

# Headlines



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**May 17, 2006**

Since 1980 the Knights of Columbus have sponsored a Civic Awards Night during which the Rock Island Police Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year are honored. Mr. Loui Alongi of the Knights of Columbus decided to organize a Rock Island Civic Awards Night after reading about a Knights of Columbus dinner elsewhere honoring police officers. It is now the group's main community project. When asked to comment on the event, Mr. Alongi mentioned that the many arrangements for Civic Awards Night are but a small gesture of appreciation. "The least we can do is once a year, sit down and say, 'Thanks a lot'".

Honorees for the event's 27th anniversary are Kirk Pattison, Police Officer of the Year, and Joe Duran, Firefighter of the Year. The police officer and firefighter were selected for this honor by their co-workers in each department. This year's event will be held Sunday, June 11, 2006 at the VFW Hall in Rock Island, IL. There is a social hour at 5:00 P.M. following by the dinner and award presentations at 6:00 P.M. Reservations for this event, which is open to the public for a cost of \$10.00 per person, may be made through June 5<sup>th</sup> by calling Mr. Loui Alongi at 786-9625.

### **POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR HONOREE**

#### **Officer Kirk A. Pattison**

Officer Pattison graduated from Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School and attended Kirkwood Community College. Officer Pattison served 8 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Iowa National Guard. He was recently married to his wife, Jenny, and they have a son, Aaron.

Officer Pattison was appointed to the Rock Island Police Department on January 13, 1995. He is a member of the Emergency Response Team, Bike Patrol, a Range Officer, and a CPR Instructor. Over the last eleven years, Officer Pattison has been assigned to all three shifts with an emphasis on third shift and to the Narcotics/Vice Division. He has received multiple Certificates of Commendation and Letters of Recognition from the [Chief of Police](#) for his outstanding performance. He has previously been recognized with awards for Distinguished Service and Life Saving.



Officer Pattison was nominated by his fellow officers of the Rock Island Police Department for his actions over the last year of service. Officer Pattison most recently received another life saving award and the "Unsung Hero" award from the Rock Island County Medical Society for his actions to save the life of a suspect who had lodged a large bag of heroin in his throat in an effort to avoid arrest. With the assistance of Officer James Pauley, Officer Pattison was able to clear the obstruction and revive the suspect who had stopped breathing.

Officer Pattison has made multiple arrests of suspects committing burglaries and robberies in the City of Rock Island. The investigations conducted by Officer Pattison often lead to additional arrests for those involved due to his hard work and dedication.

On March 21, 2006 Officer Pattison conducted a routine traffic stop for a minor traffic violation. Unknown to Officer Pattison, the driver of the vehicle was armed with a handgun and possessed half an ounce of Crack Cocaine. The driver subsequently fled on foot from the traffic stop, and after a long foot chase Officer Pattison caught the suspect. Officer Pattison took the suspect into custody after an exhaustive fight and recovered the loaded 9mm handgun and half ounce of Crack Cocaine.

## **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR HONOREE**

### **Firefighter Joseph V. Duran**

This year's Firefighter of the year goes to Firefighter Joe Duran. Joe has been with the department for nine years. He is married for 24 years to his wife Kim and has three children, Vincent, Amanda and Emily. Joe resides in Silvis.

He has a great amount of pride in his work and profession and this is reflected in his daily task. He is always first to step up and take on work. Joe completes the job with the highest of standards and is the most modest of people. As one of the departments Paramedics he stationed at Station 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> St and 31<sup>st</sup> Ave. He was a Paramedic for many years prior to coming on the fire department working for Illini Hospital.



Joe has earned his Fire Officer I and II certifications through the Illinois State Fire Marshals Office. He has many other certifications including Trench Rescue Technician, Rope Operations and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Joe has been recognized by Trinity Hospital for his outstanding work with precepting paramedic students. He has been honored repeatedly for excellence in the EMS community. He has elevated the level of care provided by our fire department by always being on the cutting edge of education.