



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

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HFD Firefighters receive recognition for their life-saving actions, commitment

Fort Harrison Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution hold annual ceremony

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A team of firefighters who rescued a family from carbon monoxide poisoning earlier this year, and a Battalion Chief who has dedicated his career to saving lives through the prevention of fires, were recently recognized for their efforts to protect the community.

The Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) held its annual awards ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 15, for public safety officers to confer awards and thank local first responders.

Captain Curtis Chandler, Firefighter Eric Higgs and Firefighter Matthew McCray received the organization's Life Saving Commendation and Medal. On May 26, 2020, the team of firefighters staffing Engine 23 responded for a medical emergency in the 1700 block of Buttonwood Court. Upon arrival, the crew found two people unconscious inside a residence and rescued a total of six people, including several young children, from a home that was filled with deadly carbon monoxide.

Also during the ceremony, Battalion Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal Mike Armstrong received the Fire Services Commendation and Medal. Since 2014, Armstrong has served as the City's Deputy Fire Marshal overseeing the Community Risk Reduction Division within HFD, including all aspects of life and life safety prevention, education, code enforcement, investigations and compliance. Armstrong has more than 33 years of combined fire and life safety experience, having served his community as a charter member of the Singers Glen Fire Company, a career forest firefighter, and supervisor of wildland and urban interface fuels management.

"We are honored that the SAR has taken the time to recognize our people for their outstanding work," HFD Fire Chief Matthew Tobia, who also attended the event, said. "Although no recognition is ever sought by public



(Top) Captain Curtis Chandler, Firefighter Eric Higgs and Firefighter Matthew McCray were honored for their work saving the lives of several people from carbon monoxide poisoning. (Bottom) Battalion Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal Mike Armstrong is honored for his years of commitment to the local community.

servants, it is nonetheless deeply appreciated. We take pride in upholding the finest traditions of our Department in protecting our community.”

According to the organization’s website, the Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution are dedicated to keeping the history of the American Revolution alive, and honor those who helped create the United States.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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