

PROFILE: LT. DICK NAGEL...

Lt. Dick Nagle was a legendary FDNY training officer and lieutenant at Engine 26 who retired in 1988. He became an icon of the fire service as the face of the "On The Job" instructional video series, which remains a cornerstone of tactical training. Beyond the FDNY, he served as the Chief of the Ridgefield Fire Department and director of the New York State Fire Academy. Known as a "fireman's fireman," he balanced his career with a passion for theater before passing away in 2018 at age 77.

TO REMEMBER: DICK...

After retiring from the FDNY in August 2002, that fall, I enrolled in a Fire Instructor Course at the New York State Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls. The Academy, a converted five-story monastery, required students to stay in rudimentary dorms with communal TVs for entertainment. While checking in, I met the facility's Director, Dick Nagel. When I mentioned my FDNY background, Dick lit up, revealing he was a retired Lieutenant from Engine 26 and the creator of the legendary "On The Job" training series on WNYC Channel 31. We spent the week reminiscing about the "War Years," culminating in a final night of sipping fine scotch and stories at a local Red Lobster. Dick was a beautiful man and a true friend who passed away in December 2018.

