

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE PROMOTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY PLANNED

SUFFOLK, VA (August 20, 2015) The Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department will honor members of the Department and promote two to the rank of Battalion Chief during a Promotion and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 27, 2015. The event will be held in City Council Chamber located in Suffolk City Hall, 442 West Washington Street, starting at 4 p.m. A reception will follow at The First Lady, 447 West Washington Street.

Battalion Chief Jack C. Knight, Jr.

Jack C. Knight, Jr. will be officially promoted to Battalion Chief. Knight began his Fire Service career in March 1985 as a volunteer with the Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department. He was hired as a career Firefighter with the City of Suffolk in February of 1990. He was selected as President of his recruit class at the Southside Regional Fire Academy and was the class Valedictorian.

Knight was named firefighter of the year in 1994 and received the Medal of Merit in 1999. He was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1996 and to Captain in January

1999. He has completed numerous classes which include Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor II, Terrorism Response, Hazardous Materials Operations, General Staff and Command, and Incident Safety Officer to name a few.

Battalion Chief David P. Harrell

David P. Harrell will be officially promoted to Battalion Chief. Harrell started his career in the fire service with the Driver Volunteer Fire Department in 1995. Harrell was one of the first to enroll in the Southside Regional Fire Academy as a volunteer and graduated in 1996. Following graduation, he joined the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department, where he was promoted to Lieutenant in September 2002 and later to Captain in February 2005. Harrell was promoted to Battalion Chief in June of 2015 and his current assignment is Battalion 1 "C" Shift covering Downtown Suffolk. He also is the coordinator for the Department's Technical Rescue Team program.

Harrell holds numerous certifications from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and other agencies. He earned an Associate Degree in Applied Fire Science in 2003 from Tidewater Community College and his Bachelor's Degree in Multidisciplinary Studies from Liberty University in 2011. He is currently enrolled in Old Dominion University pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Firefighter of the Year – Senior Firefighter Michael C. Turner

Senior Firefighter Michael C. Turner will be honored as the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department Firefighter of the Year. Turner is described as a reliable and self-motivated individual who has proven himself to perform above and beyond what is expected. He tirelessly continues to improve and promote the Department utilizing his knowledge, skills, and abilities. Turner personifies the idea of pride and ownership.

Before becoming a Professional Firefighter with the City of Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department, Turner began his dedication to public service as a volunteer with the

Carrsville Volunteer Fire Department in 1996. His first notable achievement came in 1998 when he was awarded the Junior Firefighter of the Year honor. A good, strong foundation was laid and, after beginning his career with the City of Suffolk in 2003, Turner began to accumulate additional achievements. He was awarded six Records of Exceptional Performance during his first seven years, the Fire Department's first Star Award in 2012, and Spot Awards in both 2013 and 2014.

Turner is certified as a Firefighter, Life Instructor, Fire Officer, and EMT-Enhanced. He is a 2012 graduate of the Hampton Roads Fire Officer Command School and has obtained 122 hours of National Fire Academy training which includes Leadership I, II, and III.

Paramedic of the Year – Acting Lieutenant Theresa D. Monroe

Acting Lieutenant Theresa D. Monroe moved to Virginia from San Diego, California with her family in 1987 when her father transferred. Monroe applied to the Fire Department in 1994 at the urging of a Norfolk Fire Department Captain who knew that she was putting herself through paramedic school and thought she would be a good fit. Monroe was hired by Suffolk Fire & Rescue in 1995 as a Firefighter and has continued her education by becoming a Nationally Registered Paramedic in 1997 and obtaining an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Tidewater Community College.

Monroe is a tactical medic with the State Police, a member of the Search and Rescue Team, and a driving force behind the revitalization of the Department's Child Safety Seat Program. In addition, she was selected to serve as an Acting Lieutenant in May 2014.

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