

NEWS RELEASE



Southern Platte Fire Protection District
8795 NW N Highway
Kansas City, MO 64153

It is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that Southern Platte Fire Protection District shares the news of the death of Board of Director Michael “Newie” Newburger. Director Newburger died peacefully, surrounded by his family and friends today, February 26, 2019, after complications from pneumonia.

Director Newburger had received a heart transplant over ten years ago and through his passion for life, continued to live life to the fullest each and every day! Words cannot express the emptiness this has created.



Director Newburger started with Parkville Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter October 1970. He was instrumental through his community contacts in ensuring the creation of the Southern Platte Fire Protection District in 1976. Once the District was formed Michael was named to the Quartermaster position and made sure every firefighter was equipped with the proper protective clothing. Micheal also served as the District’s Public

Information Officer for many years, generating friendships with so many news reporters.

In April 1997, his volunteer firefighter days transitioned to a new role, as Michael was elected by the community to the Board of Directors and was re-elected for three additional 6-year terms. He always would let others know, “I’m now a bureaucrat”. Michael always believed in serving his community and the organization as a whole. He was active as a State EMT and belonged to many national associations. In 2003 he was

recognized nationally by NAEMT for his dedication and community service. He had a passion for teaching others CPR and continued as an instructor until recently.

Michael traveled the world and, in those travels, always stopped at the local fire station, spreading the word of Southern Platte Fire, along with creating new lifelong friendships.

Details of Director Newburger's memorial service will be shared as soon as possible. SPFPD expresses our deepest condolences and sympathy to the entire Newburger family during this tough time.