



Austin Fire Department
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ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

HONORING FIREFIGHTER AND
CIVILIAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

Friday, April 20, 2018

10:00 a.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers

301 W. 2nd Street

“OUR MISSION GOES BEYOND OUR NAME”

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

*Captain André de la Reza,
Emergency Service Pipes and Drums (ESPADA)
Austin Fire Department Honor Guard*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Battalion Chief Brian Tanzola
Chair, Awards Committee Jury*

EMCEE

Quita Culpepper KVUE Anchor/Reporter

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr

AWARD RECIPIENTS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Austin Cooper

OUTSTANDING SERVICE

*Robert Menchaca
Christine Thies*

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

*Lieutenant Lawrence Andry Firefighter Robert McCray
Engine 41/A shift Quint 40/A shift
Firefighter Preston Curtis Firefighter Phillip Rangel
Engine 41/A shift Dispatch
Firefighter Darren Hyson
Engine 41/B shift*

CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

*Captain Damian McKeon Lieutenant Patrick Brown
Prevention Engine 28/B shift
Fire Specialist Brian Wolske Lieutenant Sean Cummings
Engine 40/B shift Engine 32/C shift
Firefighter Juan Adame Fire Specialist Matthew Hunt
Quint 34/A shift Engine 28/C shift
Firefighter Jason Venzant Fire Specialist James Spiller
Engine 42/A shift Rescue 28/B shift
Krisha Allen Firefighter Oliver Friedheim
Prevention Engine 28/B shift
Noelle James Jason Behr
Prevention*



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Austin Fire Department is to protect and enhance the safety and well-being of those in our community.

MISSION

The Austin Fire Department is committed to creating safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.

VISION

We strive to be the best.

AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE TEAM

*Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr
Assistant Chief/Chief of Staff Tom Dodds
Assistant Chief Richard Davis
Assistant Chief Larry Jantzen
Assistant Director Dr. Ronnelle Paulsen
Assistant Chief Pablo Ruiz
Assistant Chief Aaron Woolverton
Division Chief Rob Bredahl
Division Chief Palmer Buck
Division Chief Andre Jordan
Division Chief Thayer Smith
Division Chief Chris Swenson
Division Chief Rob Vires
Division Chief Brandon Wade
Division Chief Craig Walker
Public Information and Marketing Manager
Michelle Tanzola*

2017 AWARDS COMMITTEE

*Division Chief Thayer Smith Captain Jeffrey Kennedy
Battalion Chief David Brietzke Lieutenant Drew Montgomery
Battalion Chief Brian Tanzola Fire Specialist Brad Landi
Captain James Rae Firefighter Kyle Edwards*



GOALS

Prevent Fire Deaths and Property Loss

- Reduce fire deaths to zero.
- Clear by arrest at least 35 percent of arson cases.
- Increase the number of non-technical inspections performed by 5 percent.
- Install at least six smoke alarms per day (2,190 annually).

Prepare for Emergencies: Everyone Has a Part!

- More than 90 percent of sworn positions fully staffed.
- Provide more than 150 public safety education events.
- Rank-specific department certifications will be achieved by more than 90 percent of sworn personnel.

Respond Efficiently & Effectively to Emergencies

- Response time from receipt of call to arrival is eight minutes or less 90 percent of the time.
- At least 40 percent of cardiac arrest patients to arrive at the hospital with a pulse.
- Confine 85 percent of structure fires to room of origin.
- More than 98 percent of all unit responses in the city of Austin will be handled by AFD units.



MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Edward Mueck

FEBRUARY 9

Medal of Merit

Firefighter Matthew Grube

Meritorious Service

*Fire Specialist Kelly Gall
Firefighter DJ Martinez*

FEBRUARY 20

Unit Citation: Quint 17/A shift

*Captain David Brandt
Fire Specialist Adam Finkenbinder
Firefighter Jonathan Drummond
Firefighter Roth Lamb*

MAY 20

Unit Citation: Engine 32/A shift

*Lieutenant Tice Porterfield
Fire Specialist Richard Vecchione
Firefighter Greg Barker
Firefighter Kim Ehardt*

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Unit Citation: Prevention

Division Chief Rob Vires

Battalion Chief Rolando Rodriguez

Captains:

Stacey Cox

Damian McKeon

Chris Shewmaker

Lieutenants:

Erik Avant

Doug Boes

David Daniel

Kevin Gell

Ron Gil

MaryAnn Hubbard

Bryan Knox

Lisa Watts-Madolora

John Marney

Lieutenants (cont'd):

David McGuire

Gary Meyer

Lisa Millman

Danny Nixon

Bryan Noak

Brad Price

Paul Rodden

Jonathan Sheppard

Aimee Beasley-Spadoni

Brian Thompson

Scott Walters

Fire Specialist Kim Roland

Fire Specialist Jerry Sharpe

Firefighter Louise Joubert



OCTOBER 14

Unit Citation: Engine 36 and Ladder 36/A shift

*Captain Eddie Martinez
Lieutenant Stephen Martinez
Fire Specialist Daniel Orlaska
Fire Specialist Rodrigo Nicolau Del Roure
Firefighter Kevin Schuler
Firefighter Adrian Gonzalez
Firefighter Gerry Kammer
Firefighter Benjamin Davis*

OCTOBER 25

Unit Citation: Engine 23/B shift

*Lieutenant Kevin Rowe
Firefighter Richard Huizar
Firefighter Brandon Phillips
Firefighter Charles Rodriguez*

2017

Unit Citation: Fire Communications

*Fire Specialist Carl Brisson
Fire Specialist Stephen Windsor
Firefighter Janet Kallus
Firefighter Joe Maier*

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Firefighter Louise Joubert

FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Captain Ron Coleman

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presented to those members who, by their actions, distinguish themselves above that of their peers in service to the Austin Fire Department.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Awarded to any member for outstanding acts or services rendered on or off duty.



FIRE CHIEF RHODA MAE KERR



Chief Kerr is a fourth-generation firefighter who began her career in the fire service in 1983. Before coming to Austin, she served as Fire Chief in Little Rock, Arkansas; she was also Assistant Fire Chief in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Chief Kerr holds a Master's in Public Administration, Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical

Education and Health, an Associate's degree in Fire Science Technology, and two certifications from Harvard University's program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. She is also a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program. Prior to entering the fire service, Chief Kerr was a coach and physical education teacher at the high school level for 12 years.

Chief Kerr was the first woman elected to serve as President (2015-2016) of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, one of the oldest professional associations in the United States, established in 1873. From 2016-2017, she served as President of the Metropolitan "Metro" Fire Chiefs, comprised of chiefs from the largest fire departments across the country. In December 2016, President Obama appointed her to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, made up of academic, public, and private experts who advise the sitting President on matters regarding the security of critical infrastructure and related information systems. She serves on various committees and boards, and is a member of several state, national, and international fire service associations. Chief Kerr has also been honored as a Girl Scouts of Central Texas Woman of Distinction.



QUITA CULPEPPER



Quita Culpepper is one of Austin's most celebrated and trusted TV journalists. Since moving to Austin at the age of 13, the city has become her home; sharing the stories of her community has become one of her biggest passions.

Quita earned her first television job in Austin, and during her time on the air, she's been honored with numerous awards

and accolades. She first landed on the Austin Chronicle's "Best of Austin" list in 1999, when she was named "Best TV Reporter." She's been on the list 10 times since and in 2015, Austin Way Magazine named her one of its "8 Influential Austin Women."

She was named the primary 6 and 10 o'clock anchor for KVUE News in 2017 after years of reporting and anchoring Weekend Daybreak, along with the 5 p.m. newscast.

With almost 20 years of experience, Quita has met everyone from the President of the United States to the man who works behind the counter at her favorite restaurant. She's even made a few appearances on the silver screen ("Bernie," "The Quiet," and "Booth") as well as on the small screen ("Killer Women" and "Kevin Probably Saves the World").

Quita is no stranger to public service; you'll find her volunteering her time each year to host numerous events such as this one, as well as the Austin Firefighters' Ball (which raises money for the AFD Firefighter Ed Bridges Scholarship Fund). Her ties to the fire service extend even further, with a cousin who is an EMT/Firefighter for the City of Flint (MI) Fire Department.



CAMPAIGN CITATION

Awarded to members who participated in or directly supported Operations during a single, large-scale event or series of events resulting from a manmade or natural disaster.

UNIT CITATION

Awarded to a unit whose service was an unequalled personal effort in overcoming difficulties or obstacles in the completion of a difficult task, and has resulted in the protection of life or property OR for performance beyond the normal scope of duty.

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Awarded to a member who makes significant contributions to, and exceeds expectations of, the Austin Fire Department, and/or the community for ongoing, exceptional performance that advances and supports the fire service.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Awarded to any member who, while not in a life-threatening situation, is in direct support of operations where a member(s) is awarded a Medal of Merit, Valor, or Honor.

MEDAL OF MERIT

Awarded to any member who saves the life, or attempts to save the life, of a human being by an act of rescue. This act must be of a conspicuous nature.

PURPLE HEART

Awarded to any member surviving a significant injury while involved in an emergency incident. This award is to be judged on a case-by-case basis.

MEDAL OF VALOR

Awarded to any member who has performed a courageous act under conditions of extreme danger and at great risk of bodily injury. The act must clearly exceed what is required, and results in the protection of life in a manner considered exceptionally valiant.

FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Firefighter of the Year (FFOY) and Fire Officer of the Year (FOOY) awards acknowledge individuals utilizing the following criteria:

- *Everyday actions of professionalism;*
- *Customer service;*
- *Leadership above and beyond the norm; and*
- *Civic deeds, department activities, and/or individual accomplishments.*

