



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
BLACK PROFESSIONAL  
FIRE FIGHTERS, INC.**



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**EARL VARNER AWARD**

**YEAR 2022**  
HARTFORD, CT  
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

Bro. Addington Stewart, Chair.

Submitted by:  
*President Carrie Edwards-Clemons*  
2022



# Captain Earl Varner

## San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

On September 16, 1919, the City of San Diego would hire its first Black firefighters. It would be another 22 years before another Black man would be given the opportunity to wear the uniform. In 1948, Earl Varner was granted that opportunity and became the 7<sup>th</sup> Black firefighter in the history of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. Also hired during that period was another notable IABPFF Pioneer, Chief Robert Osby. After 12 long years, Bro. Varner was promoted to Engineer and seven years later, promoted to Captain, the rank he held upon his death.

In 1970, San Diego's Black firefighters became aware of the IABPFF and pooled their money together to send a representative to the International Convention. In 1972, Brothers United San Diego Firefighters became the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the IABPFF and its 1<sup>st</sup> chapter on the west coast. As a founding member of Brothers United and with his intense belief in the Purpose and Aims on the IABPFF, Bro. Varner began to serve his fellow Black firefighters at the local, regional, and national level. Bro. Varner served as the IABPFF Sgt at Arms from 1974 – 1976 while also serving on the Executive Board for Brothers United. Bro. Varner along with Robert Osby, William "Bill" Brown, Paul Berryman and others was instrumental in San Diego hosting the IABPFF Convention in 1972. Earl later became his organization second President replacing Chief Robert Osby and was elected as the Southwest Regional Director in 1980, where he served until his death in late 1981.

Thoroughly committed to his community, Bro Varner believed that the youth were our future and that it took a village to raise a child. Throughout his career he maintained his ties with the community through youth sports and his church. He established Brothers United relationships with other organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the YMCA. Working with the local school district he established an annual Spelling Bee, since named for local educator Phyllis Barnes, wife of retired Brothers United Member – William Barne; as well as an "Adopt a School" mentorship program.

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## **EARL VARNER AWARD #202**

The Earl Varner Award was established in 1982. It is given to a deserving member of the IABPFF. The award will be presented at our Biennial Convention.

Each organization is to submit the name of their candidate(s), along with a definitive descriptive report of the public service performed and /or contributions to the community organization, or other related incidents to its Regional Director. The director will make provisions to select two (2) nominees from the number received. Each of the directors will forward the two (2) nominees selected from his region to the International President, who will pick a panel of three (3) or more persons to select one (1) winner. In case of a tie, provisions will be made at that time to break the tie.

### **Rules**

1. The two nominees submitted by the Regional Directors must be in the hands of the International President by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the convention year.
2. Acceptance of nominees for the Earl Varner Award will begin the day following the last day of the convention in session.
3. The International President will accept no names after June 1<sup>st</sup> of the convention year.
4. Any individual's name submitted must have been a member of the IABPFF for three (3) months prior to June 1st of the convention year and be financial.

### **Criteria:** (candidates must meet the following established criteria)

Earl Varner Award nominees must have performed or contributed Outstanding Meritorious Service to his or her community organization or other related situations or incidents deemed applicable.

The above criteria will be utilized until any new changes are recommended at future conventions.



# IABPFF 2022 AWARD NOMINEE FORM

## **AWARD EARL VARNER AWARD #202**

## Nominee

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated**  
by: \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach all information pertaining to the cause, incident, deed or act for the nomination. Use additional paper as needed. All award nominations must be in the hands of the committee by midnight **June 1<sup>st</sup> of the convention year**.