

## **Rotary Club Honors Hometown Heroes**

First responders' service noted

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The Rotary Club of Louisville yesterday honored representatives of Louisville's three main public safety agencies for their contributions to the community.

Louisville Metro Police Officer Billy Keltner, Maj. Doug Recktenwald of Louisville Fire & Rescue and Metro Emergency Medical Services paramedic Jesse Yarbrough each received the Service Above Self Award at the Galt House.

The honor, known nationally as the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, is one of the highest honors Rotary clubs bestow and this is the first time the Rotary Club of Louisville has given it.

The recipients, chosen by the heads of their departments, each received \$500, a plaque, certificate and a medallion. The honor also includes a donation of \$1,000 in each recipient's name to Rotary International's Annual Program Fund, which supports Rotary's worldwide programs.

Police Chief Robert White presented the award to Keltner . White said Keltner reminded him of former Baltimore Orioles baseball player Cal Ripken Jr. who holds the record for playing the most consecutive games in the major leagues. Keltner "comes to work every single day and doesn't shy away from responsibility. He's our iron man," White said.

Keltner said, "I'm very honored to be chosen for such an exceptional award and very pleased to be a part of other Paul Harris Fellowship Award recipients."

Fire Chief Gregory Frederick recognized Recktenwald for taking on a project as a new district chief while performing other jobs throughout the department. "It's great to come to work and do what you love to do and be able to get recognized for it," Recktenwald said.

Neal Richmond, head of Metro EMS, said Yarbrough exemplifies leadership and the desire to save lives.

About three months ago, an individual was trapped in a vehicle after an accident and Yarbrough's unit was the first to arrive on the scene, Richmond said. He then climbed into the car to give the individual an IV.

Yarbrough said, "I'm very humbled to receive this award. It's hard to pick just one person for this award because there are a lot of deserving people who come to work and do what I

do."

Readers can reach reporter Antwon Pinkston at (502) 582-4241.

Louisville Emergency Medical Service announced awards and promotions for employees at a ceremony at Masterson's last evening. They are:

**EMS Awards**

EMT of the Year: Carl Cravens

Paramedic of the Year: Tom Schwartz

Crew of the Year: Alex Eades, Todd Jones

110% Award: Suzi Bernert

Supervisor of the Year: Roger Parvin

Rookie of the Year: Jeff Cawood

Support Staff Award: Billing Department

Medical Excellence Award: Bob Schaffer, Nathan Webster

Compassionate Care Award: Rebecca Ostroff

Teaching Award: Tim Donan

Director's Award: Norma Coy, Darrell Phillips

**Promotions**

Promoted from Captain to Major were:

Karen Brandon

John Cooney

Mike Crenshaw

Dave Martin

Lane Morrison

Roger Parvin

Rick Robbins

Mike Will