

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

THREE BINGHAMTON FIREFIGHTERS HONORED AS FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR

On February 6, at the Endwell fire station #1, the Broome County Firefighters' Association honored three Binghamton firefighters for their heroic rescue of a 9-year old boy from a home at 23 Eldredge Street in Binghamton. The three firefighters - Lt Brian Grace, Firefighter (now Lieutenant) John Shine and Firefighter Stephen Cole - received the Firefighters' Association's William Grace Firefighter of the Year Award.

"On April 28, 2008, at 03:33 hours, Binghamton Fire Department personnel were dispatched to 23 Eldredge St. For a reported fully involved structure fire with entrapment. Upon arrival Asst. Chief Larry Ostanek encountered several Binghamton Police officers frantically trying to coax two youths from a first floor window onto the engulfed front porch. One managed to escape, however the other retreated back into the house. The first rig on the scene, Quint 3, with a response time of 2 minutes 53 seconds was positioned in front of the building.

"Although the building, a two-story apartment house, appeared to be barely tenable due to intense fire activity and a heavy fire load, Lt. Grace and FF Shine entered through the window where the youth was last seen. FF

Cole had secured a water supply and with a charged hand line now in place they quickly knocked down flames on the front porch and darkened down the room where the boy was. Although fire was rapidly intensifying, and with regard only for that of the missing boy, a blind search of the room was conducted. With interior conditions rapidly deteriorating, they were forced to exit the room. By this time, with an adjacent building now burning, a second alarm was placed and a defensive posture ordered. When FF Shine and Lt. Grace dove out the window, hopes of a successful rescue appeared slim. After a very brief respite it was decided one last effort would be made. Though out of breath and fatigued they re-masked and again entered, going straight to the center of the room. With no visibility and ever growing heat, they located the unconscious victim behind a couch. Although disoriented and exhausted they made their way to the point of entry and handed the 9-year old to waiting personnel on the porch, again diving out of the window to safety. From time of the alarm to the completed rescue was 9 minutes.

"The young boy spent 12 days in a burn unit where he was treated for severe smoke inhalation and burns to his head and midsection. Although admitted in critical condition he was released from the burn unit on May 9, and has made a full recovery.

"For this heroic effort, above and beyond the call of duty, Lt. Grace and FF Shine have earned the HIGH RISK RESCUE award and FF Cole a COMPANY CITATION award."

The letter of nomination was submitted by Binghamton Fire Chief Daniel L. Thomas.

The Firefighter of the Year Award is named after Chief William Grace, past chief of the Johnson City Fire Department, who was a dedicated firefighter and long-time member of the Firefighters' Association.



H. Hawver Photo- (Left to right) Firefighter (now Lieutenant) John Shine, Firefighter Stephen Cole, and Lieutenant Brian Grace(right) receive the William Grace Firefighter of the Year Award from Broome County Firefighters' Association 1st Vice President James Cummings (left) and President Robert Brady (in white shirts).