



**NINTH ANNUAL LAW AND ORDER
AWARDS CEREMONY**

**HONORING THOSE WHO
SERVE OUR COMMUNITY**

Presented by
The American Legion
Joseph E. Zaloga
Post 1520

May 21, 2012



Joseph A. Valiquette
-
Police



Wayne Dragon, Sr.
-
Fire Services



Ray Hughes, Jr.
-
Emergency Medical Service

WELCOME & SALUTE TO THE COLORS:
PETER UBRICH, POST COMMANDER

OPENING PRAYER:
CRAIG LURIE, POST CHAPLAIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
DAVE MILLER, 1st VICE COMMANDER

INTRODUCTIONS:
HARVEY MARTEL, LAW AND ORDER CHAIRMAN

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
PETER UBRICH, POST COMMANDER
PAULA MAHAN, TOWN SUPERVISOR
POLICE AWARD, JOHN M. VAN ALSTYNE
FIRE SERVICE, RICHARD HAACK
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, PETER BERRY

CLOSING PRAYER:
CRAIG LURIE, POST CHAPLAIN

OUR HONOREES FOR 2012

JOSEPH A. VALIQUETTE - POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Valiquette has served with the Colonie Police Department for 23 years. Prior to serving with the Colonie Police, Joe worked for the Albany County Sheriff's office for three years. Over the span of his career, Officer Valiquette has been the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award and two Life Saving Awards. He was also a dedicated Field Training Officer for several years while assigned to the Patrol Unit. Officer Valiquette has been assigned to the Administrative Services Division and Training Unit for the past five years. He is a Smith and Wesson Armorer, firearms instructor, Taser instructor and General Topic instructor. As a Training Officer, he has remained dedicated to training the officers of the department in all aspects of the job assuring they stay up-to-date in meeting current demands of the job. His performance as a firearms instructor has helped veteran officers sharpen their skills as well as help shape the marksmanship abilities of recruit officers attending the Zone 5 Law Enforcement Academy. He has remained tireless in his efforts to maintain the firearms range by putting in countless hours and performing many duties that go far beyond what is required. His professionalism and efforts in handling the range makes it the most sought after firearms training facility in the region. Officer Valiquette has also played an integral role in assuring that the police department stays in compliance with the state standards set forth to maintain its status as an Accredited Agency. He is also one of the primary officers responsible for the initial interaction with police interns, police officer candidates and newly hired police officers. His professional demeanor in his interaction with these groups and managing the intern program has helped the Colonie Police Department maintain its highly professional image in the community.

WAYNE DRAGON, SR. - FIRE SERVICE

Wayne Dragon has been a member of the Fuller Road Fire Department since 1967 (45 years). He has volunteered in countless positions at FRFD including Firefighter, EMT, Rescue Lieutenant, Rescue Captain, Special Committee Chairman, Recording Secretary, President, and he currently is Vice President; always dedicated to the keeping the community safe. During the past twenty years Wayne has been an EMT with the Fuller Road Fire Department and Colonie EMS. He has been involved in nine cardiac reversals and has fought countless fires in the community. As a pillar of the community, He was responsible for establishing a boys CYO basketball program at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School and served there for five years. He also coached many levels of baseball including the Belmont Senior Babe Ruth team who won regional's and competed in the state championship. Mentoring future generations, Wayne was a Boy Scout leader for 18 years and a Girl Scout leader for 14 years. His hard work and dedication earned him the Attatie Day Award for outstanding leadership. Constantly volunteering in the local schools he served as Steinmetz Middle School PTO President for six years. Wayne's many civic awards include the 1991 Social Member of the year, American Heart Association Fireman of the Year 1998 for saving a pedestrians' life. The Colonie Elks Club Outstanding Fireman of the Year 1998, Mutual of Omaha Life insurance Company's appreciation for saving a life (2nd time in 1998), Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association Fireman of the year 2000, and Albany County Fireman's Association Fireman of the year 2001. Wayne has been instrumental in starting the Town of Colonie Firefighters softball league, and playing in it since the 1960's. Regardless of whether you are a friend, a family member, or a stranger, Wayne will greet you with a smile and offer a helping hand. His selflessness and generosity coupled with his high moral character and compassion make Wayne an example for all generation.

RAY HUGHES, JR. - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ray is a veteran of the US Navy where his lifelong commitment to helping people began as a Navy Corpsman (1948-1951). In 1958 Ray joined the Colonie Village Fire Company and Rescue Squad. He has held several officer positions in the organization over the years including being President for 9 years. Ray's passion has always been with helping people. He served as an ambulance attendant and driver for the Colonie Fire Company Rescue Squad. In 1989 the Town of Colonie took over the responsibility of providing EMS. Ray was one of the first to volunteer to continue to serve the community as an Emergency Vehicle Operator. Ray has carried on the tradition, like many veterans who have served, to continue to serve their communities. Ray has participated actively in Emergency Services in the Town of Colonie for 54 years.