



IAAS Walks of Life 1997
John (Jack) Gannon

During more than 30 years as a Cleveland firefighter – ten of them as president of International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 93, John A. Gannon both risked his own life on many occasions to save families and property threatened with destruction by fire and looked to the care of his fellow firefighters. As president of IAFF Local 93, then, from 1980 to 1988, as national president of the 170,000-member association, he expanded IAFF's role in occupational safety and health, initiated research on safer garments and equipment for firefighters and fostered development of the IAFF Burn Foundation, which raises funds for research on the care of severely burned persons.

Jack Gannon has left an enduring legacy to the citizens of Cleveland and northeast Ohio in the form of the John Gannon Burn and Trauma Center of Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital (now MetroHealth Medical Center), which was named for him at its opening in 1985 in recognition of his role in spearheading the creation of that facility. Educated at Miami University of Ohio, the University of Glasgow, Cleveland State University and Baldwin Wallace College, Gannon has also served as vice president of AFL— CIO and as a member of its Executive Council, as chairman of the National Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations, and on the board of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was elected president emeritus of the national IAFF in 1988.

Irish American Archives Society
P.O. Box 91756
Cleveland, Ohio 44101-3756