

EFPD AWARDS

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a consistent leader in and the profession that's benefited by his 45 years of executive prowess and innovative approach to advancing the firefighter's early warning system, MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System).

Signed by 43rd Assembly District State Representative Don Vruwink and 15th Senate District State Senator Janis Ringhand, Vruwink was present to hand the chief the special State of Wisconsin proclamation acknowledging his many contributions and achievements that have redounded to the benefit of the people and agencies he's helped.

With a standing ovation as this sonic backdrop, Pickering made his way down the Board of Commissioners table, having his hand shaken by the men but being given generous hugs by both Candy Davis of Edgerton and Kathryn Fosdal representing Albion.

There couldn't have been a better scripted intro by any Hollywood screenwriter as Pickering used the meeting's momentum to wind the audience up for being hurled into heroic space, using both the actual photo clicked of the raging fire early morning on July 5 and the recorded 9-1-1 call received by the Rock County emergency call center.

"These two gals did everything right," the chief lauded both Natalie Gould and Ashlyn Oren, who had been out riding in their car that night. He wanted everyone to know how right it had all gone on July 5 when the two women spotted the fire.

So, like the chief himself, Ms. Gould and Ms. Oren were going to have presented to them an award, this one acknowledging their Meritorious Community Service. Rather than explain, Pickering read what the EFPD award specified, being signed by Chair John Sherman and the chief himself.

"Whereas, on the morning of July 5, 2019, Ms. Natalie Gould and Ms. Ashlyn Oren were travelling on a town road in the Town of Fulton, Wis.; And Whereas Ms. Gould and Ms. Oren observed a glow coming from an adjacent subdivision they believed was unusual; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga were relaxing on the deck of a home in the Town of Fulton, Wis.; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga heard a car horn sounding repeatedly in their subdivision which they believed was unusual; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga went to investigate, and upon coming around to the other side of the house observed significant fire and black smoke coming from the area of another house in the subdivision; And Whereas, upon running to residence located on Meadow Circle Drive, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga realized there were no occupants outside and no one was exiting from the residence; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga, without regard for the risk or their own safety, forced entry into the residence and safely evacuated two (2) juvenile and three (3) sleeping adult occupants from the structure; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer

and Lieutenant Lyga remained on scene to assist the family once they were evacuated, and offered assistance to the Edgerton Fire Protection District during efforts to bring the fire under control;

"Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the Edgerton Fire Protection District recognizes Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga for their acts of Heroism, courage and compassion that directly lead to the saving of five lives that were in perilous danger."

Once again signed by Sherman and Pickering, Representative Vruwink helped with handing the awards out to Lauer and Lyga, who were honored under a shower of enthusiastic applause.

However, although the honorific climax had been reached, with reporters and photographers retiring to the fire station's bay for interviews, there was one more recognition to be conferred that lustrous evening.

With numerous years of multiple services to the fire department, including serving on the EMS as AEMT, Captain Brandon Whitmore was acknowledged as being promoted to Division Chief of Fire Prevention, Investigation and Public Education, a very uniquely crafted position negotiated by the EFPD with Successor Firefighters Local 580.



Newly-minted Division Chief Brandon Whitmore flanked by wife, Jessica, and Chief Randy Pickering.

Photo by Tristan McGough

Fortunately for the slumbering Boeches that July 5, two neighbors—Travis Lauer and Andrew Lyga—were not sleeping.

In tandem they rather humorously related their stories of relaxing on the back deck of one of their homes in the subdivision. Suddenly they heard the nocturnal peace sliced open by a persistent series of horn blasts. Pickering detailed:

"Whereas, on the morning of July 5, 2019, off-duty Wisconsin State Patrol Inspector Travis Lauer and off-duty Wisconsin Department of Corrections Lieutenant Andrew Lyga were relaxing on the deck of a home in the Town of Fulton, Wis.; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga heard a car horn sounding repeatedly in their subdivision which they believed was unusual; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga went to investigate, and upon coming around to the other side of the house observed significant fire and black smoke coming from the area of another house in the subdivision; And Whereas, upon running to residence located on Meadow Circle Drive, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga realized there were no occupants outside and no one was exiting from the residence; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer and Lieutenant Lyga, without regard for the risk or their own safety, forced entry into the residence and safely evacuated two (2) juvenile and three (3) sleeping adult occupants from the structure; And Whereas, Inspector Lauer

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Pickering honored with state proclamation

By Tristan McGough
Special to the Reporter

Last month at the regular EFPD meeting on July 11, 2019, Chief Randy Pickering humbly endured the series of tributes conferred on him by commissioners, staff and volunteers alike, after he received the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Award from the WSFCA on Friday, June 21, 2019.

On Aug. 8, 2019, he would endure more—right alongside the four heroes who acted to save a family from their burning home a little after midnight on July 5—and this time he'd do it before a bevy of local newscasters, reporters and cameramen.

However, before Pickering was to present meritorious public service and heroism awards to others, State Representative Vruwink presented to the EFPD Fire Chief a State of Wisconsin proclamation signed by State Senator Janis Ringhand and himself.

WHEREAS, Randall L. Pickering was named the 2019 Volunteer Chief of the Year by the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pickering has demonstrated an unflagging commitment to fire protection service over his decades as Chief Officer and Firefighter, roles that have supported not only his own fire protection district but agencies across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, He has already left enduring legacies as Fire Chief for both the City of Fitchburg and the City of Edgerton, providing guidance and planning to both agencies as they confronted challenges while moving through tremendous growth and expansion; and

WHEREAS, During the last two years, he has provided exemplary leadership in reorganizing the Edgerton Fire Protection District, which serves the municipalities of the City of Edgerton and the Towns of Albion, Fulton, Porter and Sumner; and

WHEREAS, He has led the Edgerton Fire Protection District from Advanced Emergency Medical Service certification to Paramedic Emergency Medical Services certification as of Jan. 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, He was instrumental in developing the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, allowing communities across the state to benefit from rapid deployment of resources during their most vulnerable times; and

WHEREAS, He is steadfastly dedicated to the development of junior firefighters through innovative internships and explorer programs which have yielded many of the chief officers now holding leadership roles across Wisconsin. Whether volunteer or career, Chief Pickering's band of interns have touched many lives due to his tutelage; and

WHEREAS, As a member and secretary/treasurer of the State Fire Chiefs Board, he ad-



Chief Pickering was presented with a State proclamation by Rep. Don Vruwink.

Photo by Tristan McGough

dressed financial challenges of the organization during several critical years, allowing the organization to remain financially stable; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pickering played a critical role in the development of the State Chiefs Foundation, which funds the education of current and aspiring firefighters, was instrumental in establishing non-profit status, and currently serves as Chair of Foundation; now

THEREFORE, State Representative Don Vruwink and State Senator Janis Ringhand congratulate Chief Randall L. Pickering on being named Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year; thank him for all of his professional, association, industry, and community contributions; and wish him continued success."

On a note of good humor Representative Vruwink, a former high school history teacher, only had to pause his adroit reading of the proclamation once, admitting, "I told you there were a lot of 'Whereases!'"

Videographers and journalists alike jostled for position as Vruwink recited the acclamation, publically announcing the outstanding contributions Pickering has made to his profession, the firefighting industry as a whole, the several communities his leadership has directly benefited, and the many firefighters across the state he has personally mentored and guided in their continuing careers of public service.

Honored for his past accomplishments and contributions, appreciated for his present service, and trusted as beacon to the future, Chief Pickering could only thank again those who stood by him, supported him at home and on the job, and who made his job the success it is only because of their individual commitments and help.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2019

The Edgerton Police Department, the Edgerton Fire District and the City of Edgerton would like to thank everyone for supporting the 2019 National Night Out on August 6th at Racetrack Park. National Night Out is a campaign to promote safety awareness and show the importance of police-community relationships.

It is also a great time to allow neighbors to get together and enjoy the night. There were many individuals who were instrumental in making this a success. I have to begin by thanking Jondell Lawler and Theresa Wagie, Edgerton Police records managers, who made the calls and arranged many of the vendors who attended. Thanks to our law enforcement partners, Town of Fulton, Town of Milton, Wisconsin State Patrol, Rock River Safety Patrol, Rock County 911 Center and the Rock County Sheriff's Office, including Deputy Nolan and K-9 Max, who, by the way, put on a great demonstration.

I also want to thank the Edgerton VFW Post 2708 for the food and Presentation of the Colors along with a 21-gun salute. I want to thank Zoe Almo for her beautiful rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner, Healthy Edgerton for the banners and flyers as well as being a participant of the night. I appreciate the support from the Edgerton City Council members, Edgerton Police Commission members, the Edgerton Chamber of Commerce, as well as Representative Don Vruwink who were at National Night Out to show their support.

I want to thank Edgerton Outreach, Reach-A-Child, Edgerton Public Library, Edgerton Dean Clinic and Edgerton Hospital, Edgerton Blackhawk Community Credit Union, Bank of Edgerton, Edgerton BMO Harris Bank, New York Life, Arts Council of Edgerton, Edgerton High School volunteers, Edgerton Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, along with Dogs on Call, Piggly Wiggly, Edgerton Lions Club and Edgerton Anytime Fitness.

Thank you Wileman/Crazy Acres for bringing several tractors, and the Rock County Tow Association, represented by Savior Tow Company and I-90 Tow. I would also like to thank Deegan's Hardware for donating not one but 2 jumpy houses, Amy Olsen who brought a petting zoo, Dan Reilly for the great music, Tricocci University for the face painting and glitter tattoos, and we can't forget Scoopie from Culvers of Newville.

I want to thank Blackhawk Technical College for bringing the confidence trailer and Newville Auto for donating the cars used by the Edgerton Fire Protection District for the extrication demonstration. A special thank you to the Wisconsin National Guard who flew the Blackhawk UH-60 helicopter for everyone to see and the Recruiting Battalion who brought out the rock climbing wall.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their support and making this night special. We look forward to making this an annual event.

Chief Bob Kowalski
Edgerton Police Department



Trivia for August 14
Some favorites from 2016, test your knowledge of these unique venues in Wisconsin. Good Luck! Diane

Where is the.....

1. world's largest muskie?
2. world's largest barber pole?
3. world's largest grandfather clock?
4. world's largest letter "M"?
5. world's largest hamburger?
6. world's largest corkscrew?
7. world's largest White Pine log?
8. world's largest soup kettle?
9. world's largest talking cow?
10. Half Way North plaque?
11. turkey statue - turkey hunting capital of Wisconsin?
12. world's largest rolling mechanical planetarium?

Bonus question #1. world's only pulpwood stacker?

Bonus question #2. statue of Romeo, the killer elephant?

Bonus question #3. Three Stooges Fermenting Tanks?

