

## Hall of Legends, Legacies, and Leaders



**Inductee #19**

**Jay W. Stevens**

**Fire Prevention Advocate**

**Walnut Creek, California**

**Born: 1885**

**Died: March 26, 1980**

Jay W. Stevens became a volunteer firefighter in Weston, NE, in 1900, then became a career firefighter in Portland, OR, in 1903 at age 17. Rising quickly through the ranks, by 1914 he was Assistant Chief of the department, and was chosen to create a Fire Prevention Division.

Chief Stevens left Portland in 1917 to head the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Pacific, which later became the San Francisco office of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. He continued to advocate his "Portland Plan" of fire prevention, meanwhile servicing as the (unpaid) Fire Marshal of California. He was still promoting fire prevention in 1956, when he headed up the International Association of Fire Chiefs campaign to promote home inspections.