



IN THE NEWS

IN MEMORY



Congratulations!!

Congratulations to **Kathy Haage** on her recent retirement as the Executive Director of the **Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts**. She has served the NIAFPD since its formation in 1989 and has been a strong supporter of fire district trustee, commissioner and administrative professional education, an advocate for fire service legislation in Illinois, a longtime leader and supporter of Camp I am Me and active volunteer with the Illinois Fire Chiefs. Most of all, she has contributed greatly to the growth and stability of NIAFPD. Best wishes to her for a happy retirement.



It is with great sadness, the **York Center Fire Protection District** announces the passing of **Trustee President William "Bill" Cizek, Sr.** (79) on July 21, 2019. Bill served as a member of the Fire District for 44 years, a firefighter for 20 years and a District Trustee for 24 years. Bill was an active member of IAFPD, loyal volunteer with the IAFPD Foundation Fund Raising Committee and strong advocate for the Legislative Committee. IAFPD was honored for his many years of dedication to his fire district and the IAFPD as the 2018 recipient of the Kenny Long Award. He is survived by his lovely wife Barbara, his son, daughter, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Our sympathies to his family and fire department family for their loss.



Congratulations to William "Bill" Watts on his recent retirement and 60 years of service to the Havana Rural Fire Protection District. IAFPD Area Representative Gary Mueller presented Bill with a certificate of achievement and a commemorative coin.



Kody Michael Vanfossan (24), of **Christopher**, died doing what he loved, on May 5, 2019 while battling a 6 alarm commercial fire in Christopher, IL. He idolized his father and followed in his footsteps by becoming a third generation volunteer fire fighter. They trained and fought fires side by side.

Kody became a Cadet at the age of 16 and had a total of 9 years of service on a fire department. He worked at Nascote in Nashville. He was a devoted father and soon to be husband, a beloved son, brother, grandson, and nephew. Kody's kind heart and willingness to help others earned him countless friends, both in and out of the fire service. He was born in Carbondale to Brent and Mindy Vanfossan on November 15, 1994.



Olney, IL. **Gary Dean Foster** (71) passed away on June 12, 2019 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. Gary worked for the **Olney Fire Department** for 30 years and was Fire Chief for 17 of those years. Gary married Sharon (Bellinger) on October 30, 1965 in Olney, IL and she survives him. Gary enjoyed fishing and going to his grandchildren's ball games.