



NEWS RELEASE

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Roanoke County Fire Chief Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

(ROANOKE COUNTY, Va.) February 28, 2014 – The Virginia Fire Services Board recently selected Chief Richard E. Burch, Jr. of Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department to receive their Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Virginia Fire Services Board's Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2010 to acknowledge individuals who have made major contributions to Virginia's fire services and have achieved significant accomplishments in their career.

Chief Burch's career in the fire and rescue services began as a volunteer in Hanover County while pursuing a career position with the Richmond Fire Bureau. After spending several years in Richmond, Burch was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in Hanover County where he remained until 1996. In 1996, Rick accepted his current position as Fire and Rescue Chief for the County of Roanoke.

During his tenure in Roanoke County, Chief Burch focused his efforts towards the improvements of staffing levels and operational capabilities. Under Chief Burch's tenure the department received six regional Emergency Medical Services awards, three Governor's EMS awards along with fourteen Governor's Fire Services Awards. In his efforts to reach across regional and state-wide departmental lines to solve public safety concerns, Chief Burch received two awards from the Virginia Association of Counties on behalf of Roanoke County.

The Virginia Fire Services Board's Lifetime Achievement Award recognized Chief Burch has been a leader in creating local and regional partnerships to provide greater fire and emergency response services within the Commonwealth.

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