



AUGUST 11, 2022 | ISSUE 13

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Clemson Fire Captain presented with David Lee Crenshaw “Big Dummy” Leadership Award

No one knew what to expect the week of the inaugural [Officer Academy: The Company Officer](#). [Officers Section](#) leadership and Association staff spent countless hours preparing to transform a grandeur vision into an achievable reality. But with this being the first Association program of its kind, there was nervous energy around what the selected group of company officers from around the state would take away from the experience.

It became evident early in the week that this program was special, at least to the students; Long Cane VFD Asst. Chief **Blake Schultz** recalls that the class decided “early on that there should be a type of leadership award.”

Each student brought something unique to the program, but Clemson University Fire & EMS Captain **Ben Crenshaw** took on an extra special role during the week.

“He was like a father figure,” Schultz said of Crenshaw. “He helped in anyway that he could but never took any shortcuts to get out of any work. He is a great leader, mentor, and a friend to all of the folks in our class.”

The Crenshaws, native to the Upstate, are no strangers to the South Carolina fire service. Ben's dad, **David Lee Crenshaw**, affectionally known as "Big Dummy," served the greater Anderson community as a firefighter and law enforcement officer for most of his career. On January 9, 2012, David died serving the citizens he loved when he collapsed on the scene of a motor-vehicle collision. He was 63.

"On the last day's PT session, I shared my father's story with the class," said Crenshaw. "It was quite emotional for me as I had never shared his story to a group of people in a presentation format. I feel as though it was emotional and spiritual for every one of my classmates."

The 22-01 class of the Officer Academy: The Company Officer created the David Lee Crenshaw "Big Dummy" Leadership Award, to be presented to a student of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Fire Officer Academy who is selected by their peers within the class for displaying exemplary skill, attitude, and leadership throughout the class.

[Ben Crenshaw was awarded the David Lee Crenshaw "Big Dummy" Leadership Award](#) at a small ceremony in Clemson on August 1, 2022.

"I cannot express what an honor it was to receive this award," said Crenshaw. "This award will mean more to me than anyone else who will receive it for the simple fact that my classmates of FOA 22-01 elected to name it after my father. Thank you, South Carolina State Firefighters' Association and Fire Officer Academy Class 22-01, for the honor of being the inaugural recipient of this award. I am truly humbled and honored."

Congratulations, Capt. Crenshaw!



Association event



**QUARTERLY
TRAINING +
BUSINESS MEETING**

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
CORLEY MOORE

SAVE THE DATE
October 12, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Quarterly Training is on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m.

Corley Moore, Battalion Chief at Moore Fire Department in Moore, Oklahoma, is the founder of [Firehouse Vigilance](#). Corley's following is loyal to his podcast, [Weekly Scrap](#), that often features popular guests from the fire service. Batt. Chief Moore was a hit at Fire-Rescue and we're excited to welcome Corley back to the Palmetto State for [Quarterly Training](#) on **Wednesday, October 12 at 10 a.m. in the Denny Auditorium** on the Fire Academy campus.

Let us know you're coming and [register today](#).

Community event



Camden Fire announces dates for FireFest

Camden Fire Department hosts [FireFest](#) annually in September ahead of Fire Prevention Week in early October. The event features live burns, an apparatus cruise in, an Explorer competition, a kid's zone, parade, and new this year, the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Museum. **FireFest is on Saturday, September 24 at the Camden City Arena.** The parade starts at 9 a.m. on Rutledge Street and will end at the City Arena. Admission to FireFest is free.



Speaker application period closes Sept. 30

Time is running out to submit a presenter application for our 2023 events, including Fire Service Improvement Conference in the winter and Fire-Rescue in June. Note that FSIC is a majority hands-on-training conference. The deadline to apply to be considered as a presenter at either event is September 30, 2022. [Submit your application](#).

August is Wills month: A message from LegalShield

August is National Make a Will Month, and it serves as a reminder the importance of having a Will.

With a Will you can:

1. Reduce the stress and financial burden on your loved ones
2. Decide who will receive your assets and property
3. Decide who will care for any of your dependent children
4. Ensure a safe home for your pets
5. Provide any specific funeral arrangement requests

LegalShield, an Association partner that offers a legal protection benefit, includes Will preparation as part of its many benefits prepared at no extra cost for you and your spouse. If you are enrolled in LegalShield we strongly encourage you take advantage of this benefit. Enrolled participants can easily begin their Will preparation with the LegalShield mobile app.

Visit the [LegalShield website](#) to enroll.



- [August 10-13 - South Atlantic Fire-Rescue](#)
- August 19 - Ambassadors Program Meeting
- September 16-18 - SCFAST Clinicians Weekend
- [October 12 - Quarterly Training + Business Meeting](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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