

We are pleased to announce the newest honorees in our *Firehouse® Magazine* Heroism & Community Service Awards program and take pride in highlighting the bravery of these outstanding individuals. We recognize the judges: Chief Mark McLees of the Syracuse, NY, Fire Department; Chief Edward “Loy” Senter Jr. of Chesterfield County, VA, Fire and Emergency Medical Services; and Chief (ret.) Bruce Varner of the Santa Rosa, CA, Fire Department. We also thank retired FDNY Rescue 1 Firefighter Paul Hashagen, who administers the program.

Firehouse® **HEROISM & Community Service** *Awards*

Grand Prize Recipient

\$1,500

Firefighter/Paramedic Jeffrey Michael Novack Baltimore City, MD, Fire Department Truck Company 12

Just after 9 P.M. on April 7, 2010, a civilian ran into Truck Company 12 advising that his apartment was on fire next door. A box alarm was alerted for 3910 Liberty Heights Ave. The closest three engines were unavailable to respond. Truck 12 arrived within seconds, commanded by Acting Lieutenant Novack. He reported a three-story apartment building with fire showing from the second floor. Novack went to the front of the building, where he was met by a large group of civilians who told him there were still people inside the building on the third floor. The fire had already begun to extend into the hallway of the second floor as Novack made his way to the third floor. He located a semi-conscious, elderly female. He began to take her down the steps, shielding her body with his own, as they passed the fire on the second floor. He exited the building and turned her over to waiting paramedics.

Recognizing there were still people inside, Novack dashed back into the building. He went back to the third floor, past the now even larger fire on the second floor. Another firefighter followed him up to assist with the search. While searching the third floor, they found another civilian in a rear apartment. They assisted him to a window. The civilian began to panic and ran down the hall away from Novack and the other firefighter. The third floor was now well involved and the fire had extended into the apartment. Novack was trapped and surrounded by fire. He transmitted a Mayday on his radio. He began to search for a window, but now he was on fire, as was the entire room. He located a window and used his hook to knock it out. He then leaped out, head first, grasping onto the exterior sill with his hands. Units in the rear were deploying a ground ladder. Novack was clinging onto the sill with every last inch of energy he had left, but the fire was too hot and he could not hang on any longer.

Novack dropped three stories to a concrete well in the rear of the building. Members immediately tended to him and signaled for paramedics. He was admitted for more than two weeks with a broken hip, a broken elbow, and severe second-degree burns to his arms, wrists and fingers. The civilian made it to a side window, where a ground ladder was placed and he exited the building without injury. The civilian Novack first pulled out of the building was unconscious and transported to the burn center. She made a full recovery and was released shortly thereafter.

Acting Lieutenant Jeffrey Novack put the life of others in front of his own. Due to his actions, two civilians are alive today.



Jeffrey Michael Novack

>>> HEROISM AWARDS

*We thank our corporate sponsors
whose generosity provided the
awards for this program.*



Jeff Zimmerman



Peter Demontreux

Firefighter Peter Demontreux
FDNY
Ladder Company 132

\$1,000

On Aug. 30, 2010, Ladder 132 responded first-due to an early-morning phone alarm reporting a structural fire. While enroute, dispatchers reported receiving reports of multiple trapped persons throughout the building. There was heavy fire at the front door, in the hallway and up the stairway up to the third floor preventing entry until a hoseline was in place. Firefighter Salzano, the Ladder 132 chauffeur, was setting up the aerial for a rescue of a man who was at the front window on the third floor with heavy smoke pushing all around him. Firefighter Demontreux, the outside vent man, climbed the aerial and pulled the man from the window. The man told him his friend was still inside the burning apartment. Demontreux searched the front room, but was forced back to the window because of the high heat and zero visibility. Firefighter Myers of Rescue 2 vented the front windows.

Demontreux continued his search to the rear of the apartment. He discovered a man hanging out a rear window to escape the heat. Since there were no fire escapes or portable ladders, the only way out was the window he came in. Through high heat and zero visibility, he led the man back through the apartment. Halfway through, the apartment exploded into flames, engulfing both men and setting them ablaze. Demontreux, now on fire, made the decision that he would not leave the man behind. Through the fully involved room, he stayed with the man and continued to assist him to the window. Demontreux pushed the man out the window onto the aerial ladder before diving onto the ladder. Engine 219 in the street opened their line on the two men to extinguish the flames. The man received burns to more than 50% of his body. Demontreux suffered first- and second-degree burns to his face and neck. All of his personal protective equipment (PPE) was condemned. (See Close Calls, January and February 2011.)



Matthew Davidson

Captain Matthew Davidson
Athens Borough Fire Department
Bradford County, PA
Company 6

\$750

At 11:17 P.M. on Dec. 17, 2010, Bradford County 911 received several calls for a working fire. Fire was reported showing from the second floor with people possibly inside. Captain Davidson was the first to arrive on the scene. He confirmed the working fire and entrapment. A passerby and the landlord raised a ladder to the porch roof. Black smoke and flames were pushing from a window onto the porch roof. Davidson entered another window after he and a police officer broke out another window. Davidson entered the room and found a 2-year-old boy and handed him out to others on the roof. He went back in and found a 6-year-old girl and handed her out to others on the roof. 12 Truck 1 arrived and a handline was handed to Captain Davidson. He then knocked down the flames. Further searches were conducted for an adult female believed to still be in the apartment. After several searches, it was determined the woman was not home. The children were admitted for smoke inhalation and released the next day.



Jason Durbin

Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Durbin
Chicago, IL, Fire Department
Truck 2

\$500

On Sunday, Dec. 13, 2010, Firefighter/Paramedic Durbin was off duty working for a private ambulance company. While driving, he saw smoke coming from the upper floors of a high-rise building. Upon his arrival, fire was blowing out of the top floors of a 29-story residential building. He asked his partner to call 911 and he left instructions in the lobby that no elevators were to be used. He ran upstairs and on the 18th floor he encountered a man and his son who said the fire was in their apartment on the 28th floor and someone was trapped inside. He felt the door to the hallway on the fire floor. Visibility was close to zero. Thick, black smoke was two feet from the floor. He took a breath and made a dash to the fire apartment. Part way down the hallway, he tripped over what only could have been a body. He took hold and reversed direction. In the stairway, he found a woman barely conscious and with labored breathing. He picked up the woman and carried her down to the street. He met firefighters on the stairs making their way upstairs. He gave them a quick layout and described the conditions.

2010 Winners' Ring

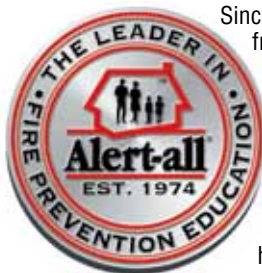
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Salvatore Mastrodomenico

Firefighter/EMT Salvatore Mastrodomenico
Chicago, IL, Fire Department
Engine 126

\$500

On July 24, 2010 at 7:30 A.M., units responded to a residential fire. Reports of civilians trapped brought additional apparatus. The first engine stretched lines to the basement and a primary search of the basement was started. The fire was free burning near the exit and giving off heavy, black smoke. Heat was building due to a lack of ventilation. Because of recent heavy rains, there was six inches of water in the basement as well as floor-to-ceiling clutter. Lieutenant Munoz and Mastrodomenico made the decision to crawl past the fire and start the search. He soon located an elderly man in the front bedroom. Due to the rising temperatures and acrid smoke, the elderly man was unconscious and in critical condition lying in the water. The two firefighters teamed up and carried the victim from the basement to a waiting EMS crew.



Edward J. Gonzalez

Lieutenant Edward J. Gonzalez
FDNY
Ladder Company 161

\$250

On Aug. 27, 2010 at 2:38 A.M., Ladder 161 responded to a report of a structural fire. On arrival, heavy fire was visible in a top-floor window in a six-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling. On the fifth floor, the smoke began to bank down. A quick look up to the sixth floor revealed a dense smoke condition. The forcible entry team reached and gained control of the apartment door. The members knew the hose stretch of 13 lengths was going to be delayed. With zero visibility and high heat, the team split up and began their search. Firefighter Shelse found a victim. Lieutenant Gonzalez and Firefighter Norris worked their way back to the victim, who reported two more victims. Norris was directed to hold back the expanding fire with the extinguisher. Gonzalez pressed deeper into the apartment. He crawled past the body of fire into the rear bedroom. Knowing his primary means of egress may be cut off, his determination paid off as he located the second victim, age 80, on the floor. He began dragging the victim assisted by Firefighter Shelse, who came to his aid bringing the victim into the hallway.



Michael T. Chura

District Chief Michael T. Chura
Syracuse, NY, Fire Department
District Chief Car 4A

\$250

On Aug. 11, 2010, at 5:35 P.M., District Chief Chura was off duty heading to a vacation at the New Jersey shore when he came upon a one-car motor vehicle accident. He saw an overturned vehicle about 40 feet off the road. The vehicle was on fire and he could see a person was still trapped upside down. With no tools or protective equipment, he entered the passenger compartment through the broken rear driver's-side window. He found a 61-year-old female trapped upside down by her seatbelt. Fire had breached the firewall and was rapidly spreading into the area near the driver. After eight tries, Chura released the seatbelt and placed the driver on the ceiling. At this time, Chura and two others who had arrived pulled the driver about four feet from the vehicle. The fire and smoke intensified so the patient had to be moved away several more times.



Chris Reischl



Robert Mansfield

Firefighter Chris Reischl
Firefighter Robert Mansfield
Chicago, IL, Fire Department
Squad 2

\$250 each

On Jan. 1, 2010 at 1:30 A.M., Squad 2 responded to a building fire. The fire was in a two-story frame with fire blowing out the front and rear windows. Firefighters Reischl and Mansfield went to the rear, where a bystander said a man was trapped. They crawled through the dense smoke and met extreme heat and zero visibility. They forced open the door, but there was an obstruction. It was the body of an unconscious adult male. They had to remove the door and were met with flashover conditions, but continued without hesitation. They were able to spin the body in the tight stairway with fire raging over their heads and carry the victim to ground level.



Charles J. Dodenhoff

Firefighter Charles J. Dodenhoff
FDNY
Rescue Company 2

\$500

Rescue 2 responded to a fire at 175 Putnam Ave. on Aug. 30, 2010, at 4:28 A.M. Fire had complete possession of the stairway in the four-story building. There was no water in the first line. Firefighter Dodenhoff reported to the roof with the Life Saving Rope. He saw a male in a top-floor window with heavy smoke pushing behind him. Conditions caused the victim to lean farther out the window. He said he couldn't hold his position any longer and there was an unconscious woman behind him. Dodenhoff was lowered to the victim's position. The victim fell back into the apartment and Dodenhoff had to disengage from the rope and attempt to locate the victim. While Dodenhoff was bringing him to the window, the man became very agitated and attempted to climb out the window and onto the rope. Dodenhoff was able to gain control and secure him into the rope, which allowed him to be lowered to the ground. He then assisted other members of Rescue 2 in locating and removing the unconscious woman to the street.



Robert Diaz

Firefighter Robert Diaz
FDNY
Ladder Company 166

\$250

On Feb. 16, 2010, at 12:15 P.M., Ladder 166 responded to a fire on the 15th floor of a 17-story high-rise fireproof multiple dwelling. Firefighter Diaz forced entry into the apartment and despite high heat and zero visibility he crawled into the apartment with the protection of a hoseline and began a search. Diaz moved under the flames and heat into a bedroom. He felt a medical oxygen line to a closet, where he found a pile of clothing and pillows. Furiously digging to the bottom of the pile, he felt an arm. With the fire blocking his only means of egress, he shielded the victim with his body as he dragged the victim under the flames that were rolling overhead. He became entangled in telephone and TV cables. He quickly untangled himself and continued to drag the victim out of the apartment to the floor below.



Andy Peralta



William Walsh

Firefighter Andy Peralta
Ex-Captain William Walsh
Freeport, NY, Fire Department
Truck Company 1

\$250 each

On Feb. 14, 2010, at 3:01 P.M., the Freeport Fire Department responded to a house fire with a report of an elderly woman trapped. Heavy fire was venting from windows on the first floor and auto-exposing the second floor. Interior crews reported it was impossible to use the interior stairs to search without a handline. Walsh lowered the aerial into position at a second-floor window believed to be the room of the trapped woman. Ex-Captain Walsh and Firefighter Peralta climbed the ladder. They entered the heavily charged room. Both were forced to their hands and knees by high heat and began their search in zero visibility. The woman was located on top of the bed. They pulled the woman from the bed and dragged her back to the window. With the help of other members, they lifted her outside. Once she was clear, they resumed their search and checked for extension.



Justin Eric Davidson

Firefighter Justin Eric Davidson
Prince George's County Fire Department
College Park Volunteer Fire Department Company 12

\$250

On April 13, 2010, Firefighter Davidson was off duty from his firefighter job with Truck 33 of the Anne Arundel, MD, County Fire Department. At 3:35 P.M., Davidson was taking a nap in his parents' home when his mother came into the bedroom, screaming the house was on fire. Fire and heavy smoke were pushing from the attic eaves and had begun to take over the living room. He got his mother and two dogs out of the house and instructed his mother to call 911. He re-entered to get his father. Davidson grabbed a four-foot shovel and an extinguisher to keep the fire in check. Davidson met his father in the hallway and he was being overcome by smoke. The father is disabled and suffers from severe emphysema. Davidson positioned himself between the fire and his father. He removed his father from the house and re-entered to keep the fire from spreading.

HEROISM AWARDS >>>



Phillip J. Cetrino

Firefighter Phillip J. Cetrino **Boston, MA, Fire Department** **Rescue Company 1**

On Aug. 30, 2010, Rescue Company 1 responded to a report of a jumper. There was a highly distraught and agitated woman standing on a sixth-floor window ledge. Firefighter Cetrino prepared for a high-angle rescue. With a safety harness and ropes, he placed himself as close as possible to the edge of the roof. Police negotiators planned to get the woman from the ledge into the room. They were able to talk her inside when Cetrino was told to rappel into the window, knocking the woman down. She was armed with a scalpel and a struggle ensued. He prevented the woman from harming herself and him. Police rapidly entered the room and subdued the screaming woman.

\$250



Michael Ascone

Captain Michael Ascone **Anchorage, AK, Fire Department** **Engine 7**

On July 21, 2010, Fire Station 7 received a dispatch to Jewel Lake for an inland water rescue. A 911 caller reported hearing someone calling for help, then witnessed a victim 100 yards from the lake shore. Upon arrival, witnesses stated the victim had submerged moments before firefighters arrived. Captain Ascone commandeered a private boat and sent Firefighter Nielson to mark the location. A second boat was commandeered and was rowed to the location. Both Ascone and Nielson dove in the murky water with zero visibility. Ascone reached the victim in the first dive in 12 to 15 feet of water. After coming up for air, he and Neilson swam the victim to the surface. The victim was brought into the boat and was in cardiac arrest. CPR was started and the craft rowed to shore to a waiting medic.

\$250

HEROISM UNIT CITATIONS >>>

San Francisco, CA, FD **Rescue Squad 1**

Lieutenant Richard W. Gering
Firefighter Derek B. O'Leary
Firefighter John G. Shanley
Firefighter Michael Orlando

Responded to a call for the trench rescue of a worker who had fallen in a hole. Victim was neck deep in sand and concrete with concrete debris. Rescue Squad 1 began the shoring, stabilization and extrication process. Members began removing soil from around the victim using hand shovels. Once his upper body was exposed, an IV was administered. Squad members continued to dig without reprieve until a mechanical advantage system was set up and the victim was removed. The process took four hours. The victim suffered only a minor injury and was released from the hospital later that day.

Fairfax County, VA, **Fire and Rescue** **Engine 408**

Captain 1 Larry E. Jenkins
(retired)
Technician Davin E. Bridges
Firefighter Heather J. Lefever

Truck 422

Master Technician John L. Capps
Firefighter Mark E. Huehn

While on scene at a house fire, a floor collapse trapped three members of Engine 422 in the basement. Members of Engine 408 and Truck 422 immediately went to work. Engine 408's crew operated a hoseline in two windows and through small openings within the rear door to cool the basement and help control the ever increasing fire. Engine 422's crew used chainsaws to cut their way into the structure, providing access to and egress for the trapped members. All three members escaped the collapse.

Cambridge, MA, FD **Engine 1 Group 1**

Fire Lieutenant David House
Firefighter Vinroy Paul
Firefighter Joseph Hallissey
Firefighter Gary Plunkett

Came upon a male EDP of very large build attempting to wrestle the holstered gun away from a uniformed transit police officer. The members acted immediately by tackling the man. A struggle ensued until they were finally able to subdue him. They maintained control over him until other police officers arrived.

Fairfax County, VA, **Fire and Rescue** **Rescue 421, A-Shift**

Lieutenant Jeffrey L. Mongold
Technician Thomas E. Biller
Technician Chris M. Matos
Technician Michael T. King

Responding to a house fire, Rescue 421 encountered a home with a basement fire in

which the floor inside the front door had been burned through. With an occupant trapped inside, the decision was made to perform a vent-enter-search through a bedroom window, which was five feet off the ground. Using a step ladder, members broke through the window and entered the dwelling. The home was a hoarding situation, providing many obstacles. An unconscious male weighing about 250 pounds was located on the floor. The victim was placed on a bed and lifted up over the headboard and through the five-foot high window, where exterior crews were waiting with a stokes basket for patient removal.

Fairfax County, VA, **Fire and Rescue**

Lieutenant Marc S. Davidson
Technician Richard N. Mitchell
Firefighter B. Wayne Talbert
Technician G. Brian Mayhugh
Firefighter Keith Baughan
Technician Ryan S. Fletcher

HEROISM UNIT CITATIONS >>>

Responded to a call of three people in the water following a canoe capsizing in a bay. The bay was past high tide and the water was rapidly receding out toward the Potomac River. The water temperature was 56 degrees and the area was dark due to limited ambient light. The crew donned their cold water suits, powered up their night vision equipment and boarded Fire Boat 420. Fairfax One arrived over the scene and located the victims. Firefighter Baughan entered the water and rescued the first victim, then re-entered and grabbed the second victim. The third person swam to shore on his own. It took 19 minutes from the time of dispatch to recovery.

Clark County, NV, FD Engine 12

Captain Paul Youdelis
Engineer Gary Atkinson
Firefighter Cory Ash
Firefighter/Paramedic
Hyrum Barlow

Engine 15

Captain Steven Broadwell
Engineer Joseph Lord
Firefighter Robert Grana
Firefighter/Paramedic
Ryan Orton

With a victim on the phone with dispatch, Engine 12 raced to a fire at a two-story office structure across the street from the station. Arriving in less than a minute, crews encountered heavy smoke conditions. The victim told dispatch she was in a room with no windows and was having difficulty breathing. Engine 15 was assigned to the fire attack as crews went into "Rescue Mode." Engine 15 located the heavy fire in the hallway and began to attack the fire. Under extreme smoke conditions and with zero visibility, Engine 12 made entry into the building and located the victim. Once conditions were safe, they removed her to safety.

Shreveport, LA, FD Dive Team

Tim Thames
Robert Thomas
Chase Bynog
Chad Alexander
Chad Burden
James Lockey

The Shreveport Fire Department responded to a call of possible drowning in the Red River. After more than 30 minutes of searching in murky water in near-zero visibility, Chief Brian A. Crawford and the SFD Dive Team decided that efforts should be redirected from rescue to recovery mode. It was confirmed by family members that six teenagers were missing. At 7:38 P.M., the divers entered the water. At 7:51 P.M., the first victim was discovered and removed from a depth of 29 feet. Four minutes later, two more bodies were found and recovered at 30 feet. All divers were topside by 8:05 P.M. for personnel accountability and to monitor the level of air in their SCUBA. At 8:13 P.M., a fourth victim was recovered. Mutual aid from Bossier City divers recovered the fifth body at 9:40 P.M. SFD divers recovered the final victim from the river's bottom at 10 P.M. Divers determined that all six children were found within a 20-foot circumference.

Wichita, KS, FD Squad 2

Firefighter Darren K. Matthews
Acting Lieutenant Larry P. Cook

Truck 2

Firefighter Matthew Q. Barthelme
Firefighter Lyndell L. Lara
Captain Tyler L. Nolan

Engine 12

Captain Jim D. Martin
Firefighter Dan R. Dawson
Firefighter Timothy D. Goscha
Firefighter Byron M. Jabara

Engine 22

Captain Boyd A. Lauber
Firefighter Jeremy S. Menges
Firefighter James D. Heitman
Firefighter Evan T. Snyder

Mobile Air One

Firefighter James L. Christy III
Battalion Chief Robert L. Wolfe

Squad 2 was the first on scene at a house fire and reported smoke pouring out of the residence. Engine 22 arrived and was assigned to the fire attack. They immediately pulled a hoseline and initiated an aggressive interior attack. The search and fire attack teams were forced to the floor due to near zero visibility and high temperatures. Firefighters located a badly burned female victim and carried her outside. Their initial triage of serious condition was upgraded to critical when they noticed the victim had second and third degree burns to 63% of her body. She had also stopped breathing and her airway had been compromised. A CPR rotation was begun and AED were applied. A combitube was inserted and bilateral breathing sounds were detected. The victim was taken away by ambulance. She succumbed 72 hours later.

Prince George's County, MD Fire/EMS Training Academy

Major Leroy Smith
Captain Grady Valencis

Croom Station 845

Battalion Chief Howard R.
"Butch" Leonard Jr.
Fire Technician Darryl Bullock

Upon arrival to a call of a 12-year-old male motionless in a pool, Leonard observed two victims in the deep end of the eight-foot-deep pool and radioed for assistance. Valencis, Leonard and Bullock entered the water, while Smith coordinated rescue efforts

on the pool deck. Both males were lifted to the surface and handed to awaiting personnel. Paramedics rapidly assessed the victims and determined both to be unconscious, not breathing, and without a pulse. They were transported to a local hospital, where they both died. It is believed that the second victim, the uncle of the 12-year-old boy, saw his nephew at the bottom of the pool and attempted to save him.

Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS Kentland VFD

Chief Anthony P. Kelleher
Deputy Chief Patrick J. Mann
Captain Joseph Brown

Engine Company 33

Lieutenant Peter Johnson
Sergeant Timothy J. Moore Jr.
First Acting Man Timothy
McCloskey

Tower Ladder 33

Captain Walter J. Brown

Rescue Squad 33

Lieutenant Curtis Patterson

While battling heavy fire in a two-story wood-frame home, Walter Brown heard the sound of an activated PASS alarm. As Brown made his way through the heavily involved kitchen, McCloskey found an unmanned handline and repositioned it to protect for the search for the PASS. Brown located the downed firefighter, who was unconscious and without a face-piece, and determined that he had burn injuries to his airway. Brown realized that Patterson had placed a ladder at a nearby window and had been clearing glass. Patterson sounded the Mayday, alerting Mann, Moore and Joseph Brown, who immediately began performing a Denver-style removal out of the window. Patterson and Johnson, enduring heavy smoke conditions and without SCBA, pulled the firefighter onto the ladder and down to ground level.

HEROISM \$100 AWARDS >>>



Larry Adamczyk
Chicago, IL, FD

With fire on the first floor and heavy smoke and high heat on the second floor, used a thermal imaging camera to search for victims. As conditions continued to deteriorate and with visibility near zero, helped locate a 4-year-old girl wrapped in a blanket on the second floor. Helped carry the unresponsive victim down the stairs and out the door and handed off to EMS personnel.



John Conrad
Bath, NY, FD

Extricated injured driver by entering burning vehicle through rear window, cutting the seatbelt, disentangling driver's feet and passing the victim through the recently removed front windshield.



Alan Harff
North Huntingdon, PA, FD

While off duty, saw a truck drive onto railroad tracks and stop. Called 911 and continued to observe the vehicle. When the sound of an oncoming train could be heard, raced over to vehicle and pulled incoherent male out of the truck and carried him down a slope to a nearby roadway. Turned around to see the truck demolished by the oncoming train.



Christopher Blackistone
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

While responding to an apartment fire, noticed that a 4-year-old girl who had been pulled from the blaze was in distress. Quickly recognizing the child was lacking oxygen, and may have suffered severe respiratory injuries, initiated mouth-to-mouth and restored spontaneous respirations.



Niki Crippen
Pawleys Island, SC, Midway Fire and Rescue

While off duty, responded to the sounds of gunshots and a cry for 911. Found and tended to a woman with gunshot wounds to her neck and abdomen. Stayed with victim until paramedics arrived, despite warnings that the shooter was returning to the scene.



Bino Harris
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

Responded to a call of a man standing in two to three feet of frigid water under a bridge. Despite repeated requests, he refused to move. Unsure of his mental state, or whether he was armed, entered the water and approached the male, accompanied by police. Effectuated handover of the male to EMS.



Patrick Brown
Chicago, IL, FD

Entered a five-story apartment in heavy smoke conditions in search of a victim who had called in distress. Crawled approximately 100 feet down a hallway filled with heavy, black smoke, counting doorways until he reached the victim's apartment. Found severely distressed victim in bathtub. Removed facepiece and placed over victim before helping carry the victim to safety.



Robert Cuccio, FDNY

Responded to a call of a swimmer missing in the waters near a waterfall fed by the Bronx River. Dove into the dark, murky, debris-filled water without water-rescue equipment. After several minutes of surface breath-holding dives, located a teenage girl entangled in tree branches 15 feet below the surface. Untangled the victim, brought her to the surface and swam her to shore.



Nathan Hyder
Coeur d'Alene, ID, FD

Responded to call of motor vehicle crashing into a house. Arrived to find heavy smoke as the car, still in gear with tires spinning, had crashed through the garage and was pinned against the back wall. Broke window, shut off car and removed unconscious woman.



Walter J. Brown
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

Entered a three-story burning apartment building and advanced to second floor to search for fire. Continued search in high-heat, zero-visibility conditions. Located victim locked in a bathroom. Cleared a window for egress and helped the woman to the window, where she was led to safety.



Raymond L. Cullar
Chicago, IL, FD

Responded to a call of a possible jumper on the elevated train tracks. Used aerial ladder to gain access to the catwalk. Harnessed and belayed, began to approach the jumper from behind while partner distracted him. Stood on the guard rail 70 feet above the track and made a grab for the victim. Was able to subdue the victim and bring him to safety.



Anthony Jackson
Fairfax County, VA, Fire and Rescue

While off duty, encountered a three-car crash. Noticing fire under one of the cars, raced to see if it was occupied. Found two unconscious people in the front of the vehicle. Cut the seatbelt off the passenger and removed her. Re-entered the vehicle and helped remove child from back seat.



Roberto Cabrera
Rochester, NY, FD

Upon arrival at a fire bomb incident, heard a cry for help from the third floor of a three-story, five-unit apartment building. Grabbed the closest ground ladder available and placed it under the window. Although it was two feet short, ascended ladder and pulled woman and infant to safety.



George Flanagan
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

Entered burning apartment building in search of two occupants. Following removal of an adult male with severe burns, initiated a search ahead of the hoseline. Found and removed a 4-year-old girl.



James Jiron
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

While off duty, noticed smoke coming from an apartment building. After telling a family member to call 911, entered the building and alerted residents, two of whom were asleep. Everyone escaped uninjured.



Dylan Clark
Coeur d'Alene, ID, FD

Responded to call of a motor vehicle crashing into a house. Arrived to find heavy smoke as the car, still in gear with tires spinning, had crashed through the garage and was pinned against the back wall. Broke window, shut off car and removed unconscious woman.



Stephen Gallagher
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

Responded to a call of a man standing in two to three feet of frigid water under a bridge. Despite repeated requests, he refused to move. Unsure of his mental state, or whether he was armed, entered the water and approached the male, accompanied by police. Effectuated handover of the male to EMS.



Anthony Kelleher
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS

After ladder the front of a three-story burning apartment building, heard choking come from the second floor. Located and led a child to safety. Continued search and helped another victim out a window and down the ladder.



William Garrett
Fairfax County, VA, Fire and Rescue

While dining at a department retirement party, noticed the captain was choking on food. Immediately delivered several abdominal thrusts and dislodged the obstruction. The captain began normal breathing.



Benjamin Kersting
Wichita, KS, FD

Responded to a call of four swimmers in distress in the Arkansas River. Scaled a wall to gain access to the water. Rushed into the water and swam out as one swimmer became frantic. Subdued the swimmer and carried him safely back to shore.



Scott Kleinschmidt
Wichita, KS, FD

Responded to a call of four swimmers in distress in the Arkansas River. Scaled a wall to gain access to the water. Rushed into the water and swam out as one swimmer submerged. Dove under the water, pulled the swimmer up, swam back to shore and hoisted victim over the wall to safety.



Adam Knowles
Pawleys Island, SC,
Midway Fire and Rescue

Volunteered to swim out 75 feet to rescue a woman who had driven her car into a pond. The woman was waist deep in water and standing on the roof of the submerged vehicle. Wearing a PFD and tethered to a safety line, carried a PFD out to the woman, calmed her down and brought her back to shore.



David Leno
Chicago, IL, FD

With fire on the first floor and heavy smoke and high heat on the second floor, used a thermal imaging camera to search for victims. As conditions continued to deteriorate and visibility near zero, helped locate a 4-year-old girl wrapped in a blanket on the second floor. Helped carry the unresponsive victim down the stairs and out the door and handed off to EMS personnel.



Matthew Leonard
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Entered burning apartment building with two occupants trapped. Began to extinguish fire as crewmembers rescued occupants.



Dante Mazzetti
FDNY

Ascended to the 4th floor of a burning building in search of a trapped victim. Through heavy fire and smoke, gained access to the apartment. Took cover in a bedroom when living room windows failed causing room to light up. Waited for fire to vent through windows, before crawling through the apartment in search of victim. Located 96-year-old woman, shielded her from the fire and dragged her to safety.



William Monaco
Chicago, IL, FD

Responded to a call of a possible jumper on the elevated train tracks. Used ground ladder to gain access to the catwalk. Tried to reason with the man and gain his confidence, while partner approached from behind. Stood on the guard rail 70 feet above the track and made a grab for the victim. With assistance, was able to subdue the victim and bring him to safety.



Charles Moser
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Entered a three-story burning apartment building and advanced to second floor to search for fire. Continued search in high-heat, zero-visibility conditions.



Curtis Patterson
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Entered a three-story burning apartment building and advanced to second floor to search for fire. Continued search in high-heat, zero-visibility conditions.



Gonzalo Pazmino
Chicago, IL, FD

With a large volume of fire and heavy, black smoke pushing through the main entrance, gained entry through the rear of the fire building and ascended stairs in search of victims. Amid heavy smoke, located mother and daughter and led them to safety. Returned to rescue father and assist in the removal of two other victims.



Oleg Pelekhaty
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Entered a burning three-story apartment building and advanced to second floor to search for fire. Continued search in high-heat, zero-visibility conditions.



Michael Polek
Philadelphia, PA, FD

Made forcible entry into burning three-story apartment building. Entered in advance of a hoseline and found two people whom he determined would be safer sheltering in place. Continued search and found unconscious person in grave distress. Quickly removed this individual and passed off to paramedics.



Anthony Pucci
Chicago, IL, FD

With fire and smoke blocking the front entry, used ground ladder to gain access to rear window. Went up to third floor alone in heavy smoke conditions and followed the faint sound of voices. Discovered two small children in the bathroom and carried them to safety.



James "Kyle" Schultz
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

While crewmembers battled a fierce house fire, entered through the rear in search of a 70-year-old male trapped inside. Despite blinding smoke and intense heat, helped find and remove the victim.



Anthony Shockley
Fairfax County, VA,
Fire and Rescue

While off duty, responded to call for help at an airport terminal. Discovered adult male not breathing and having no pulse. Immediately began CPR. Used AED provided by airport personnel and applied shock, followed by CPR. Patient began to breath, but went into cardiac arrest. Repeated the treatment until the patient began to breathe on his own.



AJ Smith
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Placed and scaled the ground ladder to the front of a three-story burning apartment building. Placed it through a freshly cleared window to remove an adult male from his smoke-filled apartment.



Ethan Sorrell
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Entered burning apartment building with two occupants trapped. Began to extinguish fire as crewmembers rescued occupants. A 4-year-old girl was rescued.



Roger A. Steger
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Ran a ladder to the rear of a three-story burning apartment building, where an adult male was eventually led to safety. Two other occupants also were rescued.



Israel S. Tabak
Prince George's County,
MD, Fire/EMS

Entered burning apartment building with two occupants trapped. Began to extinguish fire as crewmembers rescued occupants. A 4-year-old girl was rescued. A 4-year-old girl was rescued.



Steven Troche
FDNY

Descended narrow, steep stairs with no line or water in search of victims in a basement fire. Amid heavy smoke and high heat, located 20-year-old female and called for help. As removal of woman began, noticed 2-year-old victim underneath her. Passed off child and carried woman up the stairs to safety. Overcome by exhaustion, passed out upon completion of task.

HEROISM \$100 AWARDS <<<



Eric Troken
Chicago, IL, FD
Responded to water-rescue operation and found elderly woman clinging to life in the waves of Lake Michigan. Donned personal flotation device, entered freezing water and swam out 20 feet to victim. Grabbed victim and swam back to shore.



Steven Whitman
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS
Entered burning apartment building in search of two occupants. Helped remove an unconscious adult male with severe burns and turned him over to awaiting EMS personnel.



Joe Washburn
Bath, NY, FD
Extricated injured driver by entering burning vehicle through side window, cutting the seat-belt, disentangling driver's feet and passing the victim through the recently removed front windshield.



Nik Zupancic
Prince George's County, MD, Fire/EMS
Entered burning apartment building in search of two occupants. Helped remove an unconscious adult male with severe burns and turned him over to awaiting EMS personnel.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE >>>



Firefighter/Paramedic Reneau Cherant
Cambridge, MA, FD
Following the earthquake in Haiti, Cherant volunteered his time and skill to assist victims. Assuming his own expense, Cherant provided medical services to the injured people of

Port-au-Prince. He remained in Haiti for one week and treated hundreds of patients with a variety of medical issues, including dehydration, hypotension, physical and psychological trauma, and pregnancy. He treated infants as well as adults.



Firefighter Collis Grisby
Wichita, KS, FD
Responding to a call of a person not breathing, Grisby found the parents of the 2-month-old infant who could not be resuscitated. The parents were in severe emotional distress and were seemingly inconsolable. Grisby quietly

gathered the parents in a comforting and compassionate embrace. He spoke softly with them for several minutes. As the situation stabilized and public safety personnel began to leave, the grieving parents asked Grisby to stay behind. He continued to show them extraordinary compassion and stayed as long as necessary.



Lieutenant Richard Hallatt
Syracuse, NY, FD
Hallatt is the founder and chairman of the department's annual Syracuse Fire Fighters Smoke Detector Night at Alliance Bank Stadium, home of the minor league Syracuse Chiefs baseball team. Smoke detectors are

purchased by the Syracuse Fire Fighters Association Local 280 with help from the Syracuse Fire Department Association. The department sends Engine Company 2, Truck Company 2 and the Rescue Company in service to show off the rigs and the Fire Prevention Bureau takes part with Hector the Smoke Detector and Buddy Battery (mascots in costume). Because of Hallatt's innovation, enthusiasm and hard work, more than 10,000 smoke detectors have been put in the hands of the residents of the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County.



Public Education Coordinator Sierra Jackson
Durham, NC, FD
Determined to reach out to the city's most high-risk area, Jackson developed the "Durham: Delivering a sound you can live with" program. She negotiated a partnership with

the local Domino's Pizza, which made it possible for fire personnel to get into the homes of residents in the high-risk district. On Oct. 25 and 26, residents who called in an order for a pizza were asked whether they wanted to participate in this year's fire prevention program by letting firefighters check their smoke alarms. Upon the resident's permission, Jackson, along with a fire captain and battalion chief, followed the delivery person. As the pizzas were delivered, they checked the smoke alarms and batteries. As part of the agreement with Domino's, the first 10 customers to have fully functioning smoke alarms received a free pizza. Residents without working smoke alarms also benefited by having their old batteries exchanged for new ones.



Firefighter Marlow Jones
Petersburg, VA, FD
Jones formed the group Fathers for Our Youth, which provides area youths, ages 5-18, with the opportunity to participate in recreational and competitive sports at no cost to the youths.

The program includes a mentorship program with area churches and helps teenagers who seek employment find jobs through local businesses. The group has been so successful that Jones is branching out to help the homeless. The group is now supplying coolers, ice and bottled water to the homeless, not to drink, but to sell over the summer.



Lieutenant Aisha Krieger
San Francisco, CA, FD
In 2003, while still working at the rank of firefighter, Krieger developed a comprehensive fire safety education program geared toward children in kindergarten through grade 5. The program, San Francisco Firefighters in

Safety Education (SFFISE), has reached more than 56,000 school-age children and their families. Children are given materials, printed in seven languages, to take home to their families, including a CD of three songs created by Krieger and her mother, that instill the safety messages presented by firefighters who visit the classrooms. Krieger has now started a Career Outreach Program to introduce middle and high school students to firefighting as a profession. She met with more than 1,000 students in the program's first year of development.



Firefighter Willie Joe Lightfoot
Rochester, NY, FD
A licensed barber, Lightfoot developed the "Cut the Violence" program, which offers free haircuts to children, ages 10-18 with an accompanying parent or guardian, three times a year at

three different locations, all United Way-certified Safe Haven locations. The program links the children and parents with service agencies that attend the event. The agencies include youth programs, educational institutions, financial services and health services. AIDS Care offered free, on-site HIV/AIDS testing. Cut the Violence has also provided free toys from the Pirate Toy Fund to more than 700 children in the community. With this program, access to myriad services is provided to citizens in one central location.



Plan Reviewer Code Compliance Department Gail McCann
Petersburg, VA, Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services

Shortly after joining the department, McCann's mother was admitted to ICU for cancer treatments. McCann spent countless hours sitting in waiting rooms and by her mother's side. To pass the time, she decided to resume her childhood hobby of crocheting and began to make hats and shawls... a lot of them. Her efforts turned to donating hundreds of hats and shawls to other cancer patients. She eventually started supplying local retailers with her products, with proceeds from the sales being donated to the American Cancer Society (or used for more yarn when needed). McCann's gift did not stop there. She began to teach other caregivers her skill and soon a little-known society of people crocheting hats and shawls for cancer patients was formed. Cancer patients throughout the city were then able to receive warmth and comfort made from love.



Fire Marshal Ed Ruckriegel
Madison, WI, FD
Following a fatal house fire near the University of Wisconsin campus, Ruckriegel set out to craft a new smoke alarm ordinance that targeted the most common concerns regarding smoke alarms: inoperable, outdated and/or disabled alarms that did not function during a fire. The ordinance was written requiring smoke alarms with 10-year lithium batteries in a tamper-resistant compartment or hard-wired alarms with battery backup. Ruckriegel worked with the landlord association in the city to negotiate their support and garnered support from the family of the victim of the off-campus fire. The City Council soon unanimously passed the ordinance. The ordinance was a distinct advantage in the department's bid for a fire prevention grant, in which it was awarded \$35,000 for a smoke alarm installation project. That was followed by an invitation to be a part of a smoke alarm installation grant with Vision 20/20, bringing the community another round of funding for more than \$100,000.