

Palm Coast Fire Department

1973- Today



Palm Coast Fire Department



Transfer of Command

Thursday, September 27, 2018

at 2:00 p.m.

Fire Station 25

Fire Chief Michael C. Beadle



Palm Coast Fire Chief Michael C. Beadle became the City of Palm Coast's first Fire Chief in 2000, not long after the City incorporated, and he has overseen tremendous growth in both the size and breadth of services offered by the Fire Department. He is beloved in the community as a public servant, civic leader and friend to many.

Chief Beadle was born in Red Bank, New Jersey, in January 1959. He began his career as a police officer at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey, and a volunteer firefighter with the East Kearsburg Fire Company, also in New Jersey.

In 1987, Beadle moved to Palm Coast and, in February 1988, he joined the Palm Coast Fire Department as a volunteer. After receiving certification as both a firefighter and an emergency medical technician, he was hired as a career firefighter in June 1990. He worked his way up the

ranks and became Acting Chief in October 1998. After the City incorporated, Beadle was hired as the City of Palm Coast's first Fire Chief in September 2000.

During Chief Beadle's tenure, the Palm Coast Fire Department has grown immensely in both size and service. Expanded services include advanced life support, emergency management, technical rescue response, a firefighter internship program, and public education and outreach. The department has grown from a two-station, 20-man operation to five stations, 57 career personnel and over 50 volunteer firefighters, fire police and associates.

Over the past 28 years, Chief Beadle has honorably dedicated his life to service in his Palm Coast community. Examples include:

- Named 2016 Citizen of the Year by Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709
- Serves as a prominent member of the Flagler County Rotary Club and the Elks Club Lodge 2709
- Performs with the Coastal Florida Police & Fire Pipes & Drums bagpipers group
- Serves on the Flagler County Education Foundation Board of Directors
- Received the Presidential Volunteer Service award from President Barack Obama in 2012

Chief Beadle earned his associate's degree in Fire Sciences, his bachelor's in Organizational Management and his master's in Public Administration. He earned the Executive Fire Officer Certification from the United States Fire Administration and the Chief Fire Officer designation from the Commission on Professional Credentialing.

Fire Chief Gerard P. Forte



Gerard "Jerry" Forte is promoted to City of Palm Coast Fire Chief in September 2018 after serving nine years as Deputy Fire Chief. Forte started as a Palm Coast volunteer firefighter in 1990, becoming a career member as a firefighter/EMT in September 1992. He rose through the ranks and had served as Deputy Fire Chief from 2009 to 2018.

In addition to serving as second-in-command at the Fire Department for nine years, Forte has a strong record of leadership with the City of Palm Coast as a whole. He led the team for the ISO assessment resulting in an exceptional rating of 2, created the system for employee staffing during hurricanes and other major emergencies, and plays a key role in advance safety planning for special events in Palm Coast. A graduate of Landon's LITE Team program (Leadership in Training Excellence), Forte led creation of the Performance Management system that provides employees a roadmap for achieving the City Council's goals each year. He also stars in many of the City's public safety videos.

Forte earned the Chief Fire Officer designation from the Commission on Professional Credentialing in 2017. An honors graduate of Daytona State College's fire science program, Forte also earned a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's in public policy. He holds numerous state certifications and is a member of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association. He was the state's 2002 Training Officer of the Year.

Forte grew up in Ronkonkoma, New York, in a big family and married his high school sweetheart, Denise. They and their two children moved to Florida in 1990. Forte cut grass and made pizzas for nine months before his brother, Joe Forte, recruited him to attend "fire school" – thus beginning his long career with the Palm Coast Fire Department.

Sadly, Denise died of cancer in 2010. But happily, Forte found love again and married Lisa in 2015. Jerry and Lisa have four children between them, all in public service careers, plus three young grandchildren. They are very proud of all their children and look forward to the growing years.

Transfer of Command Ceremony

September 27, 2018

Fire Station 25

Master of Ceremonies..... Firefighter Patrick Juliano, PIO
Presentation of Colors.....PCFD Honor Guard
Pledge of Allegiance..... *Mayor & City Council*
Invocation.....Driver Engineer Christopher Cottle, Chaplain

Special Presentations

Presentation.....Hon. Milissa Holland, Mayor
Presentation.....John Overton, FPC Fire Academy
Presentation.....Driver Engineer Robert Ballou, Local 4807
Presentation.....Former Chief Howard Peiffer, PCVFR
Presentation.....Captain Thomas Ascone, PCFD
Presentation.....PCFD Honor Guard
Remarks.....M.C. Beadle, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Oath of Office

Oath of Office.....Virginia Smith, City Clerk
Transfer of Command.....Flagler County Sheriff Dispatch
Fire Chief Remarks.....Gerard P. Forte, Fire Chief

Retirement Credentials to Fire Chief M.C. Beadle
Retirement Credentials to Fire Marshal Jeff Pattee

Badge Pinning Ceremony

Promotion to Captain
Randy Holmes

Promotion to Lieutenant
David Faust ~ Colin Craig ~ Omar Kannan

Promotion to Driver Engineer
Thomas Bull ~ Patrick Shakes ~ Patrick Juliano

New Hires
Sean McBride ~ Christopher Stroizer ~ Masun Nemeec
Anthony Pederson ~ Brandon Davis