

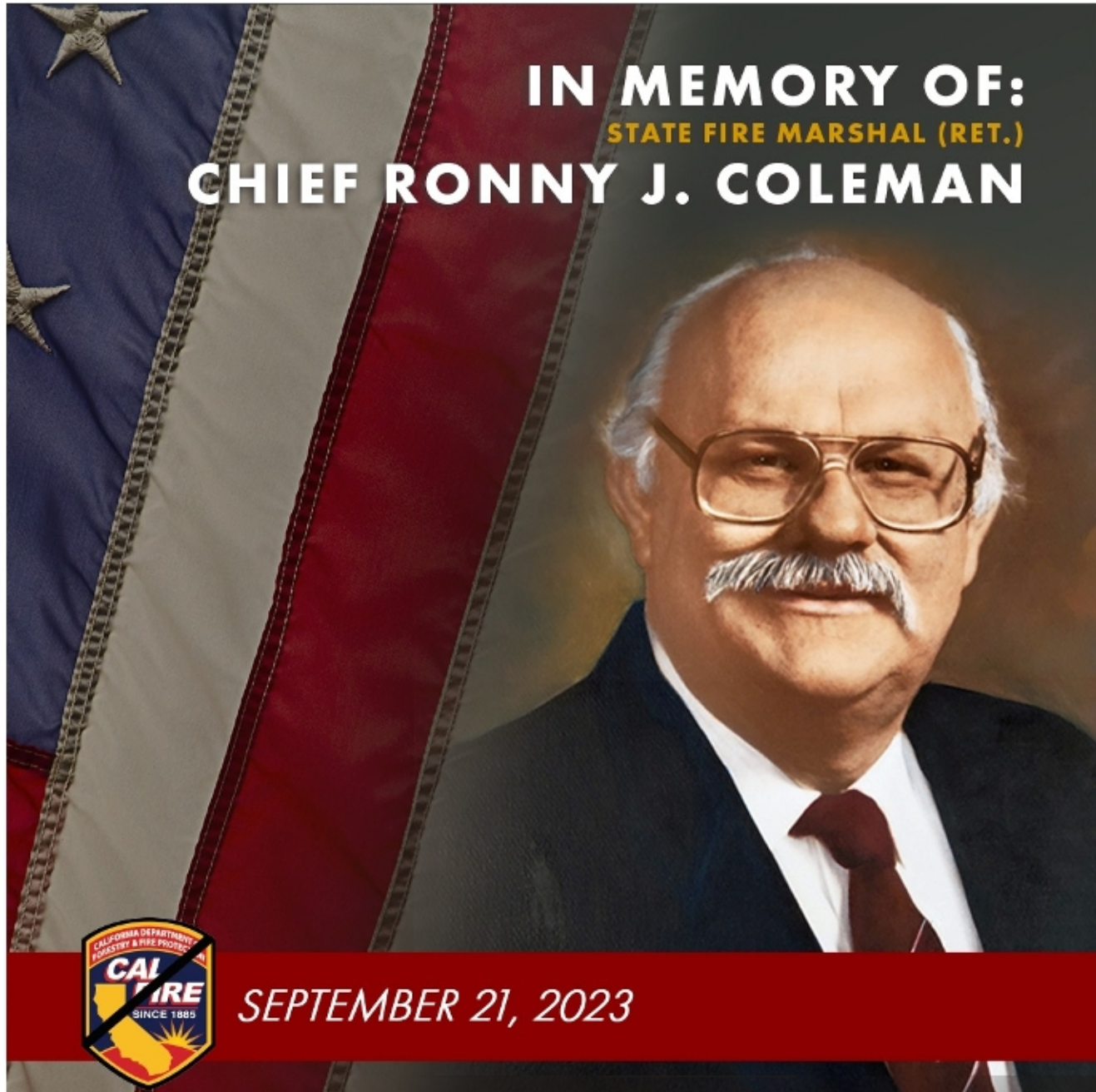


California Fire Museum

Orange County Fire Historical Society

The Watch Desk

September 2023 Newsletter



Ron "Ronny" Coleman, SAC
State Fire Marshal, Ret.
September 21, 2023



CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal

Memorial Tribute Information - Retired State Fire Marshal

Ronny J. Coleman

The service location for Retired State Fire Marshal Ronny Coleman has been set for next Friday with details below.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the Memorial Service for our beloved friend and colleague, Ronny Coleman, retired CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal. Chief Coleman's dedication to his work and his unwavering commitment to the safety of our community will always be remembered.

Service Details:

Date: Friday, October 6th, 2023

Time: 4:00PM - 5:30PM

Location/Venue: Calvary South Orange County 1311 Calle Batido, San Clemente, CA 92673

Chief Coleman's impact on our lives and the firefighting community was immeasurable, and we hope to come together to honor his memory and share stories that capture the essence of the remarkable person he was.

We deeply appreciate your support during this time of mourning, and we look forward to commemorating Chief Coleman's life together.

With heartfelt condolences,

Daniel Berlant
Acting State Fire Marshal /
Deputy Director – Community Wildfire
Preparedness & Mitigation
715 P St., Sacramento, CA 95814

Adapted from the SFM Memorial Tribute Information Above

This will be an "All Honors" Fire Department Affair

Passing of Ron "Ronny" Coleman, SAC

State Fire Marshal, Ret.

September 19, 2023

From: Berlant, Daniel@CALFIRE

Subject: Passing of Former State Fire Marshal Ronny J. Coleman

Team - It is with great sadness that the Coleman family has shared that Chief Ronny J. Coleman, State Fire Marshal (Ret.), passed away peacefully on September 19, 2023, at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento.

Chief Coleman was a 50-plus year veteran of the fire service. Following his service and leadership as the Fire Chief in San Clemente, California, and the Fire Chief in Fullerton, California, he was appointed as California State Fire Marshal from 1992 to 2000 by Governor Pete Wilson. Chief Coleman was the past President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and has been a member and leader of numerous fire service committees and associations. He has given us all an incredible legacy with his dedication to our training and education. He championed the California State Fire Training system both as the Division Chief and has the Chairperson of the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee. He has authored more than 19 books and was influential within our industry as an advisor, leader, mentor, and friend.

Chief Coleman is survived by his wife, Marie, his son Chris Coleman (North Carolina), his daughter Lisa Coleman (Colorado), and their families. A local (Northern California) tribute to Chief Coleman will be hosted in Elk Grove in the coming week. Funeral services will follow in San Clemente, with a date to be announced. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to National Heritage Fire Museum or the **California Fire Museum & Safety Learning Center**. (www.cafiremuseum.org)

The Coleman's are requesting privacy at this time. Please contact their family liaison, Chris Fowler, at chris.fowler@fire.ca.gov with any urgent inquires.

Condolence cards may be sent to:

Mrs. Marie Coleman
c/o Chris Fowler
P.O. Box 661114
Sacramento, CA 95866

CDF/CAL FIRE Retiree Notes 2023-43

September 29, 2023



**Posted in Memory of Ronny Coleman.
Pictured donated by Don Forsyth, BC, Ret. ORU/OCFA**

Here is what Forsyth wrote:

"I doubt many know, Ronny J, ended up many years ago purchasing San Clemente FD Engine 1, their very first motorized fire engine, a 1928 American LaFrance Engine, and on Labor Day 2020 donated that engine back to California Fire Museum and Safety Learning Center for our use here within the OC. We have cherished this rig out, have it in running condition, and will be displaying it at his Memorial Services here in San Clemente for sure!

Ronny J, and Marie have been on our Board of Directors for nearly 30 years, and have donated a considerable amount of \$ and collectibles to the CFM-SLC!"

CDF/Cal Fire Retiree Notes: Honor, Recognition, and Information.

Published by Brian Kornegay, FC Retired, MEU
calfirenotes@gmail.com



CAPTION ABOVE: At a 2017 event featuring the CSFA Steamer, former California State Fire Marshal Ronny Coleman (left) poses with past CSFA Presidents Dan Coffman, Mike Shroust and Kevin Nida

Ronny J. Coleman, past California State Fire Marshal and CSFA Volunteer Committee Chair passes

Ronny J. Coleman, a revered nationally-recognized fire service leader for half a century, who served as California State Fire Marshal and as the chair of the CSFA Volunteer Committee, passed away Sept. 19 in Sacramento. Chief Coleman had been the Fire Chief of the City of Fullerton Fire Department when he was appointed in 1992 by Governor Pete Wilson to the position of State Fire Marshal, a position he held for 8 years. Prior to that, Chief Coleman was the Fire Chief with the City of San Clemente Fire Department, and prior to that was the Operation Chief with the City of Costa Mesa Fire Department.

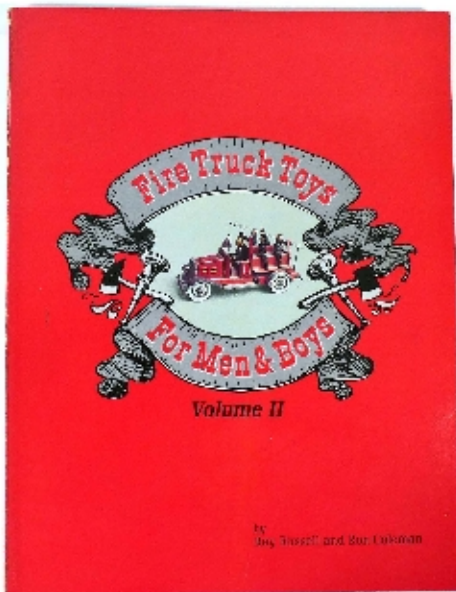
**Ronny Coleman's 1928 GMC American La France Fire Engine
Will have a special place in our fire museum**



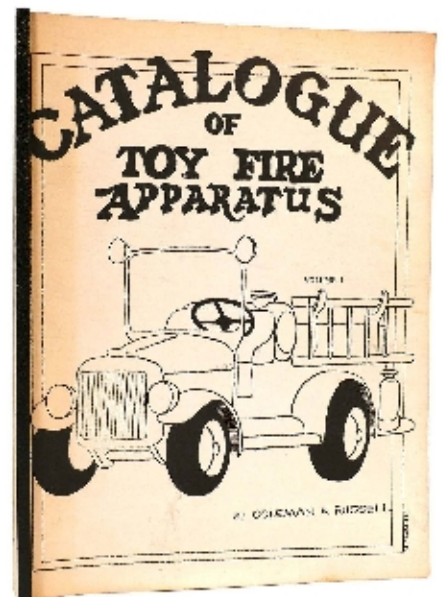
Above: San Clemente Firefighter, Kurt Bidinger taking the vintage engine for a ride in San Clemente



Above: San Clemente's first fire station on Victoria Ave. with a Mack engine, Jeep and the 1928 GMC American La France.

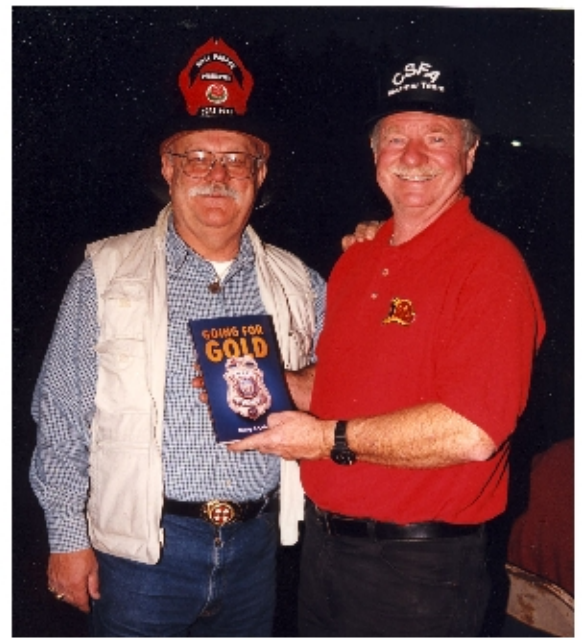


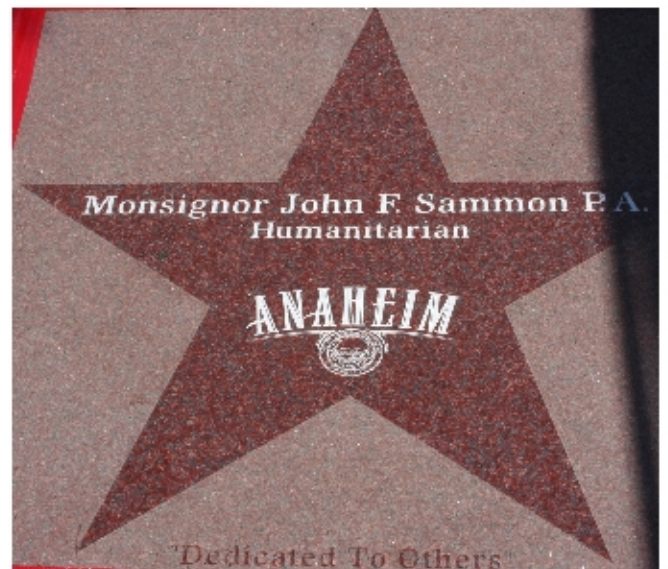
Ronny and Ray Russell were both collectors of fire toys. Pictured here are two of the books that the two of them authored. A lot of their fire toy collection was donated to the CFM along with a huge amount of their fire collection. I used these two books to ID a lot of the toy collection that I had, which was also donated to the CFM. Between our two toy collections and much more that has been donated by others, we will have one of the best fire toy collections anywhere.



Transporting the 28 American La France back to the OC. The crew with Ronny: Forsyth, Bailey and Wright. Bottom left: the ALF back in the OC in our storage hangar at the Great Park.









California Fire Technology Directors Association, Inc.

RECOGNIZES

CHIEF **RONNY J. COLEMAN** *Visionary, Leader, Thinker, Philosopher, Mentor, Teacher*

WHEREAS: Chief Ronny J. Coleman, recipient of the International Public Safety Leadership & Ethics Institutes' 2015 "Dr. Richard L. Resurreccion" Lifetime Achievement Award, has nearly six decades serving the public; and

WHEREAS: Chief Coleman, began his public service career as a United States Marine in 1957, serving three years with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, promoting to the rank of Corporal; and

WHEREAS: Chief Coleman, serving as a Firefighter for the past fifty-five years, began his Fire Service career as a Foreman/Supervisor with the United States Forest Service in 1960, moved to the Costa Mesa Fire Department in 1964, where he served in every rank from Firefighter to Operations Battalion Chief in nine years, then was tapped for his first of many Fire Chief positions with the City of San Clemente in 1973, followed by the Fullerton Fire Department from 1984-1992; and

WHEREAS: In 1992, California Governor, Pete Wilson appointed Chief Coleman as the California State Fire Marshal and Chief Deputy Director, with CAL FIRE, until 2001, where he made significant improvements in the office and relationships throughout the state and nation; and

WHEREAS: Following his term as State Fire Marshal, Chief Coleman would serve as interim Fire Chief with the cities of Mountain View, Fremont and Santa Rosa, as current Fire Commissioner for the Rumsey Rancheria Band of Indians, as well as numerous other positions in the Public, Private and Non-Profit sectors; and

WHEREAS: In addition to his employment, Chief Coleman has been a visionary from the beginning. He has occupied many significant positions, is a prolific author of nearly 1,000 articles, as a Columnist for Fire Chief and Sprinkler Age Magazines for over 25 years, has written research papers and reports, published numerous books, videos and other media, is in great demand as a lecturer, speaker and story teller, and continues to influence public safety and the many programs and practices used in the Fire Service around the globe today; and

WHEREAS: Among his many positions and endeavors, Chief Coleman has served and continues to serve in leadership positions for standing and investigative commissions at all levels of government, in organizations at the local, state, national and global levels and through numerous other entities and endeavors. He is considered the Father of Residential Sprinklers, served as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Chair of the IAFC Fire and Emergency Services Accreditation Task Force, California League of Cities, Fire Chiefs Department, President of the California State Association of Fire Educators, as a founding member of the California Fire Technology Director's Association, and currently serves as Chair of the California Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee, CSFA Volunteer Committee, as President, International Residential Code, Fire Sprinkler Coalition and President, National Fire Heritage Center; and

WHEREAS: In addition to a lifetime of accomplishments and influence on fire and emergency services around the globe, Chief Coleman has earned Associate, Baccalaureate and Master Degrees and numerous other professional credentials, he has been honored with many awards, several with his name on them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the California Fire Technology Director's Association, join the International Public Safety Leadership & Ethics Institute, in honoring Chief Ronny J. Coleman on this date: October 10, 2015, for the contribution he has made to the public and fire and emergency services around the globe, throughout the nation and in California, as a Visionary, Leader, Thinker, Philosopher, Mentor and Teacher.

Gary Dominguez, President
California Fire Technology
Director's Association, Inc.



Fire Chief Ronny J. Coleman

Honoring the most notorious Firefighter of this era! Visionary, Leader, Thinker, Philosopher, Mentor, Teacher, Author, Lecturer: Fire Chief Ronny J. Coleman.

58 years of public service, over 1,000 magazine articles, 19 books, thousands of students, most top positions in our business. Few rival his influence or notoriety in fire and emergency services throughout time and around the globe.

Photo: *Dan Coffman honors Chief Ronny J. Coleman, for the California Fire Technology Director's Association, recipient of the International Public Safety Leadership & Ethics Institutes' 2015 "Dr. Richard L. Resurreccion, Lifetime Achievement Award". L-R Chief Coleman, Dan Coffman & Dr. Resurreccion.*

Dr. Resurreccion served as Chair of his Master's Thesis on the professional development of the fire service. Dan Coffman, friend, colleague, collaborator & mentee.

*Dan Coffman Photo, October 10, 2015
Taken from Dan Coffman's Facebook Page*