

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Kevin M. Burke  
Secretary

Timothy P. Murray  
Lieutenant Governor

October 16, 2009

Chief Charles D. Foley, Jr.  
Randolph Fire Department  
10 Memorial Parkway  
Randolph, MA 02368

Dear Chief Foley;

It is my pleasure to inform you that Deputy Chief Daniel Kreckler, Lieutenant Thomas LaBelle, Captain Paul Lyons, and Firefighters William Brewer, Kevin Donovan, Richard Potter, Joseph Messia, and Michael McCarthy will be honored at the annual "Firefighter of the Year" Award Ceremony for their exceptional multiple rescues at an apartment complex fire. Thank you for taking the time to participate in the nomination process and also for your continued support of this important event.

The ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester. Governor Deval Patrick, Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and I will be presenting the awards to recipients from across the Commonwealth. The event will be held in Worcester this year in remembrance of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the warehouse fire that took the lives of six firefighters. Immediately following the ceremony, there will be a solemn march to the site of the Worcester fire for a memorial service.

The Committee would like a recent photograph of the award recipients, a Randolph Fire Department patch, and any other images that would depict the dedication of these men, if available, to include in the media presentation. Please mail these materials to Barbara Steele at the Department of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775, before October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

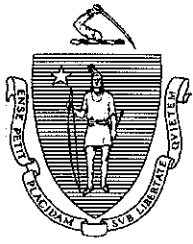
Please forward the enclosed letters of congratulations to these men and contact Amy Dominici, the event manager at (617) 680-5106 or at [amydominici@aol.com](mailto:amydominici@aol.com) for additional information regarding the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin M. Burke".

Kevin M. Burke  
Secretary of Public Safety

enclosure



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LT. GOVERNOR

KEVIN M. BURKE  
SECRETARY

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*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*  
*Department of Fire Services*

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STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD  
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Heads of Fire Departments  
**FROM:** Stephen D. Coan  
State Fire Marshal  
**DATE:** July 1, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Firefighter of the Year

I am pleased once again to request nominations for the Annual *Firefighter of the Year* Awards. Over the past years, the *Firefighter of the Year* event has grown in stature to be the premier event that honors the heroic acts of the men and women in the Massachusetts fire service; and I hope that you will take the time to reflect on your own department's activities and sort out incidents that are worthy of recognition. I encourage you to participate in the process by selecting candidates from your department who have gone beyond the call of duty to serve their community.

Please forward your submissions of candidates performing outstanding acts of bravery and/or community service between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009, following the guidelines as attached. I would call your attention to language that has been inserted by the Heroic Awards Committee under Section II on the Criteria sheet as indicated in bold. This addition is as a result of Committee deliberations on past submissions where issues of firefighter safety have become part of the equation in weighing risk/benefit analysis.

I am also pleased to announce that the community service award has been renamed and will now be known as the *Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service*. As Mr. Norman Knight is a true lifelong friend of the fire service it is a fitting tribute to him that this award now bears his name. I hope that this will add distinction to the award and will increase interest in submissions of individuals worthy of recognition in association with an award named after Mr. Knight.

Due to the outstanding response received in past years, the Heroic Awards Selection Committee once again invites chiefs to submit names of their personnel for the Scroll of Honor and the Patriot Award for service in support of either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). Guidelines can be found on the nomination form.

Your selections should be forwarded to Barbara Steele at the above address no later than August 21, 2009. The committee will meet on September 21 to review the nominations and forward their decisions to the Governor. Fire chiefs who have submitted nominations will be requested to meet with the Heroic Awards Committee to further support their nomination(s) and answer any questions that the Committee may have. You will be notified by our Events Coordinator, Amy Dominici, as to the time to appear before the Committee. Note the check off box at the bottom of the nomination form if you WILL NOT be able to appear before the committee.

I look forward to hearing from your department.

*Administrative Services • Hazardous Materials Response*  
*Massachusetts Firefighting Academy • Office of the State Fire Marshal*

# FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

## CRITERIA

### I. NOMINATIONS

All nominations for the Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year Award must be submitted in writing on the form supplied and should be sent to **Firefighter of the Year, c/o Barbara Steele, Department of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775**. All paid, call, or volunteer firefighters may be nominated for recommendation as "Firefighter of the Year". Nominations must be initiated by the head of the local fire department and must be for performance between July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The nomination must include a narrative signed by the fire chief detailing the acts. Any and all documentation, pictures, testimonials, or affidavits should accompany the nomination. Nomination forms will not be considered without the submission of a narrative from the fire chief.

The chief is being asked to attend the meeting of the Heroic Awards Selection Committee on September 21 to provide a brief overview of the incident and answer any questions the committee might have. The Events Coordinator will contact the chief to assign a specific time. (Please check off the box on the nomination form if you will NOT be available.)

### II. AWARD CRITERIA

Nominations may be made to recognize individuals and companies for performance in any of the following areas (**keeping in mind that firefighter safety should not have been unnecessarily compromised to affect the rescue, unless the potential benefit exceeded the actual/perceived risk**):

- a) Emergency Response – fire incidents including rescue of victims, incidents involving hazardous materials, vehicle extrication and rescue, rescue from heights or depth, confined space rescue, water or ice rescue.
- b) *Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service* - Exemplary programs and/or actions including fire prevention, fire investigation, training, public fire education, or other innovative community service programs.

### III. AWARD CATEGORIES \*

- a) MEDAL OF HONOR  
Awarded as the highest recognition.
- b) MEDAL OF VALOR  
Awarded as the second highest recognition.
- c) NORMAN KNIGHT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE  
Awarded for exemplary community service programs and/or actions.
- d) GOVERNOR'S PERSONALIZED CITATIONS

\*May be awarded to either individuals or companies