



NEWS RELEASE

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Firefighters, Staff and Citizens Honored at TVF&R Meritorious Awards Ceremony

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue recently recognized its firefighters, fire service professionals, and citizens for their commitment to excellence at emergency incidents on and off duty, volunteerism, and day-to-day service over the past year. Below is a description of each award. Photos can be found on TVF&R's Blog at <http://blog.tvfr.com/>.

Medal of Valor - *Awarded to a member of the District who, intelligently and in the line of duty, or while off-duty, gives hi/her life, or distinguishes him/herself by an act of extreme courage involving the risk of imminent danger to his/her life, with knowledge of such risk, above and beyond the call of duty.*

- **Lieutenant Mike Thorne** – For his incredible act of courage and demonstrated bravery in the rescue of a person drowning in an ocean rip current off the Coast Rican coast in the spring of 2010. Lieutenant Thorne heard 58 year-old Tehsin Abbasi yelling, as he was being pulled out to sea, approximately 200 yards from shore. He swam out to the location, grabbed and rolled him onto his back, and began swimming parallel to shore, out of the rip current.

Lifesaving – *Awarded to any member of the District who saves the life of another while acting in an off-duty capacity and away from his or her normal duties with the District.*

- **Lieutenant Rocky Hanes** - For his exceptional contribution to saving the life of a cardiac arrest patient on April 10, 2010, while off-duty with his family at the annual Kids Fish-In Event in Vancouver. Lieutenant Hanes performed chest compressions until Clark County Fire District #6 firefighters arrived, and then assisted with advanced life support procedures for approximately 30 minutes. The patient survived and walked out of the hospital on his own.

Special Unit Citations - *Awarded to any unit, or specially constituted team, within the District that has worked together toward a common goal.*

- **Katherine Stoller, Jeffery Lee, Thomas Mooney** - For providing exceptional patient care in an attempt to save the lives of the driver and passenger of a fatal car crash on June 30, 2010. [TVF&R press release](#)

Community Service – *The Community Service Award recognizes a member of the community who has made an outstanding contribution to fire and life safety through education, public relations, and public service.*

- **Paramedic Training Officer Douglas Pffingsten and Tim Moore (retired Washington County Sheriff Deputy)** - For their professionalism and 13-year commitment to the development and coordination of the simulated live-action production titled S.K.I.D. (Stop Kids from Intoxicated Driving). S.K.I.D. portrays a realistic fatal alcohol-related traffic crash to local high school students. Since its creation, more than 82,000 students have viewed a S.K.I.D. event. [TVF&R's YouTube SKID Video](#)

(More)

Community Service (Continued)

- **Lieutenant Timothy Nokes** – For compassionately volunteering with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to help fulfill the dream of 4-year old, Cooper Albright, who is battling cancer. Lieutenant Nokes dedicated his off duty time on August 27, 2010, to pick up Cooper in a reserve fire engine and drive him to Pape Machinery, where he was able to fulfill his dream of being a construction worker. [TVF&R Blog Posting](#)

- **Citizens Dave Kolander, Jay Belcher, Eddie Passadore** – For their heroic and lifesaving actions to save an elderly neighbor from his burning home on July 10, 2010. Dave rushed to his neighbor’s house and found the door locked. He ran home, grabbed a splitting maul and ran back to break down the door. He was joined by neighbors Jay and Eddie and together they broke out windows to vent the smoke, broke down the door, entered the smoke-filled home, and rescued the neighbor. [TVF&R press release](#)

Meritorious Service – *Awarded to a member of the District who performs an act of intelligence and valuable service; continuous professionalism and admirable service over an extended period of time; or submission of a device or method designed to increase efficiency and is adopted by the Fire Chiefs Office.*

- **Division Chief Sherry Arasim**- For her professionalism, integrity, loyalty, and ongoing commitment demonstrated throughout her career, to the District and citizens served by TVF&R. Chief Arasim was instrumental in developing and refining the emergency management tools and programs used by TVF&R during a major emergency and disasters: emergency response protocols, Incident Management Teams, TVF&R’s Fire Operations Center, and Battalion Headquarters. Chief Arasim was also a pivotal member of TVF&R’s 10-day Incident Management Team response to Columbia County during the December 2007 flood.

Union Member of the Year – *Chosen by the Executive Board of Local 1660*

- **Christopher Tompkins** – For his leadership role with the Local 1660 Executive Board and his commitment to, and project management of, the Union Hall remodel.

Retirements

- **Gary Wells, Division Chief** - 30 Years
- **Kevin Day, Fleet Services Manager** - 14Years
- **Glen “Windy” Wenzinger, Volunteer Firefighter** - 42 Years

Fallen Firefighters

Bruce Averitt, Steve Berg, Richard Burris, Charles Campbell, Richard Cates, Randilyn Dean, Robert Drake, Bill Garner, John Glover, Phil Hall, Doyle Harris, Mike Krauthoefer, Billy Little, Tom McKinney, Dan Rogers, Gary Steele, and Russ Williamson

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