

Fire District No. 1 Recognizes Outstanding Service

December 17th, 2008

St. Tammany Fire District No. 1 Fire Chief Larry Hess announced today the recognition of the fire department's 2008 Firefighter of the Year, Medic of the Year, and Communications Officer of the Year.



Capt. Tyrone Collins a 14-year veteran of the department was honored as Firefighter of the Year. Hess described Collins as a gift to the fire department and the entire community. Capt. Tyrone Collins was selected for this honor based on his exemplary leadership and character said Hess. I don't know that we honor him with this has much he honors us with his presence and positive influence Hess said.

Tyrone Collins is the epitome of the noble and caring nature of our fine profession. When a little kid says he or she wants to grow up and be a firefighter, it's Tyrone Collins they should emulate according to Hess. Gee whiz, I want to grow up and be like Tyrone Hess continued.

We have a very young department and when I know that they have role models like Capt. Collins to look up to, the foundation of the future of this fire department will be built on a legacy reflecting the character that he demonstrates everyday he comes to work continued Hess.



Recognized as Medic of the Year was Firefighter/NREMT-P Pat Boullion. Firefighter/Paramedic Boullion is a 15-month member of the fire department. On 27 February and again on 2 July of this year Firefighter/Paramedic Boullion was directly responsible for saving the lives of two area residents. Utilizing his extensive training and employing the aggressive and sophisticated advanced emergency medical protocols permitted for use by Fire District No. 1 Paramedics, Firefighter/Paramedic Boullion revived these two lifeless people.

In addition, Firefighter/Paramedic Boullion was the initiator of the Vial of Life program. This community outreach effort distributed over 1,000 vials in which medical histories, living wills, and other important emergency medical information is contained. When responders see the decal that accompanies the vial,

posted they know to retrieve the information, so safe and effective emergency medical services are rendered.

Two weeks after the initial implementation of the Vial of Life program it was put to the test and saved the life of the patient. His effort to make this public safety program a reality was the turning point in recognizing Boullion for this award. At the same time, his involvement demonstrates how new members are finding ways to contribute to the community early in their careers said Hess.



Rachel Aucoin was recognized as the Communications Officer of the Year.

Communications Officer Aucoin received this award as a result of her superior contributions to our annual Pam Nash Safe Kids Day.

Communications Officer Aucoin has been a member of the fire department for two and half years and constantly exceeds the expected requirements of her dispatching duties according to Communications Supervisor Julie Watson.

This year Communications Officer Aucoin designed and implemented a program partnering with Alton Elementary School to enhance the public safety campaign focused on childhood safety. Her program included a poster and essay contest for the students at the school as well as engaging the faculty. With over 100 children involved the program was an outstanding success in its first year Hess said.

Hess stated that while these three members were recognized for their unselfish and committed efforts, it's important to know that all of our members save lives, place themselves in harm's way, and make community contributions everyday.