

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

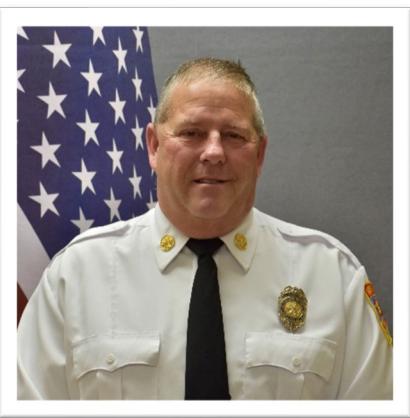


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PRESS RELEASE

John G. Linacre, Jr. Appointed North Kingstown Fire Chief



North Kingstown, RI — Thirty-five years after joining the North Kingstown Fire Department, North Kingstown resident John G. Linacre, Jr., has been appointed Fire Chief by Town Manager A. Ralph Mollis, following unanimous consent of the North Kingstown Town Council.

Chief Linacre rose through the ranks of the North Kingstown Fire Department, including serving as Assistant Fire Chief for more than two years beginning in the fall of 2022, and five months as Interim Fire Chief starting in January 2025. Linacre has earned a reputation as a steadfast and dedicated leader with his commitment to developing many of the Standard

Operating Guidelines and General Orders of the Fire Department while coordinating the recruitment and hiring process, oversight of the consolidated police & fire dispatch system, bid procedures and budget preparation, facility maintenance and renovation of our stations, as well as coordinating and overseeing the Town of North Kingstown's response to COVID to include testing and immunizations. Linacre received the North Kingstown Rotary Club "Firefighter of the Year Award" in 2012, alongside nine other firefighters in recognition of their selfless and heroic actions, saving the lives of two men in varying levels of consciousness, while in confined spaces within the hold of a tugboat.

Each Battalion Chief, and many other individuals from both within and outside the North Kingstown Fire Department, met with Town Manager Mollis in his search for a suitable replacement for the since-retired former Chief, Scott Kettelle, who had been with the department for well over three decades. Linacre's visions and goals for the Department, as well as his ability to lead and manage, left impressions on each person Mollis interviewed. To Mollis, it readily became clear that Linacre was not only the obvious choice for the next Fire Chief, he was the deserving of it as well.

North Kingstown is honored to be Rhode Island's only and official American World War II Heritage City, a designation bestowed by the U.S. National Park Service in 2024, recognizing the significant transformation within our community in support of our country's historic role in World War II and our ongoing commitment to preserve that history.



“Chief Linacre is knowledgeable and experienced; his respect within our Fire Department is not to be overlooked,” says Town Manager Mollis of his appointment of Linacre as Fire Chief, “I have been immensely impressed by John in what was a productive and successful turnover of the leadership of the Department following Chief Kettelle’s retirement. I very much look forward to what he will accomplish as our Fire Chief.”

Linacre served in the United States Navy Reserve until his retirement as Chief Petty Officer in 2011. During his military service, Linacre was deployed in 2003, for 350 days; he was a Field Medic for 16 years, was honored as the 4th Marine Division’s Sailor of the Year in 2003, and received numerous other medals, awards, and training certificates. Linacre earned his Applied Science degree in 1993, completed the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust Management Agency’s Leadership Workshop at Roger Williams Leadership Institute, and the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns’ Municipal Leadership Academy.

“I’m honored and humbled by this appointment,” says Linacre of his new role as Fire Chief; “With the support of my family, I have had a wonderful and challenging career in this department for 35 years. I look forward to continuing my service and dedication to the Firefighters of North Kingstown and our community at large as Chief of the North Kingstown Fire Department.”

For questions, please contact Kate Glass, Director of Communications and Executive Assistant in the Office of the Town Manager, at kglass@northkingstownri.gov.

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