

Gerald L. "Jerry" Olson

Former fire chief dies

By JEFF REINITZ, Courier Staff Writer

WATERLOO --- A former Waterloo fire chief passed away this morning after a long battle with cancer.

Gerald L. "Jerry" Olson, 81, of Waterloo, died at Covenant Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center, according to the Locke Funeral Home.

Fire department leaders had been talking about Olson's hospital stay and waning health this morning when they got the news he had died.

Olson served as chief of the Waterloo Fire Department from October 1980 until he retired in May 1986.

A military veteran, Olson joined the fire department in May 1946. He suffered minor eye injury in 1951 when falling plaster struck him in the face.

Survivors include his son, Larry Olson, who recently retired from the fire department.

Arrangements are pending at Locke Funeral Home, 233-6138.