

Major James H. Moore

James Moore, a native of Louisville, fire service career started in 1938 in Golconda, Illinois with the Civilian Conservation Corps. "We went from there to a lookout tower in the state of Oregon for firefighting in the forest", Jim stated. "The first smoke I turned in turned out to be a boat going down the river. I liked to never lived that down". After serving the Army during World War 2 from 1941 thru '46, Jim joined the Elizabethtown Fire Department for 3 years as a volunteer firefighter beginning in 1949.



After moving to his wife Frances' hometown of Hopkinsville, Jim was named Fire Chief at Western State Hospital in 1956 and volunteered with the Hopkinsville Fire Department. On May 15, 1959, Jim was hired by the city fire department and immediately made lieutenant because of his past firefighting experience. In a short time he made the rank of Captain and in 1970 was appointed the first major in the history of Hopkinsville (Police or Fire), directly below the Fire Chief in the chain of command. Major Moore retired from active duty shortly after hosting his 2nd KFA conference in 1983.

Major Moore specialized in fire prevention and code enforcement. He saw the importance of fire prevention and safety education of children before it became popular. He built the Hopkinsville Fire Department's prevention division from the bottom up, to one of the best in the state. In 1967 at the KFA conference in Hazard, then Captain James Moore was a special guest speaker and addressed the body on the subject of Public Relations, stating "Let me close my discussion with these two statements: 1. Be active in community affairs and 2. show an interest in people."

Extremely active with the Western Kentucky Fireman's Training Association and the Pennyriple Association, Jim was a part-time instructor in fire suppression with the Madisonville Area Vocational School. Jim instructed at Kentucky state fire school beginning in the 1960's and continuing into the early 80's.

James Moore served the KFA for many years and in many roles. A huge supporter of state fire school he served on our school committee. He also was an active member of our by-laws and advisory committees.

Jim served two terms on the E-Board of the KFA. Progressing through the Vice-President positions, Jim assumed the Presidency of our organization in the term years of 1972-73 and again in 1982-83. He saw the KFA through a growing, transitional period when money was tight but opinions vast. The future of not only the KFA but the Kentucky fire service

was shaped during that time with the creation of state fire service training, legislation proposing a fire commission, volunteer state aid, incentive pay funding, reorganization of the fire marshal's office and many other vital issues that today seem common to us all.

Major James Moore loved his work in all areas of the fire service. He was noted for his speeches, teachings and demonstrations. His thoughts of firefighting are best explained in his own words. Said Major Moore, "firefighting is something that gets in your blood. It's a challenge. My challenge was to prevent the fires from happening. Being a people helper, I think, is really the secret. When you get to the point that you can't help people, you're in trouble. Firefighters are the most conscientious people in the world. I really believe this".

Jim Moore passed away August 7, 1997. While sorely missed, Major Moore will always be remembered. We are honored to posthumously induct Major James Moore into the KFA Hall of Fame and present the award to Jim's wife of over 50 years, Frances.