

Gerald R. Clark



Gerald R. Clark was born on October 6, 1934 in Ashland Kentucky. He grew up in Ashland and has remained a resident his entire life. In fact he currently resides on property he was raised on as a child. In 1954 he married his wife Doris Fosson and together they were blessed with five children, **Jerrie, Deva, Jon, Shawn and Richard who is deceased**. Gerald and Doris are blessed with seven grand-children and ten great-grandchildren. Tonight is a big night for Gerald but tomorrow will be equally significant. If Gerald can make it through tonight without Doris throwing him out then tomorrow they will celebrate their 59th . wedding anniversary.

Gerald joined the Ashland fire department on July 1, 1959. He became an Engineer in 1963, was promoted to Captain in 1964 and in 1966 Gerald became Senior Captain of the Ashland Fire Department. Gerald retired from the fire department in 1992 after 33 years of devoted service.

Gerald was a registered EMT and attended three courses at the National Fire Academy. He became an instructor at state fire school teaching Strategy and Tactics. Gerald was president of the Eastern Kentucky Firefighters Association for five years. He coached the Ashland Firefighter Olympic team and four times they finished runner-up in the firefighter Olympics.

During his 33 years Gerald Clark fought many of the largest fires in the history of the Ashland Fire Department. He was present for two major fires at the Sears building as well as the Eagles Department store fire. Gerald assisted in the recovery effort from the airplane crash in Kenova

West Virginia which killed most of the Marshall University football team. In the mid 1960's the Ashland Fire Department responded to a major propane tank fire at the 28th St. Propane Tank plant where two 150,000 gallon propane tanks were on fire. Gerald and his fellow firefighters prevented the tanks from rupturing and causing a BLEVE and eventually brought the fire under control. For their efforts the Ashland Fire Department received a department accommodation from the State Fire Marshalls Office.

Gerald Clark became active in the Kentucky Firefighters Association early in his career. He began attending the KFA conventions in 1965 and he has attended every convention since 1965 except one. That's pretty good but not as good as his wife Doris who has not missed a single KFA conference since 1965. Gerald assisted in running three conventions held in Ashland. He spent three terms as Vice President until his election as KFA president in 1970. Coincidentally Gerald Clark succeeded another of tonight's Hall of Fame inductees, H. G. Bogenschutz.

Clark is a member of the Wildwood Baptist Church where he serves as a Trustee. Since his retirement from the fire service the Clarks enjoy traveling and spending winters in Florida. After 33 years in the fire service and numerous contributions to the Kentucky Firefighters Association, Gerald and Doris have earned their chance to relax.

Tonight we honor Gerald Clark for his service to the Kentucky firefighters Association and his numerous contributions to firefighters throughout the commonwealth of Kentucky. Presenting the award to Gerald Clark is current Ashland Fire Chief Scott Penick.