

Longest-Serving Members of the Raleigh Fire Department

Research notes by Mike Legeros
Last updated September 21, 2023

	Years	First	Middle	Last	Start	Stop	Last Rank	Notes
1.	45.04	James	Daniel	Poole	09/18/78	ACTIVE	Asst Chief	
2.	43.3	James	Monery	Burnette	1/1/28	4/1/71	Asst Chief	
3.	42.2	James	Theodore	White	11/6/26	12/31/68	Captain	
4.	41.9	John	Boswell	Keeter	7/1/31	6/1/73	Fire Chief	
5.	41.6	Oscar		Summers	5/23/33	12/31/74	Captain	
6.	41.2	Moses	E	Perry	4/02/13	8/16/57	FF	Had four periods of employment
7.	41.0	Ronnie	C	Atkinson	12/5/56	12/1/97	Dist Chief	
8.	40.7	Royce	Campbell	Lassiter	5/9/33	12/31/73	Captain	
9.	40.3	James	A	Poole	11/18/26	2/28/67	Captain	
10.	40.1	Charles	L	Hayes	5/12/31	5/28/71	Captain	
11.	39.0	Phillip	C	Woodlief	9/1/71	9/1/10	Asst Chief	
12.	37.8	Robert	Lee	Matthews	6/1/26	3/24/64	Asst Chief	
13.	37.8	Albert	Grimshaw	Stell	9/17/56	7/1/94	Dist Chief	
14.	37.4	George	Randy	Bagwell	9/18/78	2/1/16	Bat Chief	
15.	37.4	James	C	Munns	9/1/61	1/1/99	Captain	
16.	37.0	Ronald	P	Ricks	12/8/71	12/1/08	Captain	
17.	37.0	Jerry	Keith	Wilder	10/1/86	ACTIVE	Bat Chief	
18.	36.9	John	G	Harrison	8/3/24	6/30/61	Captain	
19.	36.6	Jeffrey	L	Mullen	9/18/78	4/1/15	Captain	
20.	36.4	Charles	C	Narron	2/1/58	6/1/94	Captain	
21.	36.3	Edward	G	McGhee	6/11/23	9/29/59	Captain?	
22.	36.3	Richard	L	Coats	10/1/86	1/1/23	Captain	
23.	36.2	Drewery	Howell	Williams	9/16/52	12/1/88	Dist Chief	

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24.	36.0	Carl	L	Wall	1/7/43	12/30/78	Captain	
25.	35.6	Alvin	B	Lloyd	7/16/19	2/25/55	Fire Chief	Died off-duty
26.	35.3	Jackie	A	Weathersby	9/1/71	12/1/06	Bat Chief	
27.	35.1	Alfred	L	Hogan	12/14/83	1/1/19	SFF	
28.	35.1	Billy	Thomas	Fowler	7/16/51	8/1/86	Captain	
29.	35.0	Timothy	G	Carroll	12/14/83	12/1/18	Captain	
30.	34.9	Richard	J	Spangler	3/2/77	1/1/12	Garage Super.	
31.	34.8	Francis	M	Conyers	12/5/56	10/1/91	Captain	
32.	34.6	W	Edward	Pollard	11/14/41	6/30/76	Captain	
33.	34.5	Paul	L	Averette	6/18/69	12/3/03	Lieut	
34.	34.4	Walter	Richard	Mabrey	2/1/49	7/1/83	Dist Chief	
35.	34.3	Dempsie	D	Collins	10/7/29	1/29/64	Driver?	Died off-duty
36.	34.2	Ernest	C	Emory	4/17/44	7/1/78	FF	
37.	34.2	James	Allen	Wilson	10/1/86	12/1/20	Div Chief	
38.	34.2	Edsell	S	Thornton	10/1/49	12/1/83	Captain	
39.	34.2	Wilbur	K	Beasley	2/1/58	4/1/92	Captain	
40.	34.2	David	W	Boyette	12/14/83	2/1/18	Bat Chief	
41.	34.2	J	Allen	Wilson	10/1/86	12/1/20	Div Chief	
42.	34.1	Ralph	Merton	King	9/1/61	10/15/95	Dist Chief	Died off-duty
43.	34.1	Earl	F	Fowler	12/8/71	12/31/05	Fire Chief	
44.	34.0	Virgil	Graham	Mims	8/25/29	8/1/63	Captain	Died off-duty?

Notes

- City retirement system started in 1949. Retirement dates are based on last day of employment.
- For more names and years of service, see the Centennial Roll Call.
- For portraits of many of these members, see the Raleigh Fire Museum Faces of the Past photo gallery on Flickr.
- Current retirement (and promotional) notices posted to the Raleigh Fire Museum's Facebook page.