

William Howard McClennan



Born: September 11, 1907

Died: October 7, 2002

William "Howie" McClennan, President Emeritus International Association of Fire Fighters was appointed to the Boston Fire Department in 1942, where his first response to a fire was the infamous Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire in which 490 people perished.

It was an auspicious beginning to a 26-year career as a Boston firefighter. McClennan's passion for fighting for professional firefighters led him to service with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) serving in elected positions in Local 718 and ultimately served as the local's president for several terms.

He was elected the IAFF' s third district vice president in 1956 where he served for 12 years, distinguishing himself as a progressive leader who helped bring the union into the modern era. In 1968 in Toronto, McClennan won a hotly contested election to become IAFF president and won re-election by acclamation five successive conventions and retired in 1980.