

Jack Slagle Passes

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The great Jack Slagle passed away on Friday, January 31, at Halifax Regional Hospital. He was a fixture of the fire service in the southeast, forming and running Slagle's Fire Equipment company for over fifty years. The family company, which closed last year (see [prior posting](#)), both sold and built fire equipment. Jack Slagle was also the first fire chief and lifetime member of the Virgilina Volunteer Fire Department. He was also affiliated with many other civic and community organizations. Here's his complete obituary, which was published in today's *News & Observer*:



Mr. Jack Leo Slagle died Friday, January 31, 2014 at Halifax Regional Hospital. He was born December 24, 1927 in Virgilina, Virginia and was 86 years of age. Mr. Slagle was the son of the late William Robert (Willie) and Annie Vera Puryear Slagle of Virgilina and grandson of the late Langdon "Lank" and Rose Davis Slagle.

Mr. Slagle was of Baptist faith and attended True Light Baptist Church.

Mr. Slagle is survived by his wife, Hallie Anthony Slagle of Commonwealth Assisted Living Facility in South Boston, VA; his five sons and their wives: Virgil and Joyce of Columbia, SC, John and Gail of South Boston, VA.; Barry and Connie of Halifax, VA.; Garry and Jennifer of South Boston, VA.; and Scott and Lisa of South Boston, VA., eight grandchildren; John, Jr., Alex, Joseph, Bryan, Bruce, Lindsey, Joshua and Dora; sister and brother-in-law, Robert and Esther Slagle Fulghum of Greenville, NC. He was predeceased in death by his parents, his sister, Laraine, his brother, William R. (Bill) Slagle, Jr., and sister-in-law, Thelma Murray Slagle.

Mr. Slagle was the manager of Slagle's Store in Virgilina, VA from the early 1950's to 1963. During this time he also served as Virgilina's Vice Mayor and a town councilman. He also founded Slagle's Fire Equipment Company of South Boston, VA and Columbia, SC, an established business of over 50 years that he shared with his five sons. He was an instrumental founding member, the first fire chief and a Lifetime Member of the Virgilina Volunteer Fire Department. Jack was also affiliated with many other civic and community organizations which include: Past President of the Virgilina Ruritan Club, Member of the South Boston Shrine Club, Richmond Shrine Club, Virginia Masonic Lodge #248, Scottish Rite Temple of Danville, VA, Honorary Member of the South Boston Volunteer Fire Company, and long standing Member of the I.D.A in South Boston, VA.

Funeral services will be held at Grace Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. Open viewing will be from noon till 1:00, service at 1:00 with Rev. Greg Thomas and Rev. Jack Stewart officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Ridge Cemetery, South Boston, VA. All friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life and Visitation immediately following the burial at the South Boston Fire Company Support Building in South Boston, VA.

Those wishing to give memorials should consider Shriners Children's Hospitals, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607.

Rest in Peace my longtime friend. May The Peace of The Lord be with the Slagle family.
Thanks for all you did to promote the fire service

Dick Whittington (Chicken man)

Dick Whittington ([Email](#)) - 02/02/14 - 21:00

As being from an area not far from South Boston, I made many trips there to look for items or to pick them up.

Jack was a great man with lots of knowledge in the fire service and very friendly. There are not many left around like him, rest in Peace my Brother and and may peace be with the Slagle family.

TRNewman - 02/02/14 - 22:57

Rest in peace, Jack. I had the pleasure of meeting Jack at the SAFE when it was in Charlotte in 2004. I told his with what department I was a member, and he rattled off the specs on the truck they had sold the department back in the late 70s (and it was still in service at the time). He had a memory like a steel trap, was sharp as a tack, and very personable. It's always pleasant to meet people like that. Those that are dedicated to what they do and do it well.

Duda ([Email](#)) - 02/03/14 - 09:32

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