



**Westport Fire & Rescue**  
91177 Ferry Road, Westport, OR 97016  
Phone (503) 455-0727



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Contacts:

Greg Brody, Fire Chief

Date: April 12, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Division Chief David Russell Coombs – Active Duty Death**

**Westport, Oregon** - Westport Fire and Rescue is mourning the death of our Division Chief, Dave Coombs who passed away at his home on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Dave was 53.

Having served faithfully in the fire service for more than 30 years, Dave's passion for the medical field started in his early high school years. Dave was a member of American Red Cross Medical Explorers Post in Eugene, Oregon. Through that program he volunteered and provided advanced first aid at events such as rodeos, walk-a-thons, and the county fair. In his early adult years he attended Chemeketa Community College where he gained additional knowledge in the trade. He worked for Mercy Flights in Medford and Buck Ambulance in Portland, as well as Premier Jets as an international flight paramedic. Dave went on to work for Columbia River Fire & Rescue and achieved many accomplishments during his nearly 30-year career. While working Dave attended Eastern Oregon University and received a bachelor's degree in Fire Science, which was a very proud accomplishment for him. Dave retired as a Battalion Chief in July of 2021 from Columbia River Fire & Rescue. Upon retiring from Columbia River Fire & Rescue, he joined Westport Fire & Rescue and has served as a Volunteer Division Chief for the past 3 years.

Dave also spent a significant amount of time in other fulfilling roles as both a licensing officer and an examiner for the Oregon Health Division testing EMT's and Paramedics. He spent many years as a liaison and leading a medical team as a paramedic at multiple local concert events to assist when there were medical needs. Since 2013 he had also served on an Incident Management team for the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office that he retired from in early 2024. He also volunteered his medical skills for various other events around the state of Oregon.

Dave had an extreme passion for travel and spent a lot of his life immersed in the culture of other countries. Dave's yard and his garden at home was immaculate, he especially loved growing fruits, vegetables and pumpkins along with raising chickens. Dave was also a motorcycle enthusiast and a former member of the International Association of Firefighters Motorcycle group. Dave was the happiest however, spending time with family and friends.

Dave is survived by his lovely wife, RayAnn Coombs of Warren, Oregon along with many beloved family members, friends and his fire family.

A procession and a public memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The procession of fire department vehicles will take place from Westport Fire and Rescue in Westport, Oregon to Grace Baptist Church in Warren, Oregon, beginning at 10:45am and expects to arrive to the church by 12:00pm. The memorial service will begin at 1:00pm at Grace Baptist Church at 58690 Ross Road, Warren, Oregon 97053.

If you are a uniformed fire service personnel, please utilize staff vehicles as there are parking limitations at the Grace Baptist Church.

RayAnn wants to send a heartfelt thank you to each person who has reached out to offer their love and support. Each message shared either directly or through family and friends has been relayed and they mean the world to the Coombs family.

For individuals who wish to support the family, they are asking that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Boulder Crest Foundation.

Website: <https://support.bouldercrest.org/BCFOneTime>

For general information, please contact Westport Fire and Rescue by phone at: 503-455-0727 or send an email to Fire Chief, Greg Brody at: [brodyg@westportfireor.com](mailto:brodyg@westportfireor.com).



Photo of Battalion Chief Dave Coombs at Columbia River Fire & Rescue – May 11, 2021