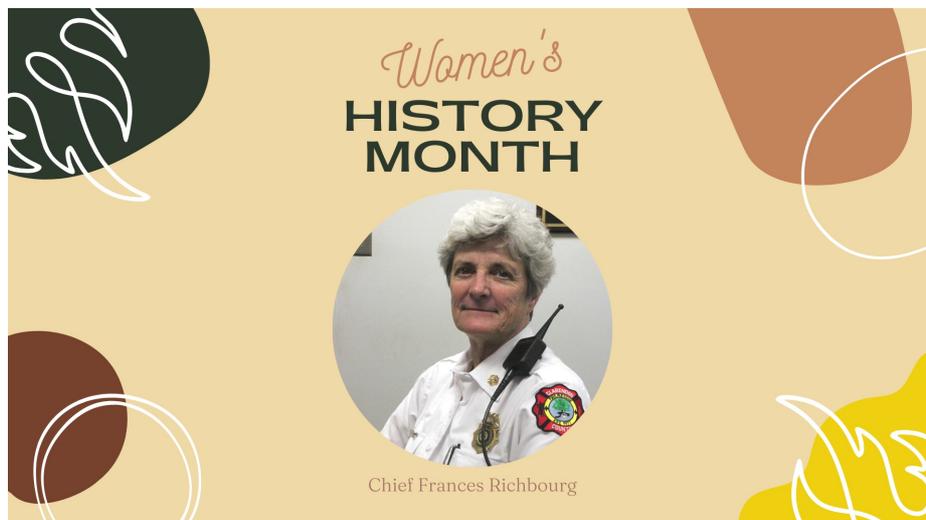




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Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Chief Frances Richbourg

Chief Richbourg's legacy

March is Women's History Month and we're kicking off the month with a spotlight on the Association's first—and currently only—female President, **Chief Frances Richbourg**.

Retired **Clarendon County Fire Rescue** Chief Frances Richbourg's history with the fire service is storied, a career full of firsts. Richbourg laid the groundwork for women in the fire service to hold positions of influence and power, paving the path as a trailblazer and legendary leader.

"I've always been an outdoors person," said Richbourg, referring to her time working on a farm, herding cattle and tending to horses. "Working in the fire service was a natural progression."

Richbourg's impact on the South Carolina fire service began in early 1980s when she was hired part-time by then Clarendon County Fire Chief **Carter Jones** to assist with investigations and growing the department. Her career would pull her in different directions all over the state, but she always found herself coming back home to Clarendon County.

"I was born and raised here, know a lot of the folks in the county and always had good friends and family here," she said. "It's a really great place."

In 2002, after Richbourg spent a few years traveling the state for various

organizations honing her craft as a top-notch fire investigator, she returned once again to Clarendon County, this time as the county's first female Fire Chief. She held the title for nearly two decades.

In another first-of-its-kind achievement, Richbourg was elected as the first female President of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association in 1996.

"If you're aspiring to move up in the ranks, the best thing you can do is get the training that is available and necessary for the position that you want, and then do the very best you can at everything that you do," said Richbourg, offering words of wisdom to the next generation of leaders.

"Treat everyone appropriately, make sure that the people that serve under you are well taken care of, and that everyone is prepared to make that move. Take classes that increase your knowledge for the next step and don't ever stop training."

Association event



Foundation Golf Tournament is June 14

The **South Carolina Firefighters Foundation** is excited to announce its annual golf tournament on **Wednesday, June 14** at **Legends Golf Resort, Parkland Course** in Myrtle Beach.

This event is going to be a great day of fun, camaraderie, and friendly competition. All proceeds from the tournament will go towards helping the brave men and women of the fire service. It's sure to be an unforgettable experience, so don't miss out!

Get your team together and [register](#).

Community events

Hockey teams hosting First Responder Nights



Upstate friends, the **Greenville Swamp Rabbits** is hosting First Responder Night on Friday, March 10 to recognize and celebrate hometown heroes.

You're invited to a pre-game on the plaza for touch-a-truck and more. The first 1,000 fans will receive a clear bag thanks to Atlantic Bay and First Step Reality!

If you would like to recognize a first responder, please send a photo and information to info@swamprabbits.com.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call (864) 674-7825.



The **South Carolina Stingrays'** First Responder Night is this Saturday, March 4. Specialty first responder-inspired jerseys will be available for auction throughout the game with proceeds benefitting local organizations. As an extra perk, the game includes **free parking**.

Get your [tickets](#).





Video from Memorial Service is available

The recording of last month's Memorial Service is [available](#). To the families and departments of those we honored, we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to recognize your loved ones in this special way. It is an honor and privilege to memorialize our members and take a moment to remember their legacy.

News from the State House



Legislative Update

Each week when the legislature is in session, Association lobbyists Stewart, Konduros, and Associates provide an update on legislation that impacts the fire service. All Legislative Updates for current session are posted on our [website](#).

Today we're looking at Senate Bill 203 School Drills.

S 203 (School Drills) By Fanning. Provides that each semester that all public schools, including charter schools whose instruction is not primarily delivered on line, shall conduct one fire drill, one active shooter/intruder drill and one severe weather/earthquake drill. Referred to Education. The bill was heard by the Full Senate Education Committee Wednesday, February 22, 2023 and passed out favorably as amended (two fire drills per semester for K-5 with the first drill required to be conducted within the

first 15 days of the semester).

Remember to mark your calendar for [Legislative Day](#) on April 5.

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- March 5-10 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer
- [March 16 - 1% Regional Training, Spartanburg County](#)
- [April 5 - Legislative Day](#)
- [April 20 - 1% Regional Training Class: Berkeley County](#)
- [May 16 + 17 - Cleveland School Fire Remembrance](#)
- [June 14 - Foundation Golf Tournament](#)
- [June 14-17 - Fire-Rescue](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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