



LONGTIME ELLISTON FIRE CHIEF M.L. "PUG" WELLS DIES AT 79

MontgomeryCountyVA.gov

March 7, 2012

A funeral service will be held at Eastern Montgomery High School, 4580 Eastern Montgomery Lane, Elliston, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 10. Visitation will be held at the Elliston Fire Department, 5001 Enterprise Drive, Thursday and Friday, March 8 and 9, from 5-8 pm.

Montgomery County, Virginia – Chief M.L. “Pug” Wells, 79, longtime fire chief of the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department, died unexpectedly at his home this morning after experiencing chest pains.

“It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Chief “Pug” Wells,” said Emergency Services Coordinator Neal Turner. “We have truly lost a great friend to emergency services.”

“Pug was warm, friendly, hardworking and dedicated to the County,” said Board Chair Jim Politis. “He was a good friend to the County and the Board.”



District C Supervisor Gary Creed echoed these sentiments. “He is an irreplaceable person who is going to be sadly, sadly missed. He provided this area with leadership for many years.”

Chief Wells was a charter member of the Elliston department where he served for nearly 55 years, and as chief for 48 years until his retirement on Jan. 1. He was a founding member of the department in 1957 and also was a founding member of the New River Valley Swift Water Rescue & Recovery. He also faithfully assisted the Shawsville Rescue Squad.

Chief Wells was currently serving on the Planning Commission. During his 31-year tenure on the commission, he had served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

The Board of Supervisors recently honored Chief Wells with a Resolution of Appreciation, citing among his accomplishments serving in the following volunteer capacities:

- Montgomery-Blacksburg Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) member for 22 years, including serving as Chairman and Vice Chairman;
- Montgomery County Towing Advisory Board member for 7 years;

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- Transportation Safety Commission for 13 years;
- Montgomery Fire & Rescue Association member for 50 years, having served as Secretary and currently serving as Chairman; and
- Virginia Fire Service Council for 15 years.

Chief Wells also was named the Pat Cupp & Ward Teel Blacksburg Rotary Club Citizen of the Year in Montgomery County in 2007.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lee, and four children.

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