

Sons of the American Revolution

Fire Safety Award

San Juan Island Fire Chief Steve Marler was selected for the Sons of the American Revolution Fire Safety Award for his outstanding leadership in the area of fire safety and service.

Chief Marler accomplished the near impossible task of merging the two separate fire services on the island in a logical manner despite a politically charged atmosphere. There had been 50 years of dispute before Chief Marler was able to quietly and efficiently get everyone to the table and set up the current arrangement. He was able to have the town and the fire district work together, thereby accomplishing the task of joining the departments and have them agree on standard equipment and procedures.

A well-equipped, trained, and efficient department without overtaxing local residents was a priority of this Chief. Under Marler's reign the district was able to pay off existing bond debts early and refinance and buy the district six new fire trucks. His successor, Chief Brad Creesy, said "He left the organization in extremely good financial condition."

Chief Marler was an effective leader and related well to all members of his staff. His polite and unassuming presence, combined with a logical and accurate application of fire science resulted in a very natural command of authority.

As Sheriff Ron Krebs commented, "His loss will be felt by all of us for years to come."