-8738

Region 5: (Anne Arundel & Prince Georges Counties)

Doug Howard, Chief

dhoward@mdchief.org

Cell: (443) 871-0265

Region 6: (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's Counties)

Timothy Delehanty, Chief

tdelehanty@mdchief.org

Cell: (240) 508-5983

Region 7: (Kent, Queen Anne & Caroline Counties)

Vacant

Region 8: (Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset Counties)

Jon Black, Chief

cdrd2115@comcast.net

Cell: 443-497-0285



Mission

The mission of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) is to advance the fire and emergency services profession through strategic and proactive leadership, education, advocacy and development.

As the leading organization for Chief Officers, MFCA specializes in promoting and supporting leadership excellence in fire and emergency services management while advocating for legislation and regulations that enhance the ability of fire and emergency service professionals to protect and preserve the communities they serve.

TERRY EDWARD THOMPSON
PAST PRESIDENT
MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
2015 – 2016



Terry Edward Thompson was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and dedicated emergency services' volunteer who served the citizens of Howard County and the State of Maryland for over 53 years. Terry took great pride in helping others! Terry was born October 17, 1951, the youngest child of Willis and Edna (Wessel) Thompson. Terry graduated in 1969 from Atholton High School and later went on to earn his associate degree from Catonsville Community College. Growing up Terry was an active 4-H member showing dairy cattle throughout the Mid-Atlantic with his brother, cousins, and uncle.

During Terry's time in 4-H he made many lifelong friends. Terry's professional career led him to his parents' business Willis T. Thompson and Sons, a Southern States franchise. Eventually the family made the decision to convert the business into a liquor store and deli. Terry would eventually leave the family business to dedicate more time to emergency services. Terry worked at

Howard County 911 and ultimately went to work at Maryland Department of Emergency Management serving as Chief of Staff and Senior Liaison.

Terry began his volunteer fire service involvement in June of 1969 with the Fifth District Volunteer Fire Department in Clarksville, Howard County. Terry served the citizens of Howard County through both the Fifth District Volunteer Fire Department and Savage Volunteer Fire Company. He served in both administrative and operational officer positions including Fire Chief of the Fifth District VFD, President of the Savage VFC, President of the Howard County Volunteer Firefighter's Association, MSFA Executive Committee as Howard and Carroll Counties representative, President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (2003 – 2004), and President of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association (2015 – 2016). At the time of his sudden passing Terry was a member of the MSFA Board of Trustees (2005 – 2023) and still an active life member of the Savage Volunteer Fire Company and a life member of the Fifth District Volunteer Fire Department.

Through the fire department Terry was set up on a date with Patty Redmond; a match that would result in a 53-year relationship with 52 years of them being married. Terry and Patty started a family in the 1980s with the birth of their daughter Theresa and son Patrick. It was also during these years that Terry became involved in politics serving as the campaign treasurer for Maryland State Senator, Tom Yeager.

Terry is survived by his wife Patty, daughter Theresa Collins and her husband Michael, son Patrick Thompson, and 2 grandsons Tanner and Austin Collins, sister Carolyn Downey and her husband Frank, 3 nephews and 1 niece and their families. Terry is predeceased by his parents Edna and Willis Thompson and brother W. Francis Thompson.





Maryland Fire Chiefs

Past Presidents

*1948	Paul Giammateo	Montgomery County	Glen Echo
*1949-1958	William Perry	Prince Georges County	Bladensburg
*1959-1960	Ermin O. Dill	Anne Arundel County	Earleigh Heights
*1961-1962	F. Lee Cockey	Baltimore County	
*1963-1964	Charles B. Burton	Prince Georges County	Landover Hills
*1965-1967	Harry Curry	Frederick County	Citizen Truck
*1967-1968	William Fox	Prince Georges County	Landover Hills
*1969-1970	Walter S. Long	Baltimore County	Rosedale
1971	John R. Mowatt Jr	Prince Georges County	Bladensburg
*1972-1973	Donald E. Pearson	Charles County	Bryans Road
*1974-1975	Joseph Robinson	Prince Georges County	Laurel
*1976-1977	Robert N. Small Jr	Prince Georges County	Boulevard Heights
*1978-1979	Roy L Shirkey	Anne Arundel County	Woodland Beach
*1980-1981	Herman B. Hare	Carroll County	Hampstead
*1982-1983	Frank L Leizear	Montgomery County	Bethesda
*1984-1985	Leslie B. Thompson	Montgomery & Kent Counties	Damascus & Chestertown
*1986-1987	Smith M Stathem	Baltimore County	Pikesville
*1988-1989	William J. Fleshman	Prince Georges County	Beltsville
*1990-1991	Leonard T. King	Montgomery & Prince Georges Counties	Damascus & Marlboro
1992-1993	Robert Cumberland	Carroll County	Westminster
*1994	Jim Snyder	Montgomery County	Laytonsville
1995-1996	Ronald Watkins	Montgomery County	Damascus
*1997	J. Edward Cross	Anne Arundel County	Deal
1998-1999	Paul Sterling	Montgomery County	Wheaton Rescue Squad
*2000-2001	John Hoglund	Prince Georges County	West Lanham Hills
*2002-2003	Charles Black IV	Calvert County	Huntington
2003-2005	Roger Steger	OC Volunteer Fire Department	Ocean City
2005-2007	Robert N. Small	Prince Georges County	Clinton
2008-2009	David Smarte	Worcester County	Showell
2010-2011	Jeff Thompson	Kent County	Chestertown
2012-2014	Richard Blair	Washington County	Western Enterprise
*2015-2016	Terry Thompson	Howard County	Savage
2017-2018	Hugh Owens	Anne Arundel County	Glendale
2018-2021	Paul Sullivan	Baltimore County	Middle River
2022-2023	William Smith Jr	Prince Georges County	West Lanham Hills

* Denotes Deceased



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

PAST PRESIDENTS



*Joseph A. Giammateo
1948
Glen Echo
Montgomery County*



*William G. Perry
1949-58
Bladensburg
Prince George's County*



*Erman O. Dill
1959-60
Earleigh Heights
Anne Arundel County*



*F. Lee Cockey
1961-62
Baltimore County*



*Charles B. Burton
1963-64
Landover Hills
Prince George's County*



*Harry Curry
1965-66
Citizens Truck
Frederick County*



*William W. Fox
1967-68
Landover Hills
Prince George's County*



*Walter S. Long
1969-70
Rosedale
Baltimore County*



*John R. Mowatt, Jr.
1971
Bladensburg
Prince George's County*



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

PAST PRESIDENTS, continued



*Donald E. Pearson
1972-73
Bryans Road
Charles County*



*Joseph R. Robison
1974-75
Laurel
Prince George's County*



*Ralph N. Small, Jr.
1976-77
Boulevard Heights
Prince George's County*



*Roy L. Shirkey
1978-79
Woodland Beach
Anne Arundel County*



*Herman B. Hare
1980-81
Hampstead
Carroll County*



*Frank L. Leizear
1982-83
Bethesda
Montgomery County*



*Leslie B. Thompson
1984-85
Damascus
Montgomery County*



*Smith N. Stathem
1986-87
Pikesville
Baltimore County*



*William J. Fleshman
1988-89
Beltsville
Prince George's County*



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

PAST PRESIDENTS



*Leonard King
1990-91
Damascus
Montgomery County*



*Robert Cumberland
1992-93
Westminster
Carroll County*



*Jim Snyder
1994
Laytonville
Montgomery County*



*Ron Watkins
1995-96
Damascus
Montgomery County*



*J. Edward Cross
1997
Deale
Anne Arundel County*



*Paul Sterling
1998-99
Wheaton
Montgomery County*



*John W. Hoglund
2000-2001
West Lanham Hills
Prince Georges County*



*Charles Black IV
2002-2003
Huntingtown
Calvert County*



*Roger A. Steger
2003-2005
Ocean City*



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

PAST PRESIDENTS



Robert N. Small
2005 - 2008
Clinton
Prince Georges County



David Smarte
2008 - 2010
Showell
Worcester County



Jeffrey Thompson
2011-2012
Chestertown
Kent County



Richard Blair
2013-2014
Western Enterprise
Washington County



Terry Thompson
2015-2016
Savage
Howard County



Hugh Owens
2017 - 2018
Glenn Dale
Prince Georges County



Paul Sullivan
2019-2021
Middle River
Baltimore County



William Smith Jr
2020-2021
West Lanham Hills
Prince Georges County



MFCA AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings from the Auxiliary of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association.

President: Teresa Crisman
Vice President: Katie Owens
Secretary: Carole Harris
Treasurer: Rosa Maher
Chaplain: Nancy Hogleund
Guard: Christine Jackson



This past year we have worked on several major projects to help support the association. The golf tournament, fire prevention ambassador program, MSFA convention booth, 50/50 raffle and memorial weekend and supporting where we can help.

It is with pride that we offer our talents to help with the mission and vision of the MFCA. We strive to find creative ways to help support where we can. In the coming weeks we will have great things to bring to the association. We will once again offer the 50/50 raffle and we have been gifted a fire department themed puzzle that has been mounted and framed. It will look great in anyone's home. We would like to congratulate our last 50/50 was Kim Shelton from Frederick Maryland. Thank you for entering. I would like to thank Ann Parlette for organizing the 50/50 each year and for providing the tickets.

To my officers I send you all my most heartfelt admiration for all that you do, Katie, Carole, Rosa, Nancy and Christine thank you for all of your hard work for the auxiliary. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

Our unsung HEROES are Katie, Peggy and Carole they give their whole and complete time to support the MFCA booth and work both golf tournaments along with their father Hugh. We cannot say THANK YOU ENOUGH for all of their hard work and dedication. I personally want to thank each of them for their support and dedication. We would not be as successful if it were not for the three of them. Thank you for all of your hard work.

This coming year we have great programs and look forward in working towards the mission and vision of the association. We wish to congratulate President Gerald "JJ" Lynott, 1st Vice President Robert Phillips, 2nd Vice President John Dulina, Secretary Pete Mellits, Treasurer Rick Hemphill, Membership Secretary Joseph Chornock, Chief Chaplain Richard Bower for a great year and we look forward to working with you all again. Congratulations and Job Well Done to all and finding ways to move the association forward.

In closing as always the Auxiliary is here to support the programs and messages of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Ann Crisman
President
Ladies Auxiliary of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

MFCA AUXILIARY VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I want to thank everyone for their support and helping me during my first year in office for the Auxiliary as Vice President; it has been a pleasure to serve in the office this past year. I want to thank everyone for all of their hard work and look forward to another successful year. I have been supporting of the MFCA in all of their events this year, including the golf tournaments, Maryland State Firemen's Convention in Ocean City and any other events as needed.



I could have not done this without the help of Teresa, Carol, Nancy, Rosa and Christine showing me the ropes and cheering me on. I am looking forward to growing our membership with potential new members and expanding.
Best Wishes to the MFCA for a successful and productive year!!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Vice President Katie Owens

MFCA AUXILIARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

I wish to express my appreciation to the Maryland Fire Chiefs' Auxiliary for their confidence in electing me as Secretary. It has been a pleasure to provide my service to the Association and its members.

It was great to see old and new faces at the Maryland State Fireman's Convention in Ocean City, MD and I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon in June!

The Maryland Fire Chief's Gold Tournament in September 2022 was a huge success, and it was a great honor to assist the Chiefs again in March 2023 for another round at the Golf Tournament. Looking forward to being an assistance with next years as well.

Best wishes to the Fire Chief's Association for a successful and productive year. My goal is to continue to assist the Maryland Fire Chiefs' Association when and where needed, to offer my assistance to promote and increase the membership of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Harris

Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary of the Maryland State Fire Chiefs' Association



MFCA AUXILIARY TREASURER'S REPORT

I have enjoyed working with everyone this year. I feel that we have had a productive year. The position of Treasurer is a rewarding experience. Thank you to everyone for purchasing tickets to our annual raffle and other money-making events over the year to support our Ambassador program, various worthy causes, and memorial donations to the Bessie Marshall Fund for deceased past presidents.

I look forward to continuing my support to the Auxiliary and the MFCA Association. Best wishes to the incoming officers for a successful year.

Rosa Maher

Treasurer, MFCA Auxiliary



MFCA AUXILIARY GUARD'S REPORT

Wish to express my appreciation to the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association Auxiliary for electing me as their Guard as well as the great job done by our officers.

Also want to thank Teresa Crisman for continuing to do an outstanding job with the Ambassador Program. 'Welcome Ashley' as a new member as I know she will be a benefit to the Auxiliary.

I would like to extend an invitation to the MFCA's family members to join the Auxiliary. We need to increase our membership so that we can better assist the MFCA. We have a few members that are no longer able to attend meetings due to health problems.

Christine Jackson

Guard, MFCA Auxiliary



MFCA AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chaplain of the MFCA Auxiliary this past year. We face many challenges, both at home and abroad; therefore, the Lord's guidance continues to be essential in our daily lives.

We are saddened to report that the Lord has called to his Kingdom three of our beloved past presidents this past year: Mildred McLaughlin who served as president 1990-1991, Juanita Colwell who served as president 2001-2005 and 2011-2015, and more recently Joan Cumberland who served as president 1984-1985. All three ladies served us well and continue to be missed.

A number of telephone calls, sympathy cards, and get-well cards were sent to members of the Auxiliary and MFCA during periods of distress. Prayers will continue to be offered to members of the Auxiliary and MFCA as we continue to do our best to serve those who protect us every day.

We would like to take a moment to thank the Odenton VFC, Fallston Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Company and the Laurel VFD for their hospitality in hosting the MFCA general meetings this past year and serving lunch that was appreciated by all present.

Lord, may our efforts be blessed with understanding and wisdom as we seek to serve with respect for all.

Nancy Hoglund

Chaplain



MFCA AUXILIARY



Remembering Our Past Presidents



Past President
Mildred
McLaughlin
Landover Hills VFD
1990-1991



Past President
Joan
Cumberland
Westminster/Winfield
VFD 1984-1984



Past President
Juanita
Colwell
Chillum-Adelphi VFD
2001-2005 & 2011-2015

Forever in our hearts as you each gave so much for the Auxiliary of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association we will never forget all of the great and wonderful work you did for the Auxiliary.



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MFCA Auxiliary Past Presidents



Mrs. Gail Moore
1956-57
Bladensburg
Prince George's County



Mrs. Jane Black
1958-59
Bladensburg
Prince George's County



Mrs. Margaret Woltz
1960-61
College Park
Prince George's County



Mrs. Nettie Fox
1962-63
Landover Hills
Prince George's County



Mrs. Elizabeth Mooney
1964-65
Landsdowne
Baltimore County



Mrs. Louise Kelly
1966-67
Benedict
Charles County



Mrs. Oneta Lochary
1968-69
Bel Air
Harford County



Mrs. Cletta Abrecht
1970-71
Frederick
Frederick County



Marian Shirkey
1972-73
Woodland Beach
Anne Arundel County



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MFCA Auxiliary Past Presidents *continued*



Alice Ringer
1974-75
Hagerstown
Washington County



Ann Parlette
1976-77
Clarksville
Howard County



Flo Collins
1978-79
Beltsville
Prince George's County



Mrs. Ethel Wood
1980-1981
Beltsville
Prince George's County



Louise Dell
1982-1983
Burtonsville
Montgomery County



Joan Cumberland
1984-1985
Westminister
Carroll County



Mary Purdum
1986-1987
Landsdowne
Baltimore County



Elaine Huttenloch
1988-1989
Forrestville
Prince George's County



Mildred McLaughlin
1990-1991
Landover Hills
Prince George's County



MFCA Auxiliary Past Presidents



Nancy Hoglund
1992-1993
West Lanham Hills



Catherine Belford
1994-1995
Lake Shore



Daisy Malinosky
1996-1997
Brentwood



June Black
1998-1999
Manchester



Juanita Colwell
2000 - 2005
2011 - 2015
Chillum-Adelphi



Christine Jackson
2006-2010
Savage



Teresa Ann Crisman
2016 - Present
Greenbelt

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MFCA Auxiliary

OFFICERS FOR 2023

PRESIDENT
Teresa Ann Crisman
104 Ivy Lane
Greenbelt, MD 20770
240-882-6772

VICE PRESIDENT
Katie Owens
10620 Alderwood Drive
Bowie, MD 20716

SECRETARY
Carol Harris
38 East Mosier Road
Thurmont, MD 20781

TREASURER
Rosa Maher
9508 Park Avenue
Laurel, MD 20772

CHAPLAIN
Nancy Hoglund
5805 Runford Drive
New Carrollton, MD 20784

GUARD
Christine Jackson
8420 Shears Court
Scaggsville, MD 20723

MFCA Auxiliary

Past Presidents

* Gail Moore	1956 – 1957	Bladensburg
* Jane Black	1958 - 1959	Bladensburg
* Margaret Woltz	1960 - 1961	College Park
* Nettie Fox	1962 – 1963	Landover Hills
* Elizebeth Mooney	1964 – 1965	Lansdowne
* Louise Kelly	1966 – 1967	Benedict
* Oneta Lochary	1968 – 1969	BelAir
* Cletta Abrecht	1970 – 1971	Frederick
Marian Shirkey	1972 – 1973	Woodland Beach
* Alice Ringer	1974 - 1975	Hagerstown
Ann Parlette	1976 – 1977	Clarksville
* Flo Collins	1978 – 1979	Beltsville
* Ethel Wood	1980 – 1981	Beltsville
* Louise Dell	1982 – 1983	Silver Spring
* Joan Cumberland	1984 – 1985	Westminster
* Mary Purdum	1986 – 1987	Lansdowne
Elaine Huttenloch	1988 – 1989	Forestville
* Mildred McLaughlin	1990 – 1991	Landover Hills
Nancy Hoglund	1992 – 1993	West Lanham Hills
* Catherine Belford	1994 – 1995	Pasadena
* Daisy Malinosky	1996 – 1997	Brentwood
* June Black	1998 – 1999	Manchester
* Juanita Colwell	2001 - 2005	Chillum-Adelphi
Christine Jackson	2006 – 2010	Savage
Juanita Colwell	2011 – 2015	Chillum-Adelphi
Teresa Ann Crisman	2016 – 2021	Greenbelt

Maryland Fire Chief's



Association



Officers and Members of the

Marlboro Volunteer

Fire Department Inc.

Remembering those who

have gone before us



98 Years of Service

Keeping Citizens of Maryland Safe

President Jeff Wyvill

Chief Bobby Beavers



MFCA Membership Secretary Annual Report for 2023

I thank the membership for electing me for another year at the annual meeting and look forward to moving our processes further.

Over the last nine months, we've been working hard to transition our membership records from various Excel spreadsheets to Salesforce, and we went live on that platform on October 1st, 2022. Salesforce is a cloud application that allows us to have our membership records available securely anywhere, on any device, and allows for a lot of automation of our membership processes. We hope you have seen the result of this with better communication, improved turn around time on membership renewals and ID card printing.

Salesforce contains 1708 membership records, many of which are historical. We currently have 451 active current members. Our active membership grew from 102 to 191 during the last year. Our Life Membership dropped from 202 to 199 even after we added 11 new life members last year, because we are better able to address those that are now deceased.



Membership applications and renewals are partially automated, and we have ongoing plans to roll out even more workflow automation for our new applications and renewals. The system recommends members eligible for life membership automatically, so we have a better view of that now.

We have moved membership expiration dates globally to December 31st, for all non-life members. This avoids members expiring at all different times of the year, which was making things harder for us than they needed to be. Everyone who is expiring on a given year will now receive an automated notice on October 31st. For those members that prefer to renew at Ocean City or any of our events or meetings, they can renew for the upcoming year or multiple years at any time, the new system tracks that accurately.

We have also been approved for use of Google Workspace, which is a collection of cloud computing, productivity and collaboration tools, and plan on eventually transitioning our email system over to Gmail. This will increase email security, provide a better email client experience, and allow us to better manage our email mailing lists. We are not there yet, and now that the membership records have been done, we will be working on this next.

During the integration to Salesforce, we were able to see a glaring item that was missing, younger administrative members that are working towards becoming chief officers. It is the Membership Secretary's desire to focus our recruitment efforts to bringing in new administrative members to bolster our future growth of the Association. We brought this up to the Executive Committee during our retreat last month and they concurred with this approach.

We have been working on the deployment of the new website and we were planning on launching this past January, but we have hit some snags that we are trying to work past. The website launched on May 15, 2023 after making some changes that the President recommended. We will need to reapply to Google for non-profit again once we are successful in transferring our account. In the meantime, we established an on-line store with USAPrintwear.com and expanded the offerings on what we were able to physically carry. They will sell our merchandise and send the MFCA a check each quarter for a small percentage based on our agreed sale price. We don't have any carrying cost for the merchandise and don't have the shipping expenses.

Joseph S. Chornock
Membership Secretary

Brian McGinness
Asst. Membership Secretary

Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department

*Providing Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services
to our community for over 80 years*



*The Officers and Members congratulate the
newly elected officers and wish the
Association the Best for the Upcoming Year*



*Captain John McDowell
President—Steve Gower*

*Volunteers in Service, Excellence in Protection
5200 Southwestern Blvd. Arbutus Maryland 21227*

www.arbutusvfd.org

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Chief Leslie B. Thompson Memorial Award

The Chief Leslie B. Thompson Memorial Award was established to recognize individuals of the Maryland fire, rescue or emergency services community who have made outstanding contributions to the future welfare of the fire, rescue and emergency medical services of Maryland. The Chief Leslie B. Thompson Memorial Award is sponsored and judged by the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. and the award is administered by the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association.

The following individuals are past recipients of the Chief Leslie B. Thompson Memorial Award:

- 1998 - Charles B. Burton – West Landover Hills VFD
- 1999 - J. West Thompson - Goodwill Fire Company
- 2000 - Albert "Mickey" Harris - Glen Echo VFD
- 2001 - Leonard T. King, Sr. - Damascus VFD
- 2002 - Joseph R. Robinson - Laurel VFD
- 2003 - Delegate Norman Conway
- 2004 - Charles N. Black, IV - Huntington VFD
- 2004 - Donald Mooney - Lansdowne VFD
- 2006 - Roger Steger, Sr. - Ocean City VFD
- 2007 - John W. Hogle - West Lanham Hills VFD
- 2008 - Robert Small - Clinton VFD
- 2009 - William E. Barnard – Hyattsville VFC
- 2010 - Hugh D. Owens, Jr. - Glen Dale VFD
- 2011 - Douglas Alexander - Mount Airy VFD
- 2012 - Jeff Thompson - Chestertown VFD
- 2013 - James P. Seavey - Cabin John VFD
- 2014 - Rick L. Hemphill - Independent Juniors VFD
- 2015 - Phillip Hurlock - Church Hill VFD
- 2016 - Richard Blair - Western Enterprise VFD
- 2017 - Johnie Roth - Sandy Spring VFD
- 2018 - Paul Sterling, Jr. - Wheaton VRS
- 2019 - Calvin Stack - Cambridge RFC
- 2020 - Ronald Watkins - Damascus VFD
- 2021 – Wiley L. Donaldson, Jr. – Odenton VFC
- 2022 – Timothy Delehanty – Prince Frederick VFD
- 2023 – Darron S. Long – Damascus VFD





CHIEF DARRON LONG PRESENTED THE LESLIE B. THOMPSON TROPHY POSTUMOUSLY



On May 22, at the regular business meeting of the Damascus VFD, representatives of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association presented the trophy for the Leslie B. Thompson Award to Darron Long's wife, Teresa Long. Darron was awarded the trophy posthumously at the annual meeting of the MFCA. Pictured here, left to right, are Tim Delahanty, last year's winner, Chief Joe Chornock, Damascus Chief Dale Browning, Teresa Long, and Chief Hugh Owens.



Chief John W. Hogleund Fire Service Leadership Award



The Chief John W. Hogleund Fire Service Leadership Award was established to recognize members of the Maryland fire, rescue or emergency services community who have displayed leadership in advancing the health, safety and readiness of the Maryland fire, rescue and emergency services. The award embodies the legacy of Mr. John W. Hogleund, Director Emeritus of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, whose contributions to the fire service throughout his illustrious career have benefited emergency services personnel at the local, state and national levels.

The following individuals are past recipients of the Chief John W. Hogleund Fire Service Leadership Award:

2020 - Michael W. Robinson, Sr. - Baltimore County Fire Department (Ret.)

2021 – David W. Lewis – Odenton VFC

2022 – Hugh D. Owens, Jr. – Glenn Dale VFD

2023 – Robert L. Rose – Odenton VFC





**Chief Leonard T. King, Sr.
Medal of Valor Award**



The Chief Leonard T. King, Sr. Medal of Valor Award was established to recognize Maryland fire, rescue and/or EMS provider(s) of the Maryland fire, rescue or EMS service who have, at great personal risk, been credited with saving or attempting to save a human life in an extreme emergency situation. The recognition of valor was demonstrated by an individual or individuals going above and beyond the normal call of duty.

**The following individuals are past recipients of the Chief Leonard T. King, Sr.
Medal of Valor Award:**

2020 - Daniel Morrison - North Beach VFD

2021 - Thomas J. Carlin - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Nicholas R. Galt - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
M. Donald Heflin - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Ryan C. Houck - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Patrick Khaghani – Cabin John Park VFD
Kristofor C. Kostura - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Justin W. Marlatt - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Adam M. Peake - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Jerry D. Smith - Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service

2022 – No Award Given

2023 – No Award Given



William G. Perry Award

The William Perry Award was established to recognize an individual of the Maryland fire, rescue or emergency services community who has gone above and beyond and who has made an outstanding contribution throughout the year to the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association.

The following individuals are past recipients of the William Perry Award:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1969 - Chief Herman M. Dilig | 1995 - Chief Leonard T. King, Sr. |
| 1970 - Charles C. Price | 1996 - Chief John W. Hoglund |
| 1971 - Chief Pierce M. Damewood | 1997 - Chief Leonard T. King, Sr. |
| 1972 - No Award Presented | 1998 - Chief Darron Long |
| 1973 - No Award Presented | 1999 - Chief Charles N. Black |
| 1974 - F. L. Anderson | 2000 - Chief Edwin Joiner |
| 1975 - Walter S. Long | 2001 - Charles N. Black, III |
| 1976 - J. K. Stevenson | 2002 - Chief Roger Steger, Sr. |
| 1977 - Chief William Nizer | 2003 - Chief Robert Small |
| 1978 - Chief Charles B. Burton | 2004 - Chief Ed Woods |
| 1979 - Chief William W. Fox | 2005 - Chief Hugh D. Owens, Jr. |
| 1980 - Chief Ralph N. Small, Jr. | 2006 - Chief Roger Steger, Sr. |
| 1981 - Captain Harry O. Curry | 2007 - Chief Roger Steger, Sr. |
| 1982 - Chief Leslie B. Thompson | 2008 - Chief Jack Gouty |
| 1983 - Chief Joseph R. Robinson | 2009 – Jackie Olson |
| 1984 - Chief Herman B. Hare | 2010 – Bob Seibel |
| 1985 - Frank L. Leizear | 2011 - Kara Small |
| 1986 - Chief Rocco J. Gabriele | 2012 - Chief Paul Sterling, Jr. |
| 1987 - Philip M. Hurlock | 2013 - Chief Jeff Thompson |
| 1988 - Chief Thomas Bolton | 2014 - No Award Presented |
| 1989 - Chief Graham Lewis | 2015 - No Award Presented |
| 1990 - Chief James Snyder &
Chief Ron Watkins | 2016 - No Award Presented |
| 1991 - Chief Ralph N. Small, Jr. | 2017 - Chief Joseph Churnock &
Chief Tim Delehanty |
| 1992 - Chief Smith N. Statham | 2018 - Chief Paul E. Sullivan, Jr. |
| 1993 - Chief Lester Helfritch | 2019 - Chief Hugh D. Owens, Jr. |
| 1994 - Chief Ed Woods & Laura Woods | 2020 - Chief Joseph S. Chornock |
| | 2021 - Chad A. Lallier |
| | 2022 - Brian J. McGinness |



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Books Dedications

1965 – Bladensburg	Chief William G. Perry
1966 – Bladensburg	Deputy Chief F. Lee Cosby
1967 – Woodland Beach	Chief Herman M. Dilg
1968 – Grasonville	Interest of Fire Prevention
1969 - Junior Fire Co. No. 2 Frederick	Chief Erman O. (Mike) Dill
1970 – Beltsville	Charles B. Burton
1971 – Earleigh Heights	Chief Jackl V. Reckner
1972 - Bryans Road	Chief Pierce M. Damewood
1973 – Laurel	None
1974 – Joppa-Magnolia	Chief Robert Putnam King
1975 – Millersville	Walter S. Long
1976 – Hampstead	Chief William W. Fox
1977 – Forestville	Tom Collins
1978 – Odenton	Chief Ralph N. Small, Jr.
1979 – Westminster	Chief Frederick L. Anderson
1980 – Chestertown	Chief Harry O. Curry
1981 – Odenton	Chief John W. Hoglund
1982 – Church Hill	Chief Norris J. Beard
1983 – Pleasant Valley	Chief Arthur M. Gibbons
1984 – Damascus	Chief Edwin L. Turner
1985 – Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad	Chief Leslie Belt Thompson
1986 – Pikesville	Chief Frank L. Leizear
1987 – Chestertown	Chief Thomas F. Bolton
1988 – Pleasant Valley	Chief Joseph R. Batchler
1989 – Perryville	Chief R. Adams Cowley, M.D.
1990 – Damascus	Chief M.H. (Jim) Estep
1991- Millington	Chief Smith N. Statham
1992 – Pleasant Valley	B.D. (Buck) Gladhill
1993 – Mt. Airy	Chief Lawrence Woltz
1994 – Pleasant Valley	Chief Oscar Baker
1995 – Damascue	Hon. Louis L. Goldstein
1996 – Sykesville	Chief Leonard T. King
1997 – Damascus	Chief Lester A. Helfrich
1998 – Westminster	Chief Pierce Damewood
1999 – Violetville	MFCA Ladies Auxiliary
2000 – Odenton	Chief Nelson & Jane Black
2001 – Huntingtown	In Memory of FDNY (September 11, 2001)
2002 – Glenn Dale	Survivors (Our Heros)
2003 – None	Change in Publishing Date
2004 – Ocean City	Deputy Chief Albert D. Harris
2005 – Ocean City	The Men and Women of the Armed Forces
2006 – Ocean City	Chief Charles N. Black IV
2007 - Ocean City	Chief John Hoglund
2008 – Arbutus	Chief Leonard King
2009 – Ocean City	For All who have Served
2010 – Sudlersville	Chief Charles “Buck” Clough & Members of the American Armed Forces 911/Rememberance
2011 – Ocean City	Passage of Home Springer Legislation
2012 – Annapolis	William Barnard – State Fire Marshal
2013 – Annapolis	Maryland Fire Chiefs Auxiliary
2014 – Ocean City	Chief Joe Robinson
2015 – Ocean City	Hon. Senator Barbara Mikulski
2016 – Ocean City	Chaplain Emeritus John Hoglund
2017 – Ocean City	Partnership between MFCA & MSFA
2018 - Ocean City	Chief James Seavey
2019 - Ocean City	1st Responders fighting Covid -19
2020 - Ocean City	Nations 1st Responders -Remembering Those We Lost
2021 - Ocean City	58 MFCA Hall of Fame Recipients
2022 - Ocean City	Chief Oscar C. Baker
2323 - Ocean City	

MARYLAND

Fire Chiefs Association

2023 – 2024 OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT GERALD “JJ” LYNOTT

1ST VICE PRESIDENT ROBERT PHILLIPS

2ND VICE PRESIDENT JOHN DULINA

SECRETARY PETE MELLITS

TREASURER RICK HEMPHILL

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY JOSEPH CHORNOCK

CHIEF CHAPLAIN RICHARD BOWER



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And Special Awards



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CHIEF TERRY E. THOMPSON

CHIEF CHARLES OSCAR BAKER (POSTHUMOUSLY)

CHIEF ROBERT C. MCHENRY

CHIEF CHARLES D. ROGERS, SR.

CHIEF JAMES ESTEPP

CHIEF RON SIARNICKI

FIRE MARSHAL BRIAN GERACI



SPECIAL AWARDS

THE CHIEF WILLIAM G. PERRY AWARD
(PRESIDENT'S AWARD) CHIEF BRIAN MCGINNESS

CHIEF JOHN W. HOGLUND

LEADERSHIP AWARD ROBERT "BOB" ROSE

CHIEF LESLIE B THOMPSON AWARD

CHIEF S. DARRON LONG (POSTHUMOUSLY)



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It is a Fitting Culmination of a Lifetime of Service to His Community, His State, His Country, and the Entire World as a Dedicated Member of the Fire Service.



*Michael J. Chiaramonte
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For Additional Information Please Contact:

Hugh Owens – Cell (301) 717-1161 – Home (301) 390-3317

16020 Alderwood Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20716

Email: achief45@aol.com

HOLE IN ONE



HOLE IN ONE



HOLE IN ONE WINS





Eastern Division International Association Fire Chiefs

Chief Paul E. Sullivan, Jr., President
7305 Gunpowder Road
Baltimore, MD 21220

Telephone: (443) 992-6560
Email: psullivan@ediafc.com

President's Annual Report 2022-2023

MFCA Officers and Members,

Another year has come and gone for the Officers and Members of the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (EDIAFC). The past year has allowed us to recognize that although COVID-19 has not been ratified, society has learned how to accept it and incorporate it into our everyday activities.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the health, safety and well-being of our members has always been paramount. As the year moved forward, the Executive Board continued to take all feasible measures to ensure the peace of mind and well-being of our members. This allowed us to learn how to operate in a virtual world which resulted in us offering our first virtual training webinar. That training yielded almost 300 participants. We currently are planning for additional training offerings in 2023.

Although there were many unknowns facing us in 2022, we returned to a norm as we once knew it with a successful in-person annual conference in Delaware. In addition, the IAFC had a successful in-person Fire-Rescue International (FRI) Conference in San Antonio which the EDIAFC Board of Directors attended. This is life as we used to know it.

In April of this year, the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association sponsored the 2023 EDIAFC Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. I would like to thank the individuals who participated on the conference committee for putting a successful conference together. The conference would not have been successful without their efforts and hard work.

Our response to the COVID-19 crisis and our physical and digital presence afforded us the ability to re-evaluate how the Division does business. The EDIAFC established email databases so that we could be more transparent with disseminating information to our membership, yet simplify the means in how we communicate it. It also allowed us to re-evaluate EDIAFC membership benefits where we look to be able to offer different scholarship opportunities to our members.

As we move forward with new leadership, the EDIAFC's continued focus is simple. We must continue to move the Division forward by remaining transparent, reviewing our policies and procedures, bylaws and strategic plan, growing our partnerships, building our membership, and continuing our ability to educate and provide training to the members of the EDIAFC.

In closing, I thank the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association for allowing me the opportunity to represent the organization as the EDIAFC President. Your support and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,

Chief Paul E. Sullivan, Jr., MS, MIFireE, CFO, CFPS, CEM
Past President (2022-2023)
EDIAFC

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Volunteer Combination & Officers Section **International Association Fire Chiefs**

Chief Paul H. Sterling, Jr., Board of Director
P.O. Box 518
Ocean View, DE 19970

Telephone: (301) 466-6061
Email: psterling@ediafc.com

June 1, 2023

Dear Fire Chiefs and friends,

Congratulations and best wishes to the President Paul E. Sullivan, Jr. and the officers and members of the Eastern Division on the occasion of your 96th Annual Conference. I am pleased to offer a brief update on projects with the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the IAFC since your last conference:

- Rebranded the VCOS as ***Leaders in Critical Thinking***.
- Developed and published a new document about ***Successful Chaplain Service in Your Fire Department***.
- Updated the Lavender Ribbon Report on ***Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer***.
- Approved the development of a ***Canines in the Fire Service Ribbon Report***.
- Approved the development of a ***Data Ribbon Report***.
- Created a ***"New Member Committee."*** New Members will receive a Welcome Packet with VCOS SWAG. New Members will also be invited to a Welcoming Breakfast at Symposium in the Sun each year.
- Initiated the process on hiring a contractor to support the VCOS.
- As a follow-up to the VCOS rebranding and marketing project, the VCOS Board conducted a strategic direction session in March to develop a Vision, Core Values and a Communications/Behavior Agreement.
- The VCOS Leadership is currently soliciting VCOS Members to serve on the following committees and work groups
 1. Cancer Reduction Task Force with the National Volunteer Fire Council. (3 positions)
 2. Critical Thinking Academy for Volunteer Officers slated for 2024. (5 positions for planning purposes)
 3. Review and rewrite of the Red Ribbon Report – Leading the Transition in Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments.
 4. New Member Committee (3 positions).

Finally, the VCOS remains very committed to up-to-date state of the art training and education for our members. Are you signed up for the VCOS webinar series? There are lots of current topics with dynamic presenters over the next several months. Consider visiting the VCOS website and signing up for this free training.

Fraternally,

Chief Paul H. Sterling, Jr.
Director at-Large

"Representing the interests of all volunteer and combination fire/rescue/EMS agencies"



Eastern Division – International Association of Fire Chiefs
Annual Conference - 2023

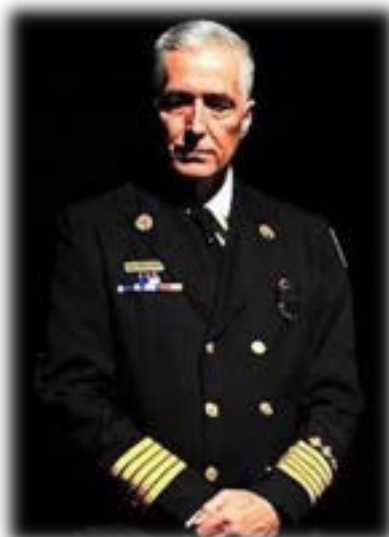




ROBERT “BOBBY” HALTON

FIRE CHIEF (RETIRED) EDITOR IN CHIEF *FIRE ENGINEERING* EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR FDIC

Bobby was the ultimate ambassador for the fire service. He was an advocate for professional training, firefighter safety and competency. In his years as the Editor-In Chief for Fire Engineering his editorial columns were exactly that - designed to make you angry and evoke a response from the reader to make change in themselves as well as their company, battalion or department. He was not afraid to tackle the difficult issues head on without hesitation.



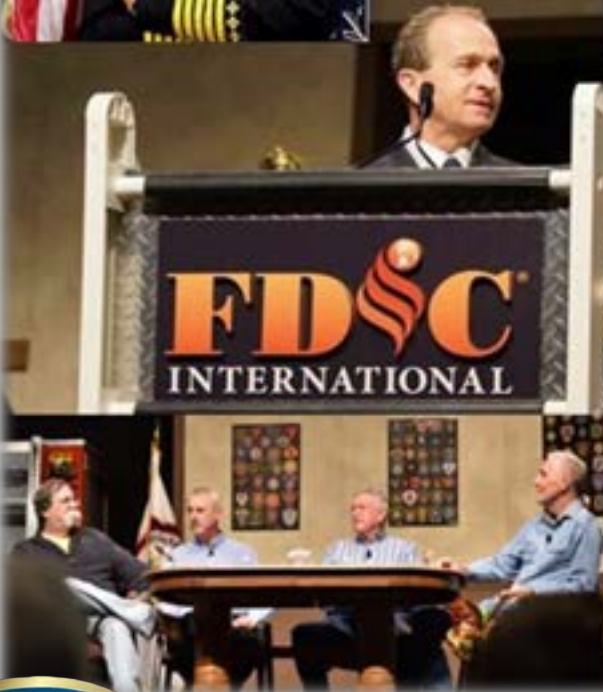
Engineering magazine and Vice President of Education and Training for Clarion Fire & Rescue. As NFFF Chairman Troy Markel reflected, Bobby was passionate about helping firefighters, especially those suffering from occupational cancer and behavioral health problems. “He was a valuable contributor to many of our conferences, including the keynote address at the 2016 Fire Service Technology Summit. It is almost impossible to imagine the FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb without Bobby’s motivating pre-climb speech about the importance of remembering the firefighters lost on September 11th.”

Bobby had time to talk to anyone about anything but most of all in those encounters he actively listened to your concerns before he responded. He could make you mad in one minute and happy in the next.

He grew the Fire Department Instructors Conference - International to the number one conference in the world. Attendance under his guidance grew to as large as 35,000. He made friends with everyone. He could light up a room with his smile and his genuine concern for you and others. His presentations at the opening of FDIC will continue the legacy he leaves behind. He believed in God and America and was not ashamed to let you know it.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) mourns the loss of Chief Bobby Halton, who passed away suddenly on December 19, 2022. Bobby was editor-in-chief of Fire

Bobby began his career as a structural firefighter with the Albuquerque (NM) Fire Department (AFD) and rose through the ranks to become chief of training and chief of operations. He retired from AFD in 2004 and became chief of the Coppell (TX) Fire Department. From there, Bobby was named editor-in-chief of Fire Engineering magazine. “Bobby was a close friend and confidante, on both a personal and professional level. His lasting legacy will be the volumes he has written about firefighter health and safety,” said Chief Ron Siarnicki, NFFF Executive Director. “The NFFF extends our deepest sympathies to those impacted the most by his loss, his family and friends. We hope they find comfort in knowing Bobby’s legacy will continue to impact the fire service for many years to come.”





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Thanks for all you do!

Dale Montgomery, President
Ernest Daniels, Jr., Chief



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**Best Wishes to the
Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
for another successful year
2023-2024**



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Martin Markman
Alumni Member

Mitchell Molenof
Life Member
Battalion Chief, DC Fire and EMS (retired)

Tony Pirrone
Career Paramedic

Fred Roberts
Past Board of Directors Member

Richard Roth
Life Member

Marian Worton
Administrative Assistant

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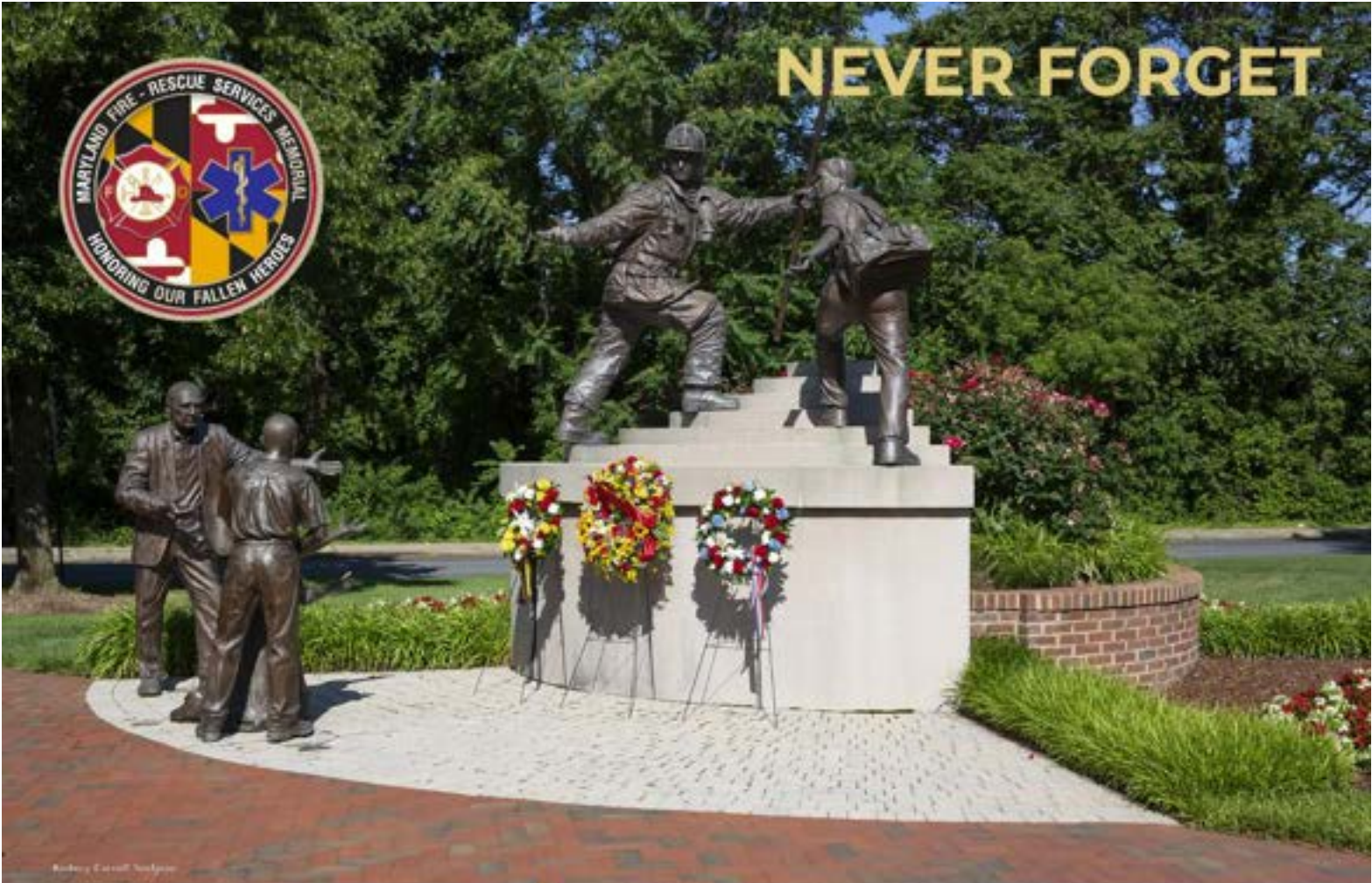
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(2023)

Region 1: (*Garrett, Allegany, & Washington Counties*)

C - Chaplain Dick Devore (Cell) 301-637-3454 dickdevore@gmail.com

Region 2: (*Frederick & Montgomery Counties*)

C - Chaplain Gary White (Cell) 301-524-3790 gwwhite1@msn.com

Dep C – Chaplain Rabbi Chesky Tanenbaum (Cell) 301-76896436 rabbict@gmail.com

Region 3: (*Howard, Carroll & Baltimore Counties*)

C – Chaplain Steve Stone (Cell) 443-977-0300 sstone@howardcountymd.gov

Dep C - Deacon Charlie Barnhart (Cell) 410-984-6165 chasbarn@verizon.net

Dep C – Chaplain Hope Larson (Cell) 443-255-1234 hlarson@baltimorecountymd.gov

Region 4: (*Harford & Cecil Counties*)

C –Chaplain Michael Hayden (Cell) 443-866-3995 14754@hcvfa.org

Region 5: (*Anne Arundel & Prince Georges Counties*)

C- Chaplain Robin A. Howard (Cell) 443-871-0267 flightgirlrhoward@yahoo.com

Dép. C- Chaplain Fontella Frost (Cell) 240-604-6461 fmfrost@co.pg.md.us

Region 6: (*Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's Counties*)

C – Chaplain George Kennett (Cell) 240-298-4200 Kennettgd@yahoo.com

Dep C –Chaplain Mike Miller (Cell) 301-632-9866 themikemiller220@gmail.com

Region 7: (*Kent, Queen Anne & Caroline Counties*)

C – Chaplain Bill Hildebrand (Cell) 410-708-8169 mdhokie70@atlanticbb.net

Region 8: (*Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset Counties*)

C – Chaplain Gary S. Hickman (Cell) 443-521-0207 grandpafarmer81@gmail.com

Dep C – Chaplain Chuck Ward (Cell) 443-235-1455 cward1140@gmail.com

How to contact a Chaplain:

1. Go to MFCB's Webpage at: mdchief.org,
2. click on dropdown "RESOURCES",
3. Click on "REQUEST A CHAPLAIN",
4. Fill out the request and
5. Push "SUBMIT".



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

BACK TO THE FUTURE: BUILDING THE FIRE/EMS CHAPLAIN CORPS IN MARYLAND



**President Gerald "JJ" Lynott , 1st VP Robert Phillips , Elected and Appointed
Officers, Past Presidents, Chaplains, Members of the Association**

Three Years, 2 months, and 16 days. The COVID-19 Emergency is now over. There is no doubt that the virus put many things that were underway on hold. That was the way with us in the Maryland Fire Chief's Chaplain's Committee. If there is anything good that has emerged from this pandemic, it has been the firm realization that safety for 1st responders is more than just a physical concern. The reality of the import of and care for the psychosocial emotional spirituality health is as important. With the number of 1st Response suicides eclipsing that of L.O.D.'s, suddenly all of Fire and EMS focus is now on the psychosocial emotional spirituality concerns of all personnel.

To tackle this growing problem the MSFA and the MFCA have formed a Combined Joint Taskforce on "Safety and wellness" We serve to coordinate the Chaplaincy portion on that Taskforce. One idea proposed is to have a travel training seminar which will be held in several locations in the northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest of the state during the coming year. The content for each training seminar will remain the same for all the sessions. This will standardize the training and increase the opportunity for more participation by 1st responders and chaplains alike who could not make the MSFA Annual Convention in Ocean City. The composition of the content and classes are being proposed and developed at this time.

While we were attending the John W. Heglund Leadership Training Seminar we were able to speak with the MRFI Director, Michael Cox. During our conversations the topic of MRFI providing standardized Fire/EMS Chaplain training for those seeking to be a Fire/EMS Chaplain was discussed. MRFI has standardized training of the position of "Safety Officer", so could they also provide standardized training of Fire Chaplain Essentials? The Director responded positively and stated he would investigate it. Hopefully by September 2023 that training will be made available at no cost to Maryland Fire/EMS personnel.

Chaplaincy Participation & Training throughout the Year:


We attended, and were accompanied by three MFCA Chaplains, the Federation of Fire Chaplains conference in Atlanta, GA (16-20 OCT 22).

The Chaplains Committee work is continuing in the development of the "Maryland Model" for Fire/EMS Chaplaincy. Presentation of the completed proposal S.O.G. for the program is expected for the next membership meeting in 2024.

This year's Chaplaincy mantra to instruct those needing to understand the role of a Chaplain is:

"Spirituality" is NOT "Religiosity"!

Respectfully,


Richard "Chappy" Bower

Date: 24 MAY 23`



GLENN DALE VOLUNTEERS EVENT CALENDAR



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10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM - OUTDOOR

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May 27th

June 3rd

June 10th

June 11th

June 17th Fathers Day Pop-up Shop

July 15th & 16th

July 22nd

August 12th & 13th Back to School

August 19th and 20th

September 9th

September 23rd

October 28th Trick n' Treat Pop-up Shop

Upcoming Events

June - Sale Begins for 12 Days of Christmas Lottery - \$5000.00 in cash prizes

9/9 Fall Paint and Sip

9/16 Glenn Dale Flea Market

11/4 Ladies Aux. Vendor Show

12/3 Breakfast with Santa and the Grinch

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*Congratulations to Chief Hugh Owens
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President



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MARYLAND

Miss Fire Prevention
FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Colline Ruby
Miss Fire Prevention 2023-2024

Congratulations and Good Luck Colline as you compete for the Miss Fire Prevention Ambassador contest of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

MARYLAND

Miss Fire Prevention

FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Laurie Logue-Ruckman

Miss MFCFA Fire Prevention 2022-2023

Congratulations and Good Luck Laurie as you compete for the Miss Fire Prevention Ambassador contest of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.





Congratulations!



2016



MIFCA 2010-2011

Fire Prevention Ambassadors

MIFCA 2011-2012

Fire Prevention Ambassadors

2010-2011
Miss Fire Prevention Jennifer Barciz

2010-2011 First Runner Up
Miss Fire Prevention Meghan Quinn

2010-2011 Junior Miss Fire
Prevention Arcadia Ewell

2010-2011 Jr. Fire Chief
Eric Jordan



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2011 – 2012 FIRE PREVENTION AMBASSADORS

MISS FIRE PREVENTION
LAUREN ASHLEY THOMPSON

MISS FIRE PREVENTION FIRST RUNNER UP
STACY L. HOLDEN

JUNIOR MISS FIRE PREVENTION **MORGAN ADLER**

LITTLE MISS FIRE PREVENTION
GRACE ACETO

LITTLE MISS FIRE PREVENTION RUNNER UP
JADYN HOWARD

JR. FIRE CHIEF
IAN YOUNKINS

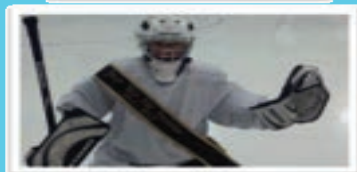
JR. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
COLTON MILLER



MIFCA 2012-2013

Fire Prevention Ambassadors

MARYLAND Fire Chiefs Association



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014-2015
FIRE PREVENTION AMBASSADORS

MISS FIRE PREVENTION STACEY HOLDEN

MISS FIRE PREVENTION FIRST RUNNER UP
JENNIFER FRANKLIN

LITTLE MISS FIRE PREVENTION HAILIE SANTOS

JR. FIRE CHIEF PAUL ANDREW DEGRAVES



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Past Fire Prevention Queens

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Fire Since 1776-1996



Jean Elizabeth Garland



2003 Fire Prevention Queen
Evelyn Lamb



Laura Kelly 2002-2003 MFCA Queen



Alexis Becker 2003-2004 Lineboro VFD



2004 Tonya Alexander
Lineboro Volunteer Fire Company



2005 - 2006
Nicole Poole
Winfield Community VFD



2007 - 2008 Stacie Jaret
Winfield Community VFD




2008-2009 Maryland Fire Chiefs Association Miss Fire Prevention – Erin Drumheller
 2008-2009 Maryland Fire Chief's Association Miss Fire Prevention Runner Up – Bobby Utz
 2008-2009 Maryland Fire Chief's Association Jr. Miss Fire Prevention – Melissa Williams
 2008-2009 Maryland Fire Chief's Association Jr. Miss Fire Prevention Runner Up – Cari



Reprinted from the

• 25th ANNUAL CONVENTION—MARYLAND FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOC., INC. •



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION, INC. Past Queens—1956-1973



1956



1957



1958



1959



1960



1961
Sandra Browning



1962
Carol Ann Reter



1963
Joan Hanson



1964
Sandra Linton



1965
Darlene Sammons



1966
Alice McGrew



1967
Karen Perry



1968
Brenda Yates



1969
Suzanne Eagle



1970
Cathy Baker



Mary Carol Matthai
1971-72-73



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Past Fire Prevention Queens



1975-76
Terry K. Grimes



1976-77
Cheryl Johnson
Maryland City



1977-78
Kathy Sheldon
Hacks Point



1978-79
Kim Smith
Earleigh Heights



1979-80
Katrina Owens
Pikesville



1980-81
Suzanne Thompson
St. Michaels



1981-82
Karen Dickerson
Sykesville



1982-83
Cheryl V. Reese
Westminster



1984-85
Theresa Proiser
Gamber-Community



1985-86
Lori Bechtel
Sykesville



1986-87
Tricia Arrington
Hillsboro



1987-88
Theresa Gartner
Damascus



1988-89
Jennifer Laird
New Windsor



1989-90
Bonnie Crispin



1990-91
Nicole Borlogna
Sykesville



1992-93
Pamela Chrisman



1993-94
Amy Fleming
Carroll County



1994-95
Nicole Laster
Winfield



1995-96
Melissa Wean
Winfield



1996-97
Teri Bildstein
St. Michaels



1997-98
Christina Gue
Mt. Airy



1998-99
Theresa Thompson



2000-2001
Sarah Horner

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Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department
Prince Frederick, Maryland



Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department
Prince Frederick, Maryland

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Office: 443.589.2400

Contact: Pete Mellits at pmellits@kleinfelder.com

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THANKS

**THE MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION FOR
ALL THAT YOU ARE DOING FOR THE STATE**



GOOD LUCK IN 2023 – 2024



From the Members of

PRINCE FREDERICK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPANY 2



**We wish all of the incoming officers
a safe and successful year!**



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS

2023 Training Committee Report

President Lynott, Vice Presidents Phillips and Dulina, officers and members of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association. it is my honor and privilege to provide the annual report for the Training Committee.

Once again, your Committee hit the ground running; with the new year setting up several training opportunities in order to best prepare the fire service in our state with the skills and abilities to perform in leadership roles in their organizations and communities.

Along with our partners at the Maryland State Fireman's Association, we were fortunate to have the AFG SAFER Grant providing funds allowing us to MAXIMIZE the quality of presenters that we brought to our area to provide the training. Attendance was above our best expectations, with hundreds of fire and emergency service providers taking advantage of the many great speakers we arranged for these programs.

We are forever grateful to our partners in the State, our many sponsors who help us pay for additional items that are not covered by the Grant, and most importantly, our Committee members who work TIRELESSLY to ensure that every program meets the needs of every attendee and the high standards that we have built up over the years of putting together these offerings.

We truly believe that the events that we have offered are some of the best that this State has presented in the past years and the number of people attending certainly reflects that. The individuals that have been brought to facilitate them are some of the Most Notable in the Emergency Services field. We are only as good as the people that we bring to our State and the message that they can convey to those who attend our programs. Feedback has been EXTREMELY positive, which only helps us to work harder on behalf of our Organization.

We will continue to work diligently on behalf of EVERY MEMBER of our Association and those who have taken the oath to serve their communities in their time of need.

We Are PROUD to serve in this capacity and will continue to represent this great Organization and its' members in making our name well known all across the State.

Congratulations to all of our officers and committees for a productive year, and we look forward to OUR FUTURE - one where our citizens receive the best possible service due to our fire and emergency services providers being the most prepared that they can be. EVERYONE...STAY SAFE !



Respectfully submitted,

Tim Delahanty, Chairman



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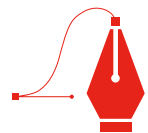
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Maryland Fire Chiefs

2023 MFCA Legislative Committee Report

The 445th Session of the Maryland General Assembly convened at Noon on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023 and adjourned at Midnight on Monday, April 10th. In between, the legislators dealt with 3,064 Bills, 1,365 in the Senate and 1,699 in the House of Delegates. Of those, 794 reached Governor Wes Moore's desk for approval. The Fire, Rescue, and EMS Interests were in 101 Bills that were tracked throughout the session. Of these, 40 Bills made it to the Governor, and all 40 were approved.



This was the First session following last year's election and there was a lot of extra work to be done, meeting and educating new Legislators. This was an ongoing process, since the Governor reached into the House and Senate to recruit new people to serve in various posts in his administration. This is an ongoing practice at this time. Between retirements, elections, resignations, and other factors, there are at least 3 dozen freshmen legislators in 2023.

Despite these changes, we were able to hold our ground and did not lose anything that we had gained in previous years. Our long fought battle and eventual success in creating the Automatic Fire Sprinkler Laws has survived several challenges and did not even come up again this year.

There were some things that we supported that passed and became Law, such as the prohibition on the use of oriented strand board (a type of plywood) for fire training, a change in the State Public Safety Officers pension system to provide for membership by Emergency Medical Technicians who are not covered by a Fire Department plan, legislation covering peer support groups, and some local bills granting property tax adjustments for public safety personnel.

We would like to thank everyone who assisted in one way or another with our work during the session, and we recognize and applaud the endless work on our behalf by Teresa Ann Crisman.

Respectfully Submitted

Harve "Ed" Woods, Chair.



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in the County

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- Williamsport Volunteer Fire & EMS Co Station 2
- Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Co Station 4
- Hancock Volunteer Fire Co Station 5
- First Hose Company of Boonsboro Station 6
- Smithsburg Volunteer Fire Co Station 7
- Leitersburg Volunteer Fire Co Station 9
- Funkstown Volunteer Fire Co Station 10
- Potomac Valley Volunteer Fire Co Station 11
- Community Volunteer Fire Company of District 12 - Fairplay Station 12
- Maugansville Goodwill Vol. Fire Co Station 13
- Mt Aetna Volunteer Fire Co Station 16
- Sharpsburg Area EMS Station 19
- Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway Station 26
- Long Meadow Volunteer Fire Co Station 27
- Clear Spring Ambulance Squad Station 49
- Hancock Rescue Squad Station 59
- Boonsboro Ambulance Squad Station 69
- Community Rescue Service Station 75
- Smithsburg Ambulance Station 79
- Washington County ESS

Member Volunteer Companies
of Hagerstown

- First Hagerstown Hose Company Engine 1
- Antietam Fire Company Engine 2
- Independent Fire Company Engine 3
- Western Enterprise Fire Company Engine 4
- South Hagerstown Fire Company Engine 5
- Pioneer Hook & Ladder Truck 1

Best Wishes to the
Maryland Fire Chiefs

President Dale Fishack
1st VP James Sprecher
2nd VP Skip Menzies



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report

President Lynott, Officers and members of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

I want to thank each of you for your cooperation, partnership, and support during the past year. Congratulations to each of you for seeing this Association through another year of resounding success.

The banking operations have been streamlined using the online version of Quickbooks for all accounts. The information has been electronically provided to our Accounting firm for the creation of our 990 and other necessary tax and non-profit documents.



This is the 9th year since the accidental death insurance policy went into effect for all life and dues paying members. This is an excellent membership benefit and I work closely with the membership secretary to get new members covered. Please keep your dues up to date to continue your coverage.

The Association remains in a stable financial position and the Finance and Investment Committee continues to monitor and manage our core investments in partnership with a professional investments management organization. As a result, the Association has continued its financial support of other key partners and programs that promote fire safety and education for fire service leaders.

I hope that each of you and your family members will enjoy good health, safety and happiness in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Rick L. Hemphill, Treasurer

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Michael Poetker, President

James McKnight, Chief

Chief Pete Mellits / Morningside VFD / Secretary MFCA 2022-23

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CHIEF PETE MELLITS

SECRETARY

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2023 Annual Report – Highlighted Activities: May, 2022 thru April, 2023

It has been a great pleasure and honor to serve all, as your Secretary, this past year. In addition to emergency responses, my home Department programs and County programs; I had the opportunity to participate on behalf of the Maryland Fire Chiefs' Association and limited Eastern Division of the IAFC, in the following activities.

In 2022, post COVID; many events were getting back to "normal", either in-person events or were held virtually.

May thru December, 2022

May, 2022	Attend various EDIAFC meetings virtually.
June, 2022	Participate with the Maryland FF/EMS Memorial Annual Program in Annapolis, MD.
June, 2022	Attend the MFCA Booth/MSFA Convention in Ocean City, MD.
June, 2022	Attend the Maryland Municipal League Conference in Ocean City, MD.
July, 2022	Attend monthly Prince George's County Vol. Fire Rescue Association meetings through year.
August, 2022	Attend Regular Summer meeting of the MFCA.
August, 2022	Attend IAFC FRI Conference in San Antonio, TX.
August, 2022	Attend monthly Department meetings of the Bowie VFD, in-person.
Sept., 2022	Attend monthly Prince George's County Fire Commission meetings through year, virtually.
Sept., 2022	Attend PGCVFRA Convention Meetings.
Sept., 2022	Assist with the Fall MFCA Golf Tournament in Upper Marlboro, MD.
October, 2022	Attend MFCA Executive Board Meetings, virtually and in-person.
October, 2022	Participate with the NFFF Memorial Annual Program in Emmitsburg, MD.
Nov., 2022	Attend IAFC VCOS Symposium and meetings in Clearwater, FL.
Nov., 2022	Saturday Apparatus Driver at Prince George's Company 27 - Morningside VFD.
Nov., 2022	Attend Regular Fall meeting of the MFCA.
Dec., 2022	Attend various PGCVFRA/FC Recruitment and Retention Meetings through the year, virtually.
Dec., 2022	Attend MFCA Leadership Seminar in Ocean City, MD.

January thru April, 2023

January, 2023	Attend various MSFA Recruitment and Retention Meetings through the year, virtually.
January, 2023	Attend MSFA/MFCA Legislative Reception in Annapolis, MD.
February, 2023	Attend House / Senate Legislative Caucus meetings, virtually.
February, 2023	Attend monthly Board and Department meetings of the Morningside VFD, virtually and in-person.
March, 2023	Attend MFCA Executive Board Meetings, virtually.
March, 2023	Attend monthly Prince George's County Vol. Fire Rescue Association meetings through year.
March, 2023	Attend monthly Prince George's County Fire Commission meetings through year, virtually.
March, 2023	Attend MFCA Hoglund Officers Seminar in Rockville, MD.
April, 2023	Assist with the Spring MFCA Golf Tournament in Upper Marlboro, MD.
April, 2023	Attend EDIAFC Annual Conference in Ocean City, MD.



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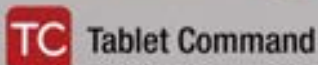
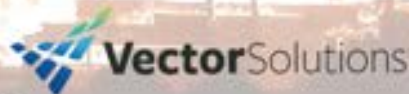
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Maryland Fire Chiefs Statewide Alert Network Report



*Over 20 Years of Operational Notifications with over
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We continue to expand our free service network into our **21st** year provide our information in a secure and trusted format. We are proud to be recognized by the Fire/EMS Service as well as Federal, State and Local governments for our interoperable communications and our reliable dissemination of useful information.

The network began as an idea germinated out of the terrorist attacks on 9/11/01 when it became clear that there was no methodology to provide information and notifications of dangers to first responders in real time when it was most needed. With the initial backing of then MFCA President Charles Black, the Statewide ALERT Network began as a project of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Strategic Planning Committee in early Spring of 2002.

Beginning with an outside service and then acquiring our own computers, the Maryland Fire Chiefs created a distinct methodology for notifications centering on distributed web based hardware and redundant security working on the premise that information needed to be rapidly obtained and distributed by person and location rather than by type of information. Our Network is staffed solely by volunteers who have provided thousands of hours of dedicated service over the last 18 years and remain committed to providing useable information to emergency service personnel for the foreseeable future.

The Alert Network disseminates critical and emergency information in a timely manner free to the Chief Officers of the Fire/EMS services in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio and District of Columbia. In addition, Federal, State, Local agencies; public safety, emergency management and police are receiving alert notifications.

We would like to thank all the Officers, Past Presidents, and members who have supported us over the last 20 years.

We also wish to thank the many dedicated employees of DHS, Maryland Emergency Management and the other state and Federal agencies who allow us to maintain our energetic level of service.

We also wish to recognize Code Messaging for our eastern server as well as the other Fire Chiefs associations in our service areas who have been supportive of our efforts. We appreciate and are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Fire/EMS Community and the citizens of our country with the Statewide ALERT Network on behalf of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association as an asset to the Emergency Service Community.

The Statewide ALERT Network Team

Skip Menzies - Rick Hemphill

Jason Miller - Richard Blair

Edward (Harve) Woods

*Congratulations to Statewide Operations Chief Skip Menzies
for 20 years of diligent and continuous service in getting the messages out every day!*

The Statewide ALERT Network is offered at no charge to the top officers in each company of the Fire/Rescue/EMS service, whether career or volunteer.

Download our Application at www.statewidealert.net



MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Program Book Committee

The Program Book Committee would like to congratulate the Officers of Maryland Fire Chiefs Assoc. and Ladies Auxiliary for a very successful year. We would like to thank the Presidents and the Executive Board for allowing us the opportunity to prepare this year's Buyers Guide & Program Book, that show cased our statistical reports, programs and showing Association's events and activities. The results of this year's book are attributed to the outstanding cooperation and support we received our TEAM, the Officers, Committee Chairs and our members. A special thank to Michelle Smith for our dedication Cover, Teresa Ann, for the outstanding work she did on the book dedication pages, the five individuals who answered their last alarm and other special pages, Ron Watkins for taking the time to proofread all the reports and lastly Rick Hemphill who work through my emails on the locations each page and placing each page by page DVD for me to take to our printer. We would especially like to thank the advertiser vendors that supported our First Responders. MFCA and our membership would like specially thank the commercial advertisers, volunteer fire & rescue dept. & assoc. for their continued support each year. Our Corporate Sponsors support was especially helpful with our many events and activities. You and Your Company donations are invaluable to us & the Fire & EMS Services of the State of MD.

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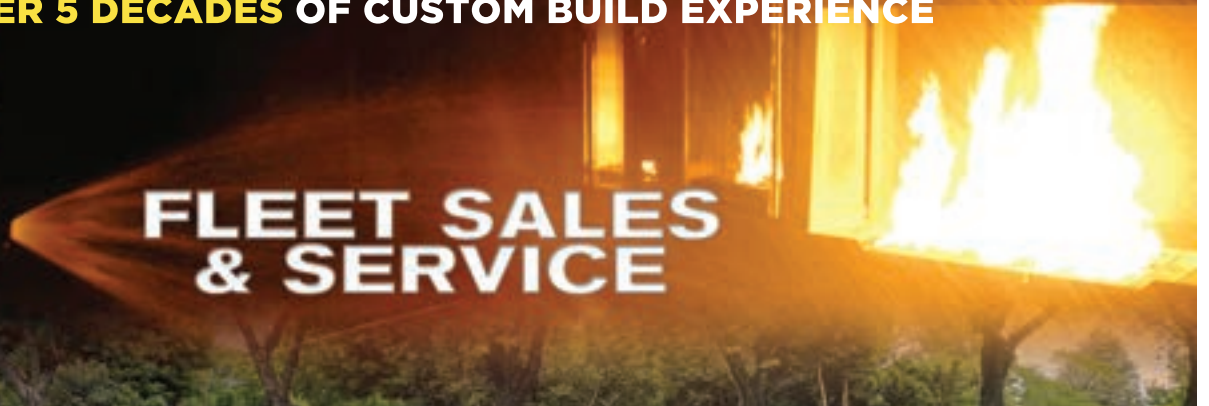
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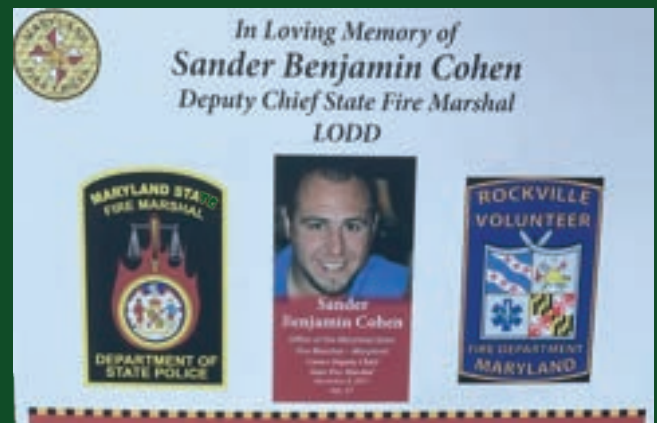
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Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

The Ocean City Firefighters Memorial is complete and was dedicated on September 11, 2006. The monument is dedicated to Bravery, Courage, Tradition and Pride. It features a six foot tall sculpted bronze statue of a firefighter upon a black granite base. The four sides of the black granite base commemorate:

- ◆ **September 11, 2001 Survivors and Victims** - A piece of steel from the World Trade Center is also featured on site
- ◆ **Ocean City Firefighters** - Past, Present and Future
- ◆ **Firefighters of the World** - For their devotion and duty
- ◆ **Dignitaries and Members** - The names of those who spent countless hours making this memorial possible



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The Officers and Members of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company invite you to visit the Firefighters Memorial and wish you a safe, productive and enjoyable visit to Ocean City.



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SEE THE LIGHT, BE THE LIGHT

DR. BURTON A. CLARK, EFO

SEE THE LIGHT. BE THE LIGHT. This is supposed to be a motivational, educational, funny, emotional, and memorable speech, all in forty-five minutes. How is that possible? It is possible because the speech is about you, the speech is about me, the speech is about all of us. The speech is about people in our history and about people in our future. It's about the people and events around us that can change our lives forever.

I am not going to talk about anything new, but it may help you remember things you already know. And I get to achieve one of my career goals of being a keynote speaker at FDIC. I highly recommend that you add that one to your life to do list.

I would like to dedicate this speech to my wife Carolyn Smith- Clark, for she is the light of my life. See the light. Be the light.

The idea for the speech comes from the Bible story about Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul was a good government bureaucrat. His job was to go round up Christians and deport them or crucify them. He was so good at his job that his nickname was Saul the Persecutor.

While leading his troops to Damascus, just outside the city, a bright light from Heaven struck Saul; he was knocked from his horse and blinded. A voice spoke to him: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul yelled, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice replied, "Go into the city and I will be revealed to you." Saul had to be led into the city where he lay in bed blind and starving for three days. A Christian named Ananias was sent to him. Ananias laid

his hands on Saul; the scabs fell from his eye, he saw again, and he was baptized a Christian. Saul took the name Paul and became a disciple of Christ. Paul is credited with a large part of the New Testament, and he is seen as being the light that spread Christianity. See the light. Be the light.



Another title for this speech may be, "Do you see the light in the people and events around you? Are you the light for those you love?"

None of us will have experiences like Paul or do work that profoundly impacts the world like he did. The closest we may ever come is Bruno and Brenner unplugged at FDIC.

There is a psychological aspect to this speech also. Dr. Morris Massey tells us that who we are at the core-value level is basically fixed in stone by about the age of ten. But a significant emotional event can change us at any time in our life.

Now that I have set the theoretical foundation for the speech, I will tell you the topics. I am going to give you some examples from history that demonstrate how one person can make a big difference. Then I will share with you some people and events in my life that changed me forever. I hope that by the end of the speech you will appreciate your life and the lives of the others around you, and the experiences you have together will be seen with greater illumination. Let's begin.

In the summer of 1919, the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was up for ratification. This change in our constitution would give women the right to vote in national elections for the first time in history. In twenty-six countries, including Russia and Germany, women

already had the right to vote. My maternal grandmother Ethel was a suffragette.

The women's suffrage movement had been trying to win the right to vote for eighty years. It was such a powerful force that President

Lincoln asked the women to stop their work while the men fought the Civil War.

For the Nineteenth Amendment to pass, two-thirds of the states had to ratify it. The women needed one more state to pass it. Two states were left to vote: Delaware and Tennessee. Between the two Delaware was the sure bet and Tennessee was doubtful. Delaware defeated the amendment. Eighty years of work seemed down the drain, but undaunted the women invaded Tennessee.

Things looked bleak in the Tennessee House of Delegates. On every straw vote the amendment was defeated by one vote. Now the final vote was to be taken. The assembly hall was packed. The pro-suffrage group wore yellow ribbons in their lapels; the anti-suffrage group wore red roses.

Harry Burn was a first-term delegate, at twenty-seven the youngest member of the assembly. Harry wore a red rose. A roll-call vote was requested, and the delegates stood in alphabetic order and yelled Yea or Nay. The vote was going by party line. Harry Burn was called; he stood and said Yea. With that one simple word, an eighty-year quest had been reached and women were given the right to vote. At first no one realized what had happened or why. What no one knew was that Harry had a letter in his pocket that he had received that morning from his mother. It said, "Harry, be a good boy and give women the right to vote." Harry was in big trouble with his party and would have been run out of town tarred and feathered, but the next day he stood in the assembly and said,

"A boy can never go wrong by doing what his mother wants, and my mother wanted me to give women the right to vote." See the light. Be the light.

Our next stop is Detroit in 1965. Ben is a fourteen-year-old inner-city kid. Today he would be referred to as an at-risk youth. He had three strikes already: single-parent home, living in the housing development, and poor school performance. On top of all that he had a terrible temper.

"This sickness controlled me, making me totally irrational" is how Ben described it. He would fight, throw things, and lash out at the least provocation. One day on the way home from school he and his best friend got into a fight. Ben took a knife out of his pocket,

opened the blade, and stabbed his friend in the stomach. He stepped back, looked down, and saw the blade lying on the ground. The knife had hit his friend's belt buckle and broken off. There was no blood; there was no wound. Ben realized he could have killed his friend. He ran home distraught, crying and pleading to his mother to take away his anger. What could he do to rid himself of this sickness?

His mother told him to pray about it, read a book every week, study in school, and join the high school Junior ROTC. Ben did what he was told. In 1969 he graduated number one in his class and JROTC commandant for the city of Detroit.

With these achievements he was eligible for a scholarship to any military academy, but he chose to attend Yale University to study pre-med. From there he received his M.D. from the University of Michigan. He studied neurosurgery in Perth, Australia, where he saved the life of the fire chief by removing a brain tumor. At thirty-five, Dr. Benjamin S. Carson became the youngest chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Carson's specialty is hemispherectomy, cutting children's brains in half to stop seizures. He was the first to lead a team that successfully separated twins conjoined at the head. Dr. Benjamin S. Carson. The "S" stands for Solomon. See the light. Be the light.

Our last historical moment takes place in Seattle, Washington, on January 5, 1995. A box alarm is put out for Mary Pang's Frozen Food. Heavy smoke is showing when the units arrive. Four attack lines with three men each go in the front door.

Twelve firefighters are doing their job. The best job, the most important job, the most dangerous job. Sometime into the fire a loud noise is heard. Lieutenant Gregory Shoemaker yells over his radio GET OUT, GET OUT, GET OUT. Eight firefighters tumble out windows and doors. Lieutenant Shoemaker and three brother firefighters fall into the basement when the floor collapses. Heroic rescue attempts are in vain.

What told Lieutenant Shoemaker to yell "Get out"? We will never know, but eight firefighters are alive today because he did. See the light. Be the light.

There are hundreds of events in our lives that have impacted each of us in important ways, most of which we are not even aware. Few of us see how we impact others, and it is unlikely anyone will write about us. But that does not make your experiences and my experiences any less important or valuable. We can add value to the experiences by seeing their importance in shaping who we are and how we behave.

I joined the fire service in August 1970. It was a Saturday afternoon in Landover, Maryland. I had just moved there from New Jersey and didn't know anyone. My wife sent me up the street to the store. When I came out, I noticed the doors were open at the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department across the street, so I walk in. No one was there except the Dalmatian dog. I later learned that his name was Haligan. A couple of minutes passed, and the firetrucks returned to the station. The guys got off in softball uniforms; they were just getting back from a game. We talked, they handed me a beer, and asked if I liked to play softball. I said sure, so I became a volunteer-firemen on the spot. For the next couple of weeks, I hung out at the firehouse a lot. I was between jobs, school did not start until September, and my wife worked. I had instant friends, and we played ball and drank beer.

I had been in the fire department for about two weeks but never actual got on the firetruck. One afternoon during the middle of the week I was at the station sitting in the TV room watching *The Gong Show*. A young guy came in dressed in an Army uniform and we introduced ourselves. He was Jimmy Pannetta, a member of the FD who had just come home on leave. Jimmy asked me if anyone had shown me anything. No, they just told me to get gear off the spare gear rack and get on the truck, I said. Jim offered to show me some stuff and we went to the apparatus bay. He proceeded to show me how to stand on the back step of the pumper: Hold on, bend you knees.

Then he said he was going to show me how to be the layout man. He showed me the bundle of hose with a rope around it. He explained that the truck would stop at a fire hydrant; the officer would open the door and yell "Layout." I was to step off the back step, pull the rope and hose off the truck, wrap it around the fire hydrant, and yell "Go" to the driver.

I got it—now I am a real firefighter. Back to *The Gong Show* we went. It's not ten minutes later that all the bells and lights in the station begin to flash and blare. We've got something and we are going. I get my gear and jump on the back step. Four of us are on the engine: the paid driver, the paid sergeant, Jimmy Pannetta in the bucket, and me on the back step. We turn left out of the firehouse, go four blocks, and turn right into my apartment complex. Fire is blowing out of the third-floor windows of an apartment building.

Sure enough, the engine stops, the officer opens the door and yells "Layout," I step off, wrap the hose around the hydrant on the left, yell "Go." And I'm *done*. I have no idea what to do next. I am just standing next to the hydrant watching the fire. It seemed like forever for help to come but within two minutes the next pumper from Kentland arrived with only driver Wayne Ramsey. I did not recognize him, and he did not know

me. But he did know that I had no idea what I was doing. The steamer cap was not removed for the hydrant, the bundle of hose was still wrapped around the hydrant, and hydrant wrench was still hooked to the rope. The hydrant was on a grassy island in the parking lot so the pumper could nose right in front, only four or five feet away. Wayne knelt to untangle the hose and take the steamer cap off. He told me, "Get that big hose off the front bumper and bring it to me."

I can follow directions. The hose was the big five-inch soft sleeve with the fifteen-pound brass coupling on the end of it.

I grabbed the hose about six inches behind the coupling and pulled it and swung around to give it to Wayne. I gave it to him, all right. The coupling hit him in the side of the head. He went down like a rock. I realized that not only did I not know what I was doing, I was dangerous.

Wayne shook off the clubbing, got himself together, and said to me, "Stand there and don't move." For an hour I was frozen in place watching this amazing ballet of firefighters and equipment preformed. The longer I stood there the sicker and sicker I got in my gut; it was a terrible feeling I had never experienced before. I never wanted to feel that way again. I promised myself I would never not know what to do next again. There was more to being a firefighter than softball, beer, and *The Gong Show*.

I stated to learn everything I could. I read books, took classes, and asked questions. Within six months I was a driver; within a year I was a training officer. Chief Massey Shaw of the London England Fire Brigade said, "Men who are pitch-forked into learning the business of a fireman only by attending fires must of necessity learn it imperfectly." He said that in 1873.

Two years later, I joined the District of Columbia Fire Department. Wayne and I became friends. I was like a sponge. I could not get enough information about the business of a firefighter. I graduated number one in my recruit class and attended my first FDIC in 1972. I was full of myself: DC Firefighter, Kentland firefighter; I was practicing the fire business a lot. We did a great job. I bought my first house in Laurel, Maryland, and joined the fire department.

In February 1973 Laurel had seven fire fatalities in one month from three fires. All of the victims—children and adults—were dead before the firetrucks left the station. I had that same familiar sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. All my knowledge, all my skill, all my macho, all the men and equipment in the fire department, could do nothing to save those people. There had to be a better way.

In the early seventies the smoke detector was new on the market. There was only one brand: Stradatol. It cost sixty bucks and the batteries were three bucks each. But they detected smoke early in a fire and gave people time to get out of their home—they could save lives. The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department went on a massive public education campaign to get people to buy and install smoke detectors. The program was so successful that the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration picked it as a model for its national smoke detector campaign. The DCFD learned I had helped my VFD with the program so the city assigned me to the fire chief's office to help with D.C.'s smoke-detector program. Washington, D.C., was the first metro city to have a retroactive smoke-detector law and citywide campaign.

In 1978 I was detailed to the National Fire Academy to develop and deliver a smoke detector training program for fire services across the country. We have accomplished a lot with smoke detectors over the past twenty years.

In January 2001 a house fire in Oak Orchard, Delaware, killed eleven family members: three generations gone. The smoke detectors' batteries had been removed. When your family, your friends, and your neighbors go to sleep tonight will working smoke detectors be on guard? Do you see the light? Are you the light?

It is 1976 and I am in the kitchen of Engine 14 in the District of Columbia. I am arguing about the importance of firefighters going to college. "You don't need a college degree to ride the back step" is the opinion held by my colleagues; countered with, "The more educated we get the fewer firefighters will get killed." My lieutenant responded, "Firefighters have to get killed; it is part the job." I was livid, I was so angry, but you can't break bad on your lieutenant. I had to vent my anger. I was taking a writing class in college so I went in the office and typed an essay on the topic. My professor thought it was pretty good and encouraged me to get it published. I did. *Fire Command* published "I Don't Want My Ears Burned" in July 1976. These are the key points: Do fire service personnel believe that being injured or killed is part of the job? What is the fire service's acceptable casualty level? The fire service will stop being the most hazardous occupation only when we its members want it to. Every time an accident occurs, we must determine who or what is the cause.

The NIOSH reports do just that. It is no surprise that our morbidity and mortality is our own responsibility. In every LODD report the victim and or others were not following SOPs or training doctrine and in most cases an officer knew about it and did not fix the error before it led to an accident that resulted in a tragedy.

Firefighting is dangerous; we must perform every task one hundred percent right one hundred percent of the time. Because you never know what little error, what little mistake, what little omission will be the weak link that breaks the chain.

Raise your hand if you wear your seatbelt all the time responding and returning from calls. One national survey said that only fifty- seven percent of us do. Fifty-seven percent cannot be a passing score for anything we do. We can change. In January of this year, Captain Bob Van Dyke of the Atlantic City FD Ladder 1 took the seatbelt pledge after his battalion chief asked him to. It was a fire department rule, and it was the right thing to do. He stuck a job aid, a piece of duct tape with the word *BELT* written on it, to the dashboard of the cab of the truck to remind him to put his seatbelt on and tell his crew to put their seatbelts on. See the light. Be the light.

It is 1980, and I go to work at the NFA full time. I am in charge of the Public Fire Safety Education curricula. I get pretty full of myself again; people from around the country call me for advice. I think I even got a call from NFPA. Then one day a friend of mine calls. Joan Schermerhorn is a fire safety educator in Vermont. She had taught a class of elementary kids' fire-safety stuff, including what to do when the smoke detector goes off at night. "Crawl to the door, feel the door, if it is hot, do not open it." Joan had this smart kid in class who asked, "What do you mean by *hot*?" Joan realized she did not have an answer, but she knew this government expert. She calls and asks, "What's hot?" I did not have the answer, and no one could tell me.

I had participated in the California burn tests for residential smoke detectors and sprinklers. My friend Jim Feld, a fire protection engineering student at the University of Maryland, and I set up some full-scale burn tests to see if by feeling a door with your hand you could tell the temperature on the other side. Guess what? You can't. We had lethal temperatures at the five-foot level outside the bedroom door, and the surface temperature on the inside of the door never went above body temperature. Now for your fire-safety education lesson. Hold hands with the person on both sides of you. One feels warmer to you than the other. To the person who feels warm to you, say, "If you were a door, I would not open you; I would use a second exit."

How many other things do we teach because we have always done it that way, or because the big city does it that way, or because the NFPA standards say to do it that way? Is the way based on science and research? Most of what we think we know is based on experience and consensus. As life and death discipline we must do better than that. Where does our science and research come from? Who studies us?

The first doctoral dissertation I ever read was “The Educational Effectiveness of Fire Demonstrations” by Homer P. Hopkins. It was written in 1966, but I did not find it until early 1981. There are about ten dissertations done on the fire service annually; there are about a hundred done on police service and criminology. There are twenty-nine universities with doctoral programs in criminology or criminal justice; there are no doctoral programs in fire service studies. Would you believe there are five PhD programs in folklore?

Does anyone else see this as a problem? We will never be a true profession until the academic community accepts us as a discrete discipline based on science and research. Chief Massey Shaw said that the fire service needs to be studied and practiced like other science-based professions. Chief Shaw may ask us, “What has taken you so long to see the light?”

Next week the Congressional Fire Caucus Institute will hold its annual banquet in Washington, D.C. This is a big deal. Held in the largest banquet room in the nation’s capital, it welcomes two thousand fire service and political VIPs. Every year at this two-hundred-dollar-a-plate dinner, they give out an award to somebody who has done something outstanding and notable for the fire service. One year they gave it to a volunteer firefighter who got a fire pumper sent to Bosnia during its civil war. They also gave it to a leader of Kuwait after the first Gulf War for his work putting out the oil well fires and preventing an environmental disaster.

One year I got to attend with a free ticket. The award was given to Cory Snyder. Mr. Snyder had watched a television program about thermal imaging cameras, called his local fire department, and found out they did not have one, so he and his buddies went door to door collecting money. When Mr. Snyder came to the podium to receive his award, 1,999 people spontaneously rose from their seats to give him and his friends a standing ovation. One person could not rise. Me. I was getting that same familiar sick feeling in my gut: Something was wrong with this. Because you see, Cory Snyder was eleven years old, and his friends were younger. How can we as a professional discipline, whose vocation has life-and-death consequences, rely on children to raise money for the equipment we need to do our job? When was the last time the police department relied on donations?

For the first time in history the fire grants have given up access to funding like never before. But consider that the police service has been getting twelve billion dollars a year in federal funding even before 9/11. The police service understands that money is critical to efficient and effective operations.

For example, if you put a group of police chiefs in one room and a group of fire chiefs in another and give them both the same problem to solve, the fire chiefs come out with a solution whereas the police chiefs come out with a grant proposal. We need to learn a new phrase, “Show me the money. We need it to do our job and keep you safe.”

I have one more life-affirming experience to share with you. At the age of twelve I attended my first funeral. My great-grandmother Mattie Hammond died at age ninety. To this day I can still hear her voice in my head calling me Burtie. None of you gets to call me Burtie. Mattie Hammond had five children, six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Grandma Mattie was the center of attention when we all got together. At the age of thirty I met her again. I was going through some of my grandfather’s papers after his death. I came across a poem that Grandma Mattie had written to him on the occasion of his retirement. When I read the poem I could hear Mattie’s voice in my head, and I saw her in a new light. My mother told me that Mattie wrote lots of poetry and that my Great Aunt Pat had the whole collection. On the next visit I asked if I could read more of Mattie’s poetry. I was given a typed manuscript of more than thirty poems that covered all types of events in our family. I even found one about me. I would like to share it with you.

*A Feather
Great-grandson brought a feather
from a bluejay wing today.
I don’t know why the bluejay
threw that one away.
But maybe left, as a token this gift,
to a little boy on this lovely day in summer,
that doesn’t play with toys.
Burt tries his skill in casting
to catch a great big fish
and if he ever catches one
that is his dearest wish.*

—Mattie Hammond

Two years ago, my eight-year-old grandson Golden gave me a blue jay feather. What a story. But it does not end there. Three weeks ago, my Great Aunt Pat died at the age of 101. I loved her. She was the last of Mattie’s children. My mother gave me a case and said, “Aunt Pat wanted you to have these.”

When I opened the case there was a book of the original handwritten poems of my great-grandmother.

I flipped through it and found the bluejay feather. I will put Golden's feather with it. See the light. Be the light.

Finally, a wise old man went down to the shore to think and write. One morning he got up early to walk on the beach. He saw what looked like a person dancing in the waves. As he got closer, he saw that the young man wasn't dancing; he was throwing something into the water.

"Young man, what are you doing?" he asked.

"I am throwing starfish into the water."

"I can see that. The question is why?"

"Well, the sun is coming up and the tide is going out.

If I don't throw them back into the water, they will die."

"Young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles

of beach and thousands of starfish? You can't possibly make a difference." The young man bent down, picked up a starfish, and threw it into the water. And he said, "It made a difference to that one."

The old man was stunned and did not know how to reply. He just walked off. He had a terrible day and restless night. The next morning, he went down to the beach and helped the young man throw starfish into the sea.

The moral to the story is that vision without action is merely a dream; action without vision just uses up time. Vision with action can change the world.

My final thought is this. If you pay attention to the people and events around you, you will see the light. If you love the people and experiences, you have and strive to make things better, you will be the light.

IN MEMORY OF

LT. NATHAN FLYNN,

LT. PAUL BUTRIM,

LT. KELSEY SADLER,

FF. KENNY LACAYO,

B.C. JOSHUA LAIRD

- MAY THEIR LIGHT CONTINUE.



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