

Kearney Fire & Rescue Protection District

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PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Larry E. Pratt has announced his retirement at the end of this year from the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District. The Board of Directors has begun the process to select his successor.

Larry's service began with the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department as a junior firefighter in 1963. He was one of approximately a half dozen students who were dismissed from Kearney High School to respond on calls during his high school career due to a lack of manpower in the mid 1960's.

After graduation from Kearney High School in 1967, he began a career with Hallmark Cards that lasted almost 34 years, retiring February 28, 2001. He left the Fire Department in 1969 after marrying a high school classmate Virginia Burton and moving to Gladstone. In 1971, they purchased a new house in Kearney and in 1973 he rejoined the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department and soon became the Assistant Fire Chief. He completed his EMT certification in 1974 and was elected Fire Chief in 1975 serving until 1990 when the Fire District was established.

When the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District was created in 1990, that also included the addition of the ambulance service, he was appointed Fire Chief. In March, 2001 he was hired as a career Chief. During his tenure, the call volume increased from 209 to a projected 1700 this year and the career (full time) positions increased from 3 to 28. With the additional personnel and equipment, the ISO classification improved from a Class 8 to a Class 4 for the entire District. In 1996 he implemented a ten year strategic planning process that continues today and focuses the District on its three major components: facilities, equipment and personnel

He is a Past President of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs 1976-1978, Past President of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri 1989-1992, and Past President of the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts (MAFPD) 2011-2013. He has been a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Missouri Valley Division of Fire Chiefs since 1978 and received his Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFOD) in August 2002.

He is a charter member of St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council and the Kearney Rotary Club, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Kearney Area Development Council and KCB Bank. Their three children and spouses Kevin and Staci Pratt, David and Sheri Pratt, Valerie and Mike Fort have blessed them with five wonderful grandchildren, Emmalyn, Nathan, Kelsey, Holly and Alex that are enjoyed very much especially with their sports and activities.