

Bill Leslie



William H. Leslie was born on November 23, 1935. At age seven his family moved to Bromley Kentucky in a house just three doors from the Bromley Fire Station. His father William Leslie Sr. joined the fire department and became Captain of the Life Squad, Treasurer and President. Young Bill spent so much time hanging at the Bromley Fire Station that the members declared him to be the department mascot when he was thirteen years old. At age eighteen Bill officially joined the Bromley Fire Department. He has held every rank in the fire department from firefighter to Lieutenant, Drill Master, Assistant Chief and eventually being elected fire chief and serving as chief for 14 years. Bill Leslie was active in the Bromley Fire Department for a total of 65 years. He responded to a number of major fires and emergencies during his career including the Duro Paper Bag Factory fire which burned an entire city block, the American Airlines plane crash that killed everyone on board, a party boat fire on the Ohio River and several mutual aid fires including the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire.

Bill married Georgia Mae Vanover in 1959 and the two have been married for 58 years. Georgia joined the Bromley Fire Department and became one of the department's first female squad members. Bill and Georgia's daughter Michaele was also a member of the life squad and son-in-law John Matz spent time as Bromley's fire chief. All told, the Leslie family has spent a total of 197 years of active service with the Bromley Fire Department.

Bill Leslie attended his first Kentucky Firefighters Association Conference in 1969 and has attended nearly every conference since. He has served on the Historical Committee, Audit Committee, Resolutions Committee and Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Bill has been called the Un-official photographer of the KFA for his hundreds of photographs taken during the many conferences that he has attended.

Bill Leslie mentored many young firefighters during his distinguished career. Many of them moved on to public service careers after their time with the Bromley Volunteer Fire Department. The lessons that they were taught, and the successes that they have achieved, are a testament to Bill Leslie.

Presenting the Hall of Fame Award to Bill Leslie are two of his greatest success stories, KFA Past President Jeff Pohlman and Hall of Famer Fireman Joe Stambush.