

Halton Hills firefighters recognized for bravery, service

Halton Hills Fire Department (HHFD) Fire Chief Brent Marshall will be nominating six firefighters for the Provincial Medal of Bravery for their work in saving the life of little Josiah Nguyen, trapped in a Acton house fire last November.

Chief Marshall said, Saving a little guy like Josiah there's not a feeling like it in the world.

Firefighters Capt. Steve McKnight, Capt. Armando Cabral, Capt. Rob Quinton, Firefighter Shawn Barnes, Firefighter Mark Bailey and Lt. Greg Ferguson will be nominated by the Chief for a Provincial Medal of Bravery.

Marshall made the comments when HHFD honoured their own in an Evening of Recognition at the Acton Fire Station earlier this month.

Three-year-old Josiah Nguyen, now four, was airlifted to SickKids after he was trapped upstairs in the burning family home on Tanners Dr. in November. He was rescued by HHFD firefighters and rushed to the hospital with smoke inhalation. The boy was rescued from the building by a pair of firefighters who encountered

thick smoke in the second storey of the home.

There was zero visibility on the second floor and heavy black smoke had already banked all the way down to the first floor, said Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Morrison at the time.

They had to go by a sense of feel as they were searching through the floor and they were able to find the child on a mattress in a bedroom at the back of the house. Other firefighters prevented the fire from spreading that would have cut off their access out of the building because there was heavy fire on the main floor that was starting to encroach on the stairs.

HHFD firefighters then launched a donation drive for the family, and in December the Nguyen family was invited to the Halton Hills Fire Department's Acton station to find a startling amount of clothing and toys that filled up several tables and stand-up racks, along with \$6,100 in cash and gift certificates.

Fire Chief Brent Marshall, Deputy Chief Harry Olivieri and Assistant Deputy Chief Bruce Morrison will also



Halton Hills firefighters Capt. Steve McKnight, Capt. Armando Cabral, Capt. Rob Quinton, Firefighter Shawn Barnes, Firefighter Mark Bailey and Lt. Greg Ferguson will be nominated for a Provincial Medal of Bravery for saving the life of four-year-old Josiah Nguyen after his home on Tanners Dr. caught on fire in November. Chief Brent Marshall said saving a little guy like Josiah there's not a feeling like it in the world. Pictured from left, McKnight, Ferguson, Thi, Lina and Josiah Nguyen, Barnes and Quinton. Absent: Bailey and Cabral.

Photo by Steve Frost

be nominated for a Medal of Bravery for their actions involving the loss of one of their firefighters Trevor McNally and his wife Sue. The three were overcome with emotion and hugged each other at the Recognition Night as the three were first on scene of the

structure fire in Eden Mills.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette spoke during the evening saying, Tonight we recognize milestones and successes but our firefighters work 24 hours a day, seven days a week all year long. In 2015, our firefighters re-

sponded to 942 calls 71 fires, 253 fire alarm activations, 101 carbon monoxide alarms, 130 motor vehicle accidents and rescues, 100 medical public assists and 63 hazardous material incidents, just to name a few types of calls out into our community.

Also at the Recognition Night, Long Service Awards were presented to 35-year veterans Capt. Doug Andrews, Capt. Steve McKnight and Capt. Bill McGilloway, to 30-year veterans Capt. Scott Kozar, Deputy Chief Harry Olivieri and District Chief John Wilson.

A 15-year Service Award went to Capt. Rob Clark and 10-year Service Awards to Firefighter Rob DiRuscio, Lt. Greg Ferguson, Lt. Philip Leslie, Capt. Nick O'Brien, Firefighter Peter Palmer, Capt. Alan Scott and Lt. Dick Spear. The 20-year Exemplary Service Medal went to Deputy District Chief Rick Vranic.

Retiring firefighters were also honoured: Capt. Ron Appleyard, Capt. Rob Clark, Lt. Mauro Ferraioli, Firefighter Malcolm Freeman, Firefighter Derek Hicks, Capt. Scott Kozar, District Chief John Wilson.

45 MIN FULL BODY WORKOUTS. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!

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