



# IN THE NEWS

## Congratulations!

Thank you to the IAFP Board of Directors and Executive Director Gina Deglefetti for supporting the fall presentation of the Essential Trustee Training. The partnership was a new educational endeavor, offering two separate locations for attendance and successfully awarded 40 members with program completion certificates.



John Swan officially retired as Chief of the Colona Fire Department (CFD) on September 10, 2025, after 49 years of service, marking the end of a significant era for the Illinois fire service, with Deputy Chief Kirk Wyffels succeeding him. Swan's impactful career included advocating for firefighter safety, leading initiatives like "Go Green Clean," and mentoring many, leaving a lasting legacy as he stepped down for a well-deserved retirement.



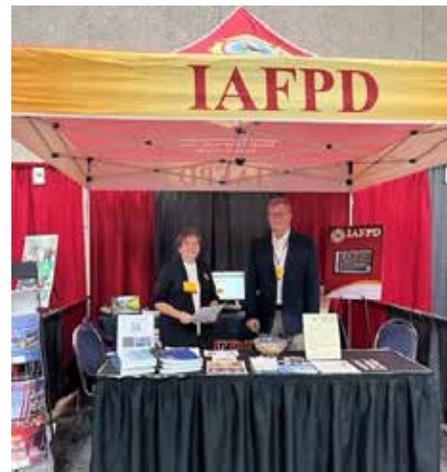
Congratulations Glenn Ericksen and best wishes on your retirement from MABAS-Illinois. We celebrate this special milestone and your incredible leadership and thank you for your years of dedication, vision, and leadership as CEO. Your impact on the organization and on everyone who has had the privilege to work with you—will be felt for years to come.

We are grateful for your guidance, your commitment to excellence, and the culture you helped build. Wishing you a retirement filled with happiness, good health, and plenty of time to enjoy the next great chapter of your life.

## Thank You!



Thank you, Cherry Valley Fire Protection District, for hosting the IAFPD Annual Continuing Trustee Education (CTE) Training on November 8th. While a new time of year for the traditional program, this facility and exceptional speakers, Shawn Flaherty and John Motylinski, consistently bring 90+ attendees representing 40+ northern Illinois fire districts together. Thank you, Dave Broz, with Railside Citrus for the continued sponsorship on this important educational program.



IAFPD Directors, Ann Joyce & Damon Schuldt embraced the opportunity to meet with several members who were in attendance at the Illinois Fire Chiefs Conference Annual Conference held in October. The booth is a great place to learn about the resources available and upcoming events offered by IAFPD

# IN MEMORY



**Aron Jaime** (34) of Joliet, passed away unexpectedly on December 14, 2025. Aron was a driven and determined individual who pursued his goals with dedication. In 2015, he proudly completed the Firefighter Academy, demonstrating his commitment to service and helping others. In January of 2017, after

completing his real estate coursework and becoming licensed. Aron will be remembered for his kind heart, strong work ethic, and the friendships he formed throughout his life. He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents. Left to cherish his memory are his loving parents, his sister along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who shared in his life's journey.



**Donald Eugene Poole** (79) of Princeville passed away November 19, 2025. Surviving is his wife of 57 years, Judy Poole, a son, a daughter, and four grandsons. Don was a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United States Army. He was a retired machinist from Caterpillar and later discovered farming to be his passion. Don was a

volunteer for the Akron-Princeville Fire Department for 28 years, serving time as Chief, served on the Princeville Village Board for eight years, the Princeville Township Cemetery Board, and was a life-long member of the Princeville United Methodist Church.



**Ralph Wayne Hall** (64) of Norris City passed away on January 5, 2026 in Evansville, IN. Ralph married Christy Dawn Rhein and they shared over 32 years of marriage until her passing in 2014. He graduated from NCOE High School in 1979. Ralph was a Deputy Coroner for White County, Elk's member, corrections officer, lifetime member of the Coal Belt Fire Protection Association, 40

years with Norris City Fire Protection District which he served as the fire chief and board of trustee's secretary.



**Lonnie E. Barnes** (59) of Jewett, IL passed away on January 2, 2026. Lonnie was born and married to Teresa Bland in 1992. Survivors include his wife, a son Coty, a daughter, their spouses, his brother and five grandchildren. Lonnie dedicated over 30 years to the Autobody repair industry. In addition to his professional achievements, Lonnie was deeply involved with

the Greenup Fire Protection District, serving as a firefighter for 41 years. His passion for supporting the next generation was evident in his devotion to the "Explorers," where he invested time training young people interested in fire service. Lonnie enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, boating and loved to sing.



**William James Brennan** (74) of Chillicothe passed away December 12, 2025. He married Brenda Faye Shaddy on February 7, 1976. She preceded him in death on August 26, 2024. Bill was a salesman and had worked for Hennepin Marine, Sieg Automotive and Dave Gill Sterling Trucks. Bill was an active member of the Chillicothe Fire Protection District, where he served as an arson investigator. He was a member of the Fred Meister Chillicothe Community Firefighter's Association, the Red Knights Illinois Chapter 19 Motorcycle Club, St. Edward Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus and he volunteered at the Wheels of Time Museum. Bill also enjoyed

golfing, boating and working on firetrucks and boats.



**Keith E. Oncken** (93) passed away on January 20, 2026. Keith married Evelyn (Lynn) Hull, the love of his life, on September 10, 1950. Keith was longtime member and trustee with The Milledgeville Fire Protection District. Keith retired in May of 2025 after serving 75 years. First as a firefighter and then a trustee. Many of those as president of the board. Keith also served on multiple other boards around the Milledgeville area. A hardworking quiet leader with a great laugh.



## IAFPD Mourns the Loss of Lifetime Member / Legislative Liaison

**Timothy F. Deuschle** (77) of Bloomingdale, Illinois, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of dedicated service and commitment to his community. Born on April 20, 1948, Timothy embarked on a remarkable career with the Addison Fire Protection District, serving from 1971 until his retirement in 2004. He held the esteemed position of Fire Chief from 1992 until his retirement, demonstrating unwavering leadership and a passion for fire safety that has left an indelible mark on the community. In his continued dedication to public service, Timothy served as the current President of the Board of Trustees for the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District and was active as a lobbyist for the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, advocating for the needs and safety of fire services across the state. Timothy is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Jane with whom he shared 49 years of marriage. He was a proud father to Kati (Sebastian) Otero Barba and a cherished grandfather to his three grandchildren. Timothy F. Deuschle will be remembered not only for his contributions to fire safety but also for his deep commitment to family and friends, reflecting a life dedicated to service.