



**August, 1980... Bill Corr receiving a City Council Resolution for his many years of service on the LAFD and as an officer of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112. Left to Right: UFLAC First Vice President Jim Perry, President Lyle Hall, Councilmember Peggy Stevenson, Bill Corr, Bill's lovely wife Maxine, daughter Denise and Second Vice President Marshal Prindle. Photo by Ron Butcher, Los Angeles City Hall Photographer**

by Jim Perry

Editor

We have witnessed the passing of another legend who served with honor and distinction as a loving husband, father, professional firefighter and union leader.

I met Bill Corr at a union meeting when I was a young firefighter in the early 60's. I was immediately taken by his cool-headed demeanor during some very hot issues on the LAFD. At a time when others were pounding the table and shouting, Bill had the ability to eloquently address those issues and bring a consensus from the floor of any meeting.

One particular issue was when Fire Chief Raymond M. Hill was threatening to do away with "trade of shifts" on the job. This issue had really come to a head and firefighters were as angry as I had ever seen them.

At a Fire Commission meeting held at Fire Station 27 in Hollywood, firefighters had gathered to protest the Chief's proposal. The overflow crowd of firefighters filled the upstairs meeting room and gathered downstairs listening through the pole hole from the second floor.

When Chief Hill made his presentation to the fire commission you could hear the angry moans from firefighters upstairs and downstairs. That's when Bill Corr stepped up and asked to speak to the commission. With due respect to the chief and the commission, Bill stated, "Your honorable Fire Commission, the Fire Chief is being less than honest with you about this issue." With a cheering audience, Bill calmly laid out the facts about the benefits of allowing trades and how well it worked over the years. I had never heard a man call another man a liar in such a nice way. With an iron hand in a velvet glove, Bill convinced the fire commission to leave the system as it was. That issue was laid to rest and the fire chief never brought it up again.

I was fortunate to serve on the union executive board with Bill and on several important committees. As a fire officer I also ran in with Bill on fires and rescues in the very busy Battalion's 8 and 13 in the late 60's and early 70's. Bill Corr was truly a leader of men. He received the highest respect of all who knew and worked with him. I personally knew of no better Truck Company officer and Task Force Commander.

In his later years, Bill assisted our UFLAC Employee Assistance Program with peer counseling. He made himself available to anyone who needed help. Bill was one of my mentors and a very special friend. His loss runs deep and hurts. As so many others have said, the LAFD is a much better place to work because of the professionalism, dedication and leadership of Bill Corr.

May he rest in peace...

Editor's note: Bill's family has received many phone calls and notes expressing their love and condolences. We will include some of them here...

To: Pat McOsker United Firefighters Local 112:

On behalf of my mother Maxine, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all the wonderful people of the Los Angeles City Fire Department who paid tribute to my father Bill "Willie" Corr.

In particular, a special thanks to:

Engine Co. 79 who responded to pay their respects

Engine Co. 66 for their wonderful tribute by attending the funeral and processional with their apparatus.

Mr. John Keys, who so eloquently played such beautiful songs on his Bagpipes

The personnel of the Union and Relief Association

I am deeply indebted for all of your help. My dad was a proud and active member of the Union for many years, and he would have been pleased to see the support and comfort given to our family.

And finally, to the personnel of the LAFD...you are truly a very special brother/ sisterhood. I am so proud that my dad was a part of this during his time on the department and now continued in the hearts and memories of those that knew him. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maxine and Denise Corr

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In 1976, Bill was the Task Force Commander at Fire Station 66, "B" Platoon. He was a highly respected truck captain, which was a major accomplishment on the LAFD.

One of his many talents was being a leader of men. He could look into you to see what made you tick, and with that insight, direct or manipulate you in the direction that he wanted to go. Another talent he had was forgetting about the unimportant ideas and getting to the bottom line. He was practical! Example: He defended me because I got on the roof of a one-story building and began working on the roof without putting up a ladder first...which was the rule.

He taught us that a firefighter does not just put out fires; we also solve problems that usually the individual feels is beyond them.

He took an interest in each of us individually and collectively motivated us to be better and to promote.

It was really fun working with Bill Corr. His Green Machine, for example...that wreck gave us plenty to tease him about. He would challenge us to tease each other with his saying, "Why don't ya?"

If imitation is the greatest form of compliment, Bill is well complimented. Many of us tried to copy his example as a leader...I was never as good as he was.

Most of all he was a great friend. I have had a much richer life for knowing him. We will miss Bill and his great smile.

Duane White

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I had the great fortune of meeting Bill and Duane about 15 years ago. Bill was a great guy and the three of us have had a lot of fun meeting for breakfast every month or so for many years. We always had a great time and traded jokes and teased each other. I am a County Firefighter and thus we developed a friendly rivalry.

The thing that touched me is that he was such a caring guy and welcomed me into his circle of friends. God Bless Maxine and Denise. I will definitely miss him.

Dennis King

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This is a somber time and yet a time to rejoice. Bill is in a better place.

I am the President of the Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association and am here to present Maxine and Denise with the American Flag that flew over Bill's last assignment last week.

One third to one half of the life of a firefighter is dedicated to the fire service and because of this, we become like a second family. It is my privileged to be here today to honor Bill and his family. I remember Bill as a great comrade. I liked his style, his humor and character dedication.

Barry Hedberg

### *In Loving Memory*



**William J. "Bill" Corr**  
***Retired Fire Captain II***  
***Former Officer – UFLAC Local 112***

**Born: December 6, 1915**

**Appointed to LAFD: May 13, 1947**

**Service Pension: May 13, 1980**

**Died: August 12, 2005**

**The officers and members of  
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City  
Local 112, IAFF, AFL-CIO-CLC offer their heartfelt  
condolences to the family and friends of  
Brother Bill Corr during this very difficult time.**