

Chief Bob Gaddie

Chief Bob Gaddie joined the Jeffersontown Fire Department in 1958 as a volunteer firefighter. In 1977 he was hired as paid fire chief and served until his retirement in 1997. During his 40 years of service, Bob's life was dedicated to improving the fire service for all firefighters in Kentucky, volunteer and career.

Bob Gaddie left a mark on the KFA like few others. Serving 5-year terms as KFA vice-president preceding his presidency, Bob did this not once but twice. In the 1970's culminating with the conference in 1979 and through his 1989 president term, Bob Gaddie hosted two annual conferences in Jeffersontown. When Chief Gaddie was not on our executive board as president or vice-president, he was serving the KFA through committee chairmanships and legislative efforts.

A charter member of the Governor's Commission for Fire Protection Standards and Education, Bob served for 20 years. As the co-chair of the fire commission he saw this commission grow from a dream to a vital part of the Kentucky Fire Service, assisting departments throughout the state. Bob was most instrumental in the many benefits our departments and firefighters started receiving such as volunteer state aid, firefighter incentive pay, enhanced training, and safety regulations.

Chief Gaddie's years of service to the KFA saw great advancement for the fire service of Kentucky. As an executive board member and chairman of the KFA's advisory and legislative committee's, Bob helped lead the march to Frankfort to make sure our firefighters were getting their fair share. His fighting spirit always reminded the KFA that our work was necessary and never complete. He motivated and pushed the KFA to go beyond limits of the past and into a new era.

Bob Gaddie's contributions to the KFA and fire service of Kentucky are numerous. The friends he made along the way are also great in number, but more importantly to Bob, everlasting. Bob Gaddie's influence will always be felt on our conference room floor. Whenever a debate occurs, Bob's years of floorfights come to many minds. It is with this unwavering attitude, that Chief Robert Gaddie helped make the KFA great.

Along with Bob's ability to mix it up, we saw Bob's great humor. And when the meetings shut down and the hospitality rooms opened, we knew where we could find our good friend Bob Gaddie for a good time. Bob simply states that all he ever tried to do was make the fire service better in our state, for our citizens, the departments and its firefighters. Bob, job well done!

So it is with great pride and pleasure that we induct Chief Robert "Bob" Gaddie into the Kentucky Firefighter's Association Hall of Fame.

Presenting this award to Bob, is his long-time friend and co-executive board member, Retired KFA secretary from the Florence Fire Department, Retired Chief Don Roberts.

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