

Verlin A. Beam



Verlin Arnold Beam was born May 29, 1884 in Bardstown Kentucky. After completing seventh grade, Verlin was forced to leave school and go to work to help support his family. He married Bess Hicks and together they raised three children, two daughters and a son.

V.A Beam was hired by the Louisville Fire Department in November, 1917. He was not a big man, measuring only 5'6", but his lack of stature did not slow his progress through the fire service. V.A. served on various engine companies throughout the city and on the water tower. He was quickly promoted to Engineer in 1919. V.A. spent ten years as Assistant Drill Master for the Louisville Fire Department beginning in 1927. In 1932 V.A. Beam was named Captain of Engine Company One, a position he held along with Assistant Drill Master until his retirement in 1937. He became well known in the fire education circles teaching the trade with every opportunity throughout the Commonwealth.

In 1931 Verlin Beam was elected President of the Kentucky Firefighters Association, the seventh individual to hold this prestigious position. In 1932 V.A. was elected to a second term as KFA president, making him one of only six persons to serve more than one term as president of the KFA. The annual KFA Conference held during his first term of office as President was held in his home city, Louisville. The KFA Conference of 1932 was hosted in Corbin.

In 1937 V.A. Beam retired from the Louisville Fire Department and in 1938 he was named State Fire Coordinator. He traveled to municipal and volunteer fire departments across Kentucky lecturing on fire prevention and fire fighting. V.A. Beam was one of the founding fathers of the outstanding fire prevention programs seen throughout Kentucky today.

In 1956 Mr. Beam was hired by the St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Department as their Office Manager and Spokesman, making him the first paid employee of that department. He worked with St. Matthews until 1962, when he retired from the fire service at the age of 78.

V. A. Beam was also a member of the Aurora Masonic Lodge and Shawnee Baptist Church. He passed away on February 26, 1963 and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

The KFA is honored to recognize one of our founding fathers, Mr. V.A. Beam of the Louisville and St. Matthews Fire Department as an inductee into the KFA "Hall of Fame".