



IN THE NEWS



On Friday, 7/15/22, the **Orland Fire District** dedicated the **Robert M. Buhs Training & Leadership Development Center** to retired Chief Bob Buhs. Bob started his full-time career with Orland Fire in 1977 and was first appointed Fire Chief/Administrator in 1988. One of Chief Buhs' earliest visions was to build a regional training facility. He was one of the first to start Training Officers in command functions, knowing the importance of a unified command. Chief Buhs retired from Orland Fire in 2003, but he continued as a consultant and mentor of every Chief who has served since.

A special mural highlighting Chief Buhs was revealed, as well as a special plaque that was installed to name the building in Chief Buhs' honor. In addition, Chief Schofield revealed that the Board of Trustees had bestowed Chief Buhs with the honor of Fire Chief Emeritus, Orland Fire's first.



Welcome Home!

Steve Schultz, Limestone Township Trustee and IAFFD Director was welcomed home by family, neighbors and fire district friends in celebration of his return home after a long 208 days of hospitalizations, rehab facilities, surgeries and medical complications from COVID-19. We all have missed you and are all amazed by your strength and recovery!



Congratulations Chief Litwiler!

The Trustees of the **Aledo Fire Protection District** announce the Retirement of **Fire Chief Dennis Litwiler** after serving 44 years on the department and the past 20 years as Fire Chief of the District. Chief Litwiler held several officer positions on the department prior to his appointment to Chief in 2001. He served on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Valley Firefighters Association and was a Board Member of MABAS 39 covering Lower Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties. He was a 20-year member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. He spearheaded the adopted the "Everyone Goes Home" a Life Safety Initiatives to prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths or injuries.





IN MEMORY



Arthur E. "Andy" Anderson III (68) of Lincoln, IL passed away on July 19, 2022. Andy retired from Caterpillar Inc after 30 years of service. He became a member of the Lincoln Rural Fire Department in 2009 as an EMT, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. Andy was a member of Lincoln Masonic Lodge #210 A.F. & A.M., Ansar Shrine, and Logan County Shrine. He had also served on the Logan County Board. Andy was united in marriage to Melody DePuy on October 6, 1972. She survives along with two sons and two grandchildren.



Richard "Dick" Baier (92) of Cissna Park passed away July 7, 2022. After serving a term with the U.S. Marines, Dick became a business owner and an active member in his local community. He dedicated 45

years of service to the Cissna Park Fire Protection District beginning in 1958 and worked his way to Fire Chief and later serving as President of the Board of Trustees. Dick joined the IAFPD Board of Directors as an Area Representative in 1988, served as President from 1995-1998 and stepped off the board in 2002. He and his wife Myrna were devoted 15 productive years to the IAFPD.



James A. Plunket (77) of Downers Grove, died March 12, 2022. James worked in fire service for over 30 years, including 17 years as a Lombard firefighter and paramedic. He retired in 1996 but returned in 1997 to serve as the Public Education Coordinator... a role he was extraordinarily passionate about.

He was a volunteer at the Belmont Fire Department, Trustee at Darien/Woodridge Fire Department, and an active member of the Illinois Fire Services Association State Fair Committee.



Lyle W. Gee (79) of Hammond, IL passed away December 15, 2021. Lyle was born on April 4, 1942, and married for 50 years to Carolyn A. Golden who passed in 2012. He is survived by his son and his daughter, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Lyle was a retired electrician for Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. in Decatur, Illinois. He was an Air Force Veteran and member of American Legion Post 429, Lovington, Illinois. Lyle was a 25-year volunteer fireman for the Hammond Fire Protection District.



When having the right equipment matters, so does having the funds to purchase it.

Municipal and Tax-Exempt Financing can help you:

- Finance almost anything that is essential to the daily operation of your Fire Department
- Overcome budget restrictions
- Make necessary building and equipment purchases now, then pay them back over time

- ✓ **No down payment / 100% financing available**
- ✓ **Quick application and closing**

We're here to help!

To learn more about our Commercial Financing options, call or stop by your nearest First Mid banking center to talk with a lending professional or call 618-655-7281.



First Mid

BANK & TRUST

firstmid.com

Member FDIC - Equal Opportunity Lender