



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Lower Paxton Township first responders honored for outstanding service

**Lower Paxton Township, PA** – From applying lifesaving first aid to accident and gunshot victims to quickly responding to potentially devastating fires, more than 50 Lower Paxton Township first responders were recently honored for their dedicated service.

Supervisors Norman Zoumas, Lowman Henry, Paul Navarro, Chris Judd and Robin Lindsey were joined by Rep. Justice Fleming for the award ceremony held at the township's Heroes Grove.



"Lower Paxton is fortunate to have such dedicated and committed police and volunteer firefighters keeping our community safe," said Henry, who chairs the Board of Supervisors. "They are the true heroes of our community, and we are immensely proud to have them as our guardians."

#### The following police officers received recognition:

#### LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

- **Officer Tyler Harris:** On May 3, 2022, Officer Harris was on his way home from work when he observed a tractor trailer being operated in a reckless manner. He

alerted the Lancaster County Dispatch Center and followed the vehicle until an officer was able to stop the vehicle. The driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and Officer Harris' actions averted a serious, and potentially deadly, accident.

- **Officer Logan Becker:** On Aug. 6, 2022, Officer Becker responded to a theft in progress at Dicks Sporting Goods and attempted a traffic stop of the suspect's vehicle. The suspect refused to stop and Officer Becker terminated pursuit out of safety concerns for other motorists when the suspect began driving the wrong way on Interstate 81. Through an extensive investigation, Officer Becker later identified and charged the driver and passenger.

### LIFE-SAVING AWARDS

- **Officers John Balint, Chad Krebs, Bruce Matthews and Brynn Peper:** On Feb. 10, 2022, the officers took turns performing CPR on a 65-year-old man who collapsed while playing basketball at the YMCA. Due to the officers' quick action, the man was revived and survived the incident.
- **Officers John Marsh and Greg Geib:** On March 5, 2022, the officers responded to a shooting on Valley Road and found a man with several gunshot wounds. applied tourniquets to control the bleeding and the victim survived.
- **Officers Cody Miele, Zethan Weary, Logan Becker and John Balint:** On June 20, 2022, the officers responded to an unconscious person call on Amherst Drive and found a man with a cord around his neck and no pulse. The officers performed CPR and established a pulse before the man was taken to the hospital, where he survived the suicide attempt.



## AWARD OF MERIT

- **Officer Cody Webster:** On May 18th, 2022, Officer Webster initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle which resulted in the seizure of 3 Federal Postal service keys, 174 fraudulent checks, 15 skimmed credit cards, blank Postal Service money orders and numerous other items used to commit fraud and forgery. The subsequent investigation by Officer Webster led to the arrest of three individuals connected to a Philadelphia-based crime ring.



- **Officer Steven Staats:** On Aug. 29, 2022, Officer Staats responded to a domestic dispute and found a woman with lacerations to her face. Despite the woman not wanting to cooperate, Officer Staats' thorough investigation and testimony at trial led to a 10-to-20-year prison sentence for the woman's attacker – a successful outcome that is rare when the victim is uncooperative.
- **Officers Gage Cvijic, John Balint and Cody Miele:** On Dec. 29, 2022, Officer Cvijic initiated a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle which had been carjacked just moments earlier in Steelton and, following a pursuit, the vehicle swerved into a ditch in Swatara Township. Officers Balint and Miele arrived to assist and all three officers arrested the vehicle's five occupants, seizing two firearms.
- **Officers Gage Cvijic, Cody Webster, Neal O'Malley, Brian McIntyre, Logan Becker, Lauren Neely and John Balint:** On Sept. 7, 2022, Officers Cvijic and Webster responded to a theft in progress at the Ulta Beauty Store and pursued the suspect's vehicle until it lost control and the occupants attempted to run. All seven officers continued the pursuit and arrested the five suspects.
- **Cpl. Andrew Brady and Officers Shayne Barber, Tyler Harris, Derek Day, Cody Webster, Richard Kaplan and Matthew Bond:** On Dec. 18, 2022, the officers responded to WoodSpring Suites for an active disturbance with a report of shots fired. The officers were able to detain the armed suspect without further injuries and provided care to a gunshot victim. The suspect was charged with attempted homicide and robbery.

## UNIT/PLATOON CITATION

- The 2022 Unit/Platoon Citation was awarded to Platoon D, consisting of the following officers:

- Corporal Andrew Brady
- PFC Douglas Fisher
- Officer Brian McIntyre
- Officer Brian Egli
- Officer Shayne Barber
- Officer Tyler Harris
- Officer Derek Day
- Officer Matthew Bond
- Officer Jonathan Miller



## CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD:

- **Shannon Drexel, Civilian Evidence & Property Room Technician:** In her short tenure, Ms. Drexel has excelled in every aspect of her assignment, managing more than 15,000 pieces of property, processing crime scenes, evaluating evidence for latent finger prints and assisting victims of crimes with the return of their recovered property. She also teaches young people about criminal forensics.

## OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Two Officer of the Year Awards are given annually, one to a uniformed officer and one to a non-uniformed officer.

- **2022 Uniformed Officer Of The Year:** Officer Logan Becker
- **2022 Non-Uniformed Officer Of The Year:** Detective Daniel Smeck

The following firefighters and paramedics received recognition:

### **South Central EMS Awards:**

#### **CLINICAL LIFE SAVING AWARD**

This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of paramedics and EMTs who go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure their patients receive the highest level of care possible.

- **Battalion Chief David Dugan**
- **EMT Dylan Landuy**

### **Township Fire Awards:**

#### **35TH BATTALION AWARDS:**

- **Firefighter of the year: Brendan Rusbach**

Brendan Rusbach joined the Linglestown Fire Company in June 2021 when he moved into the area with prior experience from a local department. He quickly became a top 10 responder and a top five in training hours. He is a key contributor to firehouse daytime and overnight staffing. He also mentors newer members and assists in a variety of tasks and projects.



- **Support Member Of The Year: Lieutenant Jeff Jumper**

Jeff Jumper joined The Linglestown firehouse in May 2016 and has held the position of president and lieutenant. He has overseen several fundraising projects as well as helping to develop policies and procedures. Sadly, Lt. Jumper is moving out of Lower Paxton Township but plans to continue assisting our fire community.

- **Top Responder Of The Year: Chauffeur Chuck Hoffer**

Chuck Hoffer joined the Linglestown Fire Company in November 1982 and over his 41 years has been a constant top 10 responder, often finishing in the top 3. He has served as the company's treasure for over 20 years. In 2022, he responded to 476 out of 753 incidents, or 63 percent of the call volume.

- **Top Training Award: Assistant Chief Sean Harp**

Sean Harp joined the Linglestown Fire Company in March 2007 and has been a constant top 10 responder and top 5 in training hours. Chief Harp is often found mentoring firefighters on operations of the apparatus and equipment, often coming up with innovative and creative ways to accomplish tasks and assignments.

### 34TH BATTALION AWARDS

- **Firefighter of the Year: Larry Stapansky**

Larry Stapansky joined the Paxtonia Fire Company in 2022 from Freeland, PA and quickly earned his engine front, became a tillerman, and is on his way to qualifying as a truckman and an engine chauffeur.

- **Support Member of the Year: Christopher Spohn**

Christopher Spohn joined the Paxtonia Fire Company in August 2020 from Swatara Fire Company initially as a firefighter and quickly worked his way up through the ranks as a driver and truckman. He helps manage the daily technological needs of the company and is part of several committees.



- **Top Responder: Ryan Murphy**

Ryan Murphy joined the Paxtonia Fire Company in 2010 and has served as a lieutenant. In 2022, he responded to 440 incidents.

- **Top Training Award: Zach Halbleib**

Zach Halbleib joined the Paxtonia Fire Company in 2019 from the Hummelstown Fire Company. He documented 305 training hours in 2022 and is always willing to mentor his fellow firefighters.

### **33RD BATTALION AWARDS**

- **Firefighter of the Year: Posthumously presented to Life Member and former Vice President Curtis L. Ertel**

Curtis L. Ertel, who passed away on April 1, initially joined the Old Lycoming Township Fire Company in January 1996, and then joined the Colonial Park Fire Company in February of 1999. Vice President Ertel volunteered 24 dedicated years of his life selflessly serving in Colonial Park as a firefighter, chauffeur, trustee, and vice president.

- **Support member of the Year: Al H. Lorence**

Al H. Lorence is a dedicated volunteer who was instrumental in starting and advancing conversations with the Dauphin County Commissioners during the initial phase of developing a county tax credit for active volunteer firefighters. He also makes himself available to educate children and adults in fire safety.

- **Top Responder Award: Asst. Chief Collin P. Weigle**

In 2022, Collin P. Weigle responded to 356 of the 800 emergency incidents, or 45 percent of the alarms.

- **Training Award: President Timothy Pramik**

In 2022, Timothy Pramik attended 16 in-house training classes, totaling 40 hours of instruction.

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*Lower Paxton Township is the largest municipality in Dauphin County and the 15th largest in Pennsylvania, covering a 28-square-mile area. To learn more, visit [www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov](http://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov) and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship*