

## INFORMATION ABOUT DON GORANSON

The opportunity to serve the residents of the Town of Cromwell and its Fire Department as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Cromwell Fire District would be an extension of my 40-plus years of dedicated involvement with the fire service. My wife (Peg) and I moved to Cromwell from Bristol two years ago and my parents, before their passing, lived in this community for 28 years.

During my time of residency in the City of Bristol (all but college and U.S. Army years) I proudly served as a Fire Commissioner with the Bristol Fire Department, a career department of some 90 members, for 42 years. This represents 14 three-year terms of appointments by mayors and City Council members of all political persuasions. Upon moving to Cromwell, I became the only person to be honored with the title of *Commissioner Emeritus* of the Bristol Fire Department. While a Commissioner in Bristol I had opportunities to chair all five of the board's committees, including Apparatus, Budget, Personnel, Buildings & Grounds, and Strategic Planning. I also have considerable experience with final new-apparatus inspections, having been to the Pierce plant in Appleton, WI eight times and to the Ferrara plant in Holden, LA once.

My wife and I own summer property in Ogunquit, ME and since my retirement I have been a member and call driver with the Ogunquit Fire Department. I have also shown consistency with the acquisition of fire service knowledge, completing certificate courses in the Incident Command System 100 through 400, NIMS, National Response Plan, Lithium Battery Explosion Hazards, EVOC, Hazardous Materials Refresher, Emergency Responder Safety Issues, National School Security Training and others.

My career as a communications specialist featured three areas of employment, starting with several years as a radio station program host and newscaster. Next, I spent some 15 years in the newspaper industry, working as a reporter, an assistant city editor, and finally as managing editor for a company publishing both daily and weekly newspapers. My career concluded at the Connecticut State Department of Education, working for five Commissioners in the areas of publications, press relations, and school security, holding an assigned seat in the State Armory's Emergency Operations Center as the Education Sector representative.

Elsewhere, I have been privileged to serve as President of the Connecticut Chapter of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, Vice President and National Board member of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA), a Corporator of CIB Oak Hill, a board member of the New England Carousel Museum, chairperson of the Facilities Management Committee at Covenant Living of Cromwell, and as a founding board member of the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information.

As a result of each of these treasured experiences the residents of Cromwell can be assured that they would be well represented with fairness and an open mind in my future service as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Cromwell Fire District. Your support on October 2 would be welcomed.