

Ivan Nevil, 72, of Geneva, who once served as Indiana's State Fire Marshall, passed away at 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born on Friday, March 3, 1939, in Geneva to Roy and Emma Jane Jack Nevil. Mr. Nevil was a 1957 Geneva High School graduate and attended Ball State University at Muncie.

Mr. Nevil held the office of Director of Training and Certification for all firefighters in Indiana. He was a member of the Geneva Fire Department for 50 years, served as Geneva's fire chief for 18 years, was secretary of North America Fire Training Directors, and was a member of Indiana NFPA, Indiana Fire Chiefs' Association, and Indiana Fire Instructors' Association. He was appointed by Gov. Robert Orr to the Indiana Emergency Medical Service Commission and served as chairman and vice-chairman.

He was the director of the Adams County Emergency Management Agency; served in several offices of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, including president and vice president; and was appointed by the Adams County commissioners to help establish an EMS system in Adams County.

He was a U. S. Army veteran, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Geneva, and a member of the American Legion post at Berne, the Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the Shriners.

Mr. Nevil received the Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Robert Orr; the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Governor Evan Bayh; the Meritorious Service Award from Governor Joe Kernan; and a Letter of Commendation from Governor Frank O'Bannon.

He was presented with the Mr. IVFA Award, the highest honor given by the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association; was given the President's Award by two IVFA presidents, received a Letter of Commendation from the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, was named Firefighter of the Year by Geneva Fire Department, was presented an award for serving over 25 years as an emergency medical technician in Adams County, and received a Letter of Commendation from the state emergency management director. Mr. Nevil wrote several articles that were published in national fire service publications.

Ivan coached Little League in Geneva for several years and enjoyed it very much. He supported a Case and Quart team for several years.

Mr. Nevil served on the IVFA Legislation Committee to promote bills to benefit firefighters of Indiana. He was on the Adams County Committee for the 700-800 megahertz communication equipment for all fire departments in Adams County.

Mr. Nevil was the owner of the Case and Quart business in Geneva for 28 years. He formerly attended High Street United Methodist Church in Geneva.

He married Joyce A, Owens on February 19, 1961, in High Street U. M. Church.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce A. Nevil; two daughters, Sheila (husband Paul) Rogers of Rockville, Indiana, and Tonya Nevil of Cornelius, North Carolina; two granddaughters, Amanda and Kimberly Rogers of Rockville; and one brother, Dewayne Nevil of Muncie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Emma Jane Nevil; three brothers, Bud Nevil, Vernon E. Nevil, and Larry Nevil; and two sisters, Ardena Hunter and Marjorie Ilene Bowen.

A firemen's memorial service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Geneva Fire Department.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 4-8 p.m. today, March 18, 2011, and 1-8 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, 2011, at the Geneva Fire Department. A service to celebrate Mr. Nevil's life will be held at the Geneva Fire Department at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2011, with Pastor Roy Nevil officiating. Interment will be at West Lawn Cemetery in Geneva, with military graveside rites by the Geneva VFW post.

Memorials are to the Geneva Volunteer Fire Department, 200 Line St., Geneva, IN 46740; to the Hoosier Burn Camp; and to the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

Downing and Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Contributed by Jane Edson