

To: Association Board  
From: John Wurdinger  
Re: Firefighter of the Year Nomination

The Association considers five criteria when presenting a member with the Firefighter of the Year Award. The list in attributes include; Quality of a Firefighter, Involvement in the Community, Attitude around the Firehouse, Contribution to the Fire District and Contribution to the Association. Mike Grady has served our Community, our District and our Association in a stellar manner since November of 1984 and his stalwart dedication to our profession should not be able to continue to go unnoticed. Please consider Fire Engineer Mike Grady for the 2006 Firefighter of the Year based on the following traits.

### **1. Quality of a Firefighter**

Mike seems to be physically unable to rest during the day. It is rumored that Mike's nickname is "Thumper" due to the manner in which his foot bounces around while sitting in a chair.

For two years straight I had the pleasure to work with Charles Sturtevant who, whenever Mike Grady was on overtime, would order the crew to walk around following Mike with pen and paper in hand and take notes on what a "model firefighter" did with his day.

It was Charles Sturtevant who coined the phrase "Mike Grady Shamrock"; whenever a crew member did something exceptional during the day his or her name would get placed on the white board with a little green shamrock beside it. Mike's quality as a firefighter is second to none.

### **2. Involvement in the Community**

Mike has been involved with the many of the benevolent acts of the Association including Christmas in April, the Toy Drive and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. But his involvement in the community goes deeper than just the Association with his activities at Nativity Church. Up until Mike moved his family to "god's country" Mike was a member of the Nativity Men's Club and because of his ties to the community help to coordinate Track Meets, Soccer games and even helped Tom Neylan at the Annual Christmas Tree Lot. Mike has always been involved in the community.

### **3. Attitude around the Firehouse**

After I passed probation in early 2000, I was placed as a rover out of Headquarters. At the time Mike was a Paramedic with 16 years of experience. Mike would routinely be roved due to the Districts need to staff stations with Paramedics on "C" Shift when we had the Ambulance. As a new Firefighter EMT, I spent the year in Mike's bid position at Station 77 and never heard an ill word from Mike Grady. Mike always has an

exceptional attitude around the firehouse.

#### **4. Contribution to the Fire District**

The Water Rescue Program would not be what it is today without the dedication of Mike Grady. Mike has served as an alternate to Jeff Schreiber on the State OES Swift Water Rescue Working Group for nearly five years. His ability to effectively maintain, spec and track both equipment and training has made him an asset to the Department, our Community, our State and our Nation when he was part of the Water Rescue team that responded to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Mike makes it his business to contribute just a little more than the next guy to the District.

#### **5. Contribution to the Association**

Mike has served on the Association Board and has been on the Association's Standing Committee for Televisions, Video Recorders and Radios since long before I was a member of the Association. I vividly remember Mike spending eight hours of one day, while off duty, attempting to wire the surround sound at Headquarters. This work was multiplied by seven when he did the other six Firehouses. Mike has contributed more to the Association than most members will ever know.

Mike Grady serves as a workhorse as a Firefighter for the District both in the station and on calls. His positive attitude sets the standard for other Firefighters and contributions to both the Community and the Association are solid. As I look at the wall of Firefighter of the Year both past and present I have come to the realization that it would be a shame to allow Mike Grady to go unnoticed for yet one more year. Please vote for Mike Grady as Firefighter of the Year.

John Wurdinger  
Member in Good Standing