

Marvin L. Austin



Marvin L. Austin joined the Homewood Fire Department in 1954 and served as training officer for many years. At the time of his retirement from the department in 1971, he had achieved the rank of Assistant Chief. Austin also served as Assistant Manager of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of Illinois, as Chairman of the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) and as Executive Secretary of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA).

Austin joined IFSI in 1960 and taught at Fire College for over 20 years. His courses included Salvage, Aerial Ladders and Elevated Platforms, Pump Operations, Apparatus-Tests, Maintenance and Specifications, and many more. He also served on the IFSI Advisory Committee. Austin passed away in 2018.





James T. Berggren

James T. Berggren began his career in the fire service in 1958 when he joined the Serena Fire Protection District. Serving for 36 years with the department, Berggren rose through the ranks to serve as Chief of the department for almost 20 years.

Berggren joined IFSI in 1967 as a Field Instructor. During his tenure at IFSI, Berggren not only taught at every Illinois Fire College held until 2005, he also taught at many of the regional fire schools across the state and was a nationally recognized authority on rural water supply. Berggren passed away in 2006.



Greg Berk

Greg Berk began his career in the fire service in 1967 at the Flossmoor Fire Department. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1977 and Chief in 1978. He retired from the department in 2003 and went on to serve as the Chief of the Wheaton Fire Department for 10 years. He came out of retirement to serve as Roselle's Interim Chief in 2015 and again to serve as Flossmoor's Interim Chief for one year in 2020. Berk also served as the president of the Illinois Firefighter's Association for four years.

Berk joined IFSI in 1987 and taught courses in the Officer Program and classes such as Officer's Duties and Responsibilities and Dealing with Sensitive Issues. Berk passed away in 2022.



Paul Boecker



Paul H. Boecker began his career in the fire service with the Naperville Fire Department in 1952. He became Lisle Fire Department's first paid Chief in 1971 and was instrumental in transforming the volunteer department into the full-time Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District.

Boecker joined the Illinois Fire Service Institute as a Field Instructor in 1964 and taught classes such as Disaster Management, the Fire Chief's Role in Mass Evacuation, Civil Defense, and Fire Service Cooperation, among many others. Boecker served as Fire College Chairman from 1972-1996 and served on the IFSI Advisory Committee. He passed away in 2011.





Jack Henry Carter Sr.

Jack Henry Carter, Sr. entered the fire service in 1947 at the Danville Fire Department. He worked his way up the ranks and became Chief in 1970. Carter introduced firefighter and emergency medical technician certification to the Danville Fire Department. In 1977, Carter retired as Chief and became the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

Carter joined IFSI in 1958 and served as an instructor for over twenty years. He taught classes such as Apparatus Driving, Structural Firefighting, Rescue, and Officer Leadership among others. Carter was also instrumental in developing the Certified Firefighter Academy at IFSI. Carter passed away in 2006.



Russell Chism

Russell “Rusty” Chism entered the fire service with the St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District in 1984, and served as Chief from 2004 until his retirement in 2014. He joined the Urbana Fire Department in 1996, where he was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and to Division Chief in the same year. Chism was a certified fire investigator and technical rescue team member among other roles.

Chism joined IFSI in 1996 and worked for IFSI for over 10 years as a Field Instructor. He was active in the Hazardous Materials and Industrial Programs, teaching classes such as Hazardous Materials Operations, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Industrial Fire Brigade Training. Chism passed away in 2015.





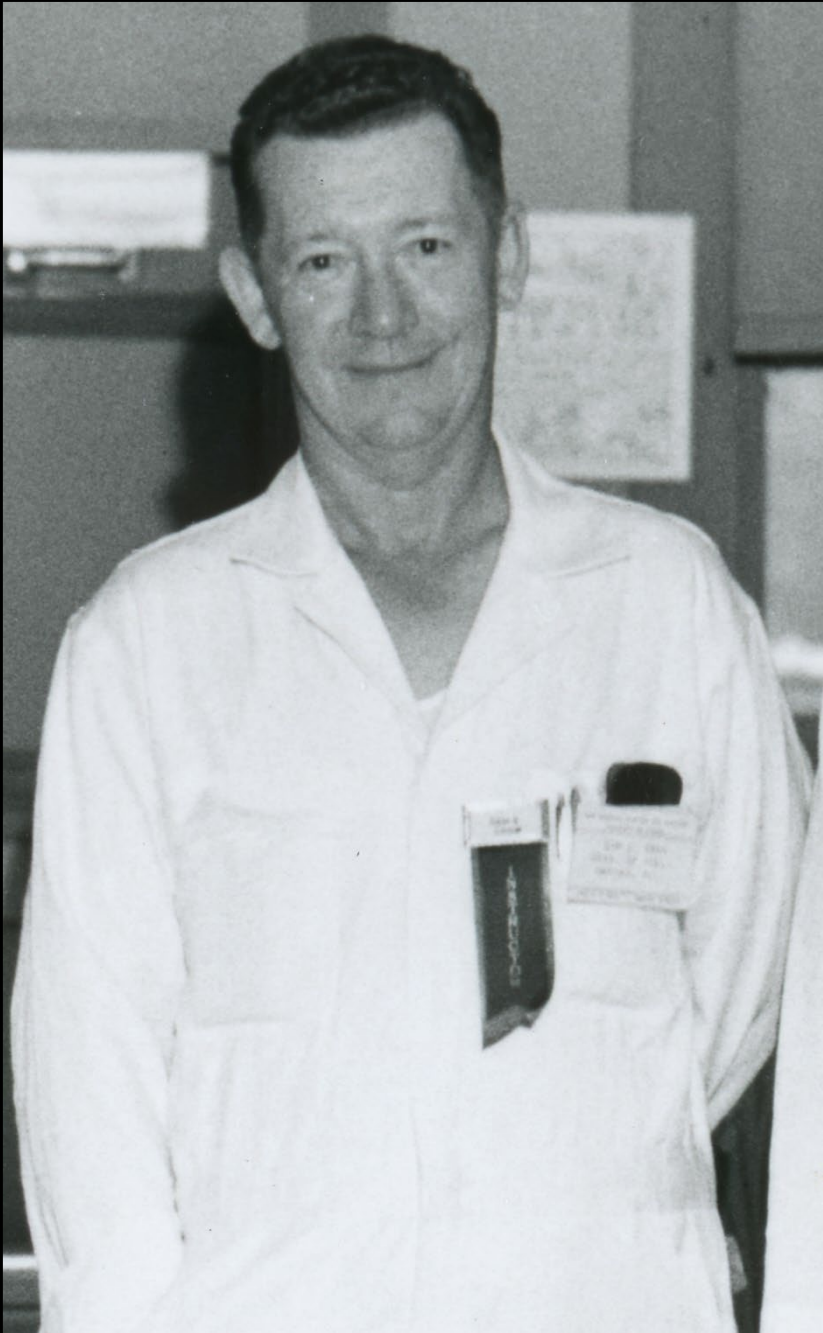
Bennie Crane

Bennie Crane entered the fire service in 1961 as a firefighter with the Chicago Fire Department. Among other roles, he served as Assistant Director of Training and also as a District Chief from 1989 until his retirement in 1995.

Crane joined IFSI in 1982 as a Field Instructor. He was instrumental in the instruction of the first Officer's Fireground School in 1984 and was a staple of the Fire Officer Program at IFSI. Crane passed away in 2009.



Sam E. Crow



Sam Crow entered the fire service in 1938 with the Decatur Fire Department. He was promoted to Captain in 1955 and Battalion Chief in 1957. Crow then became a full-time instructor for the department, acting as Decatur's sole training officer in order to standardize department training procedures. Crow retired from the Decatur Fire Department in 1958 after 20 years of service.

Crow joined IFSI in 1958 as one of the first full-time instructors. He taught classes on subjects such as Officer Command, Structural Firefighting, Basic Evolutions, and Rescue until 1962. Crow passed away in 2002.





Edward Dagdick

Edward “Ed” James Dagdick entered the fire service with the Wauconda Fire District part-time in 1980 and was hired full-time in 1984. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and to Battalion Chief in 2012. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2016 and retired as such in 2018 after 38 years of service. Dagdick was active in firefighting instruction, having taught at McHenry County College, Highland Park Hospital, and IFSI.

Dagdick began working at IFSI as an instructor in 2005 and taught courses in the Firefighting, Confined Space, and Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) Programs. Dagdick passed away in 2019.





Willford J. Eckert

In 1947, Willford J. Eckert began his career in the fire service with the O'Fallon Fire Department. During his career with the department, he served as Vice President and President of the Fire Company Board and as Fire Chief from 1956-1960. Eckert retired from the O'Fallon Fire Department in 1964.

Eckert joined IFSI as a Field Instructor in 1958. From 1964 until his retirement in 1975, Eckert served as Fire College Director and Head of Firemanship Training. Under his guidance, the six-story IFSI fire training tower that still stands today was constructed, and IFSI held its first Certified Firefighter Academy. Eckert passed away in 1984.





Howard "Doc" Eskridge

Howard "Doc" Eskridge entered the fire service in 1962 as a firefighter with the Hammond Fire Protection District, where he would later become the youngest paid fire Chief in Illinois at the age of 21.

Eskridge joined IFSI in 1970. He led the Certified Firefighter Academy for many years, starting with the first academy in 1973. Eskridge retired from IFSI in 2000 and passed away in 2016.



John M. Eversole



John Eversole began his career in the fire service with the Chicago Fire Department in 1969 and was a member of the department for over 30 years. He rose through the ranks from firefighter to Chief of Special Functions. He founded the CFD's Hazardous Materials Response Unit and became an advocate for many of the protocols and techniques used in Hazmat training today. Eversole also served as Chairman of both the International Association of Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Committee and NFPA 472: Standard for Hazardous Materials Professional Competency.

Eversole joined IFSI as an instructor in 1986 and served as instructor for courses such as Hazardous Materials: the Pesticide Challenge, Hazardous Materials and Incident Command, and Hazardous Materials: Tactical Considerations for Incident Command. Eversole passed away in 2007.



Joseph Feters

Joseph Feters entered the fire service circa 1920 with the Mishawaka Fire Department in Indiana. He was promoted to Captain in the late 1920s and became Chief in 1930. He remained there until his resignation in 1935. Feters was also an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor, Assistant Supervisor of fire engineering training in Nebraska, Administrative Assistant of University of Missouri Fire Training, Fire Commissioner for the Metropolitan Fire Department in Nashville, Tennessee, and a Fire Training Consultant in El Paso, Texas.

Feters joined IFSI in 1957 as Head of Firemanship Training. He taught courses such as Industrial Fire Protection and Fire Tactics until his resignation in 1963. Feters passed away in 1982.



Glen Fisher



Glen Fisher began his fire service career in 1964 with the Shelbyville Fire Protection District. He served as a firefighter in the Arcola Fire Protection District from 1967-1969 before returning to Shelbyville in 1970 and retiring as a full-time firefighter there in 1999.

Fisher began working at IFSI as a Field Instructor in 1977 and taught mostly Essentials Classes and House Burns in East Central Illinois. He also taught basic fire fighting and breathing apparatus at Fire College for many years. He retired from IFSI in 2004. Fisher passed away in 2019.





Andrew Fredericks

Andrew Fredericks entered the fire service in 1979 as a volunteer firefighter with the Suffern Fire Department (N.Y.). Fredericks served with the New York City Fire Department for 21 years and had achieved the rank of Lieutenant at the time of his death.

Fredericks joined IFSI in 1997. He had been instrumental in the FDNY's "Back to Basics" program for Engine Company Operations and assisted in the creation of the IFSI Engine Operations Program.

He died in 2001 in the line of duty in the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks at the World Trade Center.



Eric F. Haussermann



Eric Haussermann began his career in the fire service at the Champaign Fire Department in 1957 and retired in 1979, serving as both a Lieutenant and Training Officer during his tenure. He was instrumental in the development of the Fire Service Program at Parkland College, and served as President of the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors.

Haussermann joined IFSI in 1970 and served as an instructor for nearly ten years, teaching classes such as Firemanship Training I and II, Certified Firefighter Academy, Smoke Divers, and Fireground Pumping Operations and Service Testing. Haussermann passed away in 2009.



Trevor Herderhorst

Trevor Herderhorst entered the fire service with the Cahokia Volunteer Fire Department in 2005 and also served with the Olin Corporation Fire Department and the Granite City Fire Department. In 2018, he was hired by the Champaign Fire Department.

Herderhorst joined IFSI in 2019. He taught courses such as Basic Firefighter / NFPA Firefighter I Academy, Basic Operations Firefighter / NFPA Firefighter I Blended, and Search Techniques for the Fireground. Herderhorst passed away in 2021.





Ray Hoff

Ray Hoff started in the fire service in 1965 when he became a third-generation firefighter with the Chicago Fire Department (CFD). During his career, Ray Hoff served with some of the busiest truck companies in Chicago and retired from the CFD at the rank of Battalion Chief in 1997.

Hoff joined IFSI in 1992 as a Field Staff Instructor. He was a staple of the Firefighting Program at IFSI and served as an Instructor of the Certified Firefighter II Recruit Academy, Truck Company Operations, Saving Our Own, First-In Officer, Tactics and Strategy, RIT Under Fire, and Fireground Officer School, among others. Hoff passed away in 2011.



Terrence Jelinek

Terrence Jelinek entered the fire service with the Naperville Fire Department in 1972 as a paid-on-call firefighter. He was hired as a full-time firefighter in 1976, promoted to Fire Lieutenant in 1982, and to Fire Captain in 1994. He retired as Battalion Chief in 2005 with over 30 years of service. Jelinek then became the Training Officer at the Warrenville Fire Protection District.

Jelinek began working at IFSI as an instructor in 1989 and taught courses such as Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Duties and Responsibilities of an On-Scene Safety Officer. Jelinek passed away in 2018.



Cortez Lawrence



Cortez Lawrence began his fire service career in 1972 in Hall County, Georgia, and would rise through the ranks to become Fire Chief. In 1978, Lawrence led a group of Georgia fire instructors in creating the Georgia Smoke Diver Program. Cortez later served as Deputy Director for the Auburn, AL Public Safety Department, Fire Marshal for the U.S. State Department, Director for the Center for Domestic Preparedness, and was a longtime instructor at the National Fire Academy.

Lawrence joined IFSI in 1981. As a full-time instructor, he taught Smoke Divers, Certified Firefighter Academy, instructor, management, and officer classes among many others. Lawrence passed away in 2017.





John Leonard

John Leonard started in the fire service in February 1980 with the Chicago Fire Department. He served for over 30 years in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago, mostly with Truck 20, and had achieved the rank of Lieutenant at the time of his death.

Leonard joined IFSI in 2005 as an Instructor at the annual Illinois Fire College. He was best known for his instruction in the Chicago Intensive Officer Training Program, as well as the Hazardous Materials Program and the Explorer-Cadet Fire School. Leonard passed away in 2015.



William J. Lester, Jr.



William Lester entered the fire service in 1968 at the Bedford Park Fire Department and was promoted to Engineer in 1969 and to Lieutenant in 1974 in addition to serving as the department's training officer for several years. In the 1980s, Lester helped create a pilot program in hazardous materials training based on OSHA and HAZWOPER standards and is credited with being a pioneer in hazardous materials training in the Bedford Park area. He retired in 2002 with over thirty years of service.

Lester began working at IFSI as a Field Instructor in 1996. He was one of the early instructors for IFSI's Hazardous Materials program and also taught instructor, terrorism, and industry courses. Lester passed away in 2018.



Pete Lund



Pete Lund served as a volunteer firefighter with the Woodmere Fire Department (N.Y.) for 35 years, serving as Chief from 1989 to 1991, and also served with the Kentland Fire Department (M.D.). Lund became a career firefighter in 1973 when he joined the New York City Fire Department and served with the department until retiring in 2003.

Lund starting working for IFSI in 1986. He was one of the original group of Instructors for the Saving Our Own Program, and was also an Instructor with the Collapse Program.

On June 14, 2005, Lieutenant Lund responded to a house fire with fellow Woodmere Fire Department firefighters. Shortly after assisting in the extinguishment of the fire, Lund suffered a fatal heart attack and died in the line of duty.



John “Mac” McCastland, Jr.

John “Mac” McCastland, Jr. entered the fire service with the Oak Lawn Fire Department in 1964. McCastland joined the United States Marine Corp in 1966 and served in Vietnam from 1967-1968, including service during the Tet Offensive. After returning to the Oak Lawn FD in 1968, he rose through the ranks, becoming Fire Chief in 1989. McCastland retired from the Oak Lawn FD in 1993. After his retirement from the Oak Lawn FD he also served as Chief of the Orland Fire Protection District and Deputy Chief of the Homer Township Fire Protection District. McCastland also co-developed and served as the Chairman for the Combined Area Response Team (CART), a multi-jurisdictional specialized rescue team.

McCastland began working at IFSI as an instructor in 1982 and taught many courses to include: Tactics and Strategy and Officer’s Fireground School. He was promoted to Assistant Director for the Chicago Metro Region in 2001, and to Associate Director in 2005 remaining in that role until his passing in 2019. Chief McCastland had an impact on all firefighters that were fortunate enough to have a class or a discussion with him, as his vast knowledge, passionate leadership and desire to serve others was infectious. “Mac” was truly one-of-a kind. Thousands of firefighters benefited from his commitment to the fire service and are better 1st responders for having the experience. Chief McCastland passed away in October of 2019.



John McNamara

John McNamara entered the fire service as a firefighter for the Chicago Fire Department in 1962. He gained a reputation for development of the 'deck-gun' as a tool to stop fire from spreading. He served as a Lieutenant on Engine 61 and Engine 54, as well as Captain of Tower Ladder 37 and eventually worked his way up to the rank of Battalion Chief of the 23rd Battalion, retiring in 2000.

McNamara joined IFSI in 2001. He taught classes such as Basic Engine Company Operations, Tactics and Strategy, and First-In Officer, among others. McNamara passed away in 2016.





Dean Mercer

Dean Mercer began his career in the fire service when he joined the Valier Fire Department. Serving for over 40 years with the department, Mercer rose through the ranks to serve as Chief for almost 20 years.

Mercer joined IFSI in 1975 as a Field Instructor and taught a wide variety of courses, including Essentials, rural water supply, industrial firefighting and participated in countless house burns. Mercer passed away in 2001.





Robert Allen Moff

Robert A. Moff entered the fire service with the University of Illinois Fire Department in 1966. In 1973 he became a firefighter for the Champaign Fire Department. He served as the President of the Champaign Firefighters Local 1260 Union and Honor Guard from 1983-1986. Moff rose through the ranks to become Captain in 1992 and was also the Official Safety Officer for the Champaign Fire Department. He retired as Captain in 1999.

Moff joined IFSI in 1977 and taught classes such as Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Breathing Apparatus-Smoke Divers, Essentials, and more until 1999. He also conducted extensive SCBA training with firefighters across Illinois using IFSI's mobile smoke trailer and taught firefighting at Parkland College. Moff passed away in 2018.





Gerald Monigold

Gerald Monigold started active participation in the fire service when he assisted the Lena Fire Department with firehouse duties as a high schooler. Monigold's first active firefighter position was with the Stillwater Fire Department (Okla.) in 1955 as a student firefighter while attending Oklahoma State University.

Monigold joined IFSI in 1958 as a Field Instructor. Monigold participated as an Instructor at the Illinois Fire College throughout the 1960's and 1970's. He was promoted to Director of the newly renamed Fire Service Institute in 1976 and held that position until his death in 1996.





Dale Moore

Dale Moore began his career in fire service at the Monmouth Fire Department in 1948, and was promoted to Chief in 1962. He retired with over 20 years of service in 1969. Moore also served as Fire Chief at the North Maine Fire Protection District from 1967 to 1979. In 1970, Moore served as President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

Moore joined IFSI in 1959 and taught for almost thirty years. He served as an instructor for courses such as Officer Leadership, Fire Fighting Tactics and Strategy, Salvage, and the Administration of Small Fire Departments, among many others. Moore passed away in 2003.



James Nagle

James “Jim” Nagle entered the fire service in 1947 with the Chicago Fire Department, where he spent eight years as a firefighter on ladder companies. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1955, and to Captain of Engine 77 in 1964. He was promoted to Battalion Chief in 1970, and assigned to the 15th Battalion in 1975. He retired from the Chicago FD in 1975. He was a mentor to several IFSI instructors both while he was with the Chicago Fire Department and after he retired.

Nagle joined IFSI in 1977 and taught fire fighting Tactics. He also taught courses such as High Rise Problems and Solutions and Fire Fighting Strategy and Tactics at regional fire schools and Fire College. He was known for his specialization in building construction/size-up as well as his ability to relate larger city fire fighting experiences to smaller and rural departments. Nagle passed away in 1980.



Wayne C. Nelson

Wayne Nelson began his career in fire service at the Galesburg Fire Department in 1942 and was promoted to Chief in 1959. In 1965, Chief Nelson prioritized the establishment of a fire training center in Galesburg and called for the construction of two additional fire stations. In 1970, he retired as Chief with over 28 years of service.

Nelson joined IFSI as an instructor in 1966, teaching courses such as Firemanship Training I and II, Rural Firefighting Tactics and Water Supplies, and Salvage and Overhaul. He served as an instructor for over 10 years. Nelson passed away in 2004.





Donald R. Owens

Donald R. Owens began his career in the fire service with the Monmouth Fire Department in 1969. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1979, and later to Assistant Chief in 1984. In 1990, he retired from the Monmouth Fire Department as Assistant Chief.

Owens joined IFSI as an instructor in 1977 and taught for over ten years. He taught Essentials courses in Western Illinois. Owens passed away in 2016.



Larry Dean Oye

Larry Oye entered the fire service with the Mattoon Fire Department in 1965. In 1972, Oye moved to Champaign and served as a firefighter at the Champaign Fire Department until he retired as Captain in 1998.

Oye joined IFSI as an instructor in the early 1980's. He taught a variety of courses until 1998, including Smoke Divers, Water and Ice Rescue, Structural Firefighting Operations, Firefighting Fundamentals, and Essentials. He also conducted extensive SCBA training with firefighters across Illinois using IFSI's mobile smoke trailer and was an instructor for the Certified Firefighter II Academy for many years. Oye passed away in 2014.





Keery W. Padfield

Keery Padfield entered the fire service as a firefighter with the Freeport Fire Department in 1958. After over twenty years of service he retired as a Lieutenant in 1981. After retiring from the Freeport Fire Department, Padfield continued to work as a Fire Analyst.

Padfield joined IFSI in 1976, and served as an instructor for Essentials, Tactics, Fireground Pumping for Fast Attack, Breathing Equipment, and Ventilation Procedures. He also taught and gave workshops throughout Illinois and Wisconsin on topics such as Home Fire Safety. Padfield passed away in 2016.



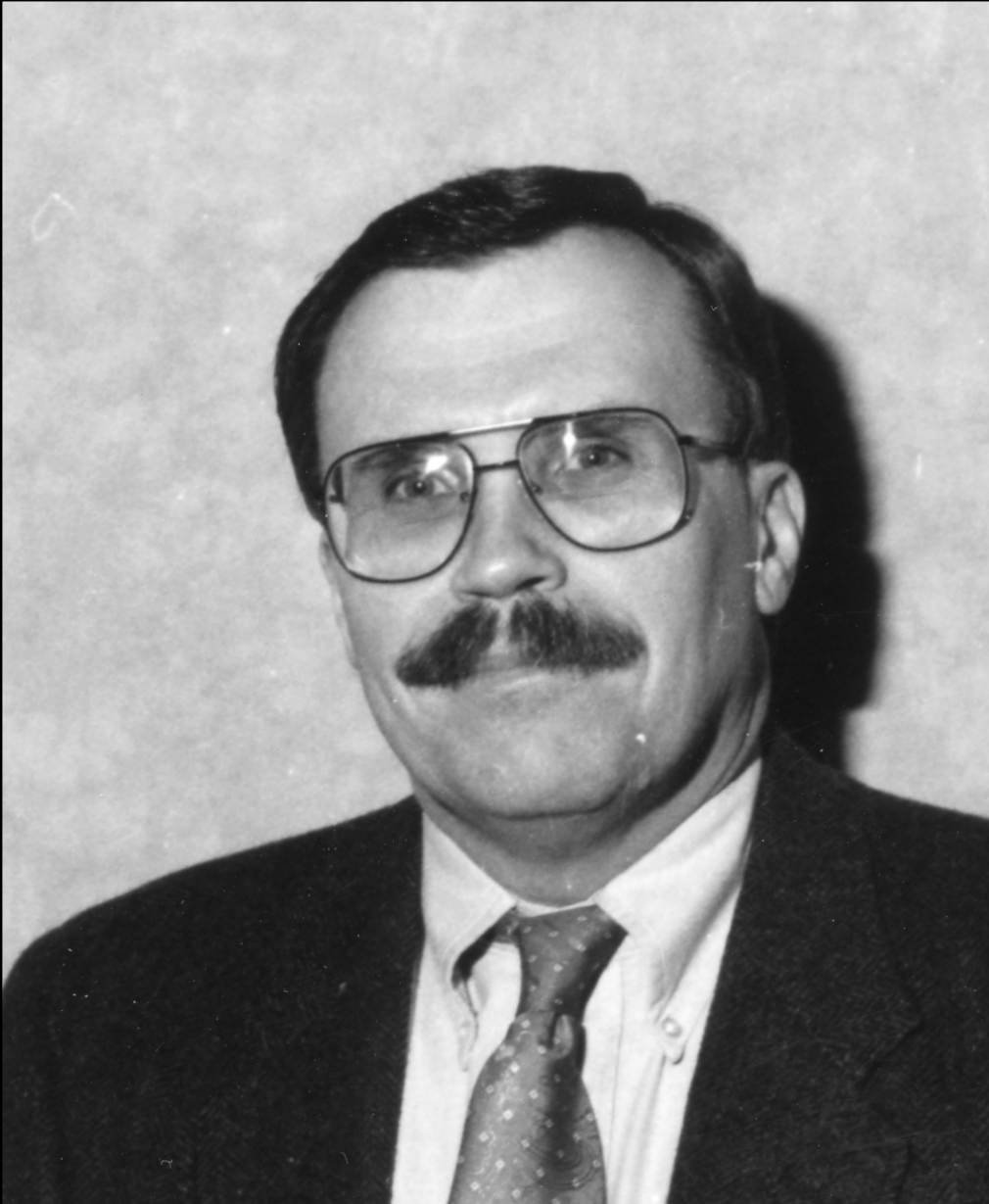
Paul Partridge

Paul Partridge entered the fire service in 1930 with the Mt. Vernon Fire Department. He was promoted to the rank of Chief in 1938 and returned to that position in 1956 after a brief retirement in 1953. Partridge retired from the Mt. Vernon Fire Department as Chief in 1959 with 27 years of service. He served on the executive boards of both the Illinois Firemen's Association and the Egyptian Firemen's Association.

Partridge joined IFSI in 1957 and taught courses such as Fire Streams, Compressed Gases Firefighting, and Firemanship until 1965. Partridge passed away in 1997.



Robert Pettyjohn



Robert (Bob) Pettyjohn began his career in the fire service as a firefighter with the Urbana Fire Department in 1969 and reached the rank of Assistant Fire Chief by the time of his retirement in 1994. In 1996, Pettyjohn joined the Champaign Fire Department as Deputy Fire Marshal. He retired from the Champaign Fire Department in 2006, having served over 35 years in the fire service.

Pettyjohn joined IFSI in 1990 and served as a Field Instructor for over fifteen years. He was instrumental in teaching courses such as Public Education and Fire Prevention, Fire Cause and Determination, and Juvenile Fire Setters. Pettyjohn passed away in 2014.



Steve Pezzella



Steve Pezzella entered the fire service as a Firefighter and Paramedic in 2006 with the Greenacres Fire Rescue Department in Florida. In 2008, he began his service as a Firefighter and Paramedic with the Quincy Fire Department where he served for fourteen years. He was certified as a Paramedic, Fire Apparatus Engineer and ARFF Firefighter.

Pezzella joined IFSI as an instructor in 2020. He taught for the Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended course. Pezzella passed away in 2022.



William Renaker



William Renaker entered the fire service in 1967 as a firefighter with the Fox Lake Fire Department/Rescue Squad. Over his 37 years on the department he served as an EMS/Paramedic, Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Chief.

Renaker joined IFSI in 1986 as a Field Instructor. He taught EMS, Vertical and Confined Space Rescue, and acted as Rescue Program Director from 2003 until his death in 2005.



James Roy Roberts

James “Jim” Roy Roberts began his career in the fire service at the Pontiac Fire Department in 1963. Roberts was one of the key founders of the Pontiac Rescue Squad, which was the first rescue company in Livingston County and specialized in auto and machinery extrication. Roberts was later promoted to Captain with the Pontiac Fire Department and retired as such in 1983. Roberts also taught at the Emergency Squad Training Institute from 1973-1978.

Roberts joined IFSI as a Field Instructor in rescue operations in 1977 and taught until the mid-1980s. His specialties were in auto extrication, vehicle and machinery rescue, and rope rescue, which he taught at Fire College for many years. Roberts passed away in 2017.



Charles Roblee

Charles “Chuck” Roblee entered the fire service with the Lockport Fire Department, where he served for 15 years. He was a specialist in fire investigation and arson, teaching at Purdue University, College of DuPage, and Gateway Technical College (Indiana) over the course of his career. Roblee also served as president of the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and authored at least one textbook on fire investigation.

Roblee taught his first class at IFSI during the 1957 Fire College and began working at IFSI as an instructor in 1963. Throughout the 1960’s, he taught classes such as Inspection, Basic Firemanship, Essentials, and Structural Stability Under Fire Conditions. He also taught fire safety at hospitals and nursing homes across Illinois and at Pump Operators Schools. Roblee passed away in 1994.



Thomas Shervino

Thomas Shervino began his fire service career with the Oak Lawn Fire Department in 1978. He was promoted at various times to Lieutenant, Captain, and finally Chief of Operations before retiring in 2004. Shervino also taught classes on Firefighter Safety and Survival at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC).

Shervino joined IFSI in 1994. He was instrumental in creating IFSI's Search Techniques for the Fireground and Forcible Entry courses and instructed in the Fire Officer Program, Structural Collapse, Saving Our Own, and Smoke Divers. He was also an instructor for IFSI's Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Online program for many years. Shervino passed away in 2022.



Owen B. Streeper



Owen “O.B.” Streeper began his career in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter with the Normal Fire Department and in 1968 he founded the McLean County Rescue Squad and served as Chief until 2005. In addition, Streeper created Special Service & Supply, along with his son, designing and manufacturing rescue equipment and founded the Emergency Squad Training Institute, where he and his son taught techniques for auto extrication and aerial rescue to rescue squads throughout the U.S. and internationally. He also served as a volunteer firefighter with the Chenoa Fire Protection District for many years.

Streeper joined IFSI as an instructor in the early 1970’s and taught classes such as Rescue Practices. He was a pioneer of vehicle extrication and technical rescue and directed demonstrations at IFSI and across Illinois.

Streeper passed away in 2013.



Daniel Tallman



Daniel Tallman entered the fire service in 2002 with the Pana Fire Department, where he served as a firefighter until 2017. Tallman joined the Highland Fire Department in 2018, remaining with the department until his passing. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2019, Captain in 2022, and Assistant Chief in 2023. Tallman also worked as a Special Agent with the Illinois State Fire Marshal Arson Investigation Unit.

Tallman joined IFSI as an instructor in 2020. He taught courses such as Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended, Fire Investigator, and Light and Fight. Tallman passed away in 2024.



Michael Trinkle



Mike Trinkle entered the fire service in 1967 with the Champaign Fire Department. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to Training Officer in 1978, Lieutenant in 1989, and Captain in 1993. Trinkle retired as Captain in 1997. He also served with the Illinois State Fire Marshal and was a fire science instructor at Parkland College.

Trinkle joined IFSI as an instructor in 1981. Trinkle taught courses such as Essentials, Hazardous Materials, and Industrial Fire Brigade Training. He also taught at Fire College for many years, was an instructor for the Certified Firefighter Academy, and travelled across Illinois conducting SCBA training with IFSI's mobile smoke trailer. Trinkle passed away in 2019.



Lawrence Walsh



Lawrence Walsh began his career in the fire service with the Chicago Fire Department in 1956. He served as a firefighter with the Argonne National Laboratory and the Romeoville Fire Department before joining the Joliet Fire Department in 1968, where he worked for over 30 years. At Joliet, Walsh rose through the ranks and became Fire Chief in 1991 and retired in 1998. After his retirement from Joliet, Walsh continued to work at the Troy Fire Protection District until 2008. He also began the Fire Science Program at Joliet Junior College in 1970.

Walsh joined IFSI as an instructor in 2002 and was an active participant on the IFSI Advisory Committee. He taught classes such as Basic Fire Fighter Skills and Management II, III, IV. Walsh passed away in 2013.



Ronald E. Weavel



Ronald E. Weavel began his career in fire service when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1958 and was offered the opportunity to work at the Great Lakes Naval Station's Fire Department. After his service in the Navy, Weavel served as a firefighter at the Lake Forest Fire Department from 1963-1966, the Rockford Fire Department from 1966-1985, and as Fire Chief at the Watertown Fire Department (WI) from 1985-1994, as well as serving at several other departments. He then served as Fire Chief at the Rockton Fire Protection District from 1994 until his retirement in 2009.

Weavel joined IFSI in 1977 as an instructor and taught Ventilation Procedures for several years. He was also an instructor for many years at the Rockford Fire Academy and taught Fire Technology at Rock Valley College. Weavel passed away in 2012.





Jefferey Welch

Jeff Welch began his fire service career in 1978 with the Urbana Fire Department. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1992. In 1990, Welch also joined the Sidney Fire Protection District and served as a volunteer firefighter from 1990-1994 and as a trustee from 1994-1999. After retiring from Urbana in 1999, he accepted the position as Chief of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District in Hayden, Idaho. After retirement from Northern Lakes, Welch served as a fire sprinkler inspector for Simplex Grinnell in Spokane, Washington. He was also an instructor for 1403 Live Fire Training for the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) for many years.

Welch joined IFSI as an instructor in 1980. He taught classes such as Essentials of Firefighting, Practical Fire Fighting Skills, Smoke Divers, and the Certified Firefighter Academy. Welch passed away in 2019.



If you know of a former IFSI instructor/staff member who has passed away and who is not included in this memorial, please contact IFSI Assistant Library Director David Ehrenhart at: ehrenha1@illinois.edu

