



IN THE NEWS



In its 22nd year, the Annual Fire Service Legislative Day in Springfield was held on April 10, 2019. Our members spent the day at the capitol meeting with their respective legislators and many new members who have taken office this year. The meetings allow members time to share information on their roles, successes and challenges with their fire district, but also educate them on bills we have introduced and moving through the process. The evening reception co-hosted by IAFPD and five of our fire service partners was slightly hindered with session running into the late evening hour, but still allowed opportunity for many fire service officials to greet and thank a few senators and representatives. **Thank you to all who attended and the other supporting organizations who contribute to this event each year: Illinois Fire Chiefs Assn., NIAFPD, Illinois Firefighters Assn., Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and NFSA.**



Congratulations **Chief Jeffrey Macko** from **Cary Fire Protection District** on his recent retirement after 45 years on January 11, 2019. Chief Macko started in 1973 and worked through the ranks with his first promotion to Lieutenant in 1979, Captain in 1986, POC Asst. Chief in 1991, Deputy Chief in 1998 and Fire chief in 2000. Chief Macko has been active

and held leadership positions including Lake and McHenry County Chiefs Association, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Illinois MABAS President and MABAS Division #5 President.

Congratulations to **Minooka Fire Protection District** and **North Aurora FPD** for achieving a **Class #1 ISO Rank and Certification**.



This achievement represents exemplary public protection by classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. And by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

IN MEMORY

LINE OF DUTY DEATH



Captain Jake Ringering, 37, passed away in the line of duty on March 5, 2019. He was born in Alton on December 14, 1981. He was the son of Robin (Ballard) Disney and her husband Reverend Stephen Disney of Wood River, and Larry Ringering and his wife Jan of Worden, IL. Jake graduated from East Alton Wood River High School in 2000 and from Lewis & Clark Community College in 2004 with an Associate Degree in Fire Science. He also earned his Emergency Medical Technician License. He began his career as a paid-on-call Firefighter for East Alton in 2001. He was hired as a career firefighter at East Alton in 2005 and was hired as a career firefighter at Godfrey Fire Protection District in 2010 and attained the rank of lieutenant in 2013 and Captain on May 1, 2014. He was also the technical rescue officer, respiratory protection officer and a lead instructor for the department. Along with his parents and wife of ten years, he is survived by three children. Jake was the most devoted husband and father to his family, and always put them first in his life. Their happiness was his happiness, and he made them very proud. He was adored by his children. In every aspect of his life he was a leader and always wanted to help others. He was a loving son, brother, and in-law who never met a stranger.

OTHER MEMORIALS



James Sterba (72) of Mazon passed away on March 12, 2019. Jim was retired from Caterpillar Tractor Company where he worked for more than 30 years. Jim served as a fireman with the Mazon Fire Protection District and served as Trustee to the Board. Jim was the Commander of the Mazon American Legion Post #352; an active member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City where he served as a Eucharistic. He was his grandkids biggest fan, and enjoyed following them in their various activities.



Kathie Geary (54) of Williamsville passed unexpectedly on March 25, 2019. She was a loving and devoted mother and friend. She spread her light and kindness to all those she touched. She actively volunteered her time to the community and served on the Board of Trustees for Williamsville Fire Protection District.

Kathie was born July 10, in El Paso, Texas, the daughter of James and Helene Kaster. She always dreamed of being a mother and is survived by her son, Austin and daughter, Taylor. She is also survived by five siblings.

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