

**Proposal to the Virginia Fire Services Board
for
Lifetime Achievement in the Fire Services Award**

Proposed recipient: **David Diamantes**

Employment:

Fairfax County: Captain, Fire Marshals Office (retired)
Delmar / Cengage: Author of two texts and contributor to two more texts
D² Fire Prevention and
Code Training: Owner / Consultant

Instructor: Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Virginia Fire Marshal Academy
Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale
National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland
International Code Council: Fire Series and Building Series
Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, College Park Maryland
Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry,
Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg Pennsylvania

Justification:

If Virginia's fire prevention community were to be asked who, in their lifetime, made the largest impact on code enforcement and training efforts in Virginia: without a doubt, they would name David Diamantes. It is preeminently clear that should there be one person whom the Virginia Fire Services Board would recognize for lifetime achievement: it would be Dave, and his life long efforts to educate the fire service and the public on fire safety through code adoption, "selling" the fire code and enforcement.

Dave Diamantes started his fire service career in a Fairfax County Engine Company. He eventually moved his way up the ranks to become the Captain in charge of Code Enforcement in the Fairfax County Fire Marshals Office. While there, his skills far exceeded expectations. However, it was not just because of his knowledge of the code nor his academic achievements. It was his enthusiasm, his love for the topic, and his dedication to the sharing of this knowledge that made him one of today's finest experts in his field.

In the early stages of cooperation between the Department of Housing & Community Development and the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy, it was Dave who opened doors and secured a positive relationship. This resulted in the two program areas (DHCD & VDFP) jointly developing their respective training programs in cooperation with each other. Most important in this process was the fact that we eliminated unnecessary duplication and eradicated any contradictory information. This allowed for a smooth transition from one event to the next for all fire inspectors across the Commonwealth.

In many a code hearing, Dave was instrumental in making necessary code changes, being the voice of reason, to bring two opposing sides together to see the value in necessary changes. In even the heaviest debate, Dave's calm voice of reason cut through all the barriers bringing participants to the very core, the foundation, of the issue allowing a resolution at best, but always providing a better understanding of both sides of the topic at hand.

Dave firmly believes that we must know where we have been in order to know where we need to go in the future. His research, writings and lectures on fire history brings to light many events here in Virginia that has led us to being a true national leader in fire prevention efforts.

Of interest is that in the beginning stages of the creation of the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy there were no single texts that could address the needs of the inspector student. After designing and re-designing of our courses our cadre (I. B. George, Bill Lloyd, Robin Preece and Dave Diamantes) came upon a good formula for success. Fire Marshal leaders from a multitude of other states have stated openly that Virginia has the premiere fire marshal training courses. The Academy has complied with more than 22 requests from other states and provinces to receive copies of our course materials. Dave's contribution was key to our success.

However, the process did not stop there: Dave took the initiative to merge his lesson plans, course materials and a touch of history to create a text, which is now published by Delmar Publishing. This text, *Fire Prevention: Inspection and Code Enforcement*, is not only used as the primary text here in Virginia but in countless states and even in other countries. The text is in its third edition.

In this process, he also recognized that the college student did not necessarily need to know the full technical aspect of enforcing the code. However, they do need a knowledge of prevention efforts in general. This led to his second text published by Delmar, which is titled: *Principles of Fire Prevention*. Both texts compliment each other and today are the standard for prevention training.

The reason these texts are of importance, beside the fact that we use them in our own program, is because they clearly show how Virginia addresses fire prevention and code issues. During my own trips outside Virginia, I get compliments on Virginia's prevention efforts based solely on that individual's knowledge gathered from the use of Dave's books.

Dave is a dynamic speaker and an outstanding teacher. His presentations at our own Virginia Fire Prevention Association conferences receive the highest reviews. He engages the students to the point that the entire room gives him their undivided attention. Not an easy task when you figure there are more than 100 participants in attendance. His design of a Jeopardy Game of code questions (sorry, *answers*) is a crowd favorite and makes learning fun. Anyone taking code training can appreciate the value of this alone.

During Dave's career in Fairfax, he had a positive impact not just in that county, but throughout the state as well. Upon retiring, through his texts and teachings on fire issues he had a dramatic positive impact on Virginia as well as our country.

Dave's infectious love of prevention topics, his phenomenal ability to make the most complicated code issue so easy to understand, and his life long efforts in Virginia, as well as other states, to provide the highest quality of instruction through his presence and through his texts make him the perfect candidate to receive your recognition of Lifetime Achievement in the Fire Service.

Respectfully submitted on this day, August 13, 2010:

Russell K. Chandler
Branch Chief, Virginia Department of Fire Programs
(Former Chief of the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy)

DAVID DIAMANTES

689 Laurel Wood Lane, Berryville, Virginia 22611 - (540) 955-1989

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Fire protection consultant, code trainer, curriculum developer and author. Twenty-five years of service with the Fairfax County, Virginia, Fire & Rescue Department. Served as a firefighter, company officer and fire prevention officer. Managed inspections and code enforcement and fire protection equipment systems acceptance testing functions. Coordinated budget and training for the Fire Prevention Division. Participated in the code development process on local, state and national levels. Consultant for building and fire code enforcement and code administration programs for local governments.

Instructor:

National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland

Fire Inspections Principles 1995- 2008

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, Virginia

Fire Inspections Practices 1995-1998

Fire Investigations Principles 1994

Virginia Fire Marshal Academy, Richmond, Virginia

Basic Fire Marshal Academy 1992- Present

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, College Park, Maryland

Fire Inspector I 1997- Present

Fire Inspector II 1997- Present

Fire Inspector III 2000- Present

Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Fire Prevention 2001

Building Construction 2001

International Code Council

International Building Code Series 2008 - Present

International Fire Code Series 2008 - Present

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

Approved Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code
Continuing Education Provider 2004 -
Present

Author: Fire Prevention: Inspection and Code Enforcement, 3rd ed.,
Delmar-Cengage, 2006.

Principles of Fire Prevention, Delmar-Cengage, 2004.

**Contributing
Author:**

Building Department Administration, ICC 2008.
Fire Officer 3rd ed., Delmar-Cengage, 2009.

Company Officer, 3rd ed. , Delmar- Cengage, 2010.

EDUCATION

A.A.S., Fire Science Administration/ Fire Investigation, Northern Virginia
Community College, Annandale, Virginia- May 1995, Cum Laude.

B.S., Fire Science, University of Maryland University College, College Park,
Maryland- August 1995. Member Alpha Sigma Lambda, National Honor Society.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Building Official (CBO), International Code Council
Fire Inspector, Commonwealth of Virginia
Fire Investigator, Commonwealth of Virginia
Building Inspector, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Residential Building Inspector, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Building Plans Examiner, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Virginia Fire Prevention Association (Life Member)
Virginia Fire Services Board Code Change Committee (1996-1998)
Loudoun County Virginia Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals
(1994-2000)
International Code Council, International (ICC)
Virginia Building & Code Officials Association (VBCOA)
Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)