

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

GLENDALE, Ariz. –The Glendale Fire Department has named Captain Wayne Smith, as its Firefighter of the Year for 2005. The announcement came Friday March 10 during the Glendale Fire Department's 19th Annual Awards Banquet.

Wayne became a Glendale Firefighter 28 years ago serving much of that time as a Ladder Captain on Ladder 152 located and 69th Ave. and Bethany Home. Captain Wayne Smith is well respected among his peers for being very best at what he does.

Captain Smith and 9 other Glendale Firefighters were deployed to Gulf Coast for over three weeks where they spent the majority of their time in Guatier, Miss. assisting thousands of people who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. By utilizing many of the talents that he possesses as ladder captain, Wayne became an integral part of the recovery mission for the storm ravaged Gulf Coast area. He assumed the position of Incident Commander of Jackson County, a post that put him charge of a task force that swelled to 5 counties and 600 members from around the country including firefighters, law enforcement officers and public works experts.

Two other Glendale firefighters were also nominated, they include: Assistant Jim Higgins and Deputy Chief Jim Gibson.

Several other members of the department also received awards:

- Chief Don Heatwole Career Achievement Award: Plans Examiner Lee Lloyd
- Fire Chief's Award: Division Chief Chris Dechant
- Professional Service Award for Non-Sworn: Management Aide Connie Sodaro
- Professional Service Award for EMS: Captain Tom Cole
- Community Service Award: Captain Todd Mills
- Volunteers of the Year: Josh Donaldson and Bobby Samora
- Fire Pal of the Year: Engineer Gary Ware
- Call of the Year: Engineer Jeff Thomas

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NEWS
Glendale, az

The Glendale
Fire Dept.
is a nationally
accredited
agency

The Glendale
Fire Dept.
responds to
more than 26,000
calls a year

Glendale
firefighters
remind you to
use supervision
around water

City of Glendale
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