

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



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PRESS RELEASE

North Kingstown Fire's Chief Kettelle Announces Retirement



North Kingstown, RI — Thirty-five years after joining the North Kingstown Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter, Fire Chief Scott Kettelle has announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Chief Kettelle rose through the ranks of the North Kingstown Fire Department, earning the respect and admiration of fellow firefighters along the way, including that of peers in public safety, law enforcement, and town administration. During his more than eight-year tenure as Chief, Kettelle has a storied list of accomplishments to his credit including significantly enhancing training opportunities, fostering department's relations with neighboring departments, and developing an open and honest relationship with town departments and managers. "I am lucky to not only have known Chief Kettelle as the Fire Chief, but he has also been a great friend and a valued peer," said A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager, "His insight, experience, and leadership have been second to none. I wish him the very best in retirement."

Kettelle's depth of knowledge and passion for professional firefighting were credit for his current appointment to Chairperson of the Rhode Island Fire Education and Training Coordinating Board. While also Chief of North Kingstown Fire Department, Kettelle has been heavily committed to the ongoing pursuit of technical resources and training for firefighters in the state of Rhode Island, and many other initiatives to enhance and recognize their service and dedication such as the fundraising for and establishment of a memorial for the firefighters lost to service of their communities in the state since the 1800s at the Fire Training Academy in Exeter, RI.

Chief Kettelle had earned countless awards and distinctions from a host of agencies and organizations through the years recognizing his steadfast leadership and dedication to the North Kingstown Fire Department and the community it serves. Most recently, Kettelle was presented

with the Emergency Manager of the Year award from Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency for his exceptional leadership role in assisting in the management of Exeter Wildfires and the Harborside Inn Fire on Block Island earlier in the year.

Chief Kettelle has been asked to serve in many leadership capacities in communities around the state including as a frequent and valued committee member in their searches for chiefs of their own fire departments. He was recognized by VFW Post-152 in 2021, for service and dedication to the community and is a Past President of the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs (2022 & 2023).

Chief Kettelle is a widely recognized and well-respected member of the North Kingstown community, with decades of familial and professional ties to the area. Kettelle has helped grow his family's business, Kettelle Building Movers, alongside his father, Grant since 1992. Additionally, Kettelle is a 1988 graduate of North Kingstown High School, received a AAS in Fire Science at CCRI and a BA in Public Administration from Roger Williams University, then a Masters of Science in Emergency Management at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Kettelle continued his professional development as a 2010 graduate of Leadership Rhode Island. "Chief Kettelle's deep commitment to 'his guys' in the North Kingstown Fire Department will be missed as he retires," says Assistant Fire Chief John Linacre, "but his dedication to the development of solid plans for a new public safety complex and fire station help to solidify a strong future for NKFD."

For questions, please contact Kate Glass, Executive Assistant and Director of Communications in the Office of the Town Manager, at kglass@northkingstownri.gov.

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