

Tribute to Late Superintendent McCrossen

Tribute to Superintendent Emeritus William James McCrossen



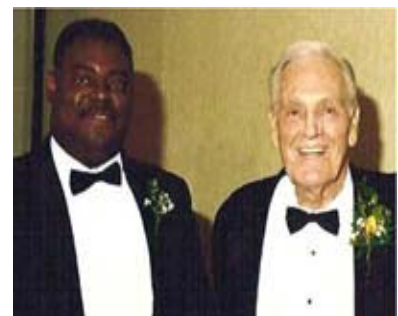
Superintendent Emeritus William James McCrossen was born, raised, and educated in the City of New Orleans. He entered the Fire Service with an appointment to the N.O.F.D. on February 25, 1942. He was promoted to the rank of Apparatus Operator on November 16, 1951; to Fire Lieutenant on June 1, 1955; to Fire Captain on May 3, 1959; to District Chief on April 10, 1966, Acting Deputy Chief from 1968 to October 13, 1970; then promoted to the Assistant Superintendent of Fire. On March 1, 1973 he was appointed Superintendent of the New Orleans Fire Department.

As the Superintendent, he has the responsibility for the administration and management of the affairs of the New Orleans Fire Department, with total responsibility for the protection of life and property of the citizens of New Orleans.

Since appointment to his position, some special activities have included: Expansion of the Fire Recruit Training Program from two weeks to twenty weeks. Instituted the Fire Company Officer Training Program and began utilization of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the training of Chief Officers. He is the Chairman and Founder of the New Orleans Arson Task Force, which has been recognized nationally as one of the most successful and effective local anti-arson efforts in existence today. He developed and implemented the "Wake Up and Live" program of public fire safety education. The number of minority employees working for the Department has increased greatly, and he has actively supported minority recruitment drives which raised the number of minorities on the Fire Department by more than tenfold.

He played a leading role for the Fire Service throughout Louisiana in the passing of the 1975 Louisiana statute requiring that all new high rise buildings in the State be sprinkled.

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He took an active role in providing advice and consultation in development of the National Fire Administration. Introduced such innovations to the New Orleans Fire Department as the Fire suppression Task Force Group. Introduced to the Public Technology Institute, the Fire Station Location study to increase the operational effectiveness of the location of fire stations throughout the City. Introduced the "Uniform Fire Incident Reporting System" which was the first

computerized data management system in the State. Implemented the "Flying Squad" and the "Rescue Squad" which are fire suppression manpower and rescue and extrication units used to respond to all major incidents throughout the City.

He has been the recipient of many awards and certificates of appreciation as well as City Proclamations for his many and varied public service activities. But his proudest accomplishment Orleans knows him as.... "THE CHIEF"!

