



Department of Public Safety

Mitchell J. Brown, Director

Division of Fire

Ned Pettus, Jr., Fire Chief
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City of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORGANIZATION HONORS COLUMBUS FIREFIGHTERS

Four Columbus Firefighters will be honored on Friday March 19, 2010 by the Benjamin Franklin Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Fire Chief Ned Pettus, Jr., announced today. **Deputy Chief David J. Walton, Battalion Chief Johnnie E. Wood, and Firefighters Garnet L. Bowen, Jr., and Michael L. Goehring,** will be presented with medals and certificates during the organization's annual noon luncheon meeting at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant in Columbus, Ohio.

Deputy Chief David J. Walton will be presented with the **Fire Safety Commendation Award** for his foresight and leadership commanding 3-Unit during the wind storm of September 14, 2008. While facing depletion of his resources due to the unusually high number of calls generated by the storm, Walton initiated the use of all station trucks to respond to runs in order to augment his depleting resources. His resourcefulness resulted in quicker responses to the public's demands along with relieving the drain on his already overworked emergency units. For his efforts, Walton was the recipient of the Fire Chief's Award in November, 2009.

A 25 year veteran with the Division, Walton started his career working on Engines 16 and 22; promoted to Lieutenant working as a relief officer and then on to Deputy Chief (ES-2) in July, 2003. He lives in Carroll, Ohio with his wife, Aimee and their seven children; Chelsea, age 22, Kayla, age 20, Lindy, age 17, Holly, age 16, McKinley, age 12, Mary, age 9, and Chad, age 7.

Firefighter Garnet L. Bowen, Jr. will receive the **Heroism Award** for his dedicated service while performing his duties in a timely manner during a mutual aid incident vehicle accident involving multiple jurisdictions on April 18, 2009. His attentive actions from beginning to end included contacting apparatus for manpower, Med Flight, and other jurisdictions while answering all 8 Delta and 8 EMS communications regularly assigned to him.

FF Bowen is a 22 year veteran starting his career on engine/medic companies at Stations 10, 17, 19, and 31. He is presently assignment at the Fire Alarm Office on 3 Unit. He is a two time recipient of the Fire Service Award of Merit with the second for the above incident. He and his wife, Sheila, live in Columbus and have one adult stepson, Jason, age 28.

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Battalion Chief Johnnie E. Wood will be presented the **EMS Commendation Award** for his outstanding efforts on October 31, 2008 where fire crews responded to a report of a gas leak at a structure which resulted in a violent explosion. The fire from the deflagration did not cause sustained burning although the gas leak ignited and continued to burn. The building was destroyed and several firefighters sustained injuries, including Wood.

A 33 year veteran with the Division, Wood was promoted to Battalion Chief in March of 2004 after working on several engine companies, at the Emergency Medical Center and in EMS. He also was a recipient of the Fire Service Award of Merit for the fire incident above. Wood and his wife Margaret have two adult children, Erin, age 29 and Matthew, age 27, and reside in Plain City, Ohio.

Firefighter Michael L. Goehring, will also receive the **EMS Commendation Award** for his outstanding efforts on March 28, 2009, when an adult female citizen was riding her horse with family members in a wooded area in Mary Ann Township. When her horse grew agitated, he lost his footing and went backwards over a bank. She was critically injured with a punctured torso and collapsed lungs. Firefighter Goehring off duty at this time, heard the emergency call over a scanner, and knowing he was in the vicinity, his wife called him on his cell phone informing him of the incident. Since he was the first on the scene, he was able to advise the Mary Ann Township Fire Department about what to expect and what medical supplies to bring. Firefighter Goehring's quick actions and professional efforts saved the life of this citizen until emergency responders arrived. As a result of this heroic rescue, he was selected as a recipient of the Division's Distinguished Service Award.

Firefighter Goehring is a 13 year veteran of the Division and currently assigned to the Ladder Company at Fire Station 33, located at 440 Lazelle Road. His experience includes engine assignments at Fire Stations 1, 2, and 29 and a squad member on Rescue 11. He and his wife, Crystal Ann, resident in Frazeyburg, Ohio with their four daughters; Rachelle, age 17, Kaitlin, age 15, Ashley, age 11 and Alyssa, age 9.

B/C David Whiting
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