Tucson Fire Department
2016 Awards Presentation

September 22, 2016:

OFFICIAL
DB #457
From: Joe Gulotta, Assistant Chief
Subject: Annual Awards Reminder – Extraordinary Events

Each year the fire department holds an awards ceremony to recognize the hard work and dedication of our employees. We ask that throughout the year you send any award-worthy events to us for the next award process. We know that there are things that people do on a daily basis or calls that our folks respond to that are commendable but often get forgotten as the months go by. You can reference Master Memo #24 from 2015 or see the list below regarding the various categories. Please send your emails or memos (as soon as they come up) to brittney.spangle@tucsonaz.gov. Brittney will compile all of the memos/notes that are received and then give them to the Awards Committee for review. Don't miss an opportunity to recognize members of your team for their efforts.

AWARD CATEGORIES -

- Unit Citation
  Awarded to any group of two or more Fire Department members who make up a company, section, team or employee work group which has performed in a manner worthy of recognition and merit.

- Award of Service
  Awarded for distinguished service to the Department and the community. Examples: Coordinating a public service program between the Fire Department and the public.

- Award of Merit
  Awarded for performing duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Examples: Displaying outstanding work performance in all facets of job requirements; consistently exceeding job performance standards.

- Medal of Merit
  Awarded for consistently exceptional performance in the field during emergency fire and medical operations, or to an individual who performs a life-saving act off duty.

- Medal of Valor
  Awarded for bravery and/or a courageous act or acts with little regard for personal risk in exceptional circumstances. Examples: Descending into well, etc., to rescue another or others; voluntarily entering a charged environment to conduct a search for victim or survivors; displaying personal courage in confronting dangerous conditions while performing emergency operations.

- Medal of Honor
  Awarded for a heroic act or acts that place the individual at great personal life risk, knowingly, in saving or attempting to save another life or lives; or inspires others to perform similar acts. Examples: Repeatedly entering a burning or crumbling building to rescue others within; entering swift floodwaters without precautions to rescue another or others; purposely exposing self to extremely hazardous environment in order to share life-saving equipment to protect and rescue another or others.

- Ed Neville EMS Excellence Award
  This is an annual award to recognize personnel who have made significant contributions in EMS to the department and the community.

- Non-Uniform Employee of the Year
  This award is reserved for the non-commissioned employee who best reflects the ideals and dedication strived for in the Tucson Fire Department.

- Firefighter of the Year

  Awarded to any uniformed member based on overall performance of his/her position, community involvement, and example of esprit de corps. This person will best reflect the ideals and dedication strived for in the fire service.

- Chief's Award
  The Chief of the Tucson Fire Department will choose the recipient of this award. Examples include exemplary performance of duties and dedication to the department, the City, and the citizens of Tucson.

Thank you for your assistance.

December 1, 2016:

OFFICIAL
DB #593
From: Joe Gulotta, Assistant Chief
Subject: Annual Awards Reminder – Extraordinary Events

Each year the fire department holds an awards ceremony to recognize the hard work and dedication of our employees. We ask that throughout the year you send any award-worthy events to us for the next award process. We know that there are things that people do on a daily basis or calls that our folks respond to that are commendable but often get forgotten as the months go by. You can reference Master Memo #24 from 2015 or see the list below regarding the various categories. Please send your emails or memos (as soon as they come up) to brittney.spangle@tucsonaz.gov. Brittney will compile all of the memos/notes that are received and then give them to the Awards Committee for review. Don't miss an opportunity to recognize members of your team for their efforts.

AWARD CATEGORIES -

- Unit Citation
  Awarded to any group of two or more Fire Department members who make up a company, section, team or employee work group which has performed in a manner worthy of recognition and merit.

- Award of Service
  Awarded for distinguished service to the Department and the community. Examples: Coordinating a public service program between the Fire Department and the public.

- Award of Merit
  Awarded for performing duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Examples: Displaying outstanding work performance in all facets of job requirements; consistently exceeding job performance standards.

- Medal of Merit
  Awarded for consistently exceptional performance in the field during emergency fire and medical operations, or to an individual who performs a life-saving act off duty.

- Medal of Valor
  Awarded for bravery and/or a courageous act or acts with little regard for personal risk in exceptional circumstances. Examples: Descending into well, etc., to rescue another or others; voluntarily entering a charged environment to conduct a search for victim or survivors; displaying personal courage in confronting dangerous conditions while performing emergency operations.

- Medal of Honor
  Awarded for a heroic act or acts that place the individual at great personal life risk, knowingly, in saving or attempting to save another life or lives; or inspires others to perform similar acts. Examples: Repeatedly entering a burning or crumbling building to rescue others within; entering swift floodwaters without precautions to rescue another or others; purposely exposing self to extremely hazardous environment in order to share life-saving equipment to protect and rescue another or others.

- Ed Neville EMS Excellence Award
  This is an annual award to recognize personnel who have made significant contributions in EMS to the department and the community.

- Non-Uniform Employee of the Year
  This award is reserved for the non-commissioned employee who best reflects the ideals and dedication strived for in the Tucson Fire Department.

- Firefighter of the Year
  Awarded to any uniformed member based on overall performance of his/her position, community involvement, and example of esprit de corps. This person will best reflect the ideals and dedication strived for in the fire service.

- Chief's Award
  The Chief of the Tucson Fire Department will choose the recipient of this award. Examples include exemplary performance of duties and dedication to the department, the City, and the citizens of Tucson.

Thank you for your assistance.

December 15, 2016, MM033:

MASTER MEMO

DATE: December 15, 2016

TO: All Fire Personnel

FROM: Joe Gulotta
Assistant Chief
Logistics/Safety

SUBJECT: **Annual Awards - 2016**

Each year the Tucson Fire Department sets time aside to recognizes employees who perform an act of distinct heroism and/or who provide an outstanding service to the Department or to the public.

Any employee of the Department may nominate another member of the department for an award. Details of the different awards are listed below. The nomination shall be submitted as a memorandum and should include a description of the outstanding service, or specific event with the date, time, location, alarm number, and/or witnesses to the occasion. The nomination should also include the recommended award category.

The completed nomination memo should be submitted to Brittney Spangle via email (brittney.spangle@tucsonaz.gov) **NO later than 1700 hrs. January 3, 2017.**

The Awards Committee will acknowledge receipt of the nomination. The Awards Committee shall consist of the following members:

Fire Chief
All Assistant Chiefs
Public Information Officer
Representatives of Local 479, TFFA
Other department members

Though the committee size is limited, we encourage anyone that is interested in participating to let us know. The Awards Committee will review the nominations and associated documentation. There is no limitation placed on the number of awards an individual can receive or the number of individuals that can receive awards in a specific category. However, the exceptions are Fire Fighter of the Year and Employee of the Year.

The members of our department provide outstanding service and perform many acts of heroism each year. Please help us recognize these employees by nominating them for one of the awards listed below.

December 15, 2016, MM033:

CRITERIA FOR AWARDS (see TFD Manual of Operations Section 100)

1. **Medal of Honor**
   Awarded for heroic acts or acts that place the individual at great personal life risk, knowingly, in saving or attempting to save another life or lives; or inspires others to perform similar acts. Examples: Repeatedly entering a burning or crumbling building to rescue others within. Entering swift floodwaters without precautions to rescue another or others. Purposely exposing self to extremely hazardous environment in order to share life-saving equipment to protect and rescue another or others.

2. **Medal of Valor**
   Awarded for bravery and/or a courageous act or acts with little regard for personal risk in exceptional circumstances. Examples: Descending into well, etc. to rescue another or others. Voluntarily entering a charged environment to conduct a search for victims or survivors. Displaying personal courage in confronting dangerous conditions while performing emergency operations.

3. **Medal of Merit**
   Awarded for consistently exceptional performance in the field during emergency fire and medical operations. Also, presented for involvement in a lifesaving event off duty. Example: Displaying exemplary leadership, judgement and initiative during a series of field operations. Consistently inspiring or motivating others to perform to their optimal abilities during field operations. Administering lifesaving CPR, rescue from a MVA, rescue from a burning building while off duty.

4. **Award of Service**
   Awarded for distinguished service to the Department and the community. Examples: Coordinating a public service program between the Fire Department and the public. Officially representing the Fire Department on boards or committees of civic organizations. Designing and completing a special program that will benefit The Department and the Community.

5. **Award of Merit**
   Awarded for performing duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Examples: Displaying outstanding work performance in all facets of job requirements. Consistently exceeding job performance standards.

6. **Edwin L. Neville III Award**
   This is an annual award to recognize personnel who have made significant contributions in EMS to the department and the community.

7. **Fire Chiefs Award**
   The Chief of the Tucson Fire Department will choose the recipient of this reward. Examples include exemplary performance of duties and dedication to the department, the city and the citizens of Tucson.

December 15, 2016, MM033:

8. **Employee of the Year**
   Awarded to the non-commissioned member of the Fire Department who best reflects the spirit and example in the Fire Service.

9. **Fire Fighter of the Year**
   Awarded to any uniformed member based on overall performance of his/her position, community involvement, and example of esprit-de-corps. This person will best reflect the ideals and dedication strived for in the fire service.

10. **Unit Citation**
    Awarded to any group of two or more Fire Department members who make up a company, section, team or employee work group which has performed in a manner worthy of recognition and merit.

If you have any questions please contact Brittney Spangle or me at 791-4512.

MM# 033
DATE: 12/15/2016

December 29, 2016, DD#642:

OFFICIAL
DB #642
From: Joe Gulotta, Assistant Chief
Subject: Annual Awards Reminder – Extraordinary Events

This is the final reminder to send in your award nominations for the 2016 year. All award nominations need to be received by January 3, 2017. Please reference MM #033 for additional information.

January 13, 2017, MM002:

MASTER MEMO

DATE: January 13, 2017

TO: All Fire Personnel

FROM: Jim Critchley
Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Annual Award Recipients for 2016

It gives me great pride to announce the 2016 award recipients. These men and women reflect the commitment and professionalism that exemplifies the Tucson Fire Department and which the community has grown to expect. I would like to thank those individuals that recognized the considerable skills and abilities of their co-workers and have taken the time and effort to nominate them for an award.

The Tucson Fire Department Annual Awards Program will be held at Fire Central on March 3, 2017, beginning at 1000 hrs. I ask that you attend this great event to support and commend those that have done extraordinarily this past year.

All awards, with the exception of Unit Citations, will be presented at the Annual Awards Ceremony. The Unit Citations will be presented at a later date through their battalions.

Tucson Fire Department Annual Award Recipients for 2016

Fire Fighter of the Year
Captain Roberto Vasquez

Non-Uniform Employee of the Year
Mrs. Chris Davison

Fire Chief's Award
Captain John Gulotta

Edwin L. Neville, III Award
Paramedic Victor Espinoza

TFD Medal of Valor
Paramedic Billy Eyrich, Jr.

Firefighter Jeremiah Tabaj

TFD Medal of Merit
Paramedic Brendan Nostrant

Engineer Christopher Spurr

January 13, 2017, MM002:

Award of Service

Captain David Dorame

Captain Paul Moore

Paramedic Matthew Trujillo

Ms. Lynn Kastella

Children's Museum – Ms. Cecelia Mendoza, Mrs. Amaris Vasquez, Captain Dan Heffelfinger, Captain Roberto Vasquez, Captain Corey Dorman, Engineer Joseph Muñoz, Firefighter David Brannen, Firefighter Jose Terrazas

Camp Fury – Assistant Chief Laura Baker, Captain Jacki deHaro, Captain Vera Wuerfel, Paramedic Mimi Thomas, Paramedic Lori Clark

New Dispatch CPR Protocol - Superintendent Geoff Kuhn, Captain Greg Hoffman, Captain Bruce Noble, Captain Mike Rollman (NWFD), Supervisor Chris Hove

Award of Merit

Deputy Chief Christopher Conger

Battalion Chief James Kearney

Engineer Clayton Black

Mr. Vincent Evans

Mr. Geoffrey Kuhn

Captain Travis Elam

Mrs. Stacie Bird

TC-3 Team – Captain Mike Bishop, Paramedic Sue Rizzi, Firefighter Brad Chilcote, Firefighter Scott Linaman

TFFA Award

Dr. Wayne Peate

MM #: 002
DATE: 1/13/2017

February 24, 2017, DB#84—

OFFICIAL
DB #084
From: Jim Critchley, Fire Chief
Subject: Annual Awards Program – March 3, 2017

Our Annual Awards Program will be held on March 3, 2017. For those of you receiving an award, please call Brittney Spangle as soon as possible regarding your attendance and the number of people joining you. We would like to reserve seats for family.

Dress code: Award recipients should wear their ceremonial dress uniform or Class A dress shirt with tie if on duty.

March 2, 2017, *TFD*—

CITY OF TUCSON

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Captain Andy Skaggs
Public Information Officer
410-1901 pager
Andrew.Skaggs@tucsonaz.gov

Date: 03/02/2017
TDD: 837-7087

TFD Annual Awards Program

The Tucson Fire Department Annual Awards Program will be he held on March 3rd, 2017 at Tucson Fire Central. The program will begin at 10:00 A.M. at 300 South Fire Central Place. It is the policy of the Tucson Fire Department to recognize its employees and members who perform an act of distinct heroism and/or who provide an outstanding service to the Department or to the public safety of the community. Approximately 40 members of the department will be recognized for their efforts over the last year. The men and women being recognized reflect the commitment and professionalism that exemplifies the Tucson Fire Department and that which the community has grown to expect.

TUCSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

MARCH 3, 2017

10 a.m.

Tucson Fire Central—300 S. Fire Central Place
Tucson, AZ 85701

2016 award recipients

Fire Fighter of the Year
Captain Roberto Vasquez

Non-Uniform Employee of the Year
Mrs. Chris Davison

Fire Chief's Award
Captain John Gulotta

TFFA Award
Dr. Wayne Peate

Edwin L. Neville, III Award
Paramedic Victor Espinoza

TFD Medal of Valor
Paramedic Billy Eyrich, Jr.
Firefighter Jeremiah Tabaj

TFD Medal of Merit
Paramedic Brendan Nostrant
Engineer Christopher Spurr

Award of Service
Captain David Dorame, Captain Paul Moore, Paramedic Matthew Trujillo
Ms. Lynn Kastella, Ms. Cecilia Mendoza, Mrs. Amaris Vasquez
Captain Dan Heffelfinger, Captain Roberto Vasquez, Captain Corey Dorman, FF
Carlos Burruel, Engineer Joseph Muñoz, FF David Brannen, FF Jose Terrazas,
Assistant Chief Laura Baker, Captain Jacki DeHaro, Captain Vera Wuerfel
Paramedic Mimi Thomas, Paramedic Lori Clark, Captain Greg Hoffman,
Captain Bruce Noble, Captain Mike Rollman (NWFD)
Mr. Christopher Hove

Award of Merit
Deputy Chief Christopher Conger, Battalion Chief James Kearney,
Engineer Clayton Black, Mr. Vincent Evans, Mr. Geoffrey Kuhn
Captain Travis Elam, Mrs. Stacie Bird, Captain Mike Bishop,
Paramedic Sue Rizzi, FF Brad Chilcote, FF Scott Linaman

Unit Citations will be presented at a later date through the battalions.

Specific details about each award can be viewed at:
www.tucsonaz.gov/fire/MissionandOverview/2017Awards

March 3, 2017

Today it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Tucson Fire Department Annual Awards Program. The Tucson Fire Department has a long tradition of delivering outstanding service to the citizens of the Tucson community. I am very proud of the men and women of the Tucson Fire Department. This is a very difficult job that requires highly trained, dedicated, and skilled professionals who are pushed to their physical and emotional limits when they respond to an emergency. It's what we do, it's what the community expects, and it's why we earn the respect of those we serve. I like the saying "treat every citizen like a family member" and you'll never go wrong.

Please join me today in honoring the recipients of the Tucson Fire Department Annual Awards. These men and women represent the best of what it means to be a City of Tucson employee and a member of the Tucson Fire Department.

James E. Critchley, Jr.
Fire Chief

Video Presentation

Opening Remarks
Assistant Chief Joe Gulotta

Posting of Colors
Tucson Fire Department Honor Guard and Pipes & Drums

Invocation
Chaplain Scott McKinney

Pledge of Allegiance

Awards Ceremony

Award of Service
Presented by Assistant Chief Joe Gulotta

Award of Merit
Presented by Assistant Chief Laura Baker

Edwin L. Neville, III Award
Presented by Assistant Chief Laura Baker

TFD Medal of Merit
Presented by Assistant Chief Mike Garcia

TFD Medal of Valor
Presented by Assistant Chief Mike Garcia

TFFA Award
Presented by Captain Josh Campbell

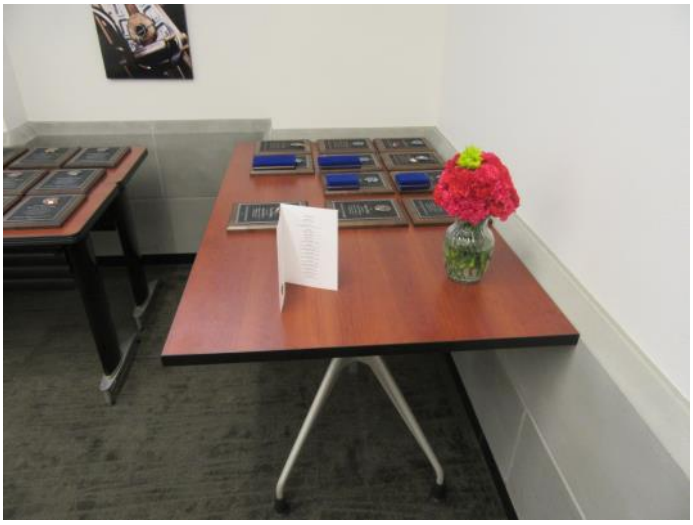
Non-Uniform Employee of the Year
Presented by Chief Jim Critchley

Fire Chief's Award
Presented by Chief Jim Critchley

Fire Fighter of the Year
Presented by Chief Jim Critchley

Closing Remarks
Assistant Chief Joe Gulotta

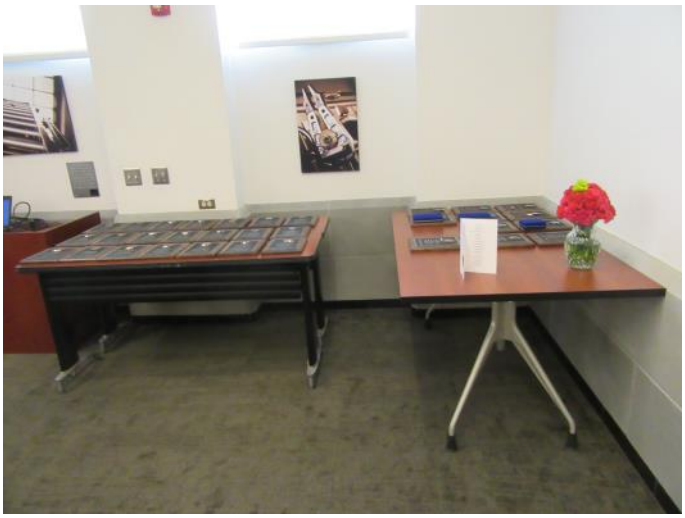
March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:



Awards

Awards

Awards



Awards

Chief Joe Gulotta, opening remarks

Posting of the Colors, TFD Honor Guard & Pipes & Drums

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:

Posting of the Colors, TFD Honor Guard & Pipes & Drums

Chaplain Scott McKinney, Invocation

Chief Glottal, Awards Presentations

Captain David Dorame, Award of Service

Captain Paul Moore, Award of Service

Paramedic Matthew Trujillo, Award of Service

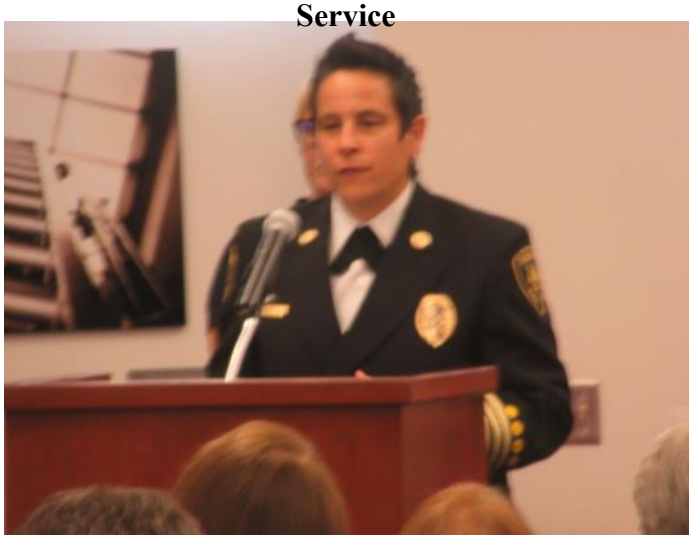
March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:

Ms. Lynn Kastella, Award of Service

Ms. Cecilia Mendoza, Ms. Amaris Vasquez, Captain Dan Heffelfinger, Captain Roberto Vasquez, Captain Corey Dorman Award of Service

Carlos Burruel, Joseph Munoz, David Brannen, Jose Terrazas, Chief Laura Baker, Award of Service

Award of Service, Captain Greg Hoffman, Captain Bruce Noble, Captain Mike Rollman (NWFD) and Supervisor Christopher Hove



Chief Laura Baker, presenter

Deputy Chief Christopher Conger, Award of Merit

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:

Battalion Chief James Kearney, Award of Merit

Chief Laura Baker, presenter

Mr. Vincent Evans, Award of Merit

Mr. Geoffrey Kuhn, Award of Merit

Captain Travis Elam, Award of Merit

Mrs. Stacie Bird, Award of Merit

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:

Sharron McDonough, Award of Merit

Edwin I. Neville III Award, Paramedic Victor Espinoza

Assistant Chief Mike Garcia, presenter

Medal of Merit, Engineer Christopher Spurr

Paramedic Billy Eyrich, Jr. & Jeremiah Tabaj, Medal of Valor

Chief Jim Critchley, presenter

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:

Captain John Gulotta, Fire Chief's Award

Captain Josh Campbell, presenter

Dr. Wayne Peate, TFFA Award

Chief Critchley, presenter

Mrs. Chris Davison, Non-Uniform Employee of the Year

Captain Roberto Vasquez, Firefighter of the Year

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016, Photos curtesy Al Ring:

Captain Roberto Vasquez,, Firefighter of the Year

Staff

Chief Jim Critchley

Gulotta Family

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016

Tucson Fire PIO @TucsonFirePIO · 19h

Congratulations to those that were recognized today as part of the TFD 2016 Annual Awards Ceremony. Your efforts are truly appreciated #TFD

Tucson Fire PIO @TucsonFirePIO · 10h

One of the neatest things about the ceremony is watching the smiles on the faces of the families whose loved ones...

Firefighters honored at TFD awards ceremony

Some of Tucson's bravest were honored Friday morning at the Tucson Fire Department awards ceremony.

kgun9.com

March 3, 2017, http://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/accident-shuts-down-wetmore

Firefighters honored at TFD awards ceremony

BY: kgun9.com staff
POSTED: 4:33 PM, Mar 3, 2017
UPDATED: 7:32 PM, Mar 3, 2017

TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - Some of Tucson's bravest were honored Friday morning at the Tucson Fire Department awards ceremony.

Captain Beto Vasquez was named fireman of the year.

Vasquez said it's an honor because every Tucson firefighter wears the uniform to help people.

About 45 firefighters received awards for their efforts to keep each other and everyone safe.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

TFFA Award
Dr Wayne Peate — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:25am ·

Award of Service
Captain Greg Hoffman, Captain Bruce Noble, Captain Mike Rollman(NFWD) and Supervisor Christopher Hove — at Tucson Fire Department.

Award of Merit
Deputy Chief Chris Conger — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:27am ·

Award of Merit
Battalion Chief James Kearney — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:29am ·

Award of Merit
Mr. Vincent Evans — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:31am ·

Award of Merit
Geoffrey Kuhn, Superintendent at Dispatch — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:32am ·

Award of Merit
Captian Travis Elam — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:33am ·

Award of Merit
Ms. Stacie Bird, Finance Manager — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:35am ·

Award of Merit
TC-3 Team
Captain Mike Bishop, Paramedic Sue Rizzi, FF Brad Chilcote, and FF Scott Linaman. — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:36am ·

Edwin I. Neville III Award
Paramedic Victor Espinoza — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:51am ·

Firefighter of the Year
Captain Beto Vasquez — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:38am ·

Award of Merit
Paramedic Brenden Nostrant — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:39am ·

Medal of Merit
Engineer Christopher Spurr — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:42am ·

Medal of Valor
Paramedic Billy Eyrich and FF Jeremiah Tabaj — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:44am ·

Fire Chief's Award
Captain John Gulotta — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:49am ·

Employee of the Year
Ms. Chris Davison — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:24am ·

Award of Service
Assistant Chief Laura Baker, Captain Jacki DeHaro, Paramedic Mimi Thomas, and Paramedic Lori Clark. — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:22am ·

Award of Service
Captain Dan Heffelfinger, Captain Roberto Vasquez, Captain Corey Dorman, Engineer Joseph Munoz, FF David Brannen, FF Carlos Burruel, FF Jose Terrazas, and Public Safety Education Specalist Cecilia Mendoza and Amaris Vasquez. — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:20am ·

Award of Service
Mrs. Lynn Kastella — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:19am ·

Award of Service
Paramedic Matthew Trujillo — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:17am ·

Award of Service
Captain Paul Moore — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 **Courte4sy Martha Cantrell**

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:16am ·

Award of Service
Captain David Dorame — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:00am ·

Pipes and Drums solo piper
Seth McKinney — at Tucson Fire Department.

March 3, 2017, *TFD*—Annual Awards Program—2016 Courte4sy Martha Cantrell

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 10:11am ·

Honor Guard member
Matthew Trujillo — at Tucson Fire Department.

Tucson Fire Department
Like This Page · March 3 at 9:58am ·

2016 awards
Unable to make it
Award of Merit Engineer Clayton Black — at Tucson Fire Department.

2017 Tucson Fire Award Recipients

Fire Fighter of the Year

Awarded to any uniformed member based on overall performance of his/her position, community involvement, and example of esprit-de-corps. This person will best reflect the ideals and dedication strived for in the fire service.

Recipient: Captain Roberto Vasquez

Captain Vasquez has worked for Tucson Fire since August of 2004 and as a captain since June of 2011. Captain Vasquez has been an exemplary employee during his time with the department. He continues to take extra steps and go above and beyond his normal duties to help keep the community safe. Captain Vasquez took it upon himself to develop a public education program called "The Do Something Campaign". This involved creating a series of public education videos which continue to air today. In addition to his normal duties, Captain Vasquez has represented the department as the public information officer for Spanish television. Recently, Captain Vasquez participated in renovating Tucson Children's Museum.

For these and many other reasons, Captain Roberto Vasquez has been identified as the Tucson Fire Department's firefighter of the year.

Employee of the Year

Awarded to the non-commissioned member of the Fire Department who best reflects the spirit and example in the Fire Service.

Recipient: Ms. Chris Davison
Ms. Davison has been with the City of Tucson since May 1994 and with Tucson Fire for the past 2 years.

Ms. Davison is the Ambulance Billing Manager for our Cost Recovery Section. Chris was nominated for this award by a subordinate.

In the 2 years that Ms. Davison has been with TFD she has been instrumental in making the Cost Recovery Section a better place to work for the employees. The changes she has made have increased revenue, employee production and much happier people.

Ms. Davison is dedicated to learning and a true public servant who does what's right and cares about people.

Fire Chiefs Award

The Chief of the Tucson Fire Department will choose the recipient of this reward. Examples include exemplary performance of duties and dedication to the department, the city and the citizens of Tucson.

Recipient: Captain John Gulotta

Captain Gulotta has been with the Tucson Fire Department since July 1997 and has been TFD's sole Safety Officer since 2008. Captain Gulotta is the sole point of contact for employees who are injured or exposed to toxic or biological agents and at the very least, he receives a phone call for each incident and most often responds to the scene – mostly after regular working hours.

Captain Gulotta spearheads the Department's efforts to prevent exposures and accidents. He has made it a passion to work to identify and educate TFD employees on the potential life-threatening cancer causing combustion by products at fire scenes. He has teamed up with the University of Arizona to conduct a grant funded extensive multi-year cancer study with TFD firefighters which is the first of its kind in the nation. The initial results of the study proved that firefighters were being exposed to cancer causing agents even while correctly wearing the proper personal protective gear. Captain Gulotta has made significant improvements to the Department's rehabilitation and decontaminating procedures at the fire scene to help limit exposure to these harmful byproducts.

Captain Gulotta also coordinates and is the main point of contact for TFD's mental health POST (Peer Occupational Support Team) that assists TFD members after difficult calls such as pediatric injuries or fatalities.

Captain Gulotta works behind the scenes and is a true public servant. That is why I am presenting Captain Gulotta with this award.

Edwin L. Neville III Award

This is an annual award to recognize personnel who have made significant contributions in EMS to the department and the community.

Recipient: Paramedic Victor Espinoza
Paramedic Espinoza has been with Tucson Fire since October of 2006.

Paramedic Espinoza was nominated for this award by his supervisor who wrote: "In all my years of services, both as a paramedic and captain with TFD, I have never seen anyone as dedicated to teaching and training paramedic students and probationary paramedics as Victor is."

Paramedic Espinoza has spent countless hours working with probationary medics to ensure that they develop necessary drug knowledge, develop the necessary skills to assess, treat and care for patients. Victor's dedication not only helps probationary medics but the department and the community.

Paramedic Espinoza is a dedicated professional who deserves to be recognized for his efforts in training and teaching others to be great paramedics or EMTs in the field and serving the community.

For his dedication to training and coaching paramedics and to his work as a paramedic, Victor Espinoza is being presented with the Edwin L. Neville, III Award.

Medal of Valor

Awarded for bravery and/or a courageous act or acts with little regard for personal risk in exceptional circumstances. Examples: Descending into a well, etc. to rescue another or others. Voluntarily entering a charged environment to conduct a search for victims or survivors. Displaying personal courage in confronting dangerous conditions while performing emergency operations.

Recipients: Paramedic Billy Eyrich and Firefighter Jeremiah Tabaj
Paramedic Eyrich has been with the Tucson Fire Department since 2007 and Firefighter Tabaj since 2008.

On December 18, 2016 at approximately 1500 hrs., RE8 responded to a third party call for a 30 year old male with abdominal pain. PM Eyrich and FF Tabaj began assessing the patient who appeared to be unconscious. During their assessment the patient suddenly became agitated and confrontational with Firefighter Tabaj and began aggressively approaching him. Paramedic Eyrich and Firefighter Tabaj attempted to calm the patient but their efforts were unsuccessful and the situation escalated into a physical confrontation between the rescue crew and the patient which resulted in PM Eyrich being bitten multiple times. The man then grabbed a knife attacking both crew members. Because of swift and decisive teamwork, both Paramedic Eyrich and FF Tabaj were able to avert serious injury.

Because of their display of courage while performing emergency operations, I am honored to present PM Eyrich and FF Tabaj with this Medal of Valor.

Medal of Merit

Awarded for consistently exceptional performance in the field during emergency fire and medical operations. Also, presented for involvement in a lifesaving event off duty. Example: Displaying exemplary leadership, judgement and initiative during a series of field operations. Consistently inspiring or motivating others to perform to their optimal abilities during field operations. Administering lifesaving CPR, rescue from a MVA, rescue from a burning building while off duty.

Recipient: Paramedic Brendan Nostrant
Paramedic Nostrant has worked for Tucson Fire since January 2006.

In October 2016, Paramedic Nostrant along with his family traveled to California for a vacation, which included some time at the beach. While at the beach, the couple that the Nostrant's were traveling with decided to take their paddle boards out past the surf.

While the wife was attempting to get through the rough surf, she lost control of the board which flew up and struck her in the head. Brendan saw what was happening and ran into the water. Paramedic Nostrant saw that his friend came up for air once but then sank back down into the water. Brendan was finally able to reach his friend and pull her to safety. The LAFD arrived and transported her to the hospital.

Because of Paramedic Nostrant's life saving efforts, he is being presented today with the Medal of Merit.

Medal of Merit

Recipient: Engineer Christopher Spurr
Engineer Spurr has worked for the Tucson Fire Department since August of 2004.

On April 17, 2016, while visiting family in Cliff, New Mexico, Engineer Spurr observed a high speed chase between a citizen and a New Mexico State Trooper. Engineer Spurr had stopped to get fuel and decided to follow up to see if the pursuit had terminated. When he passed by the trooper and subject, the situation seemed normal. Later that day he drove in the area again to make sure that all had calmed and that was when he found the trooper and subject in an altercation with the trooper in desperate need of help. Chris assisted in bringing the subject to a place to be handcuffed and was also able to help the trooper with medical assistance.

A short time after the subject decided to try and flee; running towards a field. Chris, with the trooper following, chased down the subject. It was later found that this subject was on Methamphetamines and this was the sixth time he had been arrested for driving under the influence.

Because of Engineer Spurr's diligence, initiative, and willingness to help, he not only ensured the arrest of this individual but also assisted in the safety of the trooper. Because of this, Engineer Spurr is being presented with the Medal of Merit.

Award of Service

Awarded for distinguished service to the Department and the community. Examples: Coordinating a public service program between the Fire Department and the public. Officially representing the Fire Department on boards or committees of civic organizations. Designing and completing a special program that will benefit The Department and the Community.

Recipient: Captain David Dorame

Captain Dorame has worked for the Tucson Fire Department since June of 1991. He was nominated by his battalion chief for exceptional work leading and managing the upgrade of our Telestaff system. Telestaff is a software program used by the Department to efficiently staff our emergency response vehicles. Captain Dorame took ownership of the project by engaging workgroups on every little detail. He spent countless hours at meetings, conducting research and working from home to understand the system and make recommendations to system configuration. This process was years in the making, and he never missed a meeting. He has become the in house expert on the staffing needs of the Fire Department.

For these and many other reasons, Captain David Dorame is being presented with the Award of Service.

Award of Service

Recipient: Captain Paul Moore

Captain Moore has worked for the Tucson Fire Department since January of 2006 and was nominated for this award by his peers and his supervisor.

Captain Moore works in the logistics section of the Department. In this position, Paul spearheaded the transition of all medical supplies including paramedic medication to an internal process. Captain Moore led the Supply team in re-designing the warehouse layout to accommodate a more efficient process and implemented a warehouse inventory system.

These efforts have drastically reduced costs as well as improved efficiencies at our logistics warehouse. Because of his efforts, Captain Moore is being given this award.

Award of Service

Recipient: Paramedic Matthew Trujillo

Paramedic Trujillo has worked for the Tucson Fire Department since January 2008.

Paramedic Trujillo was nominated by a number of people for this award, including members of the community. Matthew represents the Tucson Fire Department to the public in a manner that promotes the professional image of the department. He has worked with Save-A-Life providing CPR and First Aid training in Tucson and surrounding communities. Matthew has taught over 43 CPR classes and on short notice, taught the majority of the Department in April. His character and demeanor while teaching these classes is outstanding! During Christmas, Matthew was instrumental in collecting toys, money, and other items for needy families at Liberty Middle School

Because of Paramedic Matthew Trujillo's commitment to serve the public and the Tucson Fire Department, he is presented today with the Award of Service.

Award of Service

Recipient: Mrs. Lynn Kastella

Mrs. Lynn Kastella is a member of the community who has been instrumental in supporting public safety through the Fire Department as a representative on the Fire Code Review Committee since 1999 as well as being a founding member of the Tucson Fire Fighter Memorial Committee. Lynn's dedication to the Tucson Fire Department and to the safety of the entire community is an example for all of us.

Mrs. Kastella is being presented this award because of her passion and dedication to public safety as well as her willingness to serve others.

Award of Service

Recipient: Children's Museum

Captain Dan Heffelfinger, Captain Roberto Vasquez, Captain Corey Dorman, Engineer Joseph Muñoz, FF David Brannen, FF Carlos Burruel, FF José Terrazas, and Public Safety Education Specialists – Cecilia Mendoza and Amaris Vasquez

The next Award of Service is being presented to a group of people who came together on a project for the Tucson Children's Museum.

The Tucson Children's Museum is a community treasure. For over 30 years it has been a gathering place for families to spend time learning and playing together. Tucson Fire has had a strong connection with the over 165,000 children that have walked through the museum's door each year. As one of the most memorable exhibits, countless kids have dressed like a firefighter, boarded the firetruck and slid down the fire pole. Not only does this highlight the value of our firefighters in the community, it also leaves quite an impression on a small child. This group came together and volunteered their time to restore and update the entire display.

This required a variety of different construction skills. This prop at the Children's Museum will educate young minds for many years to come. This team consisted of the following folks:

Award of Service

Recipient: Camp Fury
Assistant Chief Laura Baker, Captain Jacki deHaro, Captain Vera Wuerfel, Paramedic Mimi Thomas, and Paramedic Lori Clark

Camp Fury gives high school girls the opportunity to experience non-traditional careers in public safety by imparting the important lessons about life, courage, and confidence. Originally founded in 2009, Camp Fury has touched the lives of nearly 180 young girls. In partnership with the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, Camp Fury has directly impacted the lives of young girls and women in our community every day. There are now fire camps across the United States that are modeled after Camp Fury including Phoenix, AZ, Yuma, AZ, Hampton, VA, and Charlotte, NC.

This group has been dedicated to teaching young people and that is why they are being presented today with the Award of Service.

Award of Service

Recipient: New Dispatch CPR Protocol
Captain Greg Hoffman, Captain Bruce Noble,
Captain Mike Rollman (NWFD), and Supervisor Christopher Hove

Over the past year members of our Communications Team researched and implemented improvements to our dispatch CPR protocol.
When someone calls 911 because a person has gone into cardiac arrest, every second counts. TFD dispatchers are trained to provide PCR instructions to a by stander over the telephone. Members who are receiving this award today were instrumental in initiating improvements to this program and can be credited with enhancing life-saving efforts for the entire Department. Dispatch assist CPR is one of the first links in the chain of survival. For their efforts the following people are being presented with this award of service.

Award of Merit

Awarded for performing duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Examples: Displaying outstanding work performance in all facets of job requirements. Consistently exceeding job performance standards.

Recipient: Deputy Chief Chris Conger
Chief Conger has been working with Tucson Fire since November 2003.

Chief Conger was nominated by one of his subordinates. She states, "Chief Conger has been the Chief of Communications for the last two years...and under his leadership, he has boosted morale by listening to the dispatchers, valuing their input and ensuring that each employee feels valued."

It goes without saying that Communications is a stressful place to be for long hours. He's very supportive and his dedication to the team extends into his personal time. Chief Conger calls Communications when a major event happens to ensure that the management and staff have the resources they need.

He has been innovative and created ways to bring fun and stress relief to the Communications center.

Because of his dedication, thoughtfulness, and willing to go above and beyond to ensure that his employees feel valued, Chief Conger is being presented with the Award of Merit.

Award of Merit
Recipient: Battalion Chief James Kearney
Chief Kearney has been working with Tucson Fire since August 1993.

Chief Kearney was nominated by a fellow peer. Chief Kearney has a history of going above and beyond in the performance of his duties. As a former training officer, Chief Kearney continues his passion for training and educating members. He has been instrumental in assisting with the recent implementation of cutting edge; transformational firefighting tactics that have enhanced our ability to fight fire in a safer and more efficient way. His commitment to helping develop the Ladder Ops class – Chief Kearney helped develop the building construction, vertical ventilation, and mini- flamefighter PowerPoints and video.

There are numerous roles that Chief Kearney has played and participates in that continue to better our department and its members. Throughout Chief Kearney's career, he has served the department and the community in an unselfish and distinguished manner and this is why he is being presented with the Award of Merit.

Award of Merit
Recipient: Engineer Clayton Black
Engineer Black has worked for Tucson Fire since February of 2005.

During 4th Quarter CE (continuing education for our Fire personnel), Engineer Black was responsible for building and maintaining props, maintaining saws/equipment and assisting with whatever the Training staff needed in order to help the 4th Quarter Ladder Operations CE run smoothly. Engineer Black was present at every "B" shift session and often times left well after the last crew had completed training in order to ensure that all of the equipment was properly maintained for the next day's session.

Engineer Black's hard work, time, and dedication to duty were a major contribution to the success of the Ladder Operations CE. Because of this, Engineer Black is being presented with the Award of Merit.

Award of Merit
Recipient: Mr. Vincent Evans
Mr. Evans has worked for Tucson Fire since September 2015.

Mr. Evans was nominated by his supervisor. During Mr. Evans' tenure, he has demonstrated incredible initiative and teamwork at Fire Maintenance which has helped us to achieve required goals and he has provided remarkable customer service to our TFD customers.

Fire Maintenance requires two Fire Equipment Specialist positions to service and repair Scott SCBAs and small equipment for the Department. Unfortunately, one of those positions has been vacant for more than a year. Because of this vacancy, the backlog of work became excessive and was threatening the ability to meet the department's needs. Mr. Evans volunteered to attend classes and achieved Scott certification to help the department. Mr. Evans has now been performing the necessary maintenance and repairs on all Scott SCBAs.

Mr. Evans also volunteered to perform maintenance and repairs on all small equipment, fire hose and appliances for TFD.

Mr. Evans is being presented with the Award of Merit because he has continued to go above and beyond his job description in all aspects of his work.

Award of Merit

Recipient: Geoffrey Kuhn, Superintendent
Geoff Kuhn began working for the City of Tucson in 1999 and then with Tucson Fire in January of 2012.

Geoff Kuhn is the Superintendent for Tucson Fire Communications. He was nominated for this award by his supervisor.

Geoff is motivated, innovative, and progressive in the management of the Communications center. Communications is an extremely busy and at times stressful place; however, Geoff remains caring and compassionate of the personnel at Communications; making sure they are cared for and treated fairly.

Geoff, along with other members, works collaboratively with Tucson Police and many other City departments to ensure a robust system. Geoff is a key member in the consolidation efforts with Tucson Police. Geoff, along with a team of dedicated personnel, has done research and is helping build the foundation for the Communications Center to go to a new processing of calls that will be quicker and more efficient in getting our emergency responders to the scenes quicker through faster call processing times. Criteria Based Dispatching (CBD) will help empower our dispatchers and allow them to be more involved and part of the 911 calls.

Award of Merit

Recipient: Captain Travis Elam
Captain Travis Elam began working for Tucson Fire in July of 2000.

Captain Elam was nominated for his exceptional duty performance during 2016 by his supervisor.

Captain Elam was the lead training captain for recruit class 2016-1, and coordinated all pre-hire responsibilities leading up to the start of the class. As lead, he performed exemplary; coordinating an effort that led to 16 probationary firefighters entering into the field, and all of them passing their EMT prior to graduation. As a staff members for 9 recruit classes, his expertise was valued by each staff member, and recruit training will be better in the future due to his input.

Captain Elam's high expectations were reflected in the high performance of his class, and he set a great example of what can be accomplished through dedication to hard work.

Captain Elam is presented with the Award of Merit for his dedication and hard work.

Award of Merit

Recipient: Ms. Stacie Bird, Finance Manager
Ms. Bird began working for the City of Tucson in October of 2000 and came to work for Tucson Fire in November of 2013.

Stacie was nominated for this award by one of her subordinates.

Ms. Bird came to Tucson Fire at a time of transition and filled two positions until just recently. Stacie's office light is usually the first one on and the last one off. She is responsible for the Fire Department's budget, finances, grants, and oversees the supervisor of the Cost Recovery Team.

Stacie is honest, dedicated, hardworking, and extremely kind to all of those that work for and with her. She is a behind the scenes person who deserves this award.

Stacie is being presented with the Award of Merit for consistently exceeding job performance and standards.

Award of Merit

Recipient: TC-3 Team

Captain Mike Bishop, Paramedic Sue Rizzi, Firefighter Brad Chilcote, and Firefighter Scott Linaman

The TC-3 Team was nominated for this award by peers and supervisors: a firefighter, Deputy Chief, and an Assistant Chief nominated the group.

The direction that was given to the TC-3 Team was simple; find those who need our help and help them – The team definitely needed to think outside of the box. The group hit the ground running – heading out to visit people in their homes to conduct full needs assessments of their health, living arrangements and the existing barriers to appropriate care. This team has taken the impoverished into their hearts and by the hand to get them connected to the help they need. Many of the clients that are now part of the TC-3 program may need on-going support, however, most have been effectively connected to long-term solutions that meet the individual's needs, improve their quality of life and lessen or eliminate their reliance on emergency resources such as the 911 system. They give those who have lost hope; hope again.

This team is more than worthy to be presented with the Award of Merit for they outstanding work performance.

Unit Citations - *The presentation of unit citations will occur at a later date through their battalions.*

BN1, EC1, EN1, EN2, LD1, PM4, PM1, HZ1, EC2, EN4, "B"

March 28, 2016, units responded to a house fire that involved a resident being rescued from a home that was rapidly becoming involved.

LD7, "A"

February 17, 2016, Ladder 7, "A" was able to stop a criminal from fleeing their scene. Patient was unconscious in his car with a glass pipe in his lap that had been used. Crew was able to chock the wheels of the vehicles and retrieve the car keys from the patient.

EN12, PM12, "C"

November 18, 2016, dispatched to an unconscious person but changed to code arrest. Frantic family members caused scene to be intensified but the crew remained calm. Patient later walked out of the hospital that day doing well.

EN18, "A"

May 28, 2016, this crew on-sighted a car accident involving an elderly woman on her way home from the grocery store. The patient was transported but worried about her disabled

husband at home and her groceries. The crew took her groceries home and checked on her husband.

EN8, "C"
March 19, 2016, crew was dispatched to a routine traffic accident but turned out to be a multiple casualty scene with limited resources available. During this call the members put others safety above their own.

PM10, RE10, "C"
January 21, 2016, crew was dispatched to an urgent care for chest pains. Crew acted quickly, effectively, and efficiently to save this person's life.

PM 10, RE10, EN10 "C"
February 22, 2016, crew dispatched to an unconscious person. En route dispatch up graded the call to a cardiac arrest and Engine 10 was added. Crew acted quickly and efficiently to save the patient.

EN10, EN18, EN14, PM14, PM10, PM22, EC4, "C"
April 9, 2016, crews dispatched to a motor vehicle collision. Multiple patients reported. Crew worked quickly and efficiently to gain control of the situation.

EN10, LD10, PM10, RE10, PM14, "C"
December 1, 2016, units worked effectively and efficiently to treat two TPD officers shot on duty who were serving a warrant. TFD provided excellent service.

EN18, PM15, "B"
December 19, 2016, dispatched to a 3 year old child who was shot in the chest by another family member. The crew put the patient above their own safety to provide the critical care that was necessary.

EN20, EN2, LD4, "C"
August 9, 2016, dispatched to a swift water rescue. An SUV had entered the wash ¼ mile upstream. The crew members responded quickly and were willing to put themselves in danger to save another.

EN7, PM7, EC2, LD7, PM47, "B"
July 31, 2016, the crews rebuilt the ventilation prop.

Fire Supply Team
The team showed great dedication and hard work.

Honor Guard
Representing the Department in a distinguished manner

Tucson Fire Communications Trainers
The trainers processed 131 Department training assignments.

Training Division
The Training Staff conducted 4 recruit classes. Their performance and teamwork was tremendous.

4th Quarter CE Group Instructors

This group built, served as instructors, and ensured that this was a valuable educational experience for all. It could not have been done without their help.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thanks you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Retired Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star,* The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen,* for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation