



IN THE NEWS



Congratulations!



Congratulations Dave Baraks, President of the Board of Trustees on 48 years of service and recent retirement from the Coal Valley Fire Protection District



Charles Steven Cunningham (80) passed away on March 18, 2024. Bridgeport was Steve's community, his life. He lived his life within Bridgeport with the exception of when he was in college at Purdue and in mortuary school. Many knew of his many basketball accolades; as the Top 10 Boilermaker pitcher in two categories. Steve was inducted in the IBCA Hall of Fame in 1987. It would be hard to define Steve without including the Bridgeport Fire Department and Mercy Ambulance Service. He retired from BFPD after 43 years of being a volunteer fireman. He had served as Assistant Chief and Trustee. For nearly 50 years, he and Judy owned and operated Cunningham Funeral Homes in Lawrence County.



Donna Schaefer (69) of McHenry passed away on March 24, 2024. Donna pursued a life of service. It was the guiding principle of her life. In 1988 she was the first woman elected to the McHenry County Board. She served as a county board member for 12 years and McHenry Township Supervisor from 1998 through 2014. She served on the McHenry Township FPD as a trustee and was currently on the District's Board of Fire Commissioners.



David P. Black (58) of Mount Vernon, Illinois, passed away February 23, 2024 David co-owned Mount Vernon Iron Works with his son. He was a member of Rend Lake RC Club and volunteered with Jefferson County Fire Protection. David was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother and will be dearly missed.



Greg Earle (65) of Centralia, passed away April 5, 2024. Greg was a beloved husband to Lee Ann Earle for 46 years, a devoted father and loving grandfather. Greg was a graduate of Centralia High School. He became an entrepreneur starting Evergreen Landscaping. He was known for his skill in operating his Bobcat and mini excavator. He had a successful career with the Centralia FPD for 34 years, while working his way up to Fire Chief before retiring. He was known for his dedication to the community and served as President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Assn from 2019-20. Greg also served on the CFPD board and the area 911 board for many years.



Kay Ciukaj (70) from Downers Grove passed away on April 17, 2024. Kay was a beloved wife to Joseph, they have two daughters and two granddaughters. Kay was a true friend to the fire services as founder and former President of Promos 911. She will be remembered as a strong, spiritual woman who faced life and all its challenges head on and with a smile.



Congratulations Bonnie Bayser as the recipient of the Carl Roscher Award from the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts. Bonnie has served the NIAFPD Board of Directors for 14 years, the last XX years as the organization's President.



Join us for IAFPD Day at the Illinois State Fair
August 9 - Fire Safety Tent at the Illinois Fairgrounds, Springfield.
Hosted by Illinois Fire Services Association
Volunteers welcome!