



IN THE NEWS

Congratulations!



Congratulations Deputy Chief Tim Leidig with the West Chicago Fire Protection District on his retirement November 3, 2023 after 31+ years of service. The IAFPD applauds the service you have provided to your community, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Symposium and most recently, the Illinois Fire Service Conference. We also thank you for your role as the host facility for the fall presentation of the IAFPD Essential Trustee Training. You have made a true difference to those we educate and represent



Congratulations William (Bill) Johnson for being recognized by IAFPD Board of Directors for his Outstanding Service to the Central Adams Fire Protection District. Bill just celebrated his 31 Years of Service as Trustee and has been a member of the department since 1969. Bill's civic involvement extends beyond the fire department

as a loyal member of the Village Board since 1985, the Adams County Rural Fire District Association Secretary since 1998 and member of the 9-1-1 Board since 2009. Bills dedication to the fire district administration, commitment to fire safety, emergency response has demonstrated true leadership and made a tremendous impact his community. Congratulations on this special recognition.

IN MEMORY



Larry Nice (81) of Frankfort, passed away on December 13, 2023. Larry is survived by his loving family, wife, Joanne Nice their two children, four grandchildren, and two siblings. Larry was a devoted firefighter who rose through the ranks to Chief and Trustee over a period of 47 years within the Frankfort Fire Protection District. He was a longtime Dairy Farmer in Frankfort.



Milton Batson (86) of Frankfort passed away December 3, 2023. He will always be remembered for the support of his community and the way loved his family, as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Milt worked operating heavy equipment before starting with Brown and Lambrecht Earthmovers and joining the Local 150 International Union of Operating Engineers. He

followed in the footsteps of his father and uncles and joined the Frankfort Volunteer Fire Department in 1958 rising through the ranks to become Fire Chief until he retired in 1983. In 1975, Milt obtained his Degree in Fire Science from Joliet Junior College and became an Arson Investigator for the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshall from 1975 to 2002.



Gary E. Buff (64) of Clifton passed away on October 4, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Rose Buff, three daughters, six grandchildren, one great grandson and two sisters. Gary worked at Buff's Service Center and later owned and operated Buff's Auto Clinic. He was a trustee for the Chebanse Township Fire Protect District and member of the Clifton Sportsman's Club.



Paul L. Danner (90) of Illinois City, Illinois, passed away on December 29, 2023. Paul was born in rural Illinois City, Illinois, graduated from Reynolds High School and served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Paul was married to JoAnn Hofer (she survives) on December 28, 1952. He was a charter member of the Illinois City Buffalo Prairie Fire Department and served as a Buffalo

Prairie Fire Protection District Trustee for over 50 years.



Jeff "Sparky" E. Benson (67) of Greenville, passed away January 16, 2024, peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Jeff grew up in Hillsboro, where he attended the local schools and graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1974. Jeff had 3 children who all survive. Sparky married Nancy Rita Ammann in 1994. They

enjoyed 29 years until her passing in 2023. Sparky starting as a member of the Panama Fire Department in 1976-1991. He then joined the Greenville Fire Department, serving 33 years at various roles including Firefighter, Rescue Squad member, Assistant Chief of Administration, and most recently, as a Fire Commissioner.