



Fred Rogers was joined at his retirement ceremony by his wife Ann, daughter Melissa and her husband, and his grandchildren. His son was unable to attend the event. Other family members were also present.

Fred Rogers retires with 42 years of public service

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Murphy said he and Rogers would look at magazines and wish Irvine had pieces of fire equipment like what they were seeing in the pictures. The two, along with Rogers' brother, Herbie, would sometimes make the equipment they saw in the pictures. And surprisingly, Murphy said those items would work.

Murphy stated that when Rogers took over at Irvine Fire Department, it had the highest ISO rating of a 10. With some hard work, that was lowered to a 5.

"I'm going to turn this fire department over to you," Rogers told Murphy in 1991.

Rogers left for a private sector job at Sherwin-Williams. Murphy was promoted to fire chief.

"I feel like I'm fire chief today because of this man," Murphy stated.

Because of the chemical stockpile and possible chemical leaks at nearby Bluegrass Army Depot, Murphy learned that a full-time director of Emergency Management was going to be hired for Estill County. He recommended Rogers who was hired.

"He made me fire chief. I made him director of Emergency Management. I returned the favor," joked Murphy.

Besides being the Irvine Fire Chief, Murphy was made assistant director of Emergency Management.

In the 1980's, Dwaine Riddell encouraged emergency volunteers to organize a rescue squad. He was wholeheartedly supported by Rogers and Murphy.

"Today, I feel like we have one of the finest rescue squads in the state," Murphy said.

When Rogers was made director of Emergency Management, CSEPP was in its early stages.

"All of a sudden we started seeing equipment. We started seeing progress," Murphy stated.

Eventually, Rogers was allowed a part-time employee. The part-timer, Ronnie Riddell II, was made full time in less than a year. Riddell is succeeding Rogers as Director of Emergency Management.

Before Rogers' retire-

ment, Emergency Management had three full time employees and two part-time employees.

All of those employees said Rogers was like a father-figure toward them.

Melissa Neal-Jessie said that anytime she got upset, Rogers would say, "Let's not get excited."

Chad Neal, one of the part-timers, said he started hanging around Rogers when he was a teenager.

"He saw that I needed some guidance," Neal stated.

"If it wasn't for people like Fred, I wouldn't be here," Neal, who grew up without a father in his home, said.

Neal was made a junior firefighter. He works part-time today for the Irvine Fire Department.

Lee Countians also attended the retirement ceremony. They said Rogers also helped their county to get new equipment.

In the middle of the ceremony, the emergency tone

went off for a wreck on the Richmond Road.

A large number of rescue squad members quietly got up and left the ceremony. It was over when they got back.

As Emergency Director, Rogers was responsible for the training of all other agencies, such as the rescue squad, fire departments.

When an emergency occurred, Emergency Management with Rogers in charge was the lead agency. Some of these emergencies included the runaway train, gas spills, and snow and ice storms.

Rogers described leaving his family when he left home for a disaster.

"I'd always given them a flashlight or candle and say I'll see you after a while," he said. "I made sure they had what they needed."

"Two-thirds of the U.S. has got mobile phones," he stated. "If they needed me, I'm only a phone call away."



A firefighter's son didn't know what all the celebration was about. He just enjoyed playing with all the balloons he saw and posing for a photographer.



Loretta Friend made two cakes for the event.



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings Tammy Terry

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I tried going to bed early last night in preparation for the new school year, it didn't work! I tossed and turned all night, afraid that if I closed my eyes I wouldn't hear the alarm and I would be late for opening day for the staff.

Tossing and Turning

My Daddy always said I'd be late for my own funeral and that thought kept running through my mind as I tried to fall asleep. I heard the alarm in time and out of habit, raced off the hill to work. The morning sky was beautiful as I popped over the first hill and the image of a little boy filled the seat beside me, "Look", he said pointing at the sky, "Momma, it's a little bit of Heaven coming down". In my rearview mirror I saw the face of my daughter, "Momma, these socks are bugging me", I could hear her voice from the back seat. Slowing down as I approached the second hill, I thought about where my children were today. Dylan was somewhere on the road between DeRidder, Louisi-

ana and Houston, Texas, driving his sister to the airport for her trip to Italy.

I thought about the huge Maple tree in our front yard that would have no one to take a picture with Wednesday morning. A part of me was very sad thinking back on all the "First" days of school with our children, I miss that. Another part of me was extremely proud that my babies were all grown up and doing well on their own. Wednesday morning would be difficult for me without our children here, but I will go to bed early, set TWO alarms, press my clothes and pack my lunch and face the morning with a smile on my face and a song in my heart. After all, it's the First Day of School!



These young girls and a boy went to the ice cream social held at the end of the summer reading program. Prizes were also awarded to participants who had met the goals of the reading program. This was the first reading program for children's librarian Whitney Hays. During September, she is planning on having come concerts in the park.

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