

Ronnie Day

The third in our 2009 class of the KFA Hall of Fame is a gentleman who has served many roles during his 34 years in the fire service, Mr. Ronnie Day.

A native of Morehead, Ronnie joined the local department as a 16 year old Rowan County High School student, under Fire Chief and his father's good friend, Joe Mauk. Ronnie stated, "It just seemed like a neat thing to do." 34 years later Ronnie is still enjoying this "neat thing".



A high school athlete with success in baseball and basketball, Ronnie attended Morehead State University pursuing a degree in physical education with an eye toward teaching and coaching. But that fire department fever persisted as he continued his activity with the Morehead Fire Department.

Serving various roles with the Morehead department, Ronnie advanced from firefighter to engineer to Captain, Assistant Chief and then Fire Chief in 1988. Ronnie holds the distinction as Morehead's first paid fire chief, a job he held for four years. Ronnie's fire service affiliation was not contained to his home city.

Teaching fire service classes around the state with Vocational Education, Ronnie developed many friendships. In the 1980's, Bill Hankinson introduced Ronnie to the KFA where he has been a fixture in various roles since. Ronnie's career led him to positions with the State Fire Marshal's office and then the fire commission office. He has led the fire commission as its executive director for the past 6 years.

Sports still played a role in Ronnie's adult life as he participated in high level softball for a number of years. He became a noted basketball official, football referee and umpire. In 1993 he officiated the Sweet 16 high school basketball championships at Rupp arena. He refereed high school and college football games and served as an alternate official for the Ohio Valley Conference. Ronnie also umpired NCAA fast pitch softball.

Ronnie Day is well recognized as a major figure in advancement of the fire service in Kentucky. Affiliations with the Daniel Boone Firefighters Association, Central Ky. FF Association, State Fire Chief's, IAFC, NFPA, Mid-Atlantic Fire Commission Assn., have all led to his reputation. Ronnie is the Ky. Emergency Center Fire Coordinator and has been the emergency management director for Rowan County since 2003. He has regularly been one of Kentucky's spokesmen at the National Fire Caucus meeting in Washington and organizes the annual trip for Kentucky families

of fallen firefighters to the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

A proud husband and father, you often see his lovely wife Sandy accompany and assist Ronnie. Ronnie is most proud of his children. Son Josh is now a full-time firefighter with the Richmond Fire Department and a graduate of the KCTCS Fire Service Degree Program. This degree program is something Ronnie worked tirelessly to establish and enables all firefighters the availability to obtain higher education without leaving the fire station.

Little Brice at age 12 is probably as well known as Ronnie. A regular at fire schools and conventions, he may be one of the most educated firefighters we have in the state. We will no doubt hear of Brice's future, whether in sports or the fire service. Step-children Kira and Garrett have also been a source of support for Ronnie and Sandy and have made many sacrifices to assist them in their commitment to the Kentucky Fire Service.

Ronnie's work within the KFA spans 3 decades. He regularly lends his fire commission staff to assist the KFA in any way possible. They play huge roles in annual conferences from registrations and credentials to organizing and assisting the conference host. He has co-chaired our state fire school committee for the past 6 years. He co-chairs our Honor Guard committee and credentials committee and has served on our resolutions and futuristic vision committees. Ronnie has nurtured projects that have combined the KFA with other state-wide fire service organizations.

A man of many talents, Ronnie maintains a vast collection of fire department memorabilia. He is active in the Fire & Iron motorcycle club and loves riding his Harley and his John Deere and playing with his Labs.

A man of many talents and loves, the fire service is fortunate to be his first and foremost.

Presenting Ronnie's Hall of Fame awards are Mr. Jim Riddle, Shelby County Fire Department and Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel, Standards, and Education and long-time friend, Region 7 Fire Training Co-coordinator and 2004 Hall of Fame Inductee, Chief Charlie Shaw.

With great pride and honor, tonight we induct Mr. Ronnie Day into the Kentucky Firefighters Association Hall of Fame. Ronnie Day