



# IN THE NEWS

## Congratulations!

**Gerald Hughes, Chatham Fire Protection District** on celebrating 50 years of service with the department. Jerry served 39 years in the operations section beginning as a firefighter and working through the ranks including Fire Chief from 1979-1984 and again from 1992 to 1994. Jerry's became a member of the Board of Trustees in 2008, currently serving as President and has spent a lifetime supporting the services provided by the fire department and their commitment to the community.



Congratulations **Kenneth Marunde** for his 40 years of service to the **Woodstock Fire/Rescue District**, 27 serving as a Trustee. In that time, Mr. Marunde has been a proponent of many positive initiatives in the Illinois Fire Service, including responsible spending in government, firefighter safety, and many more. One of Kenneth's core beliefs was that the District had a responsibility to properly train and equip its firefighters in order to provide the best possible service to its community, and ensured that this was always the case through his voice and his vote. Mr. Marunde's dedication and years of service was celebrated during the April 22, 2021 Board of Trustee meeting.



*Kenneth Marunde, Chief Hill and IAFPD Director Marvin Hill*



*Jim Sinclair (Center) with IAFPD Directors Ken Yeakley (L) and Steve Schultz (R)*

**Thankyou and congratulations to Mr. Jim Sinclair**, association counsel for 30 years of service in 2020. In this time, Jim has been a key presenter at the Annual Training Sessions, a regular columnist to The Fire Call, co-author of the *Handbook for Trustees*, the visionary for our exclusive Essential Trustee Training program, a proactive member for the advocacy efforts that support our mission and members. Due to COVID, the IAFPD Board was not able to formally present their appreciation until recently, but did so at the University of Illinois at Champaign where he completed his undergraduate degree and presents for IAFPD annually. We appreciate your dedication to the association and the 630 fire protection districts we serve.



## Congratulations!

**Colonel Royal P. Mortenson** will retire as Director of the **Illinois Fire Service Institute** on 30 June 2021. In his tenure, Director Mortenson has led IFSI through a period of significant facility expansion, to include directing multi-year and multi-million dollar investments in upgrading the Champaign training ground facility and expanding the Institute's capacity and capability to deliver training off-site.

With a consistent focus on meeting the vast needs of the Illinois fire service, Mortenson led the creation and launched Leadership Development and Decision Making, Basic Operations Firefighter Blended, and First Responder Resiliency Programs. He has maintained strong financial stewardship by expanding funding sources for critical training and research. These actions contributed to the growth of IFSI Research, the allocation of two new fire engines for use in training, and the modernization of IFSI vehicle and mobile equipment trailers.

In 2020, Director Mortenson led IFSI through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his direction, IFSI was able to successfully deliver on its Mission. This includes driving unprecedented national and international exposure through virtual training platforms.

# IN MEMORY



**Elwin D. 'Curly' Stuemke** (67) of Altamont died Thursday, February 25, 2021. Curley was born in Effingham, IL and married to April Seales for 46 years, she survives. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Immanuel Praise Team. Curly was a former member of the Altamont Volunteer Fire Department and was currently trustee/treasurer of the Altamont Fire Protection District and a regular at the IAFPD southern Illinois programs. He sang the national anthem at IAFPD Winter Conference and at Wrigley Field on several occasions. Curly was a longtime owner/operator of the Marathon service station in Altamont.



**Chaise Michael Mangold** (21) of Lacon, Ill. died on April 15, 2021 from injuries sustained in a fire at a family property in Sparland five days prior. Chaise graduated from Midland High School and became an operating engineer in Operating Engineers local 649 working for Minnesota Limited. Chaise served his community as a member of the Lacon Sparland Fire Department for the last 3-1/2 years. Chaise was always dancing, no matter how horrible the song was. He had a passion for trucks, equipment and Mustangs, especially when it came to fixing them up with his dad. IAFPD sends thoughts to the friends, family and Lacon Sparland FPD.