



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK FIREFIGHTER SELECTED FOR SCHOLARSHIP TO FDIC INTERNATIONAL**

SUFFOLK, VA (May 5, 2017) Suffolk Fire & Rescue Firefighter/Medic II John Buttrick, III was selected for a scholarship to attend the FDIC International (Fire Department Instructors Conference). The conference was held in late April 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event featured firefighting apparatus and fire industry technology with more than 30,000 firefighters, chiefs, officers and instructors attending in 2016.

Buttrick has been with Suffolk Fire & Rescue since October of 2015. His scholarship was provided by Honeywell and DuPont™ Kevlar which selected 20 deserving firefighters and first responders to attend FDIC International 2017 courtesy of full-paid scholarships due to their numerous and remarkable contributions to their local fire service. Each scholarship recipient gained the opportunity to see innovations and new methods from fire industry experts and trainers, learned to advance their knowledge base and improve their techniques, and changed and shared — throughout their Department — an updated approach to response, rescue, and Department and community safety.

While at FDIC, Buttrick was able to receive training in tower rescue operations, live fire for squad companies and residential primary search, as well as classroom sessions on first due engine company, and first due truck company. He was also able to participate in many special and extracurricular events including the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Stair Climb, where he climbed 110 stories in the Lucas Oil Stadium in full turnout gear to honor the firefighters killed in the 9/11 attacks. Buttrick noted, "It was an incredible experience and one I will not soon forget. I sincerely appreciate Suffolk sponsoring my involvement and supporting my training mission." Buttrick was nominated by Suffolk Fire & Rescue Captain Brian Bunting. Captain Bunting created a short nomination video which was posted to YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYwo\\_6QsgQE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYwo_6QsgQE)

The FDIC "Experience" is noted to be hard to convey via mere statistics, percentages and words. Many past attendees talk about the "hallway conversations," "life-long friendships," and the power of this event to "recharge the passion." The quality of the world-class instructors, classrooms, workshops, H.O.T. evolutions and exhibits play a major role in the decision to attend FDIC International.

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