

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

LISLE FIREFIGHTER NAMED "FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR"

At the July meeting of the Broome County Firefighters' Association, Thaddeus "TJ" Keep, Jr. of the Lisle Fire Company was awarded the William Grace "Firefighter of the Year" Award.

TJ was nominated as a result of his efforts to save a neighbor who was down and not breathing. The letter of nomination from Lisle Chief Skip Keep and Lisle Board member Al Glezen:

"The Lisle Fire Co. would like to nominate our Lieutenant Thaddeus Keep Jr. (TJ) for the firefighter of the year award.

"On April 15, 2013, a call came in for man down not breathing in our neighborhood. TJ responded right away. He saw people standing around a gentleman lying on the ground. No one there knew CPR so TJ immediately started it. NYS Trooper Don Atkinson arrived on the scene with a defibrillator. The two of them worked together until the ambulance arrive.

"The gentleman had a faint heartbeat when placed in the ambulance. Found out later that day that he had survived. Two days later TJ was able to go see and talk with him. Within a week, he had a pacemaker put in and was home doing fine.

"His family is ever so grateful to TJ for starting CPR and saving his life. Several family members (including the patient) have visited ... with gifts for TJ, including a plaque."



H. Hawver photo: TJ Keep of the Lisle Fire Department receives the "Firefighter of the Year Award"

TJ was presented with a plaque from the Firefighters Association and a proclamation from Senator Thomas Libous. Broome County Legislator Scott Baker, chairman of the Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee and Ron Keibel who represents Lisle in the legislature also made a presentation to TJ.