



SmokeSignalsII

Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF DIES IN CRASH ON WAY TO ALARM

On 9/4/2005 the chief of the Watts Volunteer Fire Department died in a crash Sunday. He was responding to a fire call on Watts Road. Henry James Combs, 46, of Lost Creek was traveling north on Ky 1278 in Breathitt County at 5:13 p.m. on his way to the fire station when he failed to negotiate a curve, according to state police. Combs' vehicle left the road, struck a ditch and overturned. Combs was taken to Kentucky River Medical Center in Jackson, where he was pronounced dead. Watts Volunteer Fire Department 11455 Highway 15 South, Watts, Kentucky 41348.



Northern Kentucky holds Candlelight Service for 911 Remembrance

On September 9, 2005 a 9-11 Candle light Memorial Service was held in conjunction with the Crescent Spring FD. The photo at the left is of Retired Assistant Chief Charlie Wietholter of the Covington Fire Department as he was singing "God Bless America". Charlie is 96 years old, but no one has told him so he still sings and acts as if he was 50. Charlie was one of the founders of the International

Association of Arson Investigators and to this day he remains active with the Greater Cincinnati Regional Arson/Fire Investigators Seminar which he also founded in 1962. The gentleman on his left is Mr. John Lomax. Mr. Lomax is a television anchor for Channel 12 News in the Greater Cincinnati Area who served as the Master of Ceremonies. The man to the right is Mr. Bob Kramer, Past President of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

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From the KFA Presidents Desk

By the time you are reading this, I will have been in the office of President for the KFA for a little over two months.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I started in the fire service in 1974 when I joined the Campbellsville & Taylor County Volunteer Fire Department. During the next five years, I first became a firefighter/engineer, then Engineer/Trainer for our county fire department. The chief of our city department asked me to join the city fire department as a full time engineer for the city in 1979. Over the next several years, I rose up through the ranks of the fire service to Sergeant for four years, to Lieutenant for four years, then to Captain for seven years. In 1994 the Mayor asked me to take the Fire chief position for the City of Campbellsville after the retirement of our chief, Jimmy Cox. In 1998, the Lake Cumberland Firefighter Association voted me into the office of 7th Vice President for KFA. That seven year journey, has brought me to where I am today President of the KFA.

The officers and committee members of the KFA are continuously working for all of you, the firefighters of Kentucky. Through activities like, state fire school, Pub-Ed/Fire Prevention, our EMS committee and even with the sad duties of firefighter funerals, all these we assist with. We also have a lobbyist in Frankfort that is always working for you. Another one of the many benefits of the KFA is the publication you are reading. I would like to thank all of the people it takes to make the KFA the great organization that it is.

I am looking forward to working with the Fire Commission, Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association, State Fire Marshal's office and the Fire Chiefs' Association as well as many other organizations.

If you are not currently a member of the Kentucky Firefighter Association then take the time to join now, either through a personal membership or by encouraging your department to join. Remember our state motto United We Stand Divided We Fall, this is not just for the state it goes for our fire service also. We always need input from all the firefighters and their

departments on what you need to improve your department. So speak up! Together we can accomplish just about anything.

I am looking forward to serving you, the firefighters of the great State of Kentucky.

Sincerely Your President

Allen Johnson

Treasurer's Notes

by Terry Keller



Northern Kentucky departments are the proud receipt of the first round F E M A grants. Orangeburg Fire & Rescue, which supports the Maysville Fire Department, was awarded \$66,291 to replace 30-year old breathing apparatus. Williamstown Volunteer Fire Dept. was awarded \$54,826 to provide mandatory medical surveillance and health screenings and the Dry Ridge Fire Department received \$385,605 for operations and safety. Two departments are dues paying members of the K F A. Congratulations to these three departments.

Your E-Board has been busy since the conference. The state fire school for next year will be moved to a new location. President Allen Johnson, has kept the E-Board up to date on the progress of this change. Everyone involved believes this will be better for the people attending state fire school.

Dues notices have been sent out to all departments in the state, that are recognized by the Fire Commission. There are 815 departments listed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The E-Board, again this year will be trying to increase our membership. Membership runs about 410 departments. We need to increase the membership and get these other departments involved in the state association. This organization could do more in Frankfort with increased membership. Talk about the state association at your local association meetings. If you need or want a member of the E-Board to attend or your local director, call on us. Every E-Board members name, address and phone number is on the web page, Kykfa.org. Visit the web page, it has good information posted.

October will bring about the Firefighter Memorial Service in Frankfort. Remember, we will be adding

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nine names to the wall this year. Seven deaths in the line of duty and two members who lost their lives in Iraq. If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of placing these names on the wall, you can send a donation to K F A memorial fund 237 Ludford Street Ludlow, Ky. 41016.

The next E-Board meeting will be held in Northern Ky., on Saturday November 5, at the Holiday Inn Airport. This will be the same weekend as the Responder Officer Learning School. If you are attending the school stop by and see your E-Board at work. Until we meet again, stay safe, and stay involved.

Your Treasurer

Terry Keller

REGIONAL EMBERS



Jackson Purchase Firefighters Association Fred Ross President

Greetings from "Far Western Kentucky" and the Jackson Purchase Firefighters Association. Fall is in the air and the extreme temperatures have subsided. Thank goodness for small blessings. I am sure that the citizens of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, that were effected by Hurricane Katrina, are also grateful for their blessings be they small or large. Much has been spoken, written and publicized concerning the hurricane and the devastating and lasting effects that this storm has created. Much more has been spoken, written and publicized concerning the apparent delayed response by FEMA, state and local government and any other entity that has tried to assist in mitigating this natural disaster. It is extremely easy to sit back and criticize the efforts of so many when you and yours are dry, cool, clean and have sufficient food and water to easily sustain life. Maybe mistakes were made in every facet of the initial response to Hurricane Katrina. But now is not the time to bash the agencies and the leadership of our country that are attempting to assist the citizens of these three states. They have just about all on their plates that they can handle presently. Moreover we all know that critiques, after the fact, are designed to correct mistakes and teach us many valuable lessons. I fear that many of the most outspoken people doing the most criticizing have a hidden agenda and it is not the welfare

or the well being of the citizens or the rescuers. (Does anyone smell the stench of political ambition?) I trust that the majority of the citizens of these United States have the ability, the knowledge and the good ole common sense to understand this.

As a firefighter I was appalled at the media coverage of the structure burning in downtown New Orleans in the first days of the disaster. The image was posted on the TV screen for two solid hours and every few minutes a reporter questioned why the fire department was not doing anything to extinguish the fire. After almost two hours of non stop babble it was finally reported that there was no water and no water pressure in the water mains. (duh) Shortly afterwards, the image was remove from the screen. I whole heartedly support freedom of the press but what ever happened to fact finding, investigation, and intelligent and truthful reporting rather than sensationalism.

In almost any disaster emergency services are going to be crucified. As emergency service personnel we pride ourselves in immediate responses and work continually to improve our response times. We even have SOP's that dictate how fast we should man our apparatus and the minimum times that we should be able to respond to certain areas in our districts. Our customers have come to expect this type of response as well they should. However, our customers will also expect this same type of response in a disaster and it is not likely that it will happen. When our resources are overpowered and in the case of Hurricane Katrina almost totally annihilated, those timely responses will not be there. We need to expend the time and the effort in an attempt to educate our customers and teach them to help themselves in severe situations. Does anyone remember, years ago, when EM brought the firefighters from California to St. Louis, MO. for a seminar to provide us with that information? This might be a good time to revive that training before a disaster strikes in the State of Kentucky.

Remember that the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina will last for months and years to come. The initial response for help, donations and support by everyone has been remarkable so far. However, these people will need this same help, donations and support for an extended period of time. Keep them in your prayers and continue to provide any assistance that you can.

"Regional Embers" continued on next page

'Regional Embers' continued . . .

If you missed the KFA conference in Corbin, Kentucky it is your loss. President Bill Robbins and the South Eastern Kentucky Firefighters Association put on some kind of show for the membership. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and if they did not, it was probably their own fault. There were enough meetings and activities to wear a good person down. That, in conjunction with the food, the genuine hospitality and the camaraderie of the firefighters from across this great state made for an interesting and exciting week. You should have been there!!

Congratulations are in order for the 2005 inductees into the KFA Hall of Fame. These gentlemen have exemplified the traits and the characteristics of the "Hall of Famers" that have preceded them and are more than worthy of this, the highest award that the KFA can bestow on one of our members. I would like to thank John Daley and the KFA Hall of Fame Committee for their tireless commitment and dedication to this project. I count it as an honor to have been present and able to participate in this most honorable and moving ceremony.

Chief Richard Tapp of the Reidland Farley Fire Department (chairperson) and the JPFA 2006 Annual Fire School Committee are getting in high gear with their plans for the JPFA 2006 Annual Fire School to be conducted on April 7TH, 8TH & 9TH, 2006 at Kentucky Dam Village State Park in Gilbertsville, KY. Watch the JPFA web site at jpfaky.com for details as they become available. You will not want to miss this school in "Far Western Kentucky".

David Jackson, KFA Legislative agent, and the KFA legislative committee are working on plans for the Kentucky general assembly that begins in January. It is not too early to be thinking about this session and making your own plans to support this effort. I can guarantee you that the politicians have been thinking about this session for sometime now. Contact David and express your ideas, your concerns and your thoughts concerning the Fire Service in the State of Kentucky now. Do not wait until the session begins.

Fred Ross

Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association

Fireman Joe" Stambush, President

Our association had its meeting on Tuesday August 23rd with the Elsmere Fire Dept. and Chief Paul Lafontaine and Asst. Chief Doug Brefeld as hosts. We have several projects going on currently and with Katrina situation it is just growing every week. Our Public Education Committee in cooperation with the Fire Commission and the KFA Pub Ed Committee helped sponsor the Public Education Workshop at Marydale Aug 29-30-31 and it was a huge success. 45 Fire and Emergency Service Personnel gathered at the beautiful Marydale Retreat Center in Erlanger, Ky for three days of Networking, Learning and relaxation, not to mention the great food. Topics such as Injury Prevention, Risk Watch, Senior Citizen Programs, Media Relations, Crime Prevention, Juvenile Firesetters and much more was discussed. We thank all those departments who sent folks up for the workshop.

The weekend of Sept 10th and 11th our Association remembers the 9-11 tragedy with a special ceremony at the Newport Peace Bell on Saturday Sept 10th with all of our departments participating. We are also planning our annual Stag n Drag Party at the Riverside Grounds in Dayton, Kentucky on Sunday Sept 25th. All are welcome for a fun day of fellowship, games etc. This is our annual fund raising for the upcoming KFA Conference in 2008.

We are deeply saddened by the news of Chief Combs from the Watts Fire Department. We join our brothers and sisters from Watts in their time of loss. We extend our regards to the Combs Family.

Our concerns and prayers go out to the victims of the Katrina Disaster. We are especially concerned for our comrades and friends in Emergency Services who have once again stepped to the plate like we always do to provide First Responder Care and Assistance to our Communities, may God be With Them!

Fireman Joe

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

'Regional Embers' continued . . .

Pike County Firefighters Association

Randy Courtney

Hello everyone from Eastern Kentucky. I have taken on yet another role or position. I am now the 3rd Vice President of KFA and will be serving the firefighters in Eastern Kentucky. My area extends primarily from Ashland to London and from Morehead to Pikeville and all points in between. I pledge to make myself available so you can contact me and I will listen and try to help do my very best.

First let say that I accept my appointment with pride. Eastern Kentucky firefighters have placed their trust and have granted me the opportunity of serving them. I am looking forward to this new venture. I have followed KFA from a distance for several years and was a director for Area 11 and even though I just took office at the first of August, 2005 I can tell you that this is a group of people (the E-board and all the committee members) that are continually looking out for the better of all firefighters be it career or volunteer firefighters.

I will require the assistance of many people during the time I serve. There are 4 associations in my service area and I will be contacting the president of each one if I haven't already. The four associations are South Western from the London area, Eastern from the Ashland area, Mountain Firefighters from the Hazard area and of course Pike Co. Firefighters from the Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, & Martin area.

I would like to thank our Past President Billy Robbins Jr. for the great job he did and his assistance both now and in the future. My contact information is:

E-mail: pikecoffassoc@yahoo.com

Home phone is (606) 432-7161

Pager # (606) 433-3339 or (606) 924-7191

Work # (606) 437-5122

I would suggest e-mail or pager would be the easiest way to get in touch with me.

If you have an issue and you think it needs to be brought up to the KFA board then get in contact with me and I will see that it is. In taking this position we had to find another director for Pike County I am happy to report that this position has been filled by

Fire Chief Ricky Bostic with the Johns Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. Rick and I have been friends for the better part of 20 years and in fact I got Rick started in the fire service as a Volunteer for the Pikeville Volunteers. He served for several years and then his employment took him away from Pike Co. and sent him to Manchester in Clay Co., where he continued his volunteering with the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department and we stayed in contact through fire school and his coming home to see family. But about this time last year as fate would have it his employment brought him back to Pikeville and he joined Johns Creek VFD and shortly there after became Fire Chief where he is doing a great job. Anyway he has accepted the Directors job and will start with the next issue of Smoke Signals. I mainly just wanted to introduce myself to this new and adventurous position and am looking forward to serving firefighters in this area. Please feel free to contact me and again thanks for allowing me to serve you.

God Bless and Thank you.

Randy Courtney



Chaplain's Corner

"It's Time to Give Back"

Stewart Dawson

On September the 11th, of 2001, one of the greatest tragedies of all time to befall America took place in New York City. A total of 2,996 (1) lives were lost on that day. Of those of course, there were 343 fire fighters. In response to that terror attack, to this date there have been 1,833 American Military Casualties.(2). There have also been 13,559 American wounded.(3). There have also been near 1000 soldiers so impacted by war, they have sought psychiatric help. There is no way to measure the impact of that terrible day on this country. Think about all the families that have been affected not only by death but by extended time of separation, financial strain and emotional stress caused by our response. I have personally seen just a small amount of that stress in working with a few military families. I also had the honor of serving as the "chaplain for a day"

'Chaplains Corner' continued on next page

'Chaplains Corner' continued ...

to the Quartermaster Company that was recently activated out of the Bluegrass Army Depot. I saw first hand the good-byes of mothers with small children, husband and wives, young men and women and aging parents. It was truly an eye opening and heart wrenching experience. In the midst and as a response to of all of this, we the members and families of the Lexington Fire Department as well as public servants all over the country have been the recipients of all kinds of good will. We have benefited in so many ways from this terrible tragedy. People have brought food and cards and posters to our stations. People have honored us time and time again. This public support has also served us in our quest for better pay and benefits. We have received so much and continue to reap benefits. Well there are many of us who feel ***it is time to give back.***

During the week of September 4th through the 11th, we here at the Lexington Fire Department observed a week of giving to say thanks. Thanks to all those who have born great cost since 911 and to our community for all of their support in the wake of 911. WE say "we will never forget". We thought the best way to remember would be to revive that beautiful spirit that was born out of this country's great tragedy. We were the most united and patriotic that we had been in decades. People were different. We slowed down for awhile and thought about one another. We said thank you more and gave more. We loved more. We honored those who died and supported the survivors. We wanted to revive that spirit if only for a week. We wanted to honor and remember all who died and suffered from the results of the Attack on America. We wanted to honor all who have responded – from the soldiers who have served to those currently serving – from those relief organizations who responded and still stand ready to the everyday citizen who responded in some way. We wanted to remember that coming together by doing it again as we give back to our community.

How did we do this? By simple acts of kindness by all of us.

Cooperatively we had a blood drive. The blood drive was a friendly competition between Fire and EMS vs Police and Corrections. We had over 200 FF's commit to give blood that week. At the time of this article, the final numbers were not in. We encouraged family members to give as well.

We encouraged **every person, every family**, company, station etc to look for opportunities to give all through the week of September 4th –11th. It could be anything from raking a neighbor's leaves to washing someone's car. It could be giving blood or donating some time or money to a helping organization. It could be taking doughnuts to the teachers at the local school to eating lunch with the kids at a school. One station is planning a cook-out in the station parking lot for the neighborhood association. The idea is to thank everyone for their support by giving back. Do this as a family and as a fire department family. Can you imagine the impact if all 516 families associated with the LFD was doing acts of kindness all through this week. It would be awesome.

We had a family cook-out scheduled for September the 11th for all our family.

Chief Hendricks and his staff approved a specially designed t-shirt to be worn as a duty shirt for that week. The shirt served as a reminder to us and a way to tell our community what we were doing and what were about. These shirts were **provided for free to each employee of the FD.** We had extra shirts available for family and friends.

This was one of the greatest weeks in the History of the Lexington Fire Department as we all worked together to revive the spirit of 911. We would love for this idea to spread across our country during the times surrounding September 11th. If you would like more information about this project, give me a call. Chaplain Dawson 859-948-5341.



National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Nipper, Director Bryant Stiles, Alternate
 WASHINGTON, DC (September 12, 2005) - The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) today applauded the decision to appoint R. David Paulison as the Acting Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Chief Paulison comes on board to lead the agency during a difficult time for FEMA and our nation.

"We strongly endorse the Administration's decision to select a firefighter, especially one of Chief Paulison's stature and experience, to head of the

'NVFC' continued . . .

nation's lead emergency response agency," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "Since the Department of Homeland Security's creation, the NVFC has believed that our nation would be better served if individuals with experience in the fire and emergency services were appointed to the highest levels of the Department."

Chief Paulison was appointed by President Bush as the Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration in December 2001. As U.S. Fire Administrator he has worked tirelessly to support state and local fire service programs and oversees efforts to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies. Chief Paulison also served as the Director of the Preparedness Division of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, where he administered a broad range of programs designed to strengthen community emergency preparedness and administered first responder grant programs totaling more than \$1 billion.

Before his service for the Federal government began, he served for 30 years with the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, retiring as Chief. In that position, he oversaw 1,900 personnel with a \$200 million operating budget and a \$70 million capital budget. He also oversaw the Dade County Emergency Management office and he also managed such large scale emergencies as Hurricane Andrew and the crash of ValuJet Flight 592.

"While Chief Paulison's fire service background is with a fire department in a large metropolitan area, he clearly understands the challenges faced by first responders in smaller communities, many of which are protected by volunteers," added Stittleburg. "He has earned enormous respect from across the fire and emergency services community due to his breadth of knowledge and his strong leadership skills. These traits will serve him well as he takes the helm of FEMA during the worst natural disaster this country has ever seen."

Chief Paulison's support of the NVFC and the volunteer fire service has been unwavering. He has always taken time during his tenure as the U.S. Fire Administrator to attend NVFC meetings and conferences to learn about the issues facing America's volunteer fire and rescue personnel. The NVFC looks forward to working with him in his new role.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has established a second Fund, this one to aid individual volunteer firefighters and their families who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund, working through NVFC state member fire associations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, will identify volunteer firefighters who are seeking assistance. The goal of the Fund is to provide volunteer firefighters with up to \$250 in assistance to meet essential needs during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"Many volunteer firefighters in the Gulf region have lost their homes and belongings and the NVFC stands with them during their time of need," said Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "So many of the overwhelmed areas rely heavily on volunteer emergency responders and it is the NVFC's goal to provide a stipend to the volunteer firefighters who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina."

The names of eligible volunteer firefighters will be gathered by the respective state fire associations and submitted to NVFC and checks will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

Volunteer firefighters in need can contact their respective state associations.

Contributions to the Fund can be made on-line at www.nvfc.org or can be mailed to:

NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund
P.O. Box 22206, 1Chantilly, VA 20153-2061

Contributions are tax-deductible. NVFC is donating administrative costs associated with the Fund to ensure that 100% of the contributions reach volunteer firefighters in need.

The NVFC previously established the NVFC Emergency Relief Fund to aid volunteer and combination fire departments for equipment and facility repair and replacement. Additional information about this Fund can also be found on the NVFC website at www.nvfc.org.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is a nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS and rescue services. Established in 1976, the NVFC serves as the information source regarding legislation, standards and regulatory issues.



Billy Robbins Jr Past President

I just wanted to thank everyone for being at the conference in Corbin, Ky. I tried to be a president that represented all firefighters across this state and do what I thought was right for everyone. I will still work for the KFA any way I can and I know the executive board will do what ever they can for all of us. I know a lot of people have been calling and checking on me because I was a little sick during the conference. I found out I have some prostate problems and I am trying to get better now. I hope we got to it in time. Again thank you for letting me serve as your president and I hope I was able to do some good for the KFA and it's members. Thanks and keep it safe.

Billy Robbins Jr



Public Education Committee Report Fireman Joe

I am proud to report on the status of the Public Education Committee of the Kentucky Firefighters Association. The KFA Public Education Committee works with the Champion Management Team of Kentucky with the statewide Risk Watch Program. Our committee provides support, assistance and when available, materials to our Fire Departments throughout the State of Kentucky. Our committee receives request for Fire and Life Safety Information by phone calls, fax messages and e-mails daily. Often these requests are for committee representation at a meeting, school, seminar, association meetings, safety fairs or just to help with a program. All these calls are handled by myself or a member of our Public Education Team all over the Commonwealth.

Our Public Education Committee, working with the CMT have provided Train the Trainer Workshops or Informational Seminars to the following; Bullitt County Board of Education – Cincinnati Shriners Hospital Public Relation Dept. - Hispanic Health & Safety Fair in Northern Kentucky - Northern Ky Regional Fire School - Kentucky State Fire School in Lexington, Ky - Perry County Safety Fair

for Hazard Fire Dept. in Hazard, Ky and we have booked presentations or assistance for safety fairs for Pike County Head Start in Pikeville, Ky - Health & Safety Fair in Glasgow, Ky – Georgetown-Scott County Safety Fair and a Health & Safety Fair in Jessamine County.

During the week of April 17th thorough 23rd Tom Haynes and Myself represented The CMT & Pub Ed Comm at the Grant Reviews in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The Ky Fire Commission working with the Kentucky Firefighters Assn. Public Education Committee and the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Assn Public Education Committee is providing a Public Education Workshop on August 29-30-31 at the Marydale Retreat Center in Erlanger, Kentucky. This seminar is open to all Fire – Health and Educational Personnel throughout Kentucky at no cost to the Attendees. The Workshop – Lodging and Meals are provided, the only expense will be to get yourself there and home. For information and to sign up please contact Fireman Joe or Adam Fuller of the Ft. Mitchell Fire Dept. via the KFA and Fire Commission Web Sites.

Fire Prevention Month is quickly approaching, this year's theme, "USE CANDLES WITH CARE" addresses a continuing safety hazard everywhere. I refer you to the NFPA web site for information and suggestions on how you can promote fire and life safety projects in your city. www.nfpa.org

Our Fire and Life Safety Educators from our Fire Departments throughout Kentucky are a treasure to the Citizens we serve. I am grateful the Fire Chief's who permit these dedicated professionals to serve their communities. I am able to serve and work on this great committee of the KFA thanks to the commitment and support of my own Fire Chief's; Chief Denny Lynn – Fire Dept Bellevue-Dayton Chief Joseph Messmer – Edgewood FIRE/EMS Chief Mike Giordano -Point Pleasant Fire Dept I want to also thank the many fire chiefs in attendance here today as well as the Fire Chiefs back home who are totally committed and supportive of Fire and Life Safety Projects in their respective communities.

THANK YOU!

AND MAY GOD BLESS THE EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL OF KENTUCKY!!!



The Passing of an Old Friend

Woody Will

On April 11, 2005 I lost an old friend. His death was quiet much like his life. He gave me some advice when I first became a Fire Training Coordinator "Keep your mouth shut at staff meetings. Don't volunteer for any extra work. Keep your local fire departments happy and you will do just fine." As it turns out I didn't take much his advice but I can see in hindsight my life, as a coordinator would have been a lot easier if I had. William Earl Craft was the Fire Training Coordinator for Area 2 from July 1984 until July 1, 2000 when he retired. He was best known for his work with Paul May back in the hay day of "Flammable Liquids and Gasses" classes at State Fire School.

His wife Ginny Patterson Craft, his two-step sons Jeff Hale and Gary Hale, his three daughters Ellen Craft Picone, Jennifer Hansley, and Teresa Mason and 13 grandchildren survive him.

I will always remember Earl's bright smile, his soft voice and his kind way of telling you that you screwed up. I miss him.

The Self Destruction of America

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.

Abraham Lincoln

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Southeastern Firefighters Association

Regional Fire School

October 14 - 16, 2005

Somerset Community College Laurel Co. North Campus

Call 888-234-0100 for more information.
\$5.00 registration fee.

1. **Wildland Firefighting** Friday 6 - 10 PM.
2. **EMT Continuing Education** Friday 6-10 Saturday and Sunday for 24 hours.
3. **H.A.M. Radio Operation** Friday 6 - 10 PM.
4. **Firefighter Survival** Saturday Only.
5. **Firefighter Rescue** Sunday Only.
6. **Understanding ISO Ratings** Saturday Only.
7. **Evaluating Tanker Relays** Sunday Only.
8. **NIFIRS 5.0** Saturday Morning Only.
9. **Meth Lab Awareness** Saturday Afternoon.
10. **Surviving a Fire Commission Audit** Sunday Morning.
11. **Hybrid Fueled Vehicles** Sunday Afternoon.
12. **Basic Firefighting Skills** Saturday & Sunday.
13. **Highway Incident Safety** Saturday & Sunday.
14. **Cluster "Hard to Get Hours"** Sat & Sun.
15. **Rope Rescue** Saturday & Sunday.
16. **Structural Firefighting** Saturday & Sunday.
17. **Mantracking** Saturday & Sunday.
18. **Company Officer Training** Saturday & Sunday.

4th Annual Fire & EMS Instructor's Weekend **November 18 - 20, 2005**

The 4th Annual Fire & EMS Instructor's Weekend is scheduled for Nov. 18th -20th. The weekend is still being finalized but we will be offering Level I & II Fire Service Instructors class which will start the weekend of Nov. 5th & 6th, so be watching your mailbox for the brochure and further information.

Classes will be held at the Somerset Community College Laurel Co. North Campus.

Book you hotel now for this wonderful training opportunity.

'Educational Opportunities'
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'Educational Opportunities' continued ...



**GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIFTH ANNUAL FIRE
SYMPOSIUM**

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2006

**“FIREGROUND AWARENESS and
DECISIONMAKING”**

SAT. 8:30-4:30 CHIEF HALTON

**“RESCUING TRAPPED FIREFIGHTERS, IT'S
EVERY FIREFIGHTERS JOB”**

SUN 8:30-4:30 CHIEF COBB

Chief Bobby Halton – Served as Fire Chief for the City of Coppell, TX since July of 2004. Prior to that date he was Deputy Chief of Operations for the fire department of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bobby began his career in Albuquerque in 1984 and rose through the ranks. Bobby has been involved in public service for his entire professional life and continues a multigenerational legacy of service. Bobby has published numerous articles in fire trade magazines and continues to lecture on various topics. Bobby is currently focused on command level training and the evolution of a “Blue Card” system for structural certification in the State of Texas and the United States.

Deputy Chief Robert “Butch” Cobb – Chief Cobb is a 33-year veteran of the fire service and has been a career firefighter and officer serving the Jersey City Fire Department for 30 years. DC Cobb is also the past Chief of the Dumont, NJ and West Milford Township, NJ Volunteer Fire Departments. Cobb was one of the primary developers of the Jersey City Rapid Intervention Crew, Large Area Search and Rescuing Trapped Firefighter programs. Cobb is a primary author of the NJ Fire Service Reference Book, “NJ Model Fire Department Incident Management Standard Operating Guides” and a developer of the NJ Division of Fire Safety Course “Implementing the NJ Incident Management System”. Cobb conducts Fire Ground survival workshops and hands on training throughout the country. He is a Contributing Editor for Firehouse Magazine and has been a featured speaker at numerous fire department conferences around the country, including the FDIC, Firehouse Expo Baltimore, Firehouse World San Diego, Worchester RD Memorial Seminar, Houston FF's Safety Seminar and the LA County Safety & Survival Seminar.

NEW ARRIVALS



The Masonville Fire Department in Daviess County took delivery of a 2005 F-550 4x4, 4 door cab. It will replace a 1957 brush truck and a 1977 fire/rescue truck. It has 350 gallons of water with a 12 gallon foam tank, 20hp Honda motor, 12,000# winch. It was built by RKO in Madison In.

Summit Fire Apparatus Constructs Training Trailer For Ky. Fire Schools

EDGEWOOD, Ky. — Summit Fire Apparatus and Custom Fabrication has developed a new fire/EMS confined-space-rescue trailer to train firefighter and rescue. The training simulator is built on a 30-foot long flatbed, gooseneck-type trailer. Mike Wallingford, an instructor with the Kentucky State Fire Commission Fire Rescue training Commission, which is part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), helped design it. After being exhibited at the April Fire Department

'New Arrivals' continued on next page

Instructors Conference show in Indianapolis, Ind., the trailer has been used extensively to train fire service personnel throughout Kentucky.

One of the trailer's unique features is a 36-inch diameter, 20-foot long aluminum tube that is mounted horizontally on the bed. Halfway through the tube there is a lockable hinged "door" that allows someone to view the operations and provides an emergency escape hatch.

It is joined to a 6-foot by 4-foot by 2-foot tread plate box which is mounted to the end of the trailer. The box doubles as a confined space training area as well as a place where equipment can be stored and locked for security.

At the other end of the tube a 90-degree elbow creates a vertical shaft, the final four feet of which are cone shaped, from 36 to 24 inches. This provides a manhole-like opening at the top where there is a platform constructed of structural aluminum.

The platform, which is 11 feet off the ground, has hinged "wings" that fold up with the assistance of a removable winch. It is surrounded with handrails that meet OSHA requirements, as well as a toe strip. The handrails are removable and the platform is accessible by a step and rail system that extends from the bed of the trailer to the top of the platform. An auxiliary step attached to the trailer provides access to the ground.

Pressure-Treated Deck

The trailer has a pressure-treated 2x6 lumber deck and six adjustable jacks, three per side, to stabilize the simulator during use. It also has the factory "landing gear" standard with gooseneck trailers.

One of the requirements Summit had to fulfill was that the trailer be no more than 6 feet 6 inches wide when moved or stored and no more than 11 feet high when handrails are removed and the platform wings are retracted.

Summit was founded in 1957 as Summit Welding and Fabricating by Charles Messmer, the first fire chief in Edgewood. In his first year of business, he constructed the company's first apparatus, a tanker, for the fire department.

The company is operated today by his two sons, Joe and Tom Messmer, who assumed ownership when Charles died in 1969.

In 1975, the company name was changed to Summit Fire Apparatus and developed strength in

refurbishing apparatus.

In 1980, Summit moved from refurbishing to new construction and has since developed a line of apparatus that includes pumpers, mini-pumpers, tankers, mobile air unit and rescue and hazmat vehicles. Summit also does a variety of custom work, such as the Kentucky Community and Technical College System's training trailer.



2006 KFA Conference Registration

Jump Start advanced registration now available through January 1st, 2006. This year the KFA Conference Registration will have a three tiered registration fee structure. From now until January 1st the fee will be \$50.00. From January 1st through July 15 the fee will be \$55.00. After July 15 through the conference the fee will be \$60.00. Registration forms can be downloaded from the KFA website at <http://www.kyfa.org>.

If you normally take out an ad in the program booklet be sure to check the website listed above. This year there will be two tiered fee structure. One for businesses and one for Emergency Services Organizations

COMMEMORATIVE FIRE SERVICE PRINTS

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2005 KFA Conference Highlights

The complete minutes of the meeting are available on the KFA Website at www.kyfa.org.

The Conference started off with the Annual Olympic Competition held at the Corbin Civic Center on Saturday, July 30. In the senior competition the Faubush team finished 1st overall. Somerset took 2nd place while Southgate Fire Department finished third over all. The judges awarded the Sportsmanship award to the team from Somerset.

In the Explorer Division, Faubush finished 1st followed by Nancy & then Southgate. The Sportsmanship award went to the team from Union KY. **Once again this year, Mr. Steve Siereveld of VFIS Insurance donated the trophies. Many thanks to Steve who has graciously done this for many years.**

During the Competition an antique and modern fire apparatus muster also took place.

On Sunday afternoon the annual Memorial Service was conducted at the First United Methodist Church. The names of nine firefighters who passed away in the Line of Duty since the 84th Annual Conference were read. Families were on hand and were presented with a US flag folded inside a flag case by President Bill Robbins Jr. There were also two firefighters who while serving in the military in Iraq were killed protecting our freedom. Their families were also present and received the flag and case. In addition to those killed in the line of duty seventy plus names were read who have passed away in the last year. All names that were read are listed on the KFA Website listed above.

Sunday evening a welcome party was held at the Corbin City Pool. President Robbins entertained us with his graceful abilities on the diving board, which made the evening a memorable event. Pictures from the conference are also on the Webpage.

On Monday morning after the welcomes Fire Commission Executive Director Ronnie Day gave his report. Following Ronnie Day the new Assistant Fire Marshal gave the Fire Marshals report. Following those reports President Robbins Jr. announced the formal opening of the conference.

Mark Luckett was called on to present the non-prefiled resolutions. Each one required a 2/3rd vote of the delegates seated in order to bring the resolution to the floor.

The resolve for each one was read. The first dealt with the KFA Scholarship Program to allow an applicant to attend any University offering accredited courses and degrees in the fire service disciplines. Motion by Jim Herman & second by Jeff Puhlman to accept the resolution for consideration. Motion carried. The second resolution presented dealt with the scheduling of social events at the annual conference so as not to interfere with the business to be conducted. Rusty Todd made a motion to present it to the floor. Bill Leslie seconded this. Motion carried. The third non-prefiled resolution dealt with legislation that will withdrawal the mandate that any fire department be required to be enrolled in the state health insurance plan when entering or continuing in the CERS Hazardous Duty pension plan. Mike Hulseley made a motion to bring it to the floor. Mike Giordano seconded this. Motion Carried. The fourth proposed resolution called for the KFA to go on record in support of Don Oliver for second Vice President of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. Motion by John Daley & seconded by Mike O'Day Jr. to bring it to the floor. Motion carried.

Following the non-prefiled resolutions, President Robbins, Jr. entertained a motion for the placement of the memorial wreath. Trish Morgan moved that the wreath be placed at the gravesite of Donnie Owens. Woody Will seconded the motion. Motion carried.

David Jackson made a motion that the names of the two firefighters killed while serving in the military be placed on the Wall of Honor in Frankfort. Everyone seconded this motion.

Treasurer Keller collected over \$ 600.00 from the audience to purchase two pavers for the two firefighters killed in the military.

President Robbins Jr., called for a report from each of the Executive Board members. Allen Johnson commented on the funerals he has attended, in addition to fire schools and preparing for his conference next year. 2nd VP Troy Newcomb has also attended several funerals representing the KFA in addition to numerous fire schools. 3rd VP John Daley gave a report on the funerals he has attended and explained the tri-fold brochure that was produced explaining the KFA and the benefits of being a member. VP @ Large Bob Newman reported on his activity that included funerals & fire school attendance.

Treasurer Keller & Secretary Jansing prepared a written report of their activities that was read.

Various reports were read and including the credentials report which reported 66 departments represented for a total of 132 votes.

The Scholarship committee announced two scholarship awards to Amanda Smith and Adam Day. There were 12 sets of prints sold at the 2004 conference.

The Hall of Fame Committee announced the inductees for the 2005 conference. They are Sie Jewell, Woody Will, Philmore Bowen & Russell Dyche.

The end results of the resolutions are listed in the minutes of the meeting on the KFA Webpage.

On Monday night a Hill Billy free for all was held in the Corbin Community Center with a bring your favorite Hillbilly. A rousing Hoot was had by all.

The 2006 conference will be held in Lexington August 5 - 8, 2006. Make your reservation now so you don't lose out. Conference information is available on the Web Page.

The banquet was held at the Corbin Community Center. The keynote speaker was Kentucky State Treasurer Jonathan Miller who also swore in the new officers.

The 2005 KFA Conference was a resounding success as expressed by many of those attending.

2005-2006 FF I & II Skills Testing Schedule

Oct 22-23	E-town	Area 5	888-234-7201
Nov 5-6	Louisville	Area 6	888-306-8064
Nov 5-6	Campbellsville	Area 14	888-234-1780
Nov 12-13	Bowling Green	Area 4	888-234-5760
Nov 19-20	Pikeville	Area 11	888-302-8935
Dec 3-4	Highland Heights	Area 7	888-306-8101
Dec 3-4	London	Area 13	888-234-0100
March 11-12	Ashland	Area 10	888-302-2833
March 18-19	Morehead	Area 9	888-301-2946
April 1-2	Owensboro	Area 3	888-306-8015
April 1-2	Hazard	Area 12	888-234-6759
April 22-23	Jessamine Co.	Area 15	888-234-3961
May 6-7	Princeton	Area 2	888-306-7986
May 11-12	Versailles	FC Office	888-301-2946

For more information related to the testing dates and exact locations contact the numbers listed with the dates above.

The adventures of the Cross + Roads Fire Department

By Woody Will Jr. and Sr.

It was a cool fall morning as we arrived at work. Just as we began to start our morning chores, the tones dropped for a woods fire in the south east corner of our response area. As we jumped into the brush truck I began to put on my field fire jump suit and tried to remember what the area in question looked like. We had another brush fire last year in the same area. That one was started by some coon hunters who had built a fire the night before to keep warm while the dogs did the work. When the dogs began to tree they left without putting out the fire and the rest is history.

As we left the hard road for the sage brush field I noticed how dry and tall the sagebrush was. I thought if this stuff catches fire it will go up like gasoline. This year has been exceptionally dry and the wooded area was beginning to show signs of stress. We crossed the field and stopped at the edge of the woods where we could see smoke and 20 to 30 foot flames from the time we left the road. I hopped out of the truck and began to survey the situation.

Sergeant O'Donnell grabbed a chain saw and told me to get the blower and shovel. We staged the rest of the equipment about 300 yards into the woods.

As we began to make a fire break we didn't notice that brands from the trees above us were crossing over our location and landing in the tops of the trees behind us. All at once three cedar trees we were standing next to went off like bombs. There now was fire on three sides of us and we could see an orange glow through the woods on our left. We dropped our tools but we were not sure in which direction to run. O'Donnell grabbed his portable which we not even sure could be heard in this remote location and asked for help. Over the speaker came the low Kentucky drawl of Captain McCoy. "Boys, from what I can see from here, you might want to think bout getten out of there!" "Cap we would if you could tell us which way to run." "Ya only got one chance as I see it. There's a rock ledge bout 30 feet below ya. If ya run now ya might just make it." We didn't need any additional invitation. We waited the fire out under the ledge and thanked God because that was not the direction we planned on running. I came to a conclusion that day **"Life is Precious-Protect It!"**

Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

<p>10-33 EQUIPMENT, INC. Craig and Teri Hiser 540 Peterson Rd • Cave City, KY 42127 877-678-1033 270-453-3473 Fax 270-453-3474 Web site: www.10-33.com</p>	<p>Advanced Fire & Rescue Equipment Co. Inc. Nick Gapinski 365 Persimmon Circle Booneville, IN 47601 800-853-7675 Fax 812-897-7816</p>	<p>Air EVAC Barbara Emery Route #4 Box 432A Albany Ky 42602</p>
<p>Bluegrass Fire Apparatus Dewey Cruse 207 Peterson Drive Elizabethtown KY 42701 800-738-1006 Fax 270-737-0190</p>	<p>Bluegrass Fire Equipment John Baker 780 Enterprise Dr Lexington, KY 40510 800-526-8393 Fax 859-233-1167</p>	<p>Bluegrass Uniforms Inc. Jason Colson 3533 Dahlia Way - Bowling Green 961 South 2nd St. - Louisville Bowling Green - 42101 Louisville - 40203</p>
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<p>Emergency Equipment Mike Brady P.O. Box 75321 Cincinnati, OH 45275 859-359-4592 Fax 859-359-4503</p>	<p>Emergency Service Insurance Program Bill Dixon 20 Church Street Cortland, NY 13045 800-822-3747 Fax 607-756-5051 www.mcneilandcompany.com</p>	<p>Ferrara Fire Apparatus Inc. Kevin Hardwick PO Box 249 Holden LA 70744 800-443-9006 www.ferrarafire.com</p>
<p>Finley Fire Equipt. Co Inc. Brad Rice PO Box 149 205 5th Street McConnelsville OH 43756</p>	<p>Firecom Barry Jackson 4785 Pleasant Grove Rd. Lexington KY 40515 800-527-0555 x112 Fax 503-608-3474 http://www.firecom.com</p>	<p>Fire Department Service & Supply Al Sutt P.O. Box 20207 Louisville, KY 40250 800-321-6965 Fax 502-491-1487</p>
<p>Fire Pumps & Equipment Joe Reynolds 5252 Rt 1428 PO Box 475 Allen KY 41601 800-419-3475 Fax 606-874-3472</p>	<p>First In Rescue Equipment Inc. Jim Whitaker 113 Bessmer Lane Walton KY 41094 859-485-2870 Fax 859-485-2872</p>	<p>Glen's Emergency Equipment 345 N Devils Creek Rd. Parkers Lake KY 42634 1-800-422-4536 www.glensemeq.com</p>
<p>Hal Rogers Fire Training Center 180 Oak Leaf Ln. Somerset KY 42503 606-679-7075 Fax 606-679-4053</p>	<p>Hilliard Enhanced Learning Programs (HELP) Mike Hilliard www.4-help.org Email: sales@4-help.org 888-504-4357 Fax 502-532-0800</p>	<p>Kentucky Fire Commission State Fire/Rescue Training KCTCS Director of Fire Commission Ronnie Day 300 N Main Street, Versailles KY 42353 (800) 782-6823 (859) 256-3478 Fax (859) 256-3125</p>

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<p>Mountain Valley Insurance Faye Rice 267 Terrell Lane, Suite A Barbourville KY 40906 888-332-3205 Fax 606-546-4146</p>	<p>Orr Rapid Response Michael Kidwell 11601 Interchange Drive Louisville KY 40229</p>	<p>Provident Insurance C.J. Bens 272 Alpha Drive Pittsburgh PA 15238 800-447-0360 Fax 412-963-0415 Email: cbens@providentbenefits.com</p>
<p>Public Entity Insurance Michael Finke 2525 Harrodsburg Rd Suite 220 Lexington KY 40504 888-696-9620 Fax 859-296-4583 Email mfinke@roeding.com</p>	<p>Public Safety Equipment Co. Inc. Dennis Downes 9616 Seaton Brooke Lane Louisville KY 40291 502-239-2006 Fax 502-239-3322</p>	<p>Safety USA David Joels 4810 Poplar Place Drive Suite 200 Louisville KY 40213</p>
<p>Service Plus Specialty Vehicles Jim Davis P.O. Box 673 Winchester, KY 40392 859-744-5949 Fax 859-744-9141 Toll Free 866-294-3473</p>	<p>Siegel's Uniforms Fred Levin 101 SE 4th Street Evansville IN 47708 800-352-2555 Fax 812-425-2268</p>	<p>Summit Fire Apparatus Joseph A. Messmer 11 Sperti Drive Edgewood KY 41017</p>
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Above is a fire service related word search. Circle the word above from the list to the right. The solution will be posted in next months issue.

KFA Smoke Signals II

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