



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire & Building Department
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3000
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager
From: Jack Henderson, Deputy Fire Chief
Date: November 7, 2007
Subject: 30 YEAR SERVICE AWARD FOR FREDERICK (ED) ULRICH

Ed began working with the Kirkland Fire Department the summer of 1976 under the Comprehensive Employee Training Act (CETA), a federal jobs and training program. He attended a Recruit Academy and spent most of the next year as a volunteer firefighter; Ed was hired as a fulltime firefighter with the Department in October 1977.

Ed remembers in those days, firefighters rode the tailboard of their engine, bottled air for their Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) was a precious commodity often only used by the second-in company and Kirkland Fire Department only answered about 1,500 calls per year. Since then, firefighters are now seat belted and protected in a fully enclosed engine cab, no firefighter is permitted into a fire structure without respiratory protection, and the Department answered approximately 8,500 calls last year.

An incident that Ed has related and considers one of his greatest "on the job" blessings took 18 years to come full circle: Ed, along with his crew, responded to a woman giving birth at home, across the street from Peter Kirk Elementary School. This incident happened about 6 weeks after, Ed and his wife had an unscheduled home-birth of their third child, Emily; by virtue of his recent experience, he became the primary assistant in the delivery. After their assessment of imminent birth, Ed says he caught the baby, a boy.

Many years later, Ed was directing traffic around a motor vehicle accident and noticed a woman on the sidewalk was staring rather intently at him. When he completed his task, the woman asked if he was the Firefighter Ulrich who had delivered a baby in Kirkland about 18 years ago. Ed said, yes; and how did she know about that event?"

She pointed to her son, now about 6 feet tall, standing nearby. She waved him over, introduced them, and thanked Ed for the assistance on that exciting day in their lives. Ed says no amount of money can make someone feel as good as he did that day eighteen years later.

Some of Ed accomplishments during his career:

- In the first group of Cardiac Defibrillation Technicians for the Department.
- Past member of the Department Safety Committee.
- Member of the Eastside Hazardous Materials Team.
- Hazardous Materials Technician since the early eighties.
- In charge of calibration of all our hazardous materials equipment.
- Served as Training Officer
- Senior Firefighter, Apparatus Driver, and mentor for new firefighters

With his wife Marlea they have a blended family of 11; the size of a football team! Ed says they are his strength and joy every day. Ed also says: The Fire Department and City of Kirkland family have been compassionate and generous to him and his family for 30 years and thanks you all.

Please join us in thanking Ed for 30 years of dedicated and professional service for the citizens of Kirkland and Fire District #41.