



Born: October 18, 1918

Died: January 10, 2006

Frank Brannigan was named by Fire Chief magazine as one of the 20 people who contributed the most to firefighting in the 20th century. He was a Fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, a life member of the NFPA, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and International Association of Fire Service Instructors. He was awarded the first Fire Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award, the FDIC Service Award, the IAFC President's award, and the IFSI "Instructor of the Year" award.

Born on October 18, 1918 in Manhattan, New York City, Francis Loyola Brannigan devoted his life to learning, teaching and writing about building hazards and firefighter safety. In 1942, Frank joined the Navy and volunteered to organize a Navy firefighting school in Panama. In 1949, he joined the Atomic Energy Commission as a fire and safety specialist and eventually became the agency's chief public safety liaison officer. In 1966, he founded a fire-science program at Montgomery College and wrote monthly columns for fire service publications and often appeared as a guest speaker nationwide.

He continuously studied tragic casualty reports to identify new or unrecognized hazards. He delivered his results and recommendations in countless presentations and periodicals. He developed the concept of "preplanning" and the study of building construction to minimize the risk of avoidable hazards. He pioneered "fire loss management," and improved planning and prevention techniques.

After retiring from the AEC in 1971, Frank refined and published practical application of that knowledge in the essential text that is his legacy, Building Construction for the Fire Service. The NFPA published the first edition in 1971, the second edition in 1982, and the third edition in 1992.

Early on January 10, 2006, Frank reviewed his final updated text for this 4th edition of BCFS, and polished what would be his final monthly column for Fire Rescue magazine. He was scheduled to meet for lunch with local fire service officers about an upcoming presentation. He fixed his wife Maurine breakfast and lay down for a nap. He was 87.

Frank was honored by his local fire service with an official procession with full honors and formal memorial service. National and local fire service publications published lengthy tributes and dozens of memorial messages were posted on fire service websites. Congressman Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania memorialized his life and contribution to the fire service in the Congressional Record.

Francis Loyola Brannigan was buried with full military honors in Arlington Cemetery on February 22, 2006. The fourth edition of his book, with text co-authored before his death with Glenn P. Corbett, titled "Brannigan's Building Construction For The Fire Service", was published in 2009. A fifth edition is scheduled for publication in 2012. Frank Brannigan's life-time message lives on: "The building is your enemy, KNOW YOUR ENEMY".