

2010 State Fire Commission's Ohio Hall of Fame Award Recipients:

Ohio Fire Service Valor Award: Conferred to members of the fire service in the State of Ohio who, at great personal risk to themselves, are credited with directly saving or attempting to save a life during an extreme emergency situation above and beyond the normal line of duty.

Jason Bloomfield

On March 17, 2009, Coal Grove Police Chief Jason Bloomfield acted selflessly and heroically to save the lives of residents of a burning home. Chief Bloomfield, who also is Coal Grove firefighter, was at the fire station with Fire Chief Gary Sherman when a report of a fire was dispatched. When the men arrived on the scene, they found heavy smoke and fire. While Fire Chief Sherman called for mutual aid, Chief Bloomfield, without any protective clothing or breathing apparatus, entered the front door through heavy, black smoke. He was able to locate and carry the female occupant to safety. Bloomfield returned to the doorway, calling out to the other resident who was still inside the burning house. Hearing the man's calls for help, Bloomfield re-entered the burning house with zero visibility, located the man and brought him out of the fire and heavy smoke. Chief Bloomfield's heroic actions and courageous response to citizens in need bring great credit to himself, his family, the Coal Grove Police and Fire Departments and the State of Ohio.

Tom Donadee

On May 8, 2009, Boardman Firefighter Tom Donadee demonstrated true bravery in saving the life of a man in need. Normally the water of Lake Newport, in Mill Creek Park, cascades quietly over the dam steps into the sharp, moss-covered rocks of the creek bed. However, after three straight days of rain, the creek became the stage for Firefighter Donadee's brave actions. After responding to a call of a man in the water, Donadee located the man, floating and unresponsive due to hypothermia. He quickly ran down the path to intercept the victim to keep him from going over Lanterman Falls, a two-step set of falls with drops totaling nearly 30 feet. With little regard to his own personal safety, Donadee entered the frigid, chest-deep rush of water to rescue the man. Firefighter Donadee's valiant actions bring tremendous credit to himself, his family, the Boardman Fire Department and the State of Ohio.

Ohio Fire Service Citizens Award - This award is conferred upon citizens of Ohio who, at risk of their own lives, perform a lifesaving act in a fire or emergency situation.

Norman Booher

On July 30, 2009, Norman Booher and Howard Thomas illustrated the very best of humanity in saving the life of their neighbor, Ralph Buckalew. Booher and Thomas noticed smoke billowing from Buckalew's house in Woodsfield. As both men tried to gain entry, they found the doors locked and Mr. Buckalew still trapped inside, responsive, but confined to an electric scooter. As the flames continued to engulf the house, Booher and Thomas kicked down the front door and entered the home under thick, heavy smoke to rescue their neighbor and bring him outside to safety. Mr. Booher's and Mr. Thomas' courage and willingness to help a neighbor in need saved a life that day. Their noble actions are an example for all to follow.

Jim Melillo

On May 28, 2009, Jim Melillo exhibited selfless citizenship in a heroic act that saved the life of Susan Haury who was seriously injured and trapped in her burning car. Melillo, traveling in a pick-up truck, towing a fishing boat and trailer, drove upon a horrific accident on Hamilton Road in Medina Township around 5:47 p.m. Two SUVs were severely damaged, entangled and on fire. Melillo, along with the aid of Medina Township Police Officer Matt Ventura, disconnected

the boat trailer and secured the tow chain to Ms. Haury's vehicle. Melillo proceeded to pull the vehicle to safety by separating the two vehicles. Fire department and EMS personnel then proceeded to extricate and provide advanced life support for Ms. Haury. Melillo's courage and willingness to risk his own well-being to help a person in need illustrates the very best of humanity. His noble actions are an example for all to follow.

Howard Thomas

On July 30, 2009, Howard Thomas and Norman Booher illustrated the very best of humanity in saving the life of their neighbor, Ralph Buckalew. Thomas and Booher noticed smoke billowing from Buckalew's house in Woodsfield. As both men tried to gain entry, they found the doors locked and Mr. Buckalew still trapped inside, responsive, but confined to an electric scooter. As the flames continued to engulf the house, Thomas and Booher kicked down the front door and entered the home under thick, heavy smoke to rescue their neighbor and bring him outside to safety. Mr. Thomas' and Mr. Booher's courage and willingness to help a neighbor in need saved a life that day. Their noble actions are an example for all to follow.