



## NEWS RELEASE

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John R. Kasich, Governor

Jacqueline T. Williams, Director  
Department of Commerce  
John Born, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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### **OHIO FIRE SERVICE HALL OF FAME & EDUCATION AWARDS PRESENTED**

*Description of each award attached*

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS today awarded the fire service's highest honors to firefighters and fire officers during the state's 36<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame ceremony.

The ceremony also recognized the fallen firefighters who died in the line of duty in the past year.

"We find it important to recognize those who have significantly impacted Ohio's fire service as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," Department of Commerce Director Jacqueline T. Williams said. "We are so thankful for each and every recipients' actions and service."

"These awards are a tribute to those individuals and organizations whose overall contributions go beyond their basic duties and responsibilities and who represent the finest traditions of public service," said Department of Public Safety Director John Born.

#### **Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal Awards:**

**Merit Awards:** Firefighter John R. Fritz (Austintown Fire Department), Captain Charles "Chuck" H. Horning II (Townsend Township Fire Department), Firefighter Patrick R. Wolterman (Hamilton Fire Department)

**Citizens Awards:** Patrolman Samuel Crish (Lima Police Department), Trooper Sean Eitel (Ohio State Highway Patrol, Granville Post), Sergeant Brian Foor (Newton Falls Police Department), Tim Hampshire (Licking County), Steve Gast (Allen County), Tom Smith (Portage County), Patrolman Matthew Woodworth (Lima Police Department)

**Ohio Fire Service Valor Award:** Firefighter Mark Krueger (Toledo Fire & Rescue Department), Lieutenant Ronald Murd (Toledo Fire & Rescue Department), Captain Michael Posadny (Toledo Fire & Rescue Department), Firefighter Gary Quinn (Toledo Fire & Rescue Department), Firefighter Michael Swartz (Toledo Fire & Rescue Department)

**Distinguished Service Award:** Chief Frank Conway (Division of State Fire Marshal)

## **Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS Awards:**

**Ohio Fire Officer of the Year Award:** Captain Randy Raines (City of Green Fire Department), Captain Shawn Yerian (Canal Fulton Fire Department)

**Fire Service Instructor of the Year Award:** Lieutenant Johnny Mason (Great Oaks Career Campuses)

**Fire Prevention Educator of the Year Award:** Firefighter Sandra Ray (City of Stow Fire Department)

**Ohio Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award:** W. Parker Browne, Retired Staff Chief (Medina Township Fire Department), John Wyman, Retired Fire Chief (Ohio Fire Academy)

## **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL AWARDS**

### **MERIT AWARDS**

#### **Firefighter John R. Fritz – Austintown Fire Department**

Firefighter John Fritz passed away on June 27, 2016. He had been working a 24-hour shift that had several emergency calls. When he did not show up to the truck for a call, his crew found him unresponsive. He would never regain consciousness, and is believed to have passed in his sleep.

John was born on March 20, 1968 in Youngstown. He was a 24-year member of the Austintown Fire Department, and was a fire instructor for the department and the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center. He was also one of the founding members of the Austintown Honor Guard. John was employed by Western Reserve Mechanical in Niles for almost 20 years and was a 1986 graduate of Austintown Fitch School.

John's life revolved around his family, and serving others. He had a wide range of interests including archery, shooting, scuba diving and karate, and also worked to raise money for Spina Bifida. He was also a founding member of the Mahoning Valley Fraternal Order of Leatherhead Society (F.O.O.L.S.).

Firefighter Fritz is survived by his parents Richard and Diane, wife Karen (Bickle) Fritz whom he married September 11, 1999; his children: Ryley, Bailey, Halley, Kassidey and Owen. John also leaves his sister Jill (Kenneth) Ferrone, father in law Gordon Bickle, brother in laws Greg, Kevin Bickle, niece Madison and nephew Miles Ferrone, and his family of firefighters.

#### **Captain Charles H. Horning II -Townsend Township Fire Department**

Captain Charles "Chuck" Horning II passed away October 13, 2015 in Orville, Ohio. He was found in his vehicle after suffering a heart attack following his shift and passed away at a local hospital.

Chuck was born January 16, 1961 in Norwalk, and was a lifelong area resident. He had the privilege of serving the Townsend Township Fire Department for 19 years. Chuck's love for firefighting was a lifelong commitment. His strong influence is missed within his fire department, but most of all he is missed for his passion for the fire service and the vast knowledge that he was able to share. Chuck was a truck driver for R&L Carriers, and enjoyed tinkering, mechanic work and was a community baseball and basketball coach.

He will be most remembered for his dedication to his family and to the fire department. Those who know him say he was a straightforward, honest and funny person, and was always willing to lend a helping hand to others.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sylvia; his sons: Michael (Karen), Christopher, and Shawn; his 2 grandchildren, Andrew and Ryan, and by his mother, Arlene J. Horning. Chuck is also survived by his siblings, Gloria Conrady, Shirley (Earl) Jenkins, Brenda (David) Kinnard, John Horning, Danny (Cindy) Horning, Christine (Reed) Wheeler, and Steven (Karla) Horning.

### **Firefighter Patrick Wolterman – Hamilton Fire Department**

Firefighter Patrick Wolterman passed away December 28, 2015, from injuries sustained during a response to a house fire in Hamilton. He was 28 years old.

Firefighter Wolterman was hired at Hamilton Fire Department in 2015, after serving at the Colerain Township Fire Department from 2008 to 2015 and the Fairfield Township Fire Department from 2014 to 2015. He was a 2005 graduate of Roger Bacon High School in St. Bernard, and earned an associate's degree in fire science from the University of Cincinnati in 2011. He had just married in May.

Firefighter Wolterman is survived by his wife Bre (Griffith) Wolterman; parents Don and Debbie Wolterman; sister Emily (Nate) Hermann and brother Douglas (Brittney) Wolterman; nephews Blakely and Leo Hermann; parents-in-law Sandy Griffith and Mike (Debbie) Griffith; sister-in-law Carissa Griffith (John Sloan); grandparent Pat Breitenstein and grandparents-in-law Carolyn and Michael Finn.

### **OHIO CITIZENS AWARDS**

#### **Steve Gast, Patrolman Samuel Crish, Patrolman Matthew Woodworth**

On the morning of November 19, 2015, a house fire was reported on West Haller Street in Lima just after three in the morning, in which residents were believed to still be inside. A smoke alarm woke up a woman living in the home and she ran to her neighbor's house for help. The neighbor, Steve Gast, ran to the burning home in an effort to help the woman and her two children, while his wife contacted 911.

Mr. Gast was able to guide one of the children safely outside the home. Lima Police Department Patrolmen Samuel Crish and Matthew Woodworth were notified of the incident and arrived at the scene just a minute later. They found Mr. Gast inside the home and helped him get the second child to safety. Mr. Gast then told the two patrolmen of the mother's location, who was still trapped upstairs on the second floor. Patrolmen Crish and Woodworth were able to locate the woman and safely bring her outside.

The courageous, quick, and undaunted responses by Steve Gast, Patrolman Samuel Crish and Patrolman Matthew Woodworth undoubtedly saved the three victims' lives. Their fearless and brave actions bring great credit to themselves, their families, the Lima Police Department, Ohio's law enforcement community and the state of Ohio.

## **Ohio State Trooper Sean Eitel**

On the evening of May 17, 2016, Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Sean Eitel was headed back to his post when he spotted a vehicle driving erratically as it passed him on Cherry Street in Granville. The driver swerved across the center line, ran a stop sign, and crashed into two utility poles. It then flipped and caught fire.

Trooper Eitel jumped out of his cruiser to put out the fire with his fire extinguisher. That's when he heard the driver asking about her baby. Eitel opened the back passenger door and saw a four-month-old infant. The infant was hanging upside down in his car seat, held by a seat belt. Acting quickly and selflessly, Trooper Eitel cut the seat belt and removed the infant from the vehicle. The infant suffered minor injuries; none of which were life-threatening.

Without the brave and quick actions by Trooper Eitel, the outcome could have been much worse. He went above and beyond his call of duty as a State Trooper to save the infant and the driver; risking his own health and wellbeing in the process. Trooper Eitel's courageous actions bring great credit to himself, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and to Ohio's law enforcement community.

## **Sergeant Brian Foor**

On May 26, 2016, a fire was reported just after 11:00 p.m. on Ophelia Avenue in Newton Falls, where at least one person was believed to still be inside the burning home. Newton Falls Police Sergeant Brian Foor was the first to arrive at the scene.

Foor entered the house through the front door and crawled below the heavy smoke. He found the victim lying next to his wheelchair. The victim had fallen while trying to escape. Foor then drug the victim through the house to the front yard before the fire department was able to arrive. Shortly after he got the victim out of the home, the victim's oxygen cylinder ruptured and significantly increased the fire.

The victim suffered serious burns and was transported to a local hospital before being flown to a burn center. The victim's injuries, though severe, could have been much worse had been exposed to any further heat or smoke.

Without the brave actions of Sergeant Foor, the outcome could have been much worse. He went above and beyond his call of duty as a police officer to save the victim. Sergeant Brian Foor's courageous actions bring great credit to himself, the Newton Fall Police Department and to Ohio's law enforcement community.

## **Tim Hampshire**

On January 4, 2016, Tim Hampshire witnessed a motor vehicle accident at intersection of Broad Street and Taylor Road in Reynoldsburg. The vehicle in the accident had rolled over and had heavy damage to the front and driver side, leaving the car's engine smoking and the driver of the vehicle trapped inside.

Reacting quickly, Hampshire rushed to the nearby Central Ohio Technical College facility and grabbed a few fire extinguishers. He then rushed back to the smoking vehicle to help the man trapped inside and remained with him until EMS and fire crews arrived.

Without the swift and courageous actions of Tim Hampshire, the outcome could have been much worse. The actions performed by Hampshire were extraordinary for a community member to

perform with little regard for his own safety. His heroic actions bring great credit to himself, his family and the state of Ohio.

### **Thomas Smith**

On January 19, 2016 the Rootstown Fire Department was dispatched to a reported woman falling through ice. While attempting to save her ducks, the victim fell through the ice and began screaming for help while frantically trying to escape the freezing water for nearly ten minutes.

While outside cleaning their truck, the victims' neighbor, Vickie Smith heard her screaming for help. She went over to the neighbor's property to investigate the situation, and found the victim struggling to hang onto the edge of ice. Mrs. Smith called for her husband, Thomas Smith, to come help.

Smith reacted immediately and ran over to the pond to assess the situation. He knew he was going to need a rope or something for the victim to grab onto so he could pull her out without jeopardizing his own safety. He found a broom in his neighbors' garage and began making his way onto the ice to rescue his neighbor. Smith spread his body out on the ice so that his weight was evenly distributed, and made his way close enough to the hole that his neighbor was able to reach up and grab the broom. As the ice creaked below them, Smith pulled the victim out of the freezing water.

Had it not been for the selfless actions of Thomas Smith, the outcome may have been different. His courage and willingness to sacrifice his own well-being to save the lives of people in need represents the very best of humanity. Thomas Smith is a credit to himself, his family and the state of Ohio.

### **VALOR AWARDS**

#### **Captain Michael Posadny, Private Mark Krueger, Private Gary Quinn, Private Michael Swartz, Lieutenant Ronald Murd – Toledo Fire & Rescue**

In the early morning hours of May 2, 2015, Toledo Fire & Rescue Engine 5 was called to a house fire, where two occupants were believed to be inside.

The first responding crew announced heavy fire with flames visible from above the treetops several blocks from the scene. Engine 5 was sent as a supplemental crew and arrived second on the scene.

While waiting to establish a water source for the pumping engine, Captain Michael Posadny entered the front of the burning house and searched the ground floor. He requested a charged hose line so that they could reach the upstairs to search for possible victims. Once upstairs, Posadny found the first victim unconscious and trapped under furniture and debris and called for assistance. Private Gary Quinn and Private Michael Swartz responded immediately, leaving the protection of a hose line to aid in the rescue. Posadny continued searching for the second victim while Quinn and Swartz worked to free the victim so they could remove him from the house.

Posadny found a second bedroom door and felt resistance, signaling someone may be behind the door. He forced it open so Private Mark Krueger and Lieutenant Ronald Murd could enter the room. Krueger and Murd found the second victim and worked quickly to remove him. As the two victims were freed, Quinn carried the second victim outside to safety before returning to assist Posadny and Swartz with carrying the first victim down the stairs.

All of the firefighters worked themselves to total exhaustion, but never quit. Privates Quinn, Swartz and Krueger all suffered serious injuries from the fire that was later determined to be arson.

The perseverance each crewmember demonstrated was instrumental in the rescue of these victims. These men went above and beyond the call of duty. They bring great credit to themselves, the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department and Ohio's fire service.

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

### **Chief Frank Conway**

It may be easier to list out the things Chief Frank Conway hasn't done in his 46-year fire career. From volunteer firefighter to the leader of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Prevention Bureau, Chief Conway has made a significant impact on Ohio's fire service, both locally and statewide.

Chief Conway began his career in 1970 when he joined the Central Townships Fire Department in Madison County. He was assigned to the Lafayette station, and quickly became a leader in the department, even before he obtained the official rank when he was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Lafayette Division 11 years after joining the department. Throughout his time in Madison County, he was involved with all aspects of the department, serving as a Firefighter Level II, Fire Safety Inspector and Arson Investigator. Always an innovator, Chief Conway was instrumental in the young department's training and direction and took what was at the time a progressive step by implementing a training program to certify all firefighters to the Firefighter II level, and started the Madison County Fire Expo as one of many efforts to educate countless youth about the fire service.

Chief Conway's efforts reached well beyond the fire station and deep into the community. He was a member of the Madison County Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Madison County Firefighter's Association, the Madison County Fire Chief's Association and the Central Ohio Fire Chief's Association.

In 1986, Chief Conway took a position with the State Fire Marshal's office as a Fire Training Officer II for the Ohio Fire Academy. He moved up to Deputy Superintendent in just three short years. This role allowed him to influence the direction and curriculum of the Academy, a natural fit for someone so dedicated to training others to be the best they can be. Chief Conway took on this challenge while still operating as the Assistant Chief of Central Townships Fire Department and becoming a member of the Ohio Rural Fire Council, the Local Emergency Planning Council, the Ohio Emergency Operations Center, CERT and the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors.

Chief Conway was appointed the Superintendent of the Ohio Fire Academy in 2000. He was instrumental in the renovations to the Academy, including the addition of new dormitories and upgrading training rooms. Chief Conway also understood what changes were necessary to continue helping Ohio's fire service strive for excellence, and influenced much of the curriculum that has trained countless firefighters.

Chief Conway took on yet another new role in 2012, when he was named the Chief of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Prevention Bureau. This allowed him to return to his passion of teaching and educating people. He has been an integral part in the efforts to decrease fire deaths in Ohio and educate the public on a wide range of fire safety topics.

Chief Conway represents far more than just his own achievements; in his 46 years of public service, he has touched countless lives and has been an outstanding example to the fire service. His extensive career is a testament to his years of hard work and dedication to the fire service.

Chief Frank Conway is a great credit to himself, his family, Ohio's fire service and the state of Ohio.

## **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF EMS AWARDS**

### **OHIO FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

#### **Randy Raines, Captain- City of Green Fire Department**

Captain Randy Raines has been a member of the Green Fire Department for 30 years. In 1989 Captain Raines was promoted to Lieutenant and served as a shift officer heading the training division of the fire department. In 2005 he was promoted to Captain and currently serves as shift Commander.

Captain Raines is responsible for the development, instruction and implementation of the fire department's various rescue teams, HAZ-Mat Team, their Water Shuttle Program, and their Medical and Fitness Program for members of the department.

Raines has a sound reputation within the fire community as a leader and educator and participates in training many area departments with technical rescue, water shuttle, officer development, and RIT. Captain Raines teaches in a Tech-Prep program at Portage Lakes Career Center, serves as an instructor for Stark State College where he provides EMS education.

According to his peers, he is known to lead from the front, and holds himself to a level of professionalism, commitment, dedication and grace that only a person like him can accomplish. His number one goal as an officer is to keep the department prepared, trained, ready and most of all safe. He would never compromise on these values, thus the great respect that the firefighters and officers have for him.

Captain Raines' dedication and service to the City of Green brings a great deal of respect for the fire service and has contributed to a safer Green community.

#### **Shawn Yerian, Captain- Canal Fulton Fire Department**

Captain Shawn Yerian began service as a part-time firefighter with the Canal Fulton Fire Department July 2005. He currently serves as a full-time firefighter/paramedic with the Mansfield Fire Department and is a part-time captain with the Lawrence Township Fire Department.

Yerian has been a leader in improving the services of the Fire Prevention Bureau of Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township Fire Departments and helped bring the Fire Prevention Bureau to a professional level that is well respected in the community.

Captain Yerian was instrumental in implementing the city's fire explorer program. His vision and innovation with the fire explorers has provided youth an introduction to emergency services, fire department life and unique experiences. He has set standards for performance, training, attendance and community service that maintains a high level of commitment from the explorers. He coordinates trainings with the fire explorers incorporating explorer training with sworn

firefighter training and involving sworn firefighters in the instruction of explorers. The trainings allow sworn firefighters to mentor skills and training to the explorers. This relationship provides sworn firefighters leadership opportunities to train explorers and to reinforce their firefighting and EMS skills through sharing knowledge.

Most recently the program was awarded Youth Program of the Year by the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Captain Yerian's peers says that he leads by example and maintains a high level of performance and training for their firefighters. He continues to educate and develop himself professionally through formal education and by attending local and regional firefighting classes. He holds certifications as a firefighter II, paramedic, fire safety inspector, fire instructor, fire officer I, II, and has recently applied for fire officer III certification. He has also applied to take the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

Yerian's dedication to the fire service and his ability to build positive relationships with area fire departments and residents is instrumental in the continued success in community participation and safety in Canal Fulton.

## **OHIO FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**

### **Johnny Mason, Lieutenant-Great Oaks Career Campuses**

Lieutenant Johnny Mason has been a dedicated member of the fire service for 26 years; serving as a Lieutenant with Liberty Township Fire Department in Butler County and as program coordinator at the Great Oaks Career Campuses.

Lieutenant Mason is known as a champion of professional credentialing of students in both the basic course and advanced courses at the Great Oaks Career Campuses using the Pro Board® accreditation model of training students from initial employment to retirement. The training needs for students for every situation of their career has now come into greater focus and been addressed by Great Oaks delivering the first Officer III- Administrative Officer certification class under The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board®) accreditation.

This was the first of its type in the Great Oaks area and the first Officer III course delivered in Ohio to attain this international certification. By assembling a team of highly respected current and former chief officers, city and township administrators 20 individuals are now better prepared to ascend to roles of higher responsibilities in their respective organizations.

Outside of the classroom and in the coordinator role Mr. Mason has worked diligently to increase the efficiency of Great Oaks Career Campuses Center for Public Safety Services. The spirit of cooperation between the Fire Academy and Police Academy has never been greater. Joint projects are now commonplace with greater attention to building a lasting relationship between cadets of the two academies.

This is exemplified by the cross training of instructors to facilitate items such as test proctoring, physical conditioning, and actual teaching of subjects in the respective academies. Many cadets from both academies are leaving the Center for Public Safety with a greater appreciation of the other major public safety entity that they will interact with day in and day out for years to come. This should foster significantly improved relations between the respective services for the duration of their careers.



Words like integrity, approachable, humble and caring come easily to mind when his peers describe him. Mason's dedication to the fire service and his ability to build positive relationships with area fire departments and community partners is instrumental in the continued expansion of fire education and training in Great Oaks and surrounding areas.

## **OHIO FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

### **Sandra Ray, Firefighter- City of Stow Fire Department**

Firefighter Sandra Ray has served the community of Stow as a firefighter for 26 years. She has proven her dedication and passion for educating her community on how to keep individuals and families safe.

She has a well-established reputation in the schools where she visits the 100 kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms each year in Stow school system. Principals eagerly accommodate her and time set aside time for her fire safety program.

The annual Fire Safety Poster Contest that she coordinates is open to third and fourth grade students during Fire Prevention Week each year. The top twelve finalists are recognized in front of City Council and participate in the July 4th parade.

Ms. Ray's ability to involve local businesses as sponsors has greatly improved and she has expanded the program to include a local graphics firm designing and installing a "wrap" of her fire department van with the winning design of one lucky student displayed on the city vehicle. It is not only students who benefit from Ms. Ray's expertise and passion. She teaches CPR classes to adults and has consulted with numerous area businesses. City of Stow employees are able to utilize her experience for initial and refresher CPR classes. She is a familiar and friendly face of the Fire Department and local companies know that they can call upon "Firefighter Sandy" if they have concerns.

Community members who live with a disability and their safety are a priority of Ms. Ray. She assisted the Stow Police Department and Stow Youth Services in modifying Stow's traditional safety town curriculum to better meet the needs of students with developmental disabilities. She talks with students in the schools about disabilities and how to help people with a disability in the event of an emergency. Ms. Ray visits nursing homes, group homes and other facilities to ensure that the safety needs of our most vulnerable citizens are met.

Firefighter Sandy Ray exemplifies the very best qualities of a safety educator and is a great asset to the City of Stow.

## **OHIO FIRE EDUCATOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

### **W. Parker Browne, Retired Staff Chief- Medina Township Fire Department**

For almost 40 years, fire service education and training has been a cornerstone of Chief W. Parker Browne's distinctive fire service career.

He has served as a firefighter at the city of Williamsburg, VA and Chief Instructor/Aircraft Crash Rescue at Tempelhof Central Airport, Berlin, Germany during the Cold War. He is still a life-member, and former Captain, of his hometown fire company, the Capen Hose Company #4, Brockport Fire Department in NY, where he joined in 1959, and was the first Brockport Fire Department Training Officer.

He was recruited by Akron Brass to come to Wooster, in 1968 and was appointed as a Minuteman at the City of Wooster Fire Department, where he remained until 1988. From 2003 to 2015 he served as staff Chief for the Medina Twp. Fire Dept.

Parker is semi-retired, but still serves as a local and national fire service educator, instructor, and consultant to the fire apparatus industry and municipal and industrial fire departments throughout North America.

Parker served as an adjunct Professor at the University of Akron where he taught Fire Protection Technology for four years and worked with the Training Center for Fire and Hazardous Materials for 12 years delivering municipal and industrial training throughout Ohio.

Parker has been instrumental with the development of the Wayne County Regional Training Facility and the Wayne County Fire School has been one of the best and largest in the State of Ohio over the past 15 years.

Parker's additional local contribution has been the development and implementation of the Standardized Regional Water Supply System for Wayne County. This work continued on to the state level through the emergency response plan with the Ohio Fire Chief Association to create the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee that is active and ongoing today.

Parker Browne's contribution have positively impacted thousands of Fire Service Responders throughout Ohio and has played a key role in transforming the fire service in northeastern Ohio.

### **John Wyman, Retired Fire Chief- Ohio Fire Academy**

Chief John Wyman's fire career started 49 years ago in New York while attending Paul Smith College where he helped establish the college's first fire department.

After college, he joined the fire department working as a firefighter and eventually was promoted to chief. In 1979, Chief Wyman accepted a position with the Ohio Fire academy as an instructor where his reputation as an instructor grew due to his ability to connect students with concepts and curriculum.

While at the Ohio Fire Academy, he shared duties with the Ohio Department of Natural resources, specifically wildland and urban interface firefighting where he gained a national reputation in incident command system management. This experience helped Ohio's fire service begin the transition to better incident management and his instruction style and experience allowed him to deliver a new method to a fire service deeply entrenched in old methods. Chief Wyman was instrumental in the development of the first safety standard manual for safety and hygiene in the fire service.

Wyman's role with ODNR expanded during his time there and his experiences from large scale wildland operations allowed him to earn multiple credentials. Currently John holds the following credentials: Division Group Supervisor, Planning Section Chief Type I, Incident Commander Type 3, and Incident Training Specialist, all of these credentials are for national incidents. He also holds many credentials at the State level.

Chief Wyman's interest and desire to raise the level of professionalism for firefighters and instructors led him to help establish the Ohio society of Fire Service Instructors. Its goals are to provide training to current instructors, assist them in improving classroom presentation methods, to provide a network for instructors to share information and to provide voice in rule making for Ohio's fire service. He served as vice-president from 1990 to 1996. He then served two terms as president.

During Chief Wyman's career as a firefighter he has mentored hundreds and taught thousands of students. His natural gift to reach all ages of students and bridge learning styles has made him highly respected in his career and in his community.

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