

Walter Brumfield



Our first inductee this evening to the KFA Hall of Fame is Chief Walter T. Brumfield Sr. Walter has seen a long and distinguished career in the Kentucky Fire Service. He joined the Nicholasville Volunteer Fire Department in 1948 shortly after returning from serving his country in World War 2. During his time in the military, Walter received numerous awards and citations including the Presidential Unit Citation and the Purple Heart, for wounds sustained in France while carrying out his duty as a combat scout for his unit.

After advance through the fire department ranks, Walter was appointed Chief of the Nicholasville Fire Department on February 15, 1955, a position he would serve for the next 33 years.

Chief Brumfield's tenure saw the NFD develop into one of the most progressive of its size in the State. The Chief oversaw delivery of several new pieces of apparatus including a pumper incorporating a 55 foot telescoping ladder tower. New fire headquarters was occupied in 1980 and Number 2 station was opened in November, 1987. Recruit selection and training intensified with standards required. Chief Brumfield's position changed from volunteer status to full-time paid in the mid 1970's.

Chief Brumfield assumed an active role in the Central Kentucky Firefighters Association soon after becoming Chief. He served as President of the CKFA in 1959 and held other offices and committee assignments over the years including Mutual Aid, By-Laws, Training and Education. Walter was instrumental in the creation of what is now the Jessamine County Fire District. He worked closely with the State Fire Marshal's office on many issues to benefit fire safety in Kentucky. He also was appointed to the Governors Committee on Safety by then Governor Julian Carroll.

Walter actively supported the Kentucky State Fire School during his long tenure in the fire service. He remembers being presented one of the first certificates awarded by the University of Kentucky for completion of a four year course. He served on this committee of the KFA for many years. Chief Brumfield was always a strong advocate of improved training and overall professional advancement for both career and volunteer fire service personnel.

Active at KFA conferences for well over 30 years, Walter served on various committees including legislative and advisory.

Serving as KFA vice-president from 1982-86 and President in 1986-87, Walter was involved in the legislative movement which saw the passage of H B 525, probably the most progressive piece of legislation ever passed to benefit our firefighters and departments.

Retiring from his full-time Chiefs position in Nicholasville after 33 years in 1988, Walter continued to serve the department as a volunteer where he remained until 1998, thus ending a career of serving the citizens of his community and the Commonwealth for half a century.

Walter is a lifetime member of American Legion Post 063 and a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans. His constant companion and wife Loretta passed away in 1997 after over 56 years of marriage.

Today, Walter enjoys the easy life of fishing and caring for his old home place which remains today as it was when he was a young boy, but can still be found visiting the fire station and attending CKFA meetings.

Walters legacy in the Nicholasville Fire Department continues as his son, Charlie served as Chief and now grandson Charles handles the reins as Fire Chief.

Chief Walter Brumfield personifies what the Kentucky Fire Service is all about. It is our privilege to introduce Mr. Ronnie Day, executive director of the Kentucky Fire Commission and a long-time supporter of the KFA and good friend to Walter, and Walter's son, retired Chief Charlie Brumfield and grandson, current Chief of the Nicholasville Fire Department Charles E. Brumfield to present this Hall of Fame Award to Chief Walter T. Brumfield Sr.