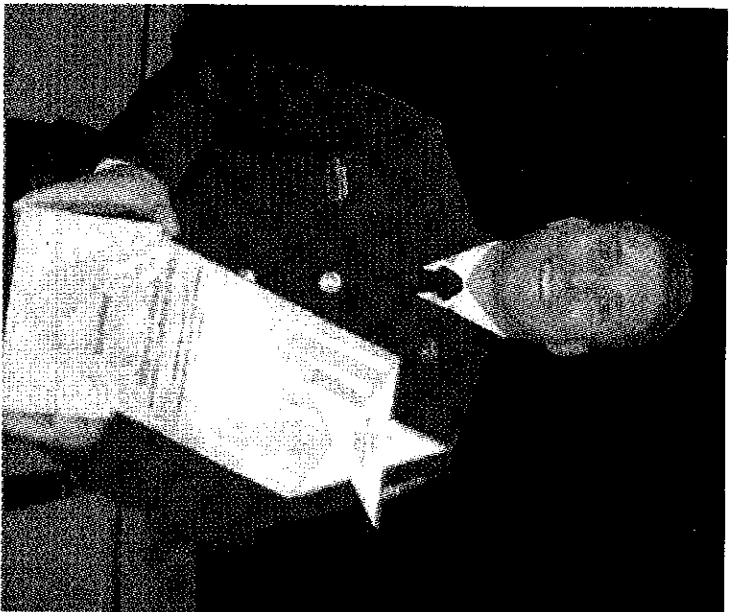


Former Stow resident honored for life-saving efforts in Memphis



Former Stow resident Richard Patterson, now a firefighter and paramedic in Memphis, shows his EMS Star of Life Award.

Special to Record Publishing Co.

In 2008, ambulance services in Tennessee responded to more than one million 911 calls. The first annual EMS Star of Life Awards Dinner & Ceremony honored the dedication of those who provide day-to-day lifesaving services on the medical "front line" in Tennessee. The ceremony presented actual patient scenarios and reunited the EMS caregivers with individuals they treated from the EMS regions across the state.

Among those honored were Memphis firefighter and paramedic Richard Patterson, son of Janice and Jim Patterson of Stow. He has been with the Memphis department just one year.

In heavy black smoke, Private Short located 4-year-old Leonard "Jolo" Tubbs under a pile of blankets in one of the bedrooms. Jolo was quickly rescued and handed off to Lt. Dan Harris, a trained EMT. Jolo was not breathing. Lt. Harris immediately began CPR, exited the house and continued basic life support. An Advanced Life Support EMS crew arrived and care of Jolo was assumed by FF/Paramedics Eric Sacharczyk, Richard Patterson, and Patrick McDevitt.

Jolo was lucky that he had no burns on his body, but was immediately transported to LeBonheur Children's Medical Center where he was hospitalized for two weeks.

The personnel of Fire Station 27/C are trained as a Special Operations Rescue Team (SORT). Their fast response time, successful search and rescue, recognition of the need for and implementation of BLS and ALS procedures, the less than 4 minute scene time and the less than 10 minute transport time all led to the delivery of a viable patient to the emergency department at LeBonheur.

An ironic note in all of this is that the members of Fire Station 27 had adopted this same family for Christmas just two weeks prior to the fire. Their relationship began two months previous when the firefighters responded to reports of a gas leak near the home. Two of the lieutenants were actually Christmas shopping for the family the morning of the fire when their pagers

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Award

began beeping and news of the fire broke. Station 27 again stepped up to the plate and involved the community in helping this family.

The EMS Star of Life is sponsored by HCA/Tristar, Methodist Healthcare/Methodist University Hospital, Air Evac Lifeteam, Erlanger Health System/T. C. Thompson Children's Hospital, AAA Clubs of Tennessee, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, Tennessee EMS Education Association, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Adams and Reese LLP, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, TeamHealth Mid-south, and Tennessee College of Emergency Physicians.

The mission of Tennessee Emergency Medical Services

for Children Foundation, the host of the EMS Star of Life, is to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness and injury. Before he moved to the Memphis area, Patterson worked part-time for the

Mumroe Falls Fire Department and American Medical Response in Akron. He obtained his associate degree from Hocking College, Nelsonville, after graduating from Stow-Mumroe Falls High School.

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