



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Harold “Hal” Harrington on September 16, 2016. Hal has been an inspiration to us all here at Harrington, Inc. and his leadership will be sorely missed. His legacy, however, will live on in the company he started, and in the industry he innovated decades earlier.

Back in December 1995, Hal’s eldest son Tim Harrington wrote an article in “The Harrington Connection” newsletter that was a nice reminder of Hal’s influence in the U.S. Fire Industry. It seems fitting, at this time, to share that article as “A Tribute” from those of us who carry on in his name.

“The Christmas season is often a time that we reflect on that which we have to be thankful for. The following story is true, and we’ve kept his name the same to pay homage to one who commands our respect, Hal Harrington. This could easily be an article for the November Thanksgiving issue.

Some 26 years ago, Hal started out on an endeavor that was to ultimately revolutionize the firefighting service in the United States. He even earned a nickname which many of you will remember, yet I have sworn to not repeat in this forum. This was of course in his previous life, prior to 1988, which is when he established Harrington, Incorporated.

This project took him from fire department to fire department, showing a fire hose coupling that challenged the old ‘it’s worked for 50 years’ philosophy, prevalent here in the U.S. at the time. Though this type of connection had been used in Europe for nearly one hundred years (in fact was patented in 1891), we Americans still were committed to male and female threaded connections. As you may have determined, this was a Storz coupling.

At first, the Storz coupling was not as well received as the sample of lightweight fire hose was attached to it. Firefighters took note that if this construction of hose could be made in larger sizes, it would offer them the greater water flows that have been so desperately needed even before the days when Ben Franklin was starting the first fire brigades.

Hal Harrington heard the call and pursued it with a passion, a passion he maintains to this day (though he does enjoy golf a bit more frequently than he had allowed himself in the past). The rest, as they say, is history.

I think we can honestly say that Hal Harrington is the grandfather of large diameter hose. Someone else probably would have eventually found a solution to what we are now so familiar with, but it wasn’t left to someone else.

As you probably know, Harrington, Inc. is a family operation. We can attribute our success to dad’s passion for the industry and customer-oriented philosophy, a philosophy to which we are all committed. In our reflections, we look back with great admiration and respect and are thankful for his contributions. – Tim”

Hal had a deep respect for each of his customers and always strived to provide exceptional service and top-notch quality products. Harrington, Inc. will continue on in this fashion with respect to the many things that we have learned from him.

Sincerely,

Dave Harrington