Tucson Fire Department
Medal of Merit
Tucson Fire Department Medal of Merit

**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.

1997  Daren Lakosky
2002  Gilberto Deanda
2003  No Award Presented
2004  Kelly Nelson
2005  No Award Presented
2006  Kyle Hansen
      Diane Wygsl-Springer
      Scott McKinney
2007  Brian Elam
      Jennifer LaCoss
      Sloan Tamietti
      Bryan Tobler
      Frank Granillo
2008  Jared Brown
      Adrian Fernandez
2009  No Award Presented
2010  Mark Booth
2011  Michael Jones
      Francisco Nunez
2012  No Award Presented
2013  Thomas R. Quesnel
2014  Michael Coyle
2015  Captain Ray Dashiell
      Richard Mann
2016  Paramedic Brendan Nostrant
      Engineer Christopher Spurr
2017  Firefighter Jason Lewis
2018  Captain Max Johnson
      Engineer Frank Granados
      Firefighter Ben Goheen
      Firefighter Daniel Harris
      Paramedic Victor Espinoza
      Firefighter Ross Bossworth
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Fifty-three firefighters who risked their lives to save others or who made major contributions to the Tucson Fire Department were to be honored today.

Exemplary awards were to be given to firefighter Greg Napier, engineers Gilberto Deanda and Roger Thompson and Battalion Chief David Hanneman in a ceremony at the Tucson Convention Center.

Napier, 44, was to be awarded the Medal of Valor for missing his own safety in rescuing John Yundt Jr. from raging rainwaters in a wash July 31.

“He was that 14-year-old boy’s only chance,” said Tucson Fire Chief Dan Newburn. Napier rescued Yundt after a Tucson Citizen photographer standing near the wash spotted the boy. The boy was in intensive care after the ordeal and died later.

“We all appreciate that (fighting) is a very dangerous job, but this was a little bit different,” he said. “(Napier) realized the chances of retrieving him were minimal, but his actions were instant.”

Napier has been with the department since 1993.

Deanda, 50, who has been with the department since 1983, was awarded the Medal of Merit for trying to save the life of a critically injured child after a serious midtown wreck Aug. 4.

“He was following up to the hospital to pick up the other crew members when he came by this accident and recognized it was very, very serious,” Newburn said.

“Deanda got the appropriate equipment and started working the child and called in for a medical unit,” he said. “He was at the scene by himself, taking charge of this and providing some significant life support for the child,” Newburn said.

Thompson, 51, earned honors as firefighter of the year for unselfishly providing countless hours to improve the department’s capabilities, Newburn said.

“That award is given to the person that embodies all the qualities that we admire amongst ourselves,” Newburn said. “He has an incredible attitude that says, ‘What can I do to help?’”

Newburn said Thompson, who was hired in 1984, teaches other firefighters the courses required to become certified as engineers. He helped develop the rescue team in the 1980s and has adopted a family in Mexico.

“He always makes himself available to people who are in need,” Newburn said. “The family in Mexico is representative of that.”

Hanneman, who Newburn said “goes above and beyond the call of duty,” was to receive the Fire Chief’s Award.

“He works 24-hour shifts but gives so much of his off-duty time,” Newburn said. “We build a quality control program and it became a huge undertaking, and Dave (Hanneman) contributed almost all of his off time on that.”

Hanneman, 53, was hired in 1972 and has been dedicated to his position in the department ever since, Newburn said.

The 49 other firefighters, captains, supervisors, paramedics, engineers and units received awards that included recognition for service and merit.

Medal of Merit
Engineer Gilberto Deanda

On Saturday, August 4, 2001, after working with Paramedic 10 and Engine 10, crew members to treat an elderly male with a serious cardiac condition, Gilberto Deanda was following-up his co-workers in Paramedic 10 to Kino Hospital. As he approached the intersection of 36th & Country Club, Engineer Deanda was confronted with an auto accident with a critically injured child. He quickly recognized the boy’s grave condition and ran back to the Engine 10 vehicle to retrieve the airway bag and first aid kit.

Simultaneously, he asked Fire Alarm to dispatch a medic unit. Once Paramedic 3 responded, Gilberto cooly and succinctly gave the medics a size-up of the boy’s condition, and continued his medical assistance even after Ladder tender 10 & Paramedic 3 arrived. Later, when Gilberto was applauded for his quick-thinking and all-important first care, he simply stated, “Ah, I was just doing my job.” And while this may be so, it should be noted that he did his job very effectively in a somewhat unusual circumstance - all alone with a critically injured child. For Gilberto’s extraordinary efforts, quick thinking and dedication to the department and our community, I am pleased to award Gilberto Deanda with the Tucson Fire Department Medal of Merit.
2003 No Award Presented
MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 26, 2004

TO: Edwin A. Geare III
Assistant Chief
Division III

FROM: Patrick F. Quinn
Battalion Chief
Battalion III - C

SUBJECT: Honorary Award Nomination

I am writing this memo to nominate Captain Kelly Nelson for the honorary award of Tucson Fire Department Fire Fighter of the Year. Over his career Captain Nelson has distinguished himself to be a consummate professional of the fire service and a passionate proponent of fire fighter safety, tactical methodology review and improvement, equipment improvement and increasing the Tucson Fire Department skill base.

Over the past year Captain Nelson has developed or been involved with developing numerous project and educational drills. A few of these that come to mind include an extrication class developed and delivered to his battalion at a local auto recycling center that covered some of the more difficult aspects to modern vehicle construction when pursuing purchase points for tool placement, new deployment bags for the extrication equipment hose coils to minimize tangles and speed equipment usage, a new mount for the manifold hose and connected wye that minimized firefighter injury by allowing an old standard evolution to be conducted on flat ground instead of while balancing on the back of the tailboard, and a recently developed hose load for the five inch hose bed that allows ease of access to the five inch steamer coupling again minimizing the difficulty in deploying this hose and minimizing the potential of firefighter injury.

Since his early days as a paramedic, Captain Nelson has been an advocate for inter-department review of procedures and practices. An avid reader of professional publications, Captain Nelson is often the first to question how to do an evolution quicker, more efficiently and with a higher degree of safety. This natural curiosity coupled with a desire to assist the Tucson Fire Department’s men and women into becoming the best fire fighting professionals that they can be made him a natural selection for the position of Training Captain. After his tenure at the training academy, Captain Nelson returned to shift to again distinguish himself and his crew through a number of daring and creative rescues that have been recognized with citations and awards during previous department annual award programs.

Throughout his entire career, Captain Nelson has proven himself to be a mentor, a leader and an example of what is best represented by the fire service and what we are most proud of on the Tucson Fire Department. Captain Nelson has proven himself to be a dedicated professional with an open mind to change and an unwavering desire to offer the best service possible to the community while providing the highest level of safety for his crew.

It is with great honor that I nominate Captain Kelly Nelson for the prestigious award of Tucson Fire Department Firefighter of the Year. If you or the committee has any questions or would like any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be out of state until 01-01-2005, but can be reached on my personnel cell phone at (520) 971-1537.
2005 No Award Presented
2006 Kyle Hansen

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 31, 2006

TO: Patrick Quinn
Deputy Chief
Community Safety

FROM: Sharon McDonough
Battalion Chief
Battalion 3 "B"

SUBJECT: Awards Nominations

Medal of Merit: Captain Kyle Hansen

On December 12, 2006, Station 9 units were dispatched to a pedestrian struck in the Terra Del Sol neighborhood, alarm # 70541. As is his normal practice on any calls where there may be need for an extra set of hands or an extra vehicle to shelter working crews, Captain Hansen requested to be added to the call, and responded. He arrived ahead of other crews and found a car sitting on the chest of a 10 year old boy (who was later noted to be a relative of a TPD member.) The child was pulseless and apnic and had been "pronounced" by by-standers and covered with a blanket. Captain Hansen immediately facilitated the car being backed off of the child as he freed the children's backpack and clothing. As crews arrived and began initiating BLS and ALS procedures, Captain Hansen gathered scene info, set up a safe working area and acted as liaison with family members. At a scene where every minute mattered, Captain Hansen's fast thinking and willingness to act likely played a substantial role in the quality survival of this child.

This call is just one of many examples of how Captain Hansen consistently works hard, thinks well on his feet and takes action. He inspires and motivates those around him to think and act. It is my recommendation that he be awarded the Medal of Merit for his consistently exceptional performance in the field.
Medal of Merit

Dianne Wygal-Springer

On the morning of May 23, 2006, Captain Dianne Wygal-Springer, a longtime member of the U of A master's swimming program, was training at the Hillenbrand pool, as she normally does before going to work. During her workout she was informed by a fellow swimmer that a man had collapsed in the men's locker room. The man, also a master's swimmer, was seen stumbling from the shower and falling on his face on the tile floor.

Bystanders called 911 and Captain Wygal-Springer immediately initiated patient care. She noted the man's vital signs and gathered as much history as she could, while directing another swimmer to locate an automatic defibrillator, or AED. Dianne noticed seizure activity, poor skin color, and a weakening pulse. While clearing the patient’s airway and towelirg him off, the patient's condition deteriorated to full cardiac arrest.

Dianne was able to direct the application of the AED and shock the patient just as PM03 arrived on the scene. She and the crew from PM03 administered oxygen, attached the cardiac monitor, assessed the patient’s rhythm, and shocked the patient again. The second shock resulted in the resumption of a viable heart rhythm. The patient was then transported to University Medical Center, where he was successfully rescusitated to full recovery.

Clearly, Captain Wygal-Springer’s rapid and decisive action was the key element to this fortunate outcome. There were no lifeguards on duty at the time of the incident, and Dianne was the only person present who was able to seize the opportunity and save a man's life.

It is with great honor that I present the Tucson Fire Department Medal of Merit to Captain Diane Wygal-Springer.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 31, 2006

TO: Patrick Quinn
Deputy Chief
Community Safety

FROM: Sharon McDonough
Battalion Chief
Battalion 3 "B"

SUBJECT: Awards Nominations

Award of Service: Paramedic and Chaplain Scott McKinney

There is not enough that can be said about the compassion and dedication of Paramedic Scott McKinney as both a senior paramedic and as the Department Chaplain.

Scott has been with the TFD for over 24 years, 22 of them as a paramedic. During that time Scott has certainly “been there, done that”. He has mentored many new medics and each of his “protégés” is taught compassion, attention to detail and the importance of attitude. Though currently assigned to PM09 – one of our busiest medic trucks, there is never a complaint from him. He responds to each call with a great level of professionalism. He lends a sense of calm to even the harshest of situations and treats each and every patient with compassion and respect. His skill level is outstanding and his knowledge base second to none. He is the medic you want to see when you have an emergency.

As Department Chaplain, Scott has afforded comfort and guidance to many TFD members. Though done quietly and without recognition or compensation, Scott represents the TFD and it’s administrators and members when he “is there” for people. He attends weddings, speak at funerals, gives the invocation at recruit graduations, visits sick and injured members and/or their families and offers comfort through CISM and personal conversations. Many times, these visits are done on Scott’s days off. Many times he has put his own plans aside at the behest of the Department, or to come to the aid of a brother or sister.

Scott will retire in September of 2007. It is my wish that he be recognized and commended with the Award of Service for his long-standing commitment and dedication to this Department and the community he serves, both as an outstanding Paramedic and as a caring, selfless Chaplain.
Chief Mike McKendrick presenter to:

Paramedic Brian Elam – Medal of Merit
Paramedic Sloan Tamietti – Medal of Merit
Paramedic Bryan Tobler – Medal of Merit
Firefighter Jennifer LaCoss – Medal of Merit

Responded to a vehicle rollover on October 14, 2007 at 10:45pm, while off duty and returning from Rocky Point, Mexico. Within minutes of the rollover they arrived on the scene and rendered immediate aid to the injured family members of Cynthia Huggins that were thrown from the vehicle. Because of their quick response a helicopter rescue was initiated and the injured were transported to the trauma center for intensive care saving the lives of everyone involved. For their immediate life saving efforts we are proud to present them with the 2007 Award of Merit.
Chief Mike McKendrick presenter to:

Paramedic Brian Elam – Medal of Merit
Paramedic Sloan Tamietti – Medal of Merit
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Firefighter Jennifer LaCoss – Medal of Merit

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Chief Mike McKendrick presenter to:

Paramedic Frank Granillo – Medal of Merit

On May 5th, 2007, at approximately noon, Paramedic Granillo witnessed the collapse of Mr. Jack Ehresman while attending a classic car show on north 4th Avenue. He stopped, made a rapid assessment, realized the patient was in cardiac arrest and that he required CPR. He instructed bystanders to contact 911 to get TFD personnel enroute to the scene and began immediate CPR. Once on scene TFD units were able to provide automatic defibrillation restoring a life sustaining heart rhythm and transported the patient to the University Medical Center hospital. Emergency room staff were adamant if not for Paramedic Granillo’s efforts Mr. Ehresman could not have survived. For his heroic efforts to provide life-saving CPR and maintain that care until further help could arrive we are proud to present the 2007 Medal of Merit to Paramedic Frank Granillo.
Jared Brown and Adrian Fernandez

On the morning of November 13, 2008, firefighters Brown and Fernandez performed immediate CPR for a 55-year-old male playing basketball at a local church. When units arrived at the scene they found the patient in cardiac arrest and being assisted by the off-duty firefighters. Knowing the importance of the Automatic Defibrillator, they attached the unit and were able to restore the heart rhythm and the patient began breathing while on-scene. After helping crews prepare the patient for transport, the Advanced Life Support unit, Paramedic 11, A-Shift raced to the hospital for further care. Upon arrival, the patient was coherent and answering questions from the Emergency Room Physician. Undoubtedly, their skill and ability contributed greatly to such a successful outcome and bring great credit upon both of them and the Tucson Fire Department. I am proud to present them both the 2008 Medal of Merit.
On the morning of November 13, 2008, firefighters Brown and Fernandez performed immediate CPR for a 55-year-old male playing basketball at a local church. When units arrived at the scene they found the patient in cardiac arrest and being assisted by the off-duty firefighters. Knowing the importance of the Automatic Defibrillator, they attached the unit and were able to restore the heart rhythm and the patient began breathing while on-scene. After helping crews prepare the patient for transport, the Advanced Life Support unit, Paramedic 11, A-Shift raced to the hospital for further care. Upon arrival, the patient was coherent and answering questions from the Emergency Room Physician. Undoubtedly, their skill and ability contributed greatly to such a successful outcome and bring great credit upon both of them and the Tucson Fire Department. I am proud to present them both the 2008 Medal of Merit.
2009  No Award Presented
Mark Booth

2010

Medal of Merit – Captain Mark Booth
Presenter – Deputy Chief Michael Fischbaech

As we heard earlier in this program, on May 15th, a westbound vehicle traveling at nearly 75 MPH on Interstate 10 slammed into a concrete bridge support at Kolb Road.

Off duty Fire Captain Mark Booth witnessed the collision and stopped to render aid to the patient in the vehicle. Two members of the Arizona National Guard also stopped to render aid.

Captain Booth evaluated the scene and determined what needed to be done.

What ensued was an extremely difficult and technical extrication involving Rural Metro units, followed by a transport involving Southwest Ambulance and Air Vac 20.

The team effort started by these three individuals culminated in saving the patients life.

For his quick action, dedication to saving life and professional demeanor both on and off duty, Captain Mark Booth is presented with the Tucson Fire Department Medal of Merit.
Medal of Merit

Awarded for consistently exceptional performance in the field during emergency fire and medical operations. Presented to those individuals who consistently perform their duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner by displaying outstanding work performance exceeding department standards.

Captain Mark Booth

May 15th a westbound vehicle traveling at nearly 75 MPH slammed into a concrete bridge support at Kolb Road. Off duty Fire Captain Mark Booth witnessed the collision and stopped and rendered aid to the patient in the vehicle. At nearly the same time, a Arizona Army National Guard bus stopped in the area of the collision. Two members of the AZ Army National Guard, Specialist D.V. Salazar and Sergeant V. Whatcott, both EMT trained, joined Captain Booth in rendering lifesaving care and began to stabilize the patient.

First arriving companies from Rural Metro Fire Department later commented that even though they did not know who these rescuers were, their initial actions made it clear that they were extremely skilled. What ensued was an extremely difficult and technical extrication that lasted more than an hour followed by a transport involving Southwest Ambulance and Air Vac 20. The team effort first started by these three individuals instantly forming a coordinated focused and effective unit culminated in saving the patient’s life.

Presented by
Deputy Chief Mike Fischback

Recipient of the American Sons of the Revolution,
Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal:
Presented by John Lyons

"Merit: to be worthy or deserving...to praise and approve superior quality and worth..."
2011  Michael Jones

Michael Jones
Captain
1989

Medal of Merit
Captain Michael Jones
Firefighter Francisco Nunez
TFD Annual Awards Ceremony, April 20, 2012, at TFD
2012 No Award Presented
MEDAL OF MERIT

Recipient – Thomas Quesnel
Presenter – Assistant Chief Joe Gulotta

The Tucson Fire Department has presented the Medal of Merit twelve times over the past ten years. The presentation of the Medal of Merit for “Consistently exceptional performance in the field during emergency fire and medical operations…” is not an award often presented. Today we have the opportunity to recognize one of our own that has for more than two decades always performed at the highest possible level.

Inspector Thomas Quesnel joined the Tucson Fire Department in 1989 and quickly promoted to the position of Fire Inspector. He learned quickly and learned well, and on Dec. 25th of 1994 Tom was assigned to the position of Fire Cause Investigator.

With a quick mind and a desire to learn more, Tom set himself apart by applying for and being accepted into the prestigious ATF Canine school where he was trained how to be a dog handler of an accelerant smelling canine. Tom was paired with Sully, his faithful black lab and the two became the first arson canine unit in Southern Arizona.

To be a dog handler requires dedication and discipline. The dog must be trained three times a day, every day. The drills must change or the dog will become familiar with the exercise and “cheat” to get his food. Tom and Sully quickly became known as one of the best accelerant canine handler teams in the country. Tom and Sully were inseparable, right up to Sully’s untimely death.

Realizing the need for a trained handler team in Tucson, Tom applied to the only other school that produced accelerant canines, the State Farm School. Tom was accepted and went through this training and was then paired with his second dog, Keda. Tom was the first fire cause investigator in the country to successfully complete both schools of training for accelerant canine handlers, ATF and State Farm. His proficiency with Keda started where it left off with Sully.

Tom had an amazing work ethic. For almost two decades of investigations, Tom never missed a call. Tom rarely used his sick leave and Tom always trained his dogs. His dedication raised the bar in fire investigations for the entire state and consequently resulted in many arsonists facing criminal prosecution and conviction. Because of his dedication to duty, the citizens of Tucson have been safer in their homes and safer for their businesses. Because of his dedication to identifying the true and accurate cause of a fire and assisting law enforcement in bringing arsonists to justice, the firefighters of the City of Tucson have been safer in their work.

Last year, Inspector Quesnel was diagnosed with cancer, a cancer that was determined to have been the result of his activities as a fire cause investigator. Though Tom fought a fierce battle, he passed away last Friday surrounded by his family. The City of Tucson and the Tucson Fire Department has lost more than an exceptional employee, we have lost a brother, a friend.

Today, it is my distinct honor to be able to present the Tucson Fire Department Medal of Merit to Tucson Police Officer Robert “Bobby” Quesnel, who is here to accept the award on behalf of his father.
Recipient: Captain Michael Coyle

Presenter:

Talking Points:

On January 28th, 2014, Captain Mike Coyle was in attendance at a soccer game at Salpointe Catholic High School when the referee for the game collapsed. Not hesitating, Capt. Coyle moved to assist with three other men who rushed to aid referee Michael Chaisson.

One of the rescuers, a certified athletic trainer, produced an AED. Capt. Coyle assisted with CPR and the implementation of the AED. Someone called 911 and TFD paramedics arrived on scene within 5 minutes. Paramedics administered drugs and transported Mr. Chaisson to UMC where he arrived less than 15 minutes following the initial onset of the incident.

Through Mike Coyle’s quick action of providing CPR and administering the AED, Mr. Chaisson survived his heart attack without neurological deficit.
2015 Ray Dashiell

April 8, 2016, 2015 Awards

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.

Recipient: Captain Dashiell

Presenter:

Talking Points:

As Captain Dashiell’s supervisor, I found myself trying to come up with new ways to say, “Outstanding job!” No matter the call, assignment, or detail, Captain Dashiell performs exceptionally while consistently inspiring others to do the same. He and his crews are among the best, if not the best when it comes to performance during emergency operations. Captain Dashiell’s method of operation is to evaluate, develop and ultimately share better approaches and processes. He takes the time to communicate his findings post incident thereby improving emergency response, communication and performance for us all. Since this high level of performance is a matter of routine for Captain Dashiell, it may often go unrecognized.

In 2015, his performance can be noted in any number of instances. As an example, On November 7, 2015 at 0741 hours, Captain Dashiell and his crews were dispatched to a vehicle accident with injuries with one person trapped. Captain Dashiell displayed exemplary leadership, judgement and initiative in all aspects of incident command, patient care, extrication, treatment and transport. This motor vehicle incident involved significant property damage and multiple patients with Level 1 injuries. Captain Dashiell’s leadership, use of ICS, deployment of resources, and patient care directives were exemplary.

Over the past few years I have noted Captain Dashiell’s attention to detail from large building fires to small dumpster fires and from medical calls to elaborate rescue calls. His emergency scene performance has been outstanding and his documentation and follow-up efforts have gone beyond complete, especially this year.
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.

Recipient: Paramedic Richard Mann

Presenter:

Talking Points:

On June 6, 2015 the owners of the Pastiche Modern Eatery were holding a fund raising event at their restaurant. Paramedic Richard Mann, an accomplished baker, was helping his friend, Pat, the owner of the restaurant, by working in the kitchen. All of a sudden, Pat burst through the doors into the kitchen and announced that a patron was choking. Richard went right into first responder mode and rushed out into the dining area to find a man of strapping proportions, already cyanotic and beginning to lose consciousness.

Richard quickly positioned himself to perform the Heimlich maneuver, but do to the man’s size and his body to slump in the chair; Richard had difficulty reaching around the man’s abdomen.

On the third try and with a herculean effort, Paramedic Mann physically lifted the choking man into position and successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver, clearing the patron’s airway of the lodged meat. The patron immediately began to gasp for air. In a few moments, and after a quick check of vitals by Paramedic Mann, the patron was fine.

Not long after this incident, the patron returned back to his home state and called Chief Critchley to inform him of his gratitude for Paramedics quick response. Because of his fast action, his unwillingness to stop trying and his appropriate implantation of training, Paramedic Mann was able to avert a tragic outcome. Without any doubt, Richard Mann saved this man’s life.
April 8, 2016, 2015 Awards
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 Nostrand
Paramedic Nostrand has worked for Tucson Fire since January 2006.

In October 2016, Paramedic Nostrand 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 Nostrand’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 Nostrand 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 Nostrand’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.
**Medal of Merit**

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**Recipient:** Firefighter Jason Lewis

**Presenter:** Assistant Chief Laura Baker

**Talking Points:** Firefighter Lewis has been an outstanding member of the Station 1 (the Big House) “B” Shift team for the last 16 years. In that time Firefighter Lewis has developed into one of the stations senior firefighters, mentoring new members of the team. On March 20, 2017, Engine 2 was dispatched as part of a full alarm to 2741 S. Castle Drive; there was a report of two persons trapped. Firefighter Lewis entered to search the home. Upon the search, Firefighter Lewis found a victim trapped between a bed and the wall. Firefighter Lewis was able to get this patient out to an area where care could be provided.

On September 7, 2017, Firefighter Lewis was again part of the Engine 2 team dispatched to a house fire at 207 W. Lee. The duplex was charged with smoke. There was a resident outside of the home in panic because her son was not accounted for and still inside. Smoke conditions in the house were heavy and banked down half way to the floor. Firefighter Lewis decided to try and locate the missing person. He was able to find the patient in a bedroom. He grabbed the unconscious man and removed him from the structure.

Because of the quick action of FF Lewis, the victim was not seriously injured and recovered quickly. FF Lewis has been a standout member of the Tucson Fire Department and is deserving of the Medal of Merit.
2017  Firefighter Jason Lewis
March 22, 2018,  TFD—Annual Awards Program—2017
Medal of Merit

Recipient: Firefighter Ross Bosworth

Presenter: Sharon

Talking Points: On the early morning of October 27, 2017, units were dispatched to the apartment complex at 6161 E. Pima. EN07 arrived first, and reported nothing showing, took command and went to investigate. Captain Fyffe was directed to the apartment where a fire alarm was sounding. He tried the door but it was locked. The door was forced open, even though it was barricaded from the inside. Black smoke immediately began to pour out of the door. Captain Fyffe reported the smoke to incoming units, BN02 arrived on scene and took command, and assigned EN07 to interior.

FF Bosworth was packed out first and joined Captain Fyffe at the door. FF Bosworth made entry into the apartment to conduct a preliminary primary search. FF Goheen was flaking out the transverse line, getting it ready to go interior and Captain Fyffe had gone back to put on his SCBA. FF Bosworth entered the bedroom area first and reached up in the bed where he felt the ankle of a woman laying on the bed.

FF Bosworth pulled the woman off the bed, but she immediately began to fight with him, kicking and punching FF Bosworth. FF Bosworth threw the victim over his shoulder and carried her out of the involved apartment and laid her in the grass outside. The patient, coughing and sputtering, began to say that she wanted to die.

After the fire was extinguished, FF Bosworth went back into the involved apartment and found the residents missing cat, still alive, and kept the animal calm and contained until Pima County Animal Control showed up on scene to take the cat into custody.

Fires are strenuous, and fire rescues are difficult. Through his quick and decisive actions FF Bosworth made entry, found this fire victim and then carried her to safety while she was actively fighting him. FF Bosworth assured that the patient was being cared for and then returned to the apartment to initiate and complete extinguishment of the fire with FF Goheen. As a last caring gesture, FF Bosworth found the patient’s pet cat and cared for the animal until it could be transferred to Pima County before he reported to Rehab with his crew. With little regard to his own personal safety, Ross Bosworth has exemplified the heroism and concern that the fire service is known for. It gives me great pleasure to be able to award FF Ross Bosworth the Tucson Fire Departments Medal of Merit.
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. Examples include: 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:** Engine 7 “C” – Captain Max Johnson, Engineer Frank Granados, FF Benjamin Goheen, FF Daniel J. Harris

**Presenter:** Sharon

**Talking Points:** On December 8, 2018 crews were dispatched to 5201 E. 2nd for a reported apartment fire. Engine 7 crew arrived first on scene, took command and reported nothing showing and went into investigative mode. The crew gathered equipment and traversed to the second floor where they encountered the smell of burnt food and an alarm going off inside an apartment. Another resident of the complex informed the crew that the occupant of the involved apartment had a history of heavy alcohol use.

Acting quickly, the crew knocked on the door but no one answered. The door was secured with a wrought iron security door, locked in place. Eng. Frank Granados, using no tools but only his hands and brute strength, pried and forced the security door open. FF’s Ben Goheen and Daniel Harris then made entry through the front door and encountered an apartment fully charged with smoke. Captain Johnson later relayed that he had never seen an environment that was charged with this much smoke and did not have a ripping fire. FF’s Goheen and Harris made entry into the charged environment and found the resident unconscious on the floor. They quickly removed her to fresh air outside and began treatment with PM 07.

Despite the fact that the apartment did not burn, this resident nearly lost her life. The patient was transported to TMC with the help of other crew members administering aid. The patient continued to have difficulties at the hospital, due to the extreme airway traumas suffered, but the patient survived.

This rescue was the direct result of a fast acting, well-trained crew that did not hesitate when presented with a tough situation. It is for this reason that I am proud to present Captain Max Johnson, Engineer Frank Granados, FF Benjamin Goheen, and FF Daniel J. Harris with the Medal of Merit.
Recipient: **Paramedic Victor Espinoza**

**Presenter:** TBD

**Talking Points:** On March 31, 2018, Paramedic Espinoza was assigned as a paramedic on one of the City’s busiest trucks, PM 45. At 9:36am, PM 45 was sent as part of a full response to an apartment fire at 3402 N. Country Club. En route, crews were informed that there was a possible victim inside. When they arrived, crews found a two story Garden Style apartment building with black smoke showing from two windows of an apartment on the second floor. PM 45 was assigned to forcible entry and door control. PM Espinoza forced the entry door of the involved apartment open, and controlled the door, in essence, controlling the flow path of the fire. A charged hose line was not in place yet, but PM Espinoza had been given enough information to suspect that a victim was inside, and needed help. He couldn’t wait. Espinoza entered the smoke charged apartment and conducted a search just inside the entryway as he awaited his back-up.

During this quick and limited search, PM Espinoza located an unconscious victim inside the apartment and quickly moved him to a safe location outside. This courageous act speaks to the willingness of all firefighters to “Risk a lot to Save a lot” and is well deserving of the Medal of Merit.
Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thank 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.