



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

2012 Firefighter of the Year Award

Good evening. My name is Mark Shutters, and I'm the Grand Knight, Archbishop Neale Council #2279, Knights of Columbus. Each year, the Knights of Columbus recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to education and the community at large. Awards are made to citizens, catholic teachers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. 2012 is no different.

The Firefighter of the Year Award is presented to an outstanding public safety official for his/her untiring commitment to enhance and preserve the quality of life and protection of property within our communities.

Archbishop Neale Council #2279, comprised of Knights from Charles County churches, solicited nominations from both the paid and volunteer sides of the Charles County Emergency Management System. As a result, Chief George Hayden, Newburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, was selected as this year's recipient.

In short, Chief Hayden's accomplishments have included, though are not limited to, the following:

*Chief Hayden joined the Bel Alton Volunteer Fire Department in 1971, and became a life member in 1986

*Chief Hayden was instrumental in establishing emergency medical services in Bel Alton, Md.

*Chief Hayden is the past Fire Chief, and held eight (8) other positions, with the Bel Alton Volunteer Fire Department

*In 1988, Chief Hayden saw a need for emergency medical services in Newburg, Md.; he assisted with the organization, and became a charter member of, then Company #61; Chief Hayden even held numerous meetings at his home

*In 2001, Chief Hayden assisted with the organization of Newburg, Md.'s, Fire Division which completed the process for fire protections between Bel Alton and Cobb Island, Md.

*Chief Hayden has held the position of President, and is currently the Fire Chief of the Newburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department

*Chief Hayden is the Delegate to the Charles County Volunteer Fireman's Association and the Southern Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Association

*Chief Hayden has served several terms as the County Chief of the Charles County Volunteer Fireman's Association

*Chief Hayden received the Henry Burke Memorial Award in 2004

*In 2005, Chief Hayden was inducted into the Southern Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Association Hall of Fame

*In 2012, Chief Hayden was elected Vice President of the Charles County Volunteer Fireman's Association

Often times, such accomplishments of members of our communities who are involved in public service go unnoticed. It is for this reason I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize George for his commitment, due diligence, and outstanding service. On behalf of my Brother Knights, it is my pleasure to announce Chief George Hayden as the Archbishop Neale Council #2279, Knights of Columbus, 2012 Firefighter of the Year!

George, congratulations! Thank you for your exemplary dedication, and we wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Faternally,



Mark S. Shutters
Grand Knight
Archbishop Neale Council #2279
Knights of Columbus