



IN THE NEWS

Announcement from the OSFM Division of Personnel Standards & Education

Course Listings on the Event Calendar

Effective immediately, if an approved training facility is conducting a course for certification, that course must be listed on the Event Calendar. **If there is no calendar event, the facility will be unable to submit a course completion roster.** This applies to in-house courses, blended courses, computer-based courses, and in-person courses. Please contact the Chris Bednarek with any questions at 217-720-2233 | christopher.bednarek@illinois.gov.



IN MEMORY



Donald H. "Don" Thompson, 84, of Kinmundy passed away June 1, 2023. Don was born on May 13, 1939, Don shared 64 years of marriage with Linda Kaye before she preceded him in death in 2020. Don was passionate about volunteer work and served as a firefighter for over six decades. He was instrumental in the Kinmundy-Alma Fire Department and served on its board for more than 40 years. Don's efforts didn't go unnoticed as he was a member of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Board for nearly 30 years; illustrating his dedication to keeping the community safe. Don is survived by his four children, eight grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.



Brandon Lee Hopps, 28, of LaMoille, passed away May 1, 2023. Brandon was born August 4, 1994, in Spring Valley to Roger and Jill (Ward) Hopps. LaMoille. He proudly as a volunteer firefighter and treasurer of the LaMoille Fire Department since November 2013.



Thomas Joseph Condon Jr. (72) of Harvard passed away on April 29, 2023. Tom began as a volunteer firefighter at the Harvard Fire Protection District eventually becoming District President. He often liked to stop at the firehouse and have coffee with the duty crew. Tom was in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and married the love of his life Margie (Anderson) Condon in 1971. His work career was at Dean Foods where he retired as plant manager in 2013. After attending Rock Valley College, he enlisted in the Air Force serving from 1970 to 1974. While in the Air Force, he continued his education at the University of Illinois Champaign.

Congratulations!



Congratulations Dominic Vespa on his recent retirement from the Riverton Fire Protection District. Dominic served the fire district for 65 years and 16 as trustee.



Robert Mandell Steffey (91), of Flat Rock, Illinois passed away on March 23, 2023. He was born on March 30, 1931 in Lawrence County, Illinois, the son of Paul and Dolphine (Weger) Steffey. He married Hazel Christine on July 03, 1959, and she preceded him in death in 2020. Mandell worked in the oilfield for 25 years. In 1974, he went to work for Reinbold and Sons driving a semi, where he retired from in 1999. He was an active member of the Flat Rock Area Fire Protection District for 66 years, serving as Fire Chief for 53 years, Survivors include four children, one brother, nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.



Gerald L. Brooks, 73, of Mt. Carmel, Illinois, passed away on March 18, 2023. Gerald was born March 27, 1949, in Medford, Massachusetts, son of Albert Quincy and Ginette Favreaux Brooks. He married Susan Wood in 1984. Gerald served his country for 21 years in the United States Coast Guard. He served as fire chief for the Allendale Volunteer Fire Department and coordinator for Wabash Emergency Management Agency. Gerald is survived by his wife, Susie, children, eleven grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, his siblings, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, and a daughter.



Richard L. Jacobson (88) of Fox Lake, IL, formerly of Richmond passed away March 23, 2023. He was born in Genoa City, WI on March 11, 1935, the son of the late Evelyn (Ehle) and Roy Jacobson. He was married to Arlene Kelly on July 11, 1992, in Richmond. Rich was a volunteer fireman and a trustee for the Richmond Fire Department for 39 years. He delighted in serving his community and loved hosting events that brought people together. Rich was a mentor to many, and a friend to all. He was preceded in death by his first wife and their daughter. Survivors are his wife Arlene, step children, six grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, a sister, and many nieces and nephews.