

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2014



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

SUFFOLK PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL HONORED BY JOE BAGLEY VFW POST 2582

SUFFOLK, VA (September 25, 2014) Some would say they are just doing their job. Others might note they sacrifice for their community. Regardless of the motivation, City of Suffolk Public Safety personnel strive to keep residents and businesses safe through years of training and a high level of respect for the badges they wear. On Wednesday, September 24, 2014, Joe Bagley Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2582 recognized three City of Suffolk Public Safety personnel for their hard work and dedication to the residents and businesses in the Suffolk community.

Those honored included Officer Clifton E. Sessoms, Jr., Fire Fighter/Medic Daniel Pelzel, and Senior Fire Fighter David W. Dickens. Post Adjutant and State Surgeon Ken Wiseman said, "We, as a community, are grateful to those who wear the uniform to protect us. That may mean overseas, as we are currently seeing in the news, but it also means here at home. The City of Suffolk is defended by the dedicated men and women who serve as Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Medics. Our award to them is the VFW's way of saying thank you and we think that it will also echo the sentiments of the citizens of the City."

(more)

Suffolk Police Officer Clifton E. Sessoms, Jr. received the Joe Bagley VFW Post 2582 Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation. Officer Sessoms joined the Suffolk Police Department in November of 2009 and is currently assigned to Uniform Patrol and serves on the evening shift at Precinct One. Officer Sessoms received the Officer of the Week award for the week of August 29-September 4, 2011 for a traffic stop resulting in a possession with intent to distribute marijuana charge. Sessoms was also awarded the Officer of the Third Quarter honor for his performance during 2011. In 2012, Sessoms was awarded Officer of the Third Quarter from the Suffolk Crime Line. He was named Co-Officer of the Week from January 18-24, 2011 for an investigation into a robbery. In March of 2013, Officer Sessoms was awarded a Departmental Commendation for his performance during the year of 2012. Sessoms received another Departmental Commendation for his involvement in training three rookie officers in April of 2013. In March of 2014, Sessoms was named Co-Officer of the Week for an investigation resulting in a search warrant and charges of possession of marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance. He was Co-Officer of the Week for March 31 through April 6, 2014 for a traffic stop resulting in the arrest of a wanted person.

Officer Sessoms was born in Roanoke, Virginia and later attended Deep Creek High School. Sessoms has been married to Robin Sessoms for 14 years and has three children, Tryston David, Phillip James, and Cordelia Lynn.

(more)

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Firefighter/Medic Daniel Pelzel received the Joe Bagley VFW Post 2582 Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation. Pelzel began his career as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (EMIT) with the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad. He earned his EMT-Intermediate certification in 2009. During the time Pelzel volunteered for the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad, he received the Lifesaver Award for a cardiac arrest conversion and was nominated for the Tidewater EMS Call of the Year. Pelzel joined Suffolk Fire & Rescue in October 2011 and graduated from the Southside Regional Fire Academy as class valedictorian in May of 2012. He earned his EMT-Paramedic certification in December 2011 and is the most recent recipient of the Department's Paramedic of the Year award. He also received a nomination in 2014 for the Tidewater EMS Provider of the Year. In his nomination, Pelzel was praised for his skills and his willingness to share them with others. He is known for his initiative and team-oriented approach as well as setting the example through his performance and positive attitude.

Firefighter/Medic Pelzel is currently assigned to Station 6 in the Second Battalion on Shift C. He holds numerous certifications from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and other agencies. Pelzel presently serves as a Fire Media II. He has been married for two years to his wife, Nicky. Together, they reside in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Senior Fire Fighter David W. Dickens received the Joe Bagley VFW Post 2582 Firefighters Public Servant Citation. Dickens started his career in 1994 in the fire service with the Driver Volunteer Fire Department. Dickens began his career with the City of Suffolk in the Public Utilities Department prior to joining Suffolk Fire & Rescue in 1997 as a Fire Fighter I. Dickens presently serves as a Senior Fire Fighter and is the most recent recipient of the Department's Fire Fighter of the Year award. As part of his nomination, Dickens was described as having a relentlessly positive and contagious attitude that motivates others around him to do their very best. He is always optimistic, flexible and detail oriented.

(more)

Senior Fire Fighter Dickens is currently assigned to Ladder 6 in the Second Battalion on Shift C. He holds numerous certifications from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and other agencies. Dickens serves on the Search & Rescue Team as a field team member and team leader. He also serves on the Regional Mobile Communication Team. Dickens has been married for 24 years to his wife, Dr. Angelia Dickens. They have three children and reside in Southampton County, Virginia.

###