

## Richard “Rick” Games

In 1970, while a high school student, Rick Games joined the West Point Volunteer Fire Department. In 1972 after graduating, Rick married his high school sweetheart Vicky, and then embarked on a firefighting career with the Elizabethtown Fire Department under the tutelage of Chief Cliff Bowen.



During his career with the E'Town Fire Department, he served as firefighter, company officer, Fire Investigator, and Public Information Officer before making the rank of Fire Chief in 1990. Chief Games held this position for 11 years, retiring from active duty in 2001.

Rick's accomplishments as Fire Chief included developing new rank structure and written standard operating guidelines, and starting a technician level hazardous response team and confined space rescue team. Chief Games also played a vital role in the development of a Regional Training Center in partnership with KCTCS and the Fire Commission.

An accomplished fire service instructor, Rick taught for over 20 years with State Fire Rescue Training and was involved for years with our State Fire School, instructing in the Arson section and for many years, manning the Incident Command Center while coordinating the IC staff. Many remember walking past the command post, whether it was parked outside a Lexington Fire Station or the Campbell House Inn and hearing Rick and Jack Trautwein "Rockin" to the oldies. Quite a team. always singing at the top of their voices.

Chief Games served many active years with the Dixie Firefighters Association promoting regional assistance and cooperation. Rick was President of the Dixie Firefighters in 1996.

With Woody Will in tow, the two attended Rick's first KFA conference in 1985 with a mission to get the Dixie Association more involved in State matters. Sie Jewells '85 conference, held at the Drawbridge in Northern Kentucky, would lead to a chance meeting for Rick, and change his path in the fire service forever.

Our 1956 KFA President and former Chief of the Elizabethtown Fire Department, was in attendance at this conference. Chief Bogard convinced Rick that someone from the Dixie area should seek a position in the KFA and hinted that Rick would be a good choice. The

KFA was in the process of restructuring to the 7 region concept, and the timing was right. Woody and Rick returned home and explained their vision to the Dixie Association who thought it was a great idea to get involved at the State level. They agreed to nominate Rick as their representative.

With the blessing of Chief Bowen and the City of Elizabethtown, Rick Games became the first ever 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of the KFA at the Owensboro conference in 1988. During the next 8 years, Chief Games was part of a team that saw many great things happen to the Fire Service of Kentucky. Rick promoted cooperation, as all aspects of the Kentucky Fire Service began to unite and speak as one. KFA, KPFA, Fire Commission, Fire Rescue Training, Fire Marshal's Office, and other emergency service groups were all working together and benefiting.

Rick was a traveling President. He set a goal to visit each regional association during his term, attending meetings and fire schools. A paid chief, Rick went out of his way to make sure the volunteers were being represented and supported. He stated more than once, "I may be a paid fire chief but I started out in a volunteer fire department and I remember my roots".

One of Rick's major accomplishments during his KFA years is undoubtedly our Firefighter Memorial in Frankfort. The original committee chairperson, Rick coordinated a team of Kentucky Fire Officials. Working closely with Sylvan Smith, KFA E-Boards, the Fire Commission and the Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association, he willed this project to completion. What began as a dream in 1991 when Rick was beginning his vice-presidency, became reality with its dedication on October 11, 1999. Today, we have one of the finest State Firefighter Memorial's in the country.

After 33 years of marriage, wife Vicky is still supporting Rick in his endeavors. Rick is currently President and Chief Operating Officer of the Elizabethtown/Hardin County Industrial Foundation, responsible for recruitment of industry to the area and management of 3 industrial parks owned by the Foundation.

In his spare time, Rick can still be found on the golf course or in his bass boat fishing for the big one. Rick's son Andy, and accomplished golfer himself, wife Beverly and son, Richard "Clay", live in E'Town where Rick and Vicky love having them close by.

Chief Games proved a tremendous asset to the KFA. His leadership through statesmanship led to unprecedented

accomplishments. It is our honor to induct Chief Richard Games into the KFA Hall of Fame.

Presenting this award is Rick's long-time friend and running mate, KFA Hall of Famer Woody Will, and the man Rick sat next to and worked closely with for many years on the KFA E-Board, 1997 KFA President Mike O'Day.