

Staff Employee of the Year

Firefighter Paramedic Nathan Few

For demonstrating a commitment to professionalism and excellence, Firefighter Paramedic Nathan Few is recognized as the Staff Employee of the Year. Firefighter Paramedic Few's unique talents and skill in managing data sets has enabled the Memphis Fire Division to more effectively utilize the recently adopted Fire House data management software. Thanks to Firefighter Paramedic Few's efforts, the Fire Division is better able to track not only response data, but also data involving training, community risk reduction, and expenses related to fleet management. All of this data enables the Fire Division to become better stewards of public funding and enable more efficient delivery of critical services. Congratulations, Firefighter Paramedic Nathan Few.

Support Services Employee of the Year

Crewperson Mickey Franklin

For exhibiting tireless work ethic, initiative, and positivity, Crewperson Mickey Franklin is recognized as the Support Services Employee of the Year. Crewperson Franklin's dedication has proved invaluable to the staff of the Fire Division Communications Center. Not only do Crewperson Franklin's efforts help give order to what can be a chaotic environment, his constantly cheerful and humble nature give encouragement and support to all members of the communications team. Thank you, Crewperson Mickey Franklin; you truly deserve this honor.

Fire Prevention Employee of the Year

Fire Inspector Clifton Griffin

Recently promoted Fire Inspector Clifton Griffin exhibits not only a thirst for knowledge, he demonstrates genuine desire give more than expected. For these reasons and others, Inspector Griffin is recognized as the Fire Prevention Employee of the Year. Beyond his unyielding efforts in ensuring public and commercial buildings are safe, he provides the owners of those buildings with the knowledge and support they need to prevent costly code violations. Lastly, Inspector Griffin was instrumental in reaching out to newly emerging Spanish speaking communities in Memphis, ensuring they had both fire code and risk reduction materials printed in Spanish in order to ensure equal and full service to all Memphians. Thank you for your dedication and hard work, Inspector Clifton Griffin.

Alarm Operator of the Year

Senior Operator Gerald Wilks

For exhibition exceptional competence, judgement, and reliability, Senior Operator Gerald Wilks is recognized as the Alarm Operator of the Year. Senior Operator Wilk's commitment to team work and excellence serves as an example to be followed by all members of the Communications Bureau. His ability to remain adaptable to a dynamic environment while still offering assistance to others has proven to be vital for serving not only the public at large, but also other Fire Division employees that rely on Fire Communications. Congratulations, Senior Operator Wilks.

EMT of the Year

Driver William Blake

Though typically reserved for firefighters at the rank of private, this year's Emergency Medical Technician of the year is Driver William Blake. Driver Blake, recognizing the negative impact recent staffing shortages has had on not only fellow firefighters, but the public at large, regularly volunteers to lend a helping hand. Not only does Driver Blake routinely help with emergency unit and equipment upkeep in order to help reduce the workload on EMT's and Paramedics normally assigned to the Emergency Unit, Driver Blake voluntarily remains in the EMT staffing rotation, sharing Emergency Unit duties with other EMT's in his battalion. This is a responsibility a Driver is not expected to share and Driver Blake does so while taking pride in meeting his regularly assigned responsibilities as a Driver as well. For epitomizing the Fire Division mission statement and practicing "Teamwork with a commitment to Excellence," Driver Blake is this year's EMT of the year.

Paramedic of the Year

Firefighter Paramedic Marquis Hampton

For the outstanding demonstration of advanced medical skills and exceptional compassion to family members of those suffering a medical emergency, Firefighter Paramedic Marquis Hampton is this year's Paramedic of the Year. In July 2016, his actions were instrumental in the successful resuscitation of a young child while his calm and supportive demeanor gave family members the strength and solace they needed to endure the coming days of waiting for a full recovery. Congratulations, Firefighter Paramedic Marquis Hampton and thank you for your dedication to service.

Driver of the Year

Driver Shane Gargus

Driver Shane Gargus is this year's driver of the year. Driver Gargus works diligently to elevate his craft to that of an expert. Driver Gargus is meticulous in the maintenance of his apparatus and tools, taking the time to train junior firefighters to not only use the tools, but to properly care for them. Driver Gargus also shows great dedication in reducing risk to the community by not only performing assigned risk reduction duties, he also seeks out opportunities to speak to the public, especially at risk groups comprised of children and senior citizens. Thank you, Driver Shane Gargus, for setting the example for others to follow.

Training Officer of the Year

Lieutenant John Dorse

For exemplifying a commitment to teamwork and professional excellence, Lieutenant John Dorse is the Training Officer of the Year. During the past year, multiple members of the Memphis Fire Division and the Tennessee Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Commission have identified Lieutenant John Dorse as being an exceptional instructor, demonstrating both superb technical knowledge and communication skills. Lieutenant Dorse has served as a Lead Instructor for the Fire Instructor 1 course, assisted in the retooling of the Memphis Fire Division Professional Development Program, and actively pursued his doctoral degree in teaching. Congratulations, Lieutenant John Dorse on a job well done.

Officer of the Year

Lieutenant Marcus Edwards

For consistently demonstrating the philosophy of "leading from the front," Lieutenant Marcus Edwards is selected to be Officer of the Year. Lieutenant Edwards inspires not only his personnel through personal effort, he provides an excellent image of the Memphis Fire Division by focusing on excellent customer service. His integrity and sense of responsibility to leave the job better than he found it is to be applauded. Congratulations, Lieutenant Marcus Edwards. Thank you for your hard work.

Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Harris

For heroic actions without regard for his own safety, Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Harris is this year's Firefighter of the Year. On March 30, 2016, he played a key role in the rescue of an individual trapped by fire and debris in a burning residence. High heat had already forced others to retreat and regroup in order to continue the rescue effort. Before a hose stream was able to push the fire back, Firefighter Paramedic Harris entered the room through a window, found the victim, and began removing debris to affect the rescue. Despite flames overhead and blinding smoke, Firefighter Paramedic Harris stayed with the victim to shield him as much as possible while other firefighters worked feverishly to help with the rescue. Thank you Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Harris for your valiant efforts and selfless dedication.

Civilian Service Award

Kristin Pembroke, CRNA

The Memphis Fire Division responds to well over 150,000 calls for service annually. Try as they may, the men and women who respond to emergencies cannot always be there in the seconds that may be needed to save a life. They often gratefully accept the assistance from Good Samaritans who begin life saving measures while fire trucks and ambulances are still on the way. On August 9, 2016, Kristen Pembroke, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, witnessed a life threatening vehicle crash involving six cars. On that day, Ms. Pembroke stepped up to be that Good Samaritan. She immediately recognized one victim had a near amputation of her arm and was at risk of bleeding to death in her mangled car. Ms. Pembroke, using ingenuity and quick thinking, fashioned a tourniquet from rope she happened to have, thus stemming the blood loss from the critically injured woman. Ms. Pembroke's actions gave responding fire department personnel the extra seconds they needed to extricate the victim and transport her to the Regional One Trauma Center, thus saving the victim's life. For this selfless action taken despite significant personal risk, Kristin Pembroke, CRNA, is awarded the Civilian Service Award.

Director's Award

Patricia Belt

The City of Memphis Fire Services is honored to acknowledge Fire & Life Safety Team Patricia Belt and Dalmatians Lottie Dot, Izzy, and Astro. Patricia Belt has taken the time to rescue, nurture, and train this diverse and special needs trio to assist with fire safety, anti-bullying programs, and therapy work at hospitals and fire stations. They continue to provide smiles to many and service as K-9 Public Safety Canines, Reading Education Assistant Dogs, dog bite prevention, and Mid-South's Kindness Revolution. They have become an intricate component at the Fire Museum of Memphis, as well as a wonderful addition to Memphis Fire Prevention and Public Education. Thank you, Patricia Belt, for your dedication to servicing the Citizens of Memphis.

Medal of Merit

Firefighter Paramedic Demetria Davis

Firefighter Paramedic Timothy Davis

Acting EMS Lieutenant Kevin Spratlin.

The Memphis Fire Division, a pioneer of the Emergency Medical Service, began transporting patients in 1966 in Cadillac and Pontiac ambulances originally designed to be hearses. Over the last 50 years, every request to be transported to a hospital has been answered and granted, regardless of the severity of the ailment or the urgency of the request. Continued increases in demand and diminished resources for care required the Memphis Fire Division to reconsider how service is provided to the public. Acting Lieutenant Kevin Spratlin, Firefighter Paramedic Demetria Davis, and Firefighter Paramedic Timothy Davis have accepted that challenge and are working to meet it. The three of them have successfully implemented the Healthcare Navigator Program, which serves as a resource for underserved citizens to find psychosocial resources better suited to fit the particular need. Not only does the public get better and more appropriate care, limited resources remain available for more acute emergencies. For embodying the philosophy of "Being brilliant at the basics," the Medal of Merit is awarded to Acting EMS Lieutenant Kevin Spratlin, Firefighter Paramedic Demetria Davis, and Firefighter Paramedic Timothy Davis.

Medal of Merit

CAD Coordinator Gary Simpson

Watch Commander Teresa Gordon

GIS Coordinator Laura Silsbee

Data Maintenance Specialist Stacey Chalmers

Operator Kimberly Rome

Lieutenant Alfred Dickson

Lieutenant Billy Freeman

The Memphis Fire Division has been in the development and planning process for modernized dispatching, incident reporting, and data management services for several years. In October 2014, the implementation phase of this process began. This arduous task, managed by the Computer Aided Dispatch Team (or CAD Team), comprised of CAD Coordinator Gary Simpson, Watch Commander Teresa Gordon, GIS Coordinator Laura Silsbee, Data Maintenance Specialist Stacey Chalmers, Operator Kimberly Rome, Lieutenant Alfred Dickson, and Lieutenant Billy Freeman, has been a tremendous challenge that they still manage today. The CAD Team works tirelessly to address software bugs, data input problems, and procedural update needs in order to minimize the growing pains typically associated with such a monumental change. Thanks to their efforts, the Fire Division can not only be more responsive to the public during times of need, the Fire Division can also be better stewards of public resources and more accountable to those served. For unwavering dedication to excellence, CAD Coordinator Gary Simpson, Watch Commander Teresa Gordon, GIS Coordinator Laura Silsbee, Data Maintenance Specialist Stacey Chalmers, Lieutenant Alfred Dickson, and Lieutenant Billy Freeman are awarded the Medal of Merit.

Medal of Bravery

April 20, 2016

580 East Cadraca Drive

Lieutenant Billy Massey

Driver Paul Pittman

Firefighter Paramedic Jamie Clements

Private Alfred Newman

On April 20, 2016, at 11:06 PM, companies responded to an apartment fire during a severe thunderstorm. Upon arrival, Engine 24 discovered fire on two floors throughout the apartment building and immediately initiated an aggressive interior attack. While preparing hoses and equipment to enter the building, Lieutenant Billy Massey heard screams above him and saw a woman leaning out of a second floor window. He directed Private Alfred Newman and Firefighter Paramedic Jamie Clements to deploy the hose stream to keep the fire away from the victim while he and Driver Paul Pittman placed a ladder to the window. Lieutenant Massey found the window jammed and used the ladder to break the window out to give the victim room to get out. Lieutenant Massey then joined Private Newman to attack the heavy body of fire and improve conditions for the victim. Firefighter Jamie Clements ascended the ladder, discovering heavy heat in the room and assisted the victim onto the ladder to exit the room. With assistance from other personnel on the scene, Firefighter Paramedic Clements guided the victim down the ladder, head first, to the ground and an awaiting ambulance. Despite dangerous weather conditions and a fire occupying two stories of a large apartment building, Lieutenant Billy Massey, Driver Paul Pittman, Firefighter Paramedic Jamie Clements, and Private Alfred Newman acted without hesitation or regard for their own safety in order to help a victim live another day. They are therefore awarded the Medal of Bravery.

Medal of Bravery

January 19, 2016

1065 South Fourth

Acting Lieutenant Ryan Humphries

Driver Christopher Stewart

Private Randy Hubbard

Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Brumley

On January 19, 2016 at 6:14 PM, companies responded to a report of a house on fire. Engine 14 arrive and found a house involved heavily with fire and smoke. Bystanders reported victims were trapped in the house and Engine 14, comprised of Acting Lieutenant Randall Humphries, Driver Christopher Stewart, Private Randy Hubbard, and Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Brumley, began an aggressive interior attack with the assistance of other companies. With Driver Stewarts assistance, Private Hubbard was able to deploy a hose and protect the search team and victim from the worsening fire conditions. Acting Lieutenant Humphries and Firefighter Paramedic Brumley performed a hasty search and located an incapacitated victim then immediately pulled him from the structure, passing him off to other emergency personnel. Acting Lieutenant Humphries and Firefighter Paramedic Brumley re-entered the structure without hesitation to search for other reported victims and continue the fire fight. Thanks to their selfless and heroic efforts under extreme fire conditions, not only did they save a life they assured no other life was endangered. Therefore, Acting Lieutenant Humphries, Driver Humphries, Private Hubbard and Firefighter Paramedic Brumley are awarded the Medal of Bravery.

Life Saving Medal

April 2, 2016

2588 Arlington

Lieutenant Kenneth Mouser

Private Paul Kidd

Firefighter Paramedic Joseph Gosser

Firefighter Paramedic Justin Duckett

Private Justin Owens

On April 2, 2016, at around 8:25 PM, companies responded to a house fire at 2588 Arlington. Engine 16 arrived and immediately began an aggressive interior fire attack, despite heavy heat and smoke conditions inside the house. After about six minutes, Lieutenant Kenneth Mouser reported the fire was controlled, but they were continuing to search for fire. During this search, Lt. Mouser, Private Paul Kidd, and Firefighter Paramedic Joseph Gosser discovered an incapacitated victim and immediately rescued the woman. The three were met in the front yard by Firefighter Paramedic Justin Duckett and Private Justin Owens and all three began resuscitative efforts. The patient was transported to the Memphis Fire Fighters Burn Center in critical condition where she eventually recovered from her injuries. Thanks to tremendous effort while working as a team, Lieutenant Mouser, Private Kidd, Firefighter Paramedic Gosser, Firefighter Paramedic Duckett, and Private Owens saved a life that night. For those actions, they are awarded the Life Saving Medal.

Life Saving Medal

May 27, 2015

Mississippi River

Lieutenant Scott Harbin

Private Louis Spry

Lieutenant John O'Neill

Driver Mitchell Lemmon

Private Jeffery Hink

Private Jeffery Arick

Firefighter Paramedic Allen Adams

Patrolman Mike Duffee

Patrolman Johnathan Demuth

Civilian Service Award

Mr. Russell Smith

On May 27, 2015, companies responded to the Mississippi River at the foot of Illinois Drive with a report of an individual drowning in the Mississippi River. Upon their arrival, Rescue 2, comprised of Lieutenant John O'Neill, Driver Mitch Lemmon, Private Jeffery Hink, and Private Jeffery Arick met with Lieutenant Scott Harbin and Private Louis Spry of Truck 5. The six of them boarded a river boat operated by Economy Boat Store and its pilot, Mr. Russell Smith. They made way to join the Memphis Police Harbor Patrol Boat staffed by Patrolman Mike Duffee, Patrolman Jonathan Demuth, and Firefighter Paramedic Allen Adams who were in contact with an emotionally unstable man floating in the Mississippi River. All of the above mentioned individuals worked tirelessly to try and convince the man to board one of the boats and seek help, but the man refused. During these attempts the boat operators maneuvered carefully and deliberately to keep the man from moving further into the dangerous waters. When it was determined that negotiations were no longer an option, a rescue swimmer entered the water and successfully rescued the individual, pulling him into the Harbor Patrol Boat. If it were not for the skill and determination of all those involved, the man would have likely drowned. For their actions, The Civilian Service Award is presented to Mr. Russel Smith and the Lifesaving Medal is presented to Fire and Police personnel.

Life Saving Medal

July 119, 2016

Madison Apartments

Lieutenant Cortino Williams

Acting Driver Brandon Poindexter

Firefighter Paramedic Marquis Hampton

Probationary Private Terrance Grant

Firefighter Paramedic James Bradley

Private Cody Luhrs

On the afternoon of July 19, 2016, Engine 52 and Emergency Unit 11 responded to a report of a drowning at the Madison Apartments. Engine 52 arrived to find a lifeless child who had been removed from a pool by bystanders. Lieutenant Cortino Williams, Acting Driver Brandon Poindexter, Firefighter Paramedic Marquis Hampton, and Probationary Private Terrance Grant immediately began resuscitative efforts. They were soon joined by Firefighter Paramedic James Bradley and Private Cody Luhrs who seamlessly entered the team, continuing with advanced pre-hospital medical care and transportation to the hospital. Thanks to their dedication to teamwork and mastery of their skills, these individuals returned life to that child, who eventually recovered. For their actions, these individuals are awarded the Life Saving Medal.

Medal of Heroism

April 30, 2016

568 Orchard Avenue

Lieutenant Robert Qualls

Driver Edward Nauman

Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Harris

Private Timothy Spence

Firefighter Paramedic Michael Scott

Driver Kevin Moore

Private Melvin James

On March 30, 2016, at 6:30 AM, companies responded to a report of a house on fire. When the first companies arrived, they reported heavy fire conditions throughout the house and that someone was trapped in the rear. While those first companies were initiating the attack, Rescue 3 personnel arrived and moved to the rear of the structure, where they found Private Melvin James, from Truck 11, attempting to enter the rear window over a ladder, even though the room had flames pushing across the ceiling and out of the top half of the window. High heat forced Private James to retreat momentarily while additional hoses were brought to bear. Once Lieutenant Robert Qualls of Rescue 3 was able to get a hose into operation and push the fire out of the window, Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Harris followed by Driver Edward Nauman entered the room, despite a heavy body of fire still present. Driver Kevin Moore of Truck 11 also entered the room to provide assistance once the victim was found. Due to the victim's size and condition, the three were unable to get the victim through the window. Private Timothy Spence of Rescue 3 and Firefighter Paramedic Michael Scott of Engine 27 used rescue saws to create a large opening in the wall of the house in order to complete the rescue. During this heroic effort, none of these firefighters ever left the victim despite the high heat that was being kept at bay by the single fire hose. For tenaciously fighting to save a life, despite great personal risk and tremendous obstacles to overcome, Lieutenant Robert Qualls, Driver Edward Nauman, Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Harris, Private Timothy Spence, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Scott, Driver Kevin Moore and Private Melvin James are awarded the Medal of Heroism.

Company of the Year

Rescue Company 3

Through unending, rigorous training, Rescue Company 3 has sharpened their effectiveness, unchained their creativity, and hardened will to succeed. They have demonstrated that despite any adverse condition, they are able to work together as an unstoppable force, undeterred by any obstacle. For unyielding professionalism, and commitment to excellence through teamwork, Rescue Company 3 is recognized as the Fire Company of the Year.