



The Hundred Club of DuPage County
Supporting our law enforcement and firefighting personnel families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2019

CONTACT: Jodi Rucks
(630)375-7622

**Carol Stream FPD and Wheaton FD Firefighters/Paramedics Honored with 2019 Award of Valor
from the Hundred Club of DuPage County**

Carol Stream, IL – The Hundred Club of DuPage County will present Carol Stream Fire Protection District FF/PM Jason Kanzia, FF/PM Patrick Coulter, Lt. James Jones, and FF Craig Williams from Wheaton Fire District their 2019 Award of Valor during its Annual Meeting and Valor Awards Dinner on October 30, 2019 at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton. The dinner recognizes first responders for their acts of courage and heroism.

On April 17, 2019 at approximately 21:29 hours, Carol Stream FPD Squad Co. 27 and Medic 28 responded to a structure fire in West Chicago at 141 West Grand Lake Blvd. Upon arrival, West Chicago companies were confronted with heavy fire conditions on the first and second floor of a 2½ story occupied wood frame structure approximately 30x50. The structure was occupied as a single-family dwelling. Civilians notified DuComm and arriving companies that two civilians were trapped inside the structure. Upon arrival Squad Co. 27 were briefed and the information regarding the civilian occupants still being trapped inside the fire building were relayed.

Squad Co. 27 was ordered to raise a ground ladder to the 2nd floor bedroom window for vent, enter, and search. They also directed a hose line in the window below the bedroom to slow the fire down and to get a visual on the floor rafters of the 2nd floor to make sure they were still intact, which they were-but compromised by the fire.

At this time FF/PM Jason Kanzia (Squad 27) made entry to the 2nd floor bedroom window with active fire below him. A second ground ladder was positioned next to the first ground ladder in case a ladder rescue was needed. FF/PM Patrick Coulter (Squad 27) and Lt. James Jones (Squad 27) positioned the ladders at the windowsill. FF/PM Kanzia performed a right-handed wall search and found a 92 year old male in the corner of the bedroom unconscious in a chair. FF/PM Kanzia maneuvered the victim to the window and with the assistance of FF/PM Coulter and FF Craig Williams of Wheaton Tower Ladder 38, the victim was removed to the ground where he was immediately given lifesaving treatment. The victim was unconscious, pulseless and apneic. He also had second and third degree burns over 15% of his body. The patient was air lifted to Loyola Medical Center for further care. The patient survived for 2 days before he succumbed to his injuries.

After removing the victim, members of Squad 27 immediately re-entered the second floor via ground ladder with a charged 2 ½” hose line to attack the fire and search for the second missing victim. The second victim was found on the floor in a rear bedroom next to the bed but he had

succumbed due to the conditions. Squad Co. 27 continued to work and extinguish the fire on the 2nd floor and attic and were able to complete the searches.

Because of the hard work and relentless drive to access the upper floors of this fire building, the successful removal of a victim under extremely dangerous conditions, and lifesaving efforts the members of Carol Stream Fire District Squad Co. 27 FF/PM Kanzia, FF/PM Coulter, Lt. James Jones, and Wheaton FD Tower 38 FF Craig Williams will be receiving the 100 Club of DuPage County Award of the Valor. “It is with great honor to grant them the 2019 Award of Valor” said 100 Club President Savegnago. “They put their life on the line, without hesitation and with courage, to save and protect the lives of others.”

About The Award of Valor

The 100 Club Award of Valor is a life-long honor of law enforcement officers and firefighters chosen by their peers for heroic actions above and beyond the normal expectations of their duties and their jobs.

About the 100 Club of DuPage County

The Hundred Club of DuPage County established in September 1982, is a private, non-profit charitable organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. The Hundred Club of DuPage County offers assistance to families of law enforcement and firefighting personnel who have been killed, injured, or otherwise stricken while residing or working in the county. For more information about the Hundred Club of DuPage County, please visit www.hundredclubofdupage.org. There you can purchase tickets for the Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation.