



WESTFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

"Weaving the Traditions of our Past into the Realities of our Future."

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BATTALION CHIEF COOK RETIRES

After 37 Years as a Firefighter, Cook's Impact on Westfield Will Be Long Lasting

WESTFIELD, Ind.—The Westfield Fire Department retires one of its longest serving members and his impact on the community and fire department will be seen for generations.

At a young age, Jim Cook knew he wanted to serve and protect his community. And in 1974, while still in high school, he took the first step and became a volunteer firefighter—a passion that would continue for the rest of his life. It was during these years, when Westfield was a small community of fewer than 2,000 residents, that Jim Cook proved his commitment to Westfield. For almost a decade, he served selflessly as a volunteer, responding to emergencies in the wee hours of the morning and risking his life for the community.

In the 1980's, Westfield had grown by nearly 50 percent and the expanded growth came with more challenges. One of these challenges was providing adequate fire protection for the community. As time went on, it was evident that a 24-hour staffed fire station was needed and Westfield began hiring its first full-time firefighters. In May of 1985, Jim Cook became just the fifth career firefighter to serve Westfield.

Cook spent the next 26 years proudly serving his community in many roles—assistant chief, battalion chief, diver, and training officer to name just a few. Over the years, Chief Cook has been known for his extensive knowledge of firefighting and his calm demeanor during extremely stressful situations. One of these situations arose in 1997 when Chief Cook led the fire department as a commander during one of the County's largest fires on Gray Road—a fire that involved almost every fire department in Hamilton and Marion Counties.

Cook's experience and leadership will definitely be missed at Westfield. "While there is no way to replace the experience that Jimmie brings to Westfield, his impact on the community and our fire department will last for years to come," said Fire Chief Todd Burtron. "He's a fellow firefighter, a friend, and a member of our family—he'll truly be missed."

During retirement, Cook is looking forward to traveling across the country with his wife Linda of 34 years and spending more time with his grandchildren.

The City of Westfield Fire Department protects 56 square miles in a suburb just north of Indianapolis. Their 72-member department has proudly served its community since 1904. For information, about the Westfield Fire Department, please contact John Barrett at 317-804-1555 or by email at jbarrett@westfield.in.gov.

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