



**Town of Falmouth**  
**Fire-EMS Department**  
8 Bucknam Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
Business 207-781-2610  
Fax 207-699-5268

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**For Further Information, contact Chief Howard Rice, Jr. at 207-781-2610**

**Falmouth Fire-EMS Presents Annual Awards**

Falmouth Fire-EMS held their annual Awards Recognition Dinner at the Italian Heritage Club on Saturday night April 8<sup>th</sup>. A large group of 95 members and guests were present to recognize members of the department for their service in 2016.

Chief Rice kicked off the event by introducing Life Members of the department who were in attendance: Freeman Cleaves, Dave Halligan, Ted Vail, Bill Lunt, George Tarbox, Linda Roberts, Allen Coffey, Mike Coffey, and Tom Doherty. Chief Rice also welcome the invited guests: Bruce Macmaster and Town Manager Nathan Poore.

Town Manager Nathan Poore was asked to say a few words on behalf of the Town of Falmouth. Mr. Poore thanked the members and their families for their commitment to the town and for their dedication to training and responding to calls that allows us to continue to have a predominantly call department.

Each year Falmouth Fire-EMS recognizes members on reaching a milestone of years of service with the department. Deputy Chief Tom Martelle presented awards to the following groups:

5 Years of Service – Garrett Weldon, Erik Pietrowicz

10 Years of Service – Jeff McCorkle, Cam Linen, Paul Goldstein

15 Years of Service – Bill Cochran, Jack Davis, Mike Baumann, Barney Schneider

25 Years of Service – Chris Baker

35 Years of Service – Dennis Buhelt

Recognition awards were then presented by Deputy Dennis Buhelt to the members who responded to the most emergency calls in 2016 led by Firefighter/EMT Nick Bue who responded on 436 emergencies last year. The rest of the top ten responders included David Cuttler, Adam Levesque, Steve Shaw, Erik Knudsen, Zack Tooker, Nick DaCunto, Mike Baumann, Zach Goeben, and Laurie Page.

Assistant Chief Jay Hallett presented the award for the Live-in Student of the Year. Falmouth Fire-EMS has six fulltime college students who provide service to the fire-ems department in exchange for living quarters at the Winn Road and Foreside Road fire stations. This year's winner was Firefighter/EMT Nick DaCunto, who was singled out for

his positive attitude, willingness to always help out, and for his commitment demonstrated by his high volume of calls and training attended.

Deputy Chief Dennis Buhelt presented the award for the Recruit of the Year. The Recruit of the Year is presented to the new member who in their short time has demonstrated a positive attitude and a dedication and commitment to excellence in job performance. This year's winner was Firefighter Jonathan Marchi. Jon has been very active at calls and at training and shows a great desire to learn. He recently completed his Firefighter Level I and II certification and is now enrolled in an EMT-Basic class.

The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Bue. In presenting the award Captain Jamie Garland spoke about how FF/EMT Bue has been instrumental in covering shifts, responding to calls, and that Nick has taken on a leadership role with the live-in students and new firefighters at his station. Captain Garland also mentioned that Nick always gives 110% with a smile on his face the entire time.

Lieutenant Laurie Page presented the EMS Provider of the Year award to Advanced EMT/FF Erik Knudsen. Lt. Page thanked Erik for his dedication and willingness to respond to many calls even when he is not on duty. Not only does Erik work one per diem day shift each Wednesday but he also volunteers on the ambulance every Tuesday and covers backup ambulance calls from home two nights each week. The most senior member of the department, Erik makes our program better by leading by example.

Captain Dave Cuttler presented the Officer of the Year Award to Lieutenant J.D. Lloyd. Captain Cuttler spoke about how Lt. Lloyd has been instrumental in managing the station over the past year while Dave was covering shifts at Central and the other Station 1 Lieutenant was in class. Captain Cuttler also mentioned how J.D. is extremely well-organized, is always willing to lend a hand, and the crew really enjoys working with him.

Chief Rice presented a Unit Award for several members who responded to a call for a man not breathing in West Falmouth. Thirteen members of the department responded and performed CPR to revive the patient and bring him to the hospital where he was able to survive the event. Chief Rice thanked the group for their work in saving the man's life.

Chief Rice then awarded a Distinguished Service Award to Captain Jamie Garland. Just before midnight on the night of February 10<sup>th</sup> units were dispatched to an unknown fire on Stagecoach Road. Captain Garland was the first to arrive on scene and after immediately upgrading the alarm to a Working Building Fire he noticed a car in the yard with nobody present outside except for the neighbor and a police officer. The neighbor had knocked on the doors and windows but did not get an answer. Seeing the car in the yard Captain Garland broke down the front door, entered a smoke-filled house that had fire coming out of the roof and searched for any occupants. Captain Garland did not find any people, but did manage to find and retrieve a large dog that was trapped in the building. For his efforts in making a search for victims and for retrieving and saving the life of a dog, Captain Garland was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by Chief Rice.

The last award of the program was a Chief's Award. Each year the department recognizes those outside the department for their contributions to Falmouth Fire-EMS. This year Deputy Chief Jay Hallett presented the award to Bruce Macmaster of Falmouth. In presenting the award Deputy Chief Hallett thanked Bruce for his assistance in planning and designing the new storage building at Central Station and the new stairs to the training

tower. Bruce provided his expertise in helping us plan for both large projects that will benefit the department for many years.

Chief Rice closed the awards ceremony by thanking all past and present members, their guests and families, the Town of Falmouth, our mutual aid partners, and the Administrative Team at Falmouth Fire-EMS for help in working together to make the department run smoothly. Chief Rice thanked FF/EMT Marisa Hebert for organizing the dinner and thanked the Cumberland, North Yarmouth, and Westbrook Fire Departments for providing station coverage so that all Falmouth Fire-EMS members could attend the dinner.

End of Release.

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