

**Fire Station #4
Dedicated to Paul Craig Merritt Sr.
2915 S. Goliad St.
Rockwall, TX 75032**



General Information

This station was dedicated on October 24, 2009.
It was funded out of the 2004-05 Bond Election.



Paul Craig Merritt Sr.

Mr. Merritt was born on May 22, 1939 in Garland, Texas. As a young man growing up, he lived on Merritt Road in Rowlett, Texas. He graduated from Garland High School in 1957. After graduating from High School, he worked as a farmer in the Rowlett area until 1984. Later Paul built custom homes for several years and owned Wylie Glass, a Glass / Mirror / Lighting company in Wylie until 1998. Paul began working for Rockwall County in 1998 as the Road & Bridge Administrator and retired from there in 2008. Paul is married to Louise Merritt and has six children. Paul Craig Merritt Jr., Ron Merritt, Brett Merritt, Audra Dean, Jeff Powell and Teresa Powell. Paul moved to Rockwall in 1962. He has been a member of the

Methodist Church for many years. He was never called to serve in the military.

Paul joined the Rockwall Volunteer Fire Department on July 12, 1965. Paul's years of service with the Fire Department include firefighter from 1965 until 1978, Second Assistant Chief from 1978 until 1984, First Assistant Chief from 1984 until 1985, Chief from 1985 until 1992 and Safety Officer from 1992 until 2008. During his time with the department, he was involved in establishing one of the first radio systems between dispatch and the fire trucks (CB Radio), which was later upgraded to Low Band radios. Paul served on several committees over the years which consisted of purchasing of trucks, our first pagers, new radio system, our first self contained breathing apparatus and extrication/rescue equipment. As a committee member, he helped write specifications, do acceptance testing for the 1972 brush truck, 1979 pumper, 1985 pumper, 1988 pumper, and 1996 ladder truck. Paul also served on the committee which was instrumental in convincing the City to build a new fire station, which is now known as Benny Gracy Memorial Fire Station. For many years, when a fire truck broke down, firefighters would call Paul and he would come to the station regardless of the time of day or night and try to fix it so we could get the truck back in service. As a result of Paul's involvement within the department, he was instrumental in getting his three sons (Brett, Craig and Ron) involved in firefighting careers and serving on the department. As time passed, he also had a grandson get involved in the department. Paul was a teacher, mentor and a leader to many volunteer firefighters during his career. He is respected by all the members who have served before him and with him. Several years ago a television commercial for the EF Hutton Brokerage firm had the catch phrase of "When EF Hutton Speaks People Listen". Paul was often referred to as the EF Hutton of the fire department, meaning that when "Paul

Merritt spoke people listened.” His knowledge and forty-three years of experience was invaluable in protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Rockwall, as well as his brother firefighters. I know of at least three times when he personally kept me from getting seriously injured, if not killed while performing firefighting duties. Paul retired in 2008 with forty-three years of service. This is the longest documented tenure of any member in the Rockwall Fire Department history. In more than four decades of service, he served as a Firefighter, Safety Officer, Assistant Chief and Chief of the department. Upon his retirement, he was made a lifetime honorary firefighter for the Rockwall volunteer fire department. During his years of service he received the Firefighter of the Year Award from the City of Rockwall and he has received the Rotary Club Firefighter of the Year Award. His years of service will be missed and his dedication and loyalty will never be forgotten.