

# 1974

## Captain John R. Shook

### Painesville Fire Department

Firemen are usually looked on as hero figures, supermen who run into burning buildings when everyone else is running out. Emergency medical responders, who save lives and comfort victims under the most trying of circumstances. They have been portrayed as such in television, movies, books, and in the media. However, without training, the heroism displayed by these men and women might often have a different and possibly tragic outcome. How fitting, therefore, that in 1974, the Lake County Blue Coats, Inc. would chose to honor an individual that dedicated much of his career to training his fellow firefighters.

Captain John R. Shook of the Painesville Fire Department was only the second firefighter to be honored with the Blue Coat's Outstanding Service Award. An 18 year veteran, Shook was an active paramedic, and an instructor in the paramedic program. He was working to set up standards of operation throughout Lake County.

As an instructor, Shook had trained 200 police officers and deputy sheriffs in first aid. He also trained 360 Red Cross instructors. Nine of the 15 Lake County Fire Departments were the recipients of his instruction in the 60 hour emergency care program. He also conducted training programs for area industrial workers and hospital volunteers.

The annual awards banquet / business meeting was conducted on November 14, 1974, at the Madison Country Club.

Captain Shook retired on a medical disability due to lung damage suffered in a fire. He went on to serve in the private sector as the fire chief during the construction of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Due to the lung damage he had suffered, he eventually retired to Florida, where he passed away on December 14, 2011.