



NEWS RELEASE

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Paramedic/Firefighter Jones Received Governor's EMS Award

(ROANOKE COUNTY, Va.) December 9, 2014 – Paramedic/Firefighter David Jones of Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department has received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health & Safety.

The Governor's EMS Awards were established as a formal recognition of outstanding contributions to EMS across the Commonwealth. In June, David Jones received the Western Virginia EMS Regional Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health & Safety and was then forwarded to compete at the state level. The State EMS Advisory Board's EMS Awards Selection Committee reviewed the first place winners in each of Virginia's 11 Regional EMS Councils' competition.

Paramedic/Firefighter David H. Jones received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health & Safety for his efforts as the Department's wellness and fitness coordinator since 2004. The Wellness & Fitness Program has been recognized at both the state and national level for firefighter wellness. However, the majority of calls the department responds to are EMS in nature, so David has implemented a number of initiatives that directly help improve common injuries that EMS professionals are prone to experience such as back strains and shoulder problems.

The Department's Wellness & Fitness Program would not be a success without the dedication that David has provided. The initial goals of the Department in 2004 were to develop a fitness program modeled after the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Wellness Fitness Initiative. By far, the Department has met this goal and we are regularly called upon by other agencies to give advice on how to continue this type of program.

Annually, David oversees a fitness assessment for each staff member in conjunction with a thorough medical physical provided by a contracted licensed Occupational Physician. Each year, Jones reviews the employee's physical goals and charts progress from year to year. Jones is also able to identify any concerning health trends within the Department as a whole and implement remedies.

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ACTION NO. _____

ITEM NO. _____

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Recognition of Paramedic/Firefighter David Jones of Fire & Rescue for having received a Governor's EMS award for *Outstanding Contribution to EMS*

SUBMITTED BY: Richard E. Burch Jr.
Chief of Fire and Recue

APPROVED BY:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The 2014 Governor's EMS Award winners were recently announced at the 35th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia. Governor Terry McAuliffe recognized 10 outstanding EMS providers and organizations from across the Commonwealth for their excellence in EMS and dedication to the system.

The awards were presented in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services 35th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium. This weeklong training event is the largest EMS training event in the state and one of the largest in the nation. The symposium welcomes more than 1,800 providers from across the Commonwealth and issues approximately 25,000 hours of continuing education credits.

"In the last 35 years, the Virginia EMS Symposium has offered an incredible educational opportunity to thousands of EMS providers statewide, which has helped to shape Virginia's EMS System into one of the largest and best in the nation," said Gary Brown, director, Office of EMS. "This incredible feat would not be possible without the hard work and talent of the providers recognized during the Governor's EMS Awards ceremony. Their remarkable efforts to serve the citizens of Virginia and better the EMS System are exceptional and we're proud to honor them with the highest award given at the state level. Congratulations to this year's Governor's EMS Award winners! You have set the bar high for excellence in EMS."

Roanoke County Paramedic/Firefighter David Jones received the Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety. David Jones lives and breathes physical fitness and wellness, which is evident through his enthusiasm serving as Roanoke County's Medical and Fitness Coordinator for the past 10 years. In 2004, the initial goals of the department were to develop a fitness program modeled after the International Association of Fire Chiefs and International Association of Fire Fighters' Wellness Fitness Initiative. Under David's leadership and dedication, Roanoke County's wellness and fitness program has met this goal and is regularly called upon by other agencies to demonstrate its progress. The program requires all Roanoke County fire and rescue personnel to have an individual fitness profile, which is designed to help achieve personal goals. David has shown great commitment to helping all of Roanoke County Fire and Rescue to be as healthy and physically fit as possible, so that they can provide high quality service to their patients. David Jones' significant contributions to Virginia's local, regional and state EMS system are exceptional and greatly valued in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

