(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — State Fire Marshal Kevin S. Reardon presented retired fire chief Scott Skeldon with the Ohio Fire Service Distinguished Service Award today, recognizing 40 years of unwavering commitment to his community.

Skeldon began his fire service career in 1978 as a volunteer with the Jefferson Township Fire Department – a role he still serves to this day. In the years that followed, he also served with the Clinton Township, Prairie Township and Norwich Township fire departments.

He retired as chief of the Jerome Township Fire Department in 2017 after 18 years in the role and the previous seven years as assistant chief. He is currently an active member of the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters and the Ohio State Firefighters Association (OSFA), where he serves as vice president.

“It’s an honor for me to give this award to Scott Skeldon. I’ve known Scott for decades and I’m more than familiar with his many accomplishments and dedication to the fire service of Ohio,” said Marshal Reardon. “He’s made a tremendous difference and is a role model for every firefighter in Ohio.”

Marshal Reardon honored Chief Skeldon during a private ceremony before the annual OSFA meeting in Worthington. Joined by his family, Skeldon was also recognized by OSFA President Jason Pollitt, who nominated him for the prestigious award.

Skeldon’s dedication to public safety is not only reflected in his work in the firehouse, but also in his involvement with organizations such as the emergency management agencies in Union and Madison counties and the sheriff’s offices of both counties. He currently serves on the Tolles Career and Technical Center’s High School Career Firefighting Advisory Board.

He has also devoted time to the Ohio State Fire Council, Ohio Fire Chiefs’ Association, the Franklin County Firefighters Association, International Association of Firefighters and more.

This is the 40th year of the annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame and Fire Awards, presented each year by the Ohio Department of Commerce’s Division of State Fire Marshal and Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Division of EMS. Today’s ceremony marked the third event hosted by the State Fire Marshal’s office.
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Skeldon and this year’s 11 other honorees are being recognized individually at smaller, more intimate award ceremonies in their home communities or online.

This award is handed out annually to outstanding individuals whose contributions to, and leadership of, the fire service within Ohio have been a milestone in the development of those services; whose actions have served not just their community but have contributed significantly to the fire service on a regional, statewide and/or national basis; and, whose leadership and accomplishments in these areas are widely recognized and respected in the Ohio fire service.

Skeldon is the 57th individual to receive the Distinguished Service Award, which was one of only two awards handed out during the first Hall of Fame ceremony in 1980.

Retired Chief Scott Skeldon.

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The Division of State Fire Marshal is part of the Ohio Department of Commerce. The department is Ohio’s chief regulatory agency, focused on promoting prosperity and protecting what matters most to Ohioans. We ensure businesses follow the laws that help them create jobs and keep Ohioans safe. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at com.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated and prepared for emergency situations.