



Western Coventry Fire District
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The members of the Western Coventry Fire District are saddened today by the sudden death of one of its most beloved members, Charles Bowen Sr. Charlie always liked to keep things light-hearted, so in memory of him, I will try to do the same here. Personally, I have known Charlie since I was a kid. I can remember when he would literally run from his house to the fire station to answer a fire or rescue call. As years went by the volunteer department became known as the Central Coventry Fire District and Charlie went on to become the Chief. He saw it grow from a few full-time personnel to a dozen personnel under his leadership. As a Chief, he was well respected within the community and set an example for firefighter fitness as he would log many miles of running to keep him in shape, and completed a few marathons along the way.

Charlie eventually retired from the Central Coventry Fire District in 2000, but did not leave the fire service. In April of 2000, Charles Bowen Sr. became a member of the Western Coventry Fire District. As I looked through his personnel file, I found a number of letters and cards from the public in appreciation for the service he provided. I also find letters of appreciation for his efforts at a propane plant fire in 2003, the search for a missing child, for his efforts during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, and for helping a patient that experienced a heart attack. While this may not be significant to most firefighters, what is remarkable here is that Charlie received all of these recognitions after he reached the age of sixty-five! He has set an example that will be difficult to match; even our youngest members have looked up to him for his mentoring and advice.

Charlie loved to tell stories and he told them well. I will miss hearing his stories and treasure all of them I have heard. He also enjoyed playing some practical jokes. One of these included dressing up a manikin that appeared to be a firefighter waving at cars passing by the Central Coventry Station; and he would enjoy listening to cars that would toot their horns in response to the friendly firefighter. As Charlie loved stories, we will retell our memories many times as we fondly remember him.

He will be sadly missed here at the station, but fondly remembered by all of us.

Charles Bowen Sr. 1936-2018
Rest in Peace Charlie. Thank you for your service.

James L. Cady
Chief, Western Coventry Fire District