

SYLVAN SMITH

Sylvan Smith volunteered for the Erlanger Fire Department in 1954 after a 4-year military turn with the United States Army. Advancing through fire department ranks of firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, captain and chief officer, Smitty recently retired from active duty but continues as an integral part of the Erlanger Fire and EMS Department. According to Smitty's good friend, Chief Bill Martin, words that best describe Sylvan include, witty, friendly, compassionate, concerned, determined, and sometimes stubborn.

Beginning in the 1970's, Sylvan began representing his Erlanger department in regional and state associations. He became extremely involved in the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association and the KFA. Benefits from legislation for all firefighters and emergency responders seized his interest. When called upon in the late 1980's, Sylvan filled a vacant position as KFA Vice-President. He was elected President of the KFA in 1989 here in Jeffersontown succeeding Bob Gaddie and hosted a memorable conference the next year in Ft. Mitchell. Smitty continued serving. He was Northern Ky. Firefighters Association Vice-President in 1992 and President in 1993, while leading the legislative committee's of both the KFA and the NKFA throughout the 1990's and into the present. Also in 1992, Governor Jones appointed Sylvan to the State Commission on Fire Protection Personnel, Standards and Education, where he presently holds the position of Vice-chairperson.

Great advancements have been made for the fire and emergency service of Kentucky under Sylvan Smith's leadership. With a union background as an employee of the General Electric Jet Engine Plant and his volunteer fire department passion, he played a key role in molding a cooperative effort of paid and volunteer firefighters to enhance our lobbying efforts into one voice in Frankfort. He took on the responsibility as our lobbyist and the results have been countless. Continual increases in incentive pay and volunteer aid money; statewide training facility grant funding; low interest loan program for fire departments; enhancements in training, firefighter safety, and public education expansions, and just this past year, passage of an issue close to Smitty's heart, House Bill 427, an act to exempt certified firefighters from annual training requirements so that they may continue to receive state provided incentive pay, while they are mobilized with the United States Armed Forces.

Sylvan was also instrumental in the support, fundraising, and eventual completion of our Kentucky Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Frankfort.

While Sylvan Smith's past accomplishments benefit all of us, his legacy continues through his continued effort as our legislative chairperson and lobbyist, and through his other activities that benefit the Kentucky Firefighter. It is with great pleasure and thanks that Sylvan Smith is inducted into the KFA "Hall of Fame".

Presenting Sylvan's Hall of Fame Award was a person who has worked closely with him in many capacities over the years and 1997 President of the KFA, Mr. Mike O'Day:

