

Retired Lieutenant Ray Loflin passed away Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at the age of 66. Ray joined AFD in 1974 and retired in 2000 with 25 years and nine months of service. He worked at Stations 8, 18, 19, 21, 23, and Prevention, and was the son of retired AFD Division Chief and Fire Marshal James Loflin.

Coworkers describe Ray as smart, reliable, kindhearted, and fun to be around. He was a good cook who liked country music and hunting. He also did taxidermy for a lot of Austin firefighters. Battalion Chief Joe Limon, who worked with him at Station 18 and Prevention, says Ray took pride in his job as a firefighter, and liked to help others learn the job. Retired Battalion Chief Stan Ikonen and Ray worked together at Station 8. Stan calls Ray a firefighter's firefighter who liked being on the line. According to Stan, Ray was a leader by example who always knew what to do, even if you didn't.

In 1986, Ray was awarded a Medal of Merit for rescuing a six-year-old boy from a smoke-filled house at 909-B North Meadows Drive. Retired Captain Jim Boynton says he saw Ray's turnouts afterward, and they were "cooked."

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:30 AM Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Unity Church of Peace, 1250 Rutledge St., North Port, Florida.

Ray was a member of the Benevolent Fund.

Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

