

Richard H. Bogard



Richard H. Bogard was born on October 21, 1917. At age six he moved with his parents to Central Avenue in Elizabethtown. At age ten Richard watched as his next door neighbor's house was destroyed by fire. Richard watched the Elizabethtown Fire Department worked to stop the fire from spreading to his home. What he witnessed at age ten created a burning desire in young Richard to someday become a firefighter like the heroes that he watched that night. Richard "Bogie" Bogard graduated from Elizabethtown High School and Spencerian Business School in Louisville. At college he met and married Lulu Mae Eckert. The Bogards' had two children Richard M. Bogard and Claudia Rhea (Frazier).

In 1933 at age sixteen and still in high school, Richard convinced the E-Town fire chief to allow him to be a member. In May 1942, Bogard was promoted to Assistant Chief of Elizabethtown. In 1948 Bogie attended his first Kentucky State Fire School. He also attended and became active in the Kentucky Firefighters Association at the 1948 conference in Bowling Green. Bogard became chief of the E-Town Fire Department in 1954 and served in that capacity until 1959. In 1959 Richard Bogard left Elizabethtown to move to Frankfort and accept a position as Itinerant Instructor for Firemen's Training with the Bureau of Vocational Education. This was the forerunner to State Fire Rescue Training as we know it today. Bogard traveled across the commonwealth providing training for both career and volunteer firefighters. In 1974 he accepted a position with the State Fire Marshals Office. A most beloved figure within the office, he worked as the Chief Deputy in charge of the State Aid Program and Grants Administrator until his death in 1986.

Bogie was active in the Central Kentucky Firefighters Association and had an important role in the formation of the Dixie Firefighters Association of which Elizabethtown then became a charter member. He was a member of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs and was also active in the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Bogard was also a charter member of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. He attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Memphis in 1950 and for many years thereafter.

Richard Bogard served the Kentucky Firefighters Association in many capacities during his career. He was a member of the Advisory, Legislative and the State Program committees. Bogard's focus was always on the advancement of training and safety. In 1953 and 1954 he was the KFA Treasurer. He served as the lone KFA Vice President in 1955. In 1955-56 Richard Bogard became the president of the Kentucky Firefighters Association. His state conference was held on Sept. 4,5,6, 1956 in Frankfort and was honored during the opening session with an address from then Governor, A.B. Happy Chandler.

Richard Bogard devoted 53 years to the promotion of training, life safety and education in Elizabethtown, throughout the commonwealth and across the nation. His legacy is far reaching. The Dixie Firefighters Association named their fire safety house after Richard Bogard. At Eastern Ky. University, the Fire Protection Systems Lab is also named in his

honor. Perhaps the greatest tribute to Richard Bogard is that his son and grandson have followed in his fire service footsteps. Bogie's son Richard M. Bogard took up the cause of fire service education. He was one of four original faculty members when the ECU fire science program was started in 1975. Grandson Rick, worked in our State Fire Marshal's office for a number of years.

Tonight the final tribute will be paid to Richard H. Bogard. Tonight he will be inducted posthumously into the Kentucky Firefighters Association Hall of Fame. It is a fitting tribute to a man who dreamed at age 10 of being a firefighter hero and who spent 53 years making that dream come true.

The award will be presented to the family of Richard H. Bogard by current Elizabethtown Fire Chief and KFA Vice-President Mike Hulsey and KFA Hall of Famer Jimmy Cox.

Accepting on behalf of Chief Bogard is his son Richard M. Bogard.