



Hi, Welcome to the Uncle Dick Morse's page of the Bio. Section of the Red Knight Website. This is where I'm supposed to tell you all about myself. I was born in Painesville Ohio, long time ago and have lived in Northeast Ohio all my life. In my youth, I was involved with the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Life, one merit badge short of Eagle. (Couldn't swim.) After graduating from High School, I served time in the U.S. Coast Guard. I was also a Member of the Hambden Volunteer Fire Department of which my Father was Fire Chief.

I purchased my first Motorcycle about that time; it was an H/D with a side shift and suicide clutch which I ended up crashing into the side of a 57 Ford Crown Victoria. I also married my High School sweet heart, moved to Willoughby OH and later on, had three children. I was accepted in the Willoughby Fire Department as a part paid Firefighter earning the rank of Lieutenant. Somewhere along the way, my wife decided she didn't love me any more but had the notion that I must still support all of my wonderful children.

I met Jan who was living in the same apartment building as I was and we fell in love. I was very fortunate because she was working, had a nice checking/savings account and a new Chevy. Over the next ten years, we bought a new house; I got a new truck, boat and a 750 Honda. Oh, and the support payments were all caught up! Also during that time, I worked full time at the Fire Station making points with the old Chief. Then we got a new Chief who didn't agree with the way I was running the Fire Department so he asked me to find someplace else to work.

Jan and I decided to build a new house in the country. During the building phase, Chief Norm McDonald pulled in the driveway and asked if I would like to be on the Leroy Fire Department. The next evening, I was welcomed as the newest member of the Department. I was still riding my Honda and enjoyed riding from Willoughby to Leroy until the house was finished.

Two years later, the Chief got into a tiff with the Township Trustees over the purchase of the new Tanker. He resigned as Chief. I'm now the new Chief. Oh crap! Half of Department quit

And I had to Work on getting moral back up. During that time, I did the normal things that Chiefs do. County and State Fire Chiefs Associations, built a big new addition to the station, Worked on local County fire schools and attended many seminars to find out what Chiefs are really supposed to do. I also purchased a new Gold Wing.

I read an article about a new Motorcycle Club being formed in Boylston Mass. for Firefighters only. I inquired, ran an article in the local rag, and with the help of Chief Mike Warner, we invited local firefighters to a meeting to see if there was any interest. Fifty five firefighters showed up and we didn't have enough coffee and donuts. It was decided to start a Chapter and we were accepted as Red Knights, Ohio Chapter # 1. That summer, Robin Peck and I rode to Cromwell Conn. to attend the 3rd Annual Red Knights Convention. At that time, I was asked to be on the By-Laws Committee. In 1989, our Chapter hosted the 6th Annual Convention in Mentor OH. and I was elected to the International Board of Directors. That was the same year I decided to step down as Fire Chief just because. (That Township Trustee thing!) Jan and I decided to move back into the city because we were offered more money for our house then it was worth and besides, Jan liked neighborhood living. We moved to our present digs and have been here for 20 years. I sold all my Gold Wings, Venture Royals and Voyagers and presently, I ride a Kawasaki Vulcan 1500. Back to basics! Our Chapter has had it's up and downs but after 9/11, it was decided to reorganize and with the help of good leadership and Officers, is very strong today. I have been totally involved with the International, holding several offices and chairing several Committees over the years. In 08, I was elected as the International Vice President at the Convention that the Ohio Association hosted in Sandusky, OH.

Over the years, I have attended almost all of the International Conventions up till recently where I have been involved in other related activities. I'm an AMA Field Rep., Co-Founder of the Masonic Motorcycle Club International, Involved in local Zoning issues and Committees, 20 year member of the Selective Service System, on several Committees in my Church, a Red Cross Volunteer and on the Church World Disaster Team.

I had been instrumental in assisting new Red Knight Chapters and Bill Snodgrass and I founded the R/K Ohio Association along with assisting with the 08 Red Knights Convention where Jan and I were also honored by being made a Lifetime Members. I have met many life long friends in the Red Knights and looking forward to meeting more.

And Jan and my loving children? Well, now that I'm totally retired, Jan went back to work at the Bank, both my Daughters are successful and my Son is the Fire Chief of the Trumbell Township Fire Department in Ashtabula County. Go figure! I not going to tell you how old I am but a lot of my friends call me the Old Fart.

Well that about tells you more then you really care to know. It has been a pleasure to be a Red Knight and I hope that I have contributed to the Club in a productive way for its progress and pray for its future success.

Uncle Dick Morse, International Vice President.