



Rotarian Melissa Saxon, right, presents Harry Vivian of Dallas Fire & Ambulance Inc. the Firefighter of the Year Award. Looking on is PEMA Director Robert French.



Rotarian Paul Saxon, left, presents Ernest A. Gay II of Franklin & Northmoreland Township Ambulance the EMT of the Year Award.



Rotarian Sandy Peoples, right, presents Karri Dodson of the Kunkle Fire Department the Firefighter of the Year Award. Looking on is PEMA Director Robert French.



Rotarian Ken Chapple, right, presents Officer Charles Musial of the Lehman Township Police Department the Police Officer of the Year Award. Looking on is PEMA Director Robert French.

Emergency personnel honored

Annual First Responders of the Year Awards program held at Newberry Estates.

The Rotary Club of Dallas presented its annual First Responders of the Year Awards program on May 13 at Newberry Estates.

Following welcoming remarks and the introduction of guests by Sandy Peoples, president of the Rotary Club of Dallas, the following awards were presented:

EMS Personnel of the Year – Ernest A. Gay II, Franklin and Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association.

During 2009, Gay was a member of the Franklin and Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association where he served as assistant crew chief and vice-president. He has responded to the majority of emergency calls between midnight and sunrise every day of the year for the past three years.

Police Officer of the Year – Charles Musial, Lehman Township Police Department

Over the past year, Musial has assisted members of the Lehman Fire and Ambulance Company on a number of ambulance calls, including two cardiac arrests. He arrived on scene and provided CPR and AED treatment to patients until Advanced and Basic Life Support Units arrived on the scene.

Firefighters of the Year – Karri Dodson, Kunkle Fire Company; and Harry Vivian, Dallas Fire & Ambulance Inc.

Dodson, deputy fire chief, has been an active member of the Kunkle Fire Company for more than 20 years and has served more than 15 years as deputy chief.

She has a degree in Fire Science Technology and has taken courses at the National Fire Academy. She is an EMT, drives the ambulance and all of the fire apparatus and provides much of the training at the Kunkle station.

Dodson has been a Pennsylvania state trooper since 2003 and is an assistant fire marshal. Vivian has been an active member of Dallas Fire & Ambulance Inc. for 29 years and has served as fire chief since 2003.

Under his leadership, the Dallas Fire Department has experienced its highest call volume. It has a clean personnel safety record and has accomplished its highest year of class certification and training.

In his personal time, Vivian has worked with contractors to provide input into fire safety on the numerous new construction sites in Dallas, including the new Dallas High School.

Lifetime Achievement Award – Conrad Higgins, Kunkle Fire Company; and William J. Hagenbaugh, Lehman Township volunteer Fire Department

Higgins has been a member of the Kunkle Fire Company for 44 years and has served in every position as a fire fighter, ambulance driver and fire apparatus operator. He has held various offices in the company such as president, vice president and secretary and has served as treasurer for the past 15 years.

Fire Chief Hagenbaugh has served as a member of the Lehman Township Volunteer Fire Company for 30 years since the age of 16. Early in his career, he attended EMT classes offered in Luzerne County and obtained his firefighter certification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

First Responder of the Year – Diane M. Beisel, Shavertown Fire Company

Beisel heard a scanner report in her neighborhood of a medical emergency on Nov. 21, 2009. Without hesitation, she responded to the call from her home.

Upon arrival, she found a woman and a newly-born infant in distress. Beisel determined that the baby was not breathing and turning blue. She separated the child from the mother with a pair of household scissors and shoelaces. She cleared the child's airway and, without any concern for her own safety regarding exposure to bodily fluids or blood-borne pathogens, began rescue breathing while waiting for the EMS. She advised the mother lie on the bed until the EMS personnel arrived.

When EMS arrived, Beisel carried the baby, still not breathing, to the waiting Kingston Township Ambulance. With the child in her arms, she and a paramedic worked on the infant while en route to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

By the time the ambulance arrived at the hospital, the baby had begun to breathe ever so slightly on her own and was beginning to turn pink in color. By the time Beisel and the EMS personnel left the hospital, the child was completely breathing on her own.

Without the actions of Beisel, little Cheyenne Autumn Jayne might not be the bright-eyed, bouncing baby girl she is today.



Rotarian Jerry Reisch, second from right, presents Conrad Higgins of the Kunkle Fire Department, center, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Also pictured are State Rep. Karen Boback, left, PEMA Director Robert French and State Sen. Lisa Baker.



Rotarian Arthur Peoples, second from right, presents Diane M. Beisel of the Shavertown Fire Department, center, the First Responder of the Year Award. Also pictured are State Rep. Karen Boback, left, PEMA Director Robert French and State Sen. Lisa Baker.



Rotarian Todd Buckley, second from right, presents William J. Hagenbaugh, center, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Also pictured are State Rep. Karen Boback, left, PEMA Director Robert French and State Sen. Lisa Baker.

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