

## Tier 3 Event Awards

### Tier 3

#### MEDAL OF VALOR

The highest medal that can be achieved. The Medal of Valor may be awarded to a member who performs a personal act in a courageous manner in the protection of life or lives while engaged in the mitigation of a fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous materials incident or other type of response that likely would have resulted in serious bodily harm or death for the recipient.

#### I WOULD SUGGEST PLACING A "V" ON THE RIBBON

The Medal of Valor may be awarded to a member who;

- A. Was an active member on the Swannanoa Fire Department Roster, and who
- B. Was on or off duty,
- C. Performs a personal act
- D. In a courageous manner

*Consider any of these descriptions when determining "Courageous".*

*HEROISM means greatness of spirit in facing danger or difficulty.*

*COURAGE suggests strength in overcoming fear and carrying on against difficulties .*

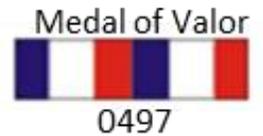
*BRAVERY stresses bold and daring defiance of danger.*

*VALOR applies especially to bravery in fighting a dangerous enemy*

*(under fire or danger from a weapon or assailant).*

*HEROISM suggests bravery and boldness in accepting risk or sacrifice for a noble or generous purpose*

- E. in the protection of life or lives
- F. while engaged in the mitigation of fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous material incident or other type of response
- G. that likely would have resulted in serious bodily harm, injury or death



#### Distinguished Service Award

Distinguished Service Award: Any member who, on or off duty, performs an act (s) above and beyond the call of duty under MODERATE personal risk that involves bravery and/or a high degree of initiative and/or capability. It must be worthy of recognition that promotes good will, and reflects highly on the Fire Department.

The Distinguished Service Award may be issued to a member who;

- A. Was an active member on the Swannanoa Fire Department Roster, AND
- B. was on or off duty,
- C. under MODERATE personal risk
- D. performs an act (s) above and beyond the call of duty
- E. that involves bravery OR
- F. a high degree of initiative or capability
- G. It must be worthy of recognition that promotes good will AND
- H. reflects highly on the Fire Department



*\*Definition of "Beyond the Call of Duty" – This can be a difficult perspective since the fire & rescue professional's job typically takes them "Beyond the call of duty" frequently when compared to a normal citizen. This can also be applied when the act may have been of rare circumstance or opportunity to perform and was performed exactly as expected.*

*Another key word is in the title of the award: "Distinguished". Distinguished is beyond the status quo expectation, standing out from normal expectations of others or possibly even an event that another member would be likely to repeat a noble story of the event..*

## Life Saving



Any member who, on or off duty, performs an act that can be attributed to a victim's resuscitation, extension of life, or a return to normal life and that without the member's act, the victim would have most certainly remained pulseless or non-breathing, or would have perished almost immediately or would have certainly perished within a short period of time under current conditions and circumstances.

- A. Any member who, *(Includes all members of a team where such acts occurred)*
- B. was on or off duty,
- C. performs an act
- D. that can be attributed to;
- E. a victim's resuscitation, OR *(Pulse returned on scene and arrived at the hospital with pulse, or pt began breathing again)*
- F. extension of life, OR *(Although eventually passing away, the victim lived longer and possibly enough for family members to visit at the hospital)*
- G. a return to normal life AND
- H. that without the member's act, the victim would have most certainly;
- I. remained pulseless or non-breathing, OR
- J. would have perished almost immediately, OR
- K. would have certainly perished within a short period of time under current conditions and circumstances  
*(Conditions at the moment of action indicated to a reasonable person that if they do not act, the person will perish. The reasonable belief exists between the rescuer and the victim. While some instances may refer to mere seconds, other circumstances may give evidence that the person could never "escaped" entrapment on their own and would have perished or actions to free them by untrained and unequipped citizens would not have been successful.)*

### "Performs an act" examples

Performing CPR, chest compressions, inserting an airway, shocking or packaging the patient or an act as part of the team necessary to perform CPR.

Using hydraulic tools to free an injured and trapped person at a motor vehicle accident. In many cases, rescuers may use a hydraulic tool to remove a door to facilitate easier movement of the backboard or to improve access but these instances alone would likely not be considered "saving life", more in the scope of accessing and treating a patient. Conditions that may elevate the consideration for a lifesaving award may include an obvious trauma where time is of the essence and a "quick" extrication made the difference for access to life saving treatment.

*(EMS-performed compressions, ventilated, packaged pt, Fires-pulled victim out, MVAs- operated the hydraulic tool in a serious ST or directed these activities to significantly impact the outcome, Rescue – carried a person from the wilderness that could not have on their own.)*

The Definition of “Unit” – A “Unit” to the Swannanoa Fire Department is any assembled group for a particular mission or purpose.

**Meritorious Unit Citation –**



Recognition of a company or team for outstanding performance on a major incident of great magnitude far above normal emergency operations that demand teamwork and cooperation for success.

A major incident is defined as a significant emergency event that involves a serious threat to life/property and requires call back of personnel and additional resources outside the scope of normal mutual aid **or** is of rare and difficult circumstance. A number is applied for each Meritorious Unit Citation received. For example, a member has received 7 Meritorious Unit Citations; the member has a “7” on this ribbon. Each occurrence is recorded in the personnel database.

A. A Company or Team

B. Outstanding Performance

- 1. Exceptional action/expertise
- 2. Instills excellent PR with area served and professional perception from other agencies. Our agency may have received a letter from incident jurisdiction thanking our team for their service.

C. A major Incident (Emergency)

- 1. Exceeds normal/Typical mutual Aid (Given or Received) or
- 2. Large Mass Casualty with difficult conditions or
- 3. Large fires or
- 4. Extended operations or
- 5. Rare or extremely difficult conditions or
- 6. Worthy of significant documentation and preservation as a historical incident involving Swannanoa FD or
- 7. Significant threat to life and property (multiple people/homes)

**Current applications of the Meritorious Unit Citation;**

Church Fire Lytle Cove		
Blizzard	1993	
Hurricane Floyd Rescues	September 1999	
Montreat Forest Fire		
Jet Research Fire		
Francis/Ivan Flooding		
Shafer Dorm Fire		
Beacon Fire		
Christian Creek Forest Fire		
Space Shuttle		
Plane Crash BM		
445 Biltmore		
Florida Fires 98		
Review MVAs,. Exit 55		

Unit Citation



### Unit Citation-

1167

Recognition of a company or team for outstanding performance on a special project or activity, voluntarily undertaken or assigned, that was primarily dependent on teamwork and cooperation. The project or activity should be of significant effort, time and significant impact on the community, department or both.

Class 4 Inspection participation,

### RED HEART AWARD

The Red Heart may be awarded to any member who is injured while engaged in the mediation of a fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous materials incident or training. The injury could not be self-inflicted or by negligence, and all protective equipment and safety procedure must have been in use. The Red Heart may be awarded posthumously to the family of a member who dies of injuries obtained, or while engaged in the same criteria listed above.

Red Heart



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The Red Heart may be awarded (Including posthumously) to any member who;

- A. Was an active member on the Swannanoa Fire Department Roster, and who
- B. was injured or
- C. while engaged in the mediation of a fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous materials incident or training.
- D. The injury could not be self-inflicted or
- E. by negligence and
- F. all protective equipment and safety procedures must have been properly in use.
- G. that could have resulted in serious bodily harm, injury or death