



ROBERT L. "BOB" ROSE

Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firefighters Association
Individual of the Year

On September 10, 2021, Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firefighters Association (AACVFA) President and Life Member and Past President of the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company (OVFC), Robert "Bob" L. Rose received the AACVFA Fire, Rescue, EMS Individual of the Year Award for 2021. Bob has steadfastly served the OVFC, the AACVFA, and the fire service in Maryland for over 48 years.

The Rose brothers – William (Bill), John (Sunny), and Robert (Bob) - and their families have actively served OVFC and the fire service in Anne Arundel County and Maryland for over 50 years. Bill and Sunny joined in 1963 and Bob joined in 1973. Many members of the Rose family have been involved in virtually every aspect of the fire company. Bob and his wife Pat (OVFC treasurer) continue the Rose family legacy today. The entire Rose family received the MSFA Family Appreciation Award this year.

Bob had a distinguished career with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department (AACFD), retiring as a Captain. A large portion of his career was spent in the Training Academy where he ensured that the training requirements for both volunteer and career personnel were met. Despite being a career employee, his dedication and support to OVFC never diminished. He has always remained a vital participant in the administration of the fire company. Bob is a certified instructor and often teaches classes for the company, taking no compensation, so that OVFC members may obtain riding status more rapidly. He was recognized in the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) as the Francis L. Branigan Instructor of the Year in 1996.

Upon his retirement from the AACFD, Bob joined the staff of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) as a Certification Specialist. He is now the "go to" person for any questions concerning requirements for professional fire service qualifications. He continuously promotes the certification program and regularly reaches out to fire service personnel across the state to help them submit the required paperwork to enable their certification at each eligible rank.

Bob has been the Alternate Representative to the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualification Board (MFSPQB) from 1990 to 1995, and from 2002 to present. He has been a member of the delegation representing the MFSPQB at every annual National "Pro Board" Conference since 2005. In June 2015, Bob was awarded the Russell J. Strickland Award by the MFSPQB for "... exemplary efforts in the promotion of certification for fire and emergency services personnel in the State of Maryland".

Bob has always been an active leader in the fire company. He has participated in many committees and has been active in both the planning and conduct of each company fundraising activity. At our semi-annual Bull and Oyster Roasts, Bob is part of the "pit crew" as a meat cutter, and he does the grilling in the kitchen every night of the annual carnivals. Bob has also recently managed several station renovation projects.

Bob has served as OVFC President during three periods: in 1984, from 2005 to 2008, and more recently from 2013 to 2016. In 2005, the company was threatened with serious legal actions due to misconduct by one of the members. As President, Bob provided strong leadership to guide us through this difficult period and move the company forward. Bob was elected President again in 2013 when the membership believed that movement of the company had stalled. He again demonstrated the leadership necessary to put the company back on track. OVFC dedicated their newest pumper, a 2012 Pierce, in honor of Robert "Bob" Rose.

Bob has been a strong supporter of the AACVFA. He has served as a chairman and member of the Training Committee, the 508 Committee, and several other committees. He was inducted into the AACVFA Hall of Fame in 2007 and was named AACVFA Individual of the Year in 2014.

Bob is a regular attendee of the MSFA Convention in Ocean City, and for years served as a delegate for the company. While serving MFRI at their booth, he still finds time to attend seminars and classes. He is also an active member of the Production Subcommittee of the MSFA Convention Steering Committee. Bob was inducted into the MSFA Hall of Fame in 2018.

Bob's recent AACVFA accomplishments include he moved through the leadership "chairs" of the Association and was elected as President in September 2020 as the coronavirus epidemic was escalating. He skillfully led the Association and its members through this very difficult and unprecedented period. He ensured that the essential business of the Association was conducted safely in accordance with evolving protocols. Bob was very attentive to the concerns of the volunteer companies, maintaining a running list of issues. He regularly met with the AACFD leadership to discuss and resolve these issues. He was assertive in his representation of the volunteers' concerns and was respected by the County administration due to his extensive background in both the career and volunteer fire service. Progress was made on many issues including background investigations, uniforms, operational policies, qualification requirements, and training programs. Bob is committed to supporting the incoming Association President in further discussion of these issues.

In 2018, Bob was asked to chair the 508 Fund Allocation Committee after having served on this committee for several years. He overhauled the application process, making it easier for companies to apply. He holds regular orientation sessions to explain the application process for companies seeking funds for apparatus and facilities. Bob maintains regular contact with the AACFD administration on the program schedule and priorities. He keeps the companies frequently updated on the program status. He advocates for the volunteer company submissions and works to provide equity in the distribution of the funds.

In summary, Bob Rose has had an outstanding fire service career in Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland. He is a strong leader who willingly and ably takes on difficult challenges. He is widely respected by fire service personnel throughout the state. He has made immeasurable contributions to the fire company and the County Association. He has vigorously advocated for the interests of the volunteer companies as the AACVFA President, and the Association is in a stronger posture because of Bob's leadership.