



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

7550 Lyman Avenue • Darien, Illinois 60561 • (630) 910-2200 • Fax (630) 910-2203

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2007

The Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District held its 13th annual Service Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 5, 2007. Employees and officials were recognized for their years of service along with other awards.

Personnel Service Awards

5 Years - **Bob Klein, Trustee** and **Leo Rasp, Commissioner**
15 Years - **H. James McGill, Commissioner**, **FF/PM Seth Dale**, **FF/PM Richard Sanborn** and **FF Joe Wolski**
20 Years - **Lt. Valerie Feld** and **Lt. Thomas Mahn**
25 Years - **Richard Chochola**

Good Samaritan Service Awards

10 Years - **FF/PM Steve Gorsky**
15 Years - **Lt. Mark Cooper**, **FF/PM Richard Sanborn** and **FF/PM Carl Witt**
20 Years - **FF Joseph Molinari**
25 Years - **Lt. Steve Porter**

Certifications Attained

Lt. Mark Cooper - Fire Officer 2
B/C Patrick Foley - Vehicle & Machinery Operations
FF Bill Geary - Firefighter III
FF/PM Vince Graham - Fire Service Vehicle Operator
FF/PM Anthony Hatcher - Hazardous Materials Technician B & Instructor I
FF Jim Hobbs - Fire Service Vehicle Operator, Vehicle & Machinery Operations
FF/PM Rytis Juzolenas - Paramedic License
Lt. Jim Karasek - Instructor 2, Fire Officer 2 Provisional & Juvenile Fire Intervention Specialist
FF/PM Keith Kaschub - Firefighter III
Lt. Dave Lambright - Incident Safety Officer
FF/PM Darren Lino - Fire Apparatus Engineer & Hazardous Materials Operations
FF/PM Mike Modjeski - Fire Apparatus Engineer, Hazardous Materials Operations & Firefighter III
FF/PM Vince Phillips - Fire Officer I Provisional & Instructor I
FF Mark Wojan - Technical Rescue Awareness, Firefighter II & Hazardous Material Awareness
B/C Jay Worden - Certified Fire Investigator

Award of Commendation may be presented to a civilian or public service professional outside of the Darien-Woodridge Fire District. The act performed must have been of unusual character requiring initiative or ability worthy of special recognition.

The **Award of Commendation** was presented to **Pamela and Robert Brandt** for their observant manner and actions on November 29, 2006, reporting a presence of smoke coming from their neighbor's house at 8975 Coppergate Road, Woodridge. Their actions prompted our response to this confirmed house fire and prevented a major fire loss. Their alert and prompt actions warrant this **Award of Commendation**.

Another **Award of Commendation** was presented to **Nick Kaiser** for his heroic actions to assist a motorist on Interstate 55, on August 8, 2006. This incident involved a male driver experiencing a seizure who struck the cement median and continued along the median uncontrolled, unable to stop the car. Truck driver **Nick Kaiser** stopped his truck to block traffic and ran along the car, broke the window and gained entry to stop the car. He continued to assist the patient until our crews arrived.

Award of Merit was presented to **FF Matthew Duffy, FF/PM Mike Modjeski** and **FF/PM Rytis Juzolenas** for an unusual emergency child birth that required non-routine measures. Crews were called to the Home Depot store to be confronted by a woman who had just delivered her baby. The newborn was lodged in the woman's pant leg. Crews moved the patient and baby to the ambulance and provided standard newborn procedures. Mom and baby were fine with no further problems in transport. The medics attending both patients had experienced their first emergency childbirth and conducted themselves with exceptional professionalism.

Fire Chief's Citation was presented to **B/C Jay Worden** for his successful completion of the required coursework, formal education, practical experience (field and court room testimony) and passing the extensive examination to become a Certified Fire Investigator as recognized by the International Association of Arson Investigators. Jay is to be commended for his extensive preparation in attaining this unique, first ever certification for the District.

Employee of the Year 2006 was presented to **Kelly Wojan**, as nominated by fellow employees and judged to be the most deserving. Kelly has been cited to be extremely dedicated and hard working, handling an array of duties in her role as Secretary-Receptionist. She coordinates all Public Education events and is responsible for the original design and maintenance of the District's web site. In addition, she coordinates SUFD Maintenance purchase orders and billing. Kelly is very capable in handling multiple tasks and known to be always warm and friendly in her manner.

###