



**Biloxi Fire Department 2019 Awards Ceremony, Nov. 8, 2019, Biloxi Civic Center**

**Welcome:** MC Vincent Creel

**Procession of Firefighters:** led by Bagpiper Quinn Chastant playing "Scotland the Brave"

**Posting of the Colors:** Biloxi Fire Honor Guard

**National Anthem:** Jamie Howe

**Invocation:** Fire Chaplain Chief John Jennings

**Recognition of City Officials, Guests etc.** MC Vincent Creel

**Remarks by:**

Joe Boney, Director, Biloxi Fire Department  
The Hon. Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, Mayor, City of Biloxi

**Presentation of Awards:**

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich  
Chief Joe Boney, Director, Biloxi Fire Department  
Assistant Chief Mark Dronet, Biloxi Fire Department

**Order of Awards:**

**CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING:**

Presented to members of the department or other organizations who successfully completed training courses approved by the department. This award shall consist of a certificate.

Members receiving Certificates of Training are:

**Capt. Jim Davis** – Bachelor Degree in Fire Administration  
**Firefighter Colton Tillman** – Associate of Arts Degree

**EMT RECOGNITION:**

Presented to those employees who have been nationally certified as Emergency Medical Technicians.  
This award shall consist of a lapel pin.

Members receiving Recognition for becoming an EMT in 2019 are:

Beesley, Taylor  
Deas, Brian  
Denton, Chris  
Garcia, Ronald  
Gillespie, Wesley  
Gipson, Bryan  
Groue, Sam

Harris, Jonathan  
Parker, John David  
Parker, Justin  
Peterson, Hugh  
Peterson, Robert  
Tillman, Colton  
Vuyovich, Jake

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:**

Any officer of the department may send a letter of appreciation to any member, citizen, and/or group, organization, etc. for their contribution and/or support in various events approved by the department. This shall consist of a letter and/or certificate.

Members and/or citizens receiving a letter and/or Certificate of Appreciation are:

For helping to make the Biloxi Fire Department's annual Kids Academy a success

**Anne Marie Borries**  
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

**Christy Milbourne**  
MS Department of Transportation

**Keith Crosby**  
Palace Casino Resort

**Kevin Murray**  
Servpro

**Jimmy Freeman**  
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

**Patty Nash**  
Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino

**Phil Frisby**  
Pitcher Point Investments

**Gary Sly**  
Blossman Gas

**Al Greene**  
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

**Sean Shoemake**  
US Select Insurance

**Mark McCrindle**  
IP Casino Resort & Spa

**Susan Varnes**  
Treasure Bay Casino & Resort

**Arika Zandee**  
Smoothie King

For tactical and logistical assistance during the *Thunder Over the Sound* Air Show held May 3 – 5, 2019

**Sherry Bell**  
Parks & Recreation, Director

**Darren Ivy**  
Merit Health

**Beau Blaylock**  
Gulf Coast Produce, General Manager

**Billy Kelley**  
Gulfport Fire Department, Deputy Chief

**James Carver**  
American Medical Response, Ops Mgr

**Ron Lessner**  
Biloxi Police Department, Major

**Kim Chatham**  
Merit Health

**Steve Moore**  
Harrison County Fire Service, AC

**John Dodd**  
Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant

**Matthew Nault**  
Gulfport Fire Department, Deputy Chief

**James Donnett**  
Keesler Fire Department, Chief

**Troy Peterson**  
Harrison County Sheriff

**Chase Edwards**  
Combat Readiness Training Center, Fire Chief

**Tommy Searight**  
Parks & Recreation

**Jack Ewing**  
Department of Marine Resources, Captain

**Pat Sullivan**  
Harrison County Fire Service, Chief

**Glenn Faust**  
Mugshots, Manager

**Don Wilson**  
MEMA, Logistics Chief

**Will Freeman**  
Department of Marine Resources, Lt.

**Nate Wilson**  
Ocean Springs Fire Dept. Interim Chief

**Charles Wise**  
AMR, DC of EMS Operations

For their generosity in serving our first responders in remembrance of 9/11:

**Dr. Todd Boucher**  
Popp's Ferry Elementary, Principal

**Kristi Vermillion**  
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.

**Traci Kessler**  
Nativity BVM Elementary, Principal

For assistance during an arson investigation that occurred on June 28, 2019:

**Gregory Marks**  
Gulfport Fire Department, Deputy Fire Marshall

For tactical and logistical assistance during the Search and Rescue Incident that occurred on August 19, 2019:

**Joseph Branning**  
Biloxi Police Department, Patrolman

**Eli Humphrey**  
Biloxi Police Department, Patrolman

**Brandi Dorcik**  
Biloxi Police Department, Dispatcher

**Weston Mayley**  
Biloxi Police Department, Patrolman

**Joel England**  
Biloxi Police Department, Patrolman

**Jamie Risner**  
Biloxi Police Department, Dispatcher

**Kenneth Garner**  
Biloxi Police Department, Sergeant

**Kayla Parker**  
Biloxi Police Department, Dispatcher

**Thomas Goldsworthy**  
Biloxi Police Department, Lieutenant

**Tara Ramage**  
Biloxi Police Department, Dispatcher

**Montana Gregory**  
Biloxi Police Department, Dispatcher

**Aaron Smith**  
Biloxi Police Department, Patrolman

**Brandon Hendry**  
Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Lt.

**Roderick Wiggins**  
Biloxi Police Department, Patrolman

**Stephanie Parks**  
Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Dep.

**April Herndon**  
Police Department, Dispatcher

For graciously volunteering to sing the National Anthem for this ceremony each year:

**Jamie Howe**

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

*Presented to Biloxi Police Chief John Miller in recognition of your leadership, professionalism, and fortitude during the events of Officer Robert McKeithen's line of duty death. We commend you for handling this difficult task with dignity, grace, and compassion for the family, friends, and co-workers. Thank you.*

#### **CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION:**

Presented to those who members who have contributed to the improvement of the department that merits recognition from the Fire Chief. This award shall consist of a certificate.

#### **Firefighter John Massey**

*Firefighter III John Massey went above and beyond when he volunteered pressure wash the whole Public Safety Complex. He put in countless hours on weekends so as to cause less business disruptions. Not satisfied with just doing the Fire side, Firefighter Massey also did the Police side as well. He is being recognized for his work ethic and dedication.*

#### **Inspector Caleb Hudson**

*On June 5, 2019, Fire Inspector Caleb Hudson was installing hearing impaired smoke alarms in a deaf couple's residence. Utilizing his sign language skills, he was able to explain to the couple how the devices worked and the importance of having fire protection. Inspector Hudson is a valuable asset in bridging the hearing impaired communication gap between the Fire Department and the community.*

**Chief Joe Boney, Battalion Chiefs Tony McCormack and David Williams; Capts. Mike Downs, Matt Powell and Rodney Strickler; Firefighters Nick Allen, Bradley Blaylock, Daryle Bradley, Anthony McGee, Jesse Richard, and Eric Tanner**

*In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in October of 2018, numerous personnel from the Biloxi Fire Department, in conjunction with the West End Hose Co. #3 Fire Museum, volunteered their time to travel to the Florida panhandle to help first responders there with cleaning, repair, and construction to residences. This group is being recognized for their dedication to service to others.*

**Inspectors Will Fairley, Caleb Hudson, Brian McLeod and Robert Powell; and Secretary Shelby Wescovich**

*The Fire Prevention Division works hard each year to plan, coordinate, secure donations, and conduct the Fire Academy for Kids summer camp. The camp, which is free of charge and open to children 7 -12 years of age, focuses on the importance of fire prevention and safety with activities combining fun with practical knowledge. As a result of Fire Preventions' hard work, the academy has grown in popularity and participation since its inception in 2011.*

**Firefighter Joshua Yarbrough**

*On July 31, 2019, Firefighter III Joshua Yarbrough went above and beyond the call of duty to care and calm the fears of a young child during a response to an emergency incident involving the child's mother. Firefighter Yarbrough's professionalism and compassion on this call deserves recognition.*

**Firefighter Travis Sexton**

*On his way into shift one morning, Firefighter II Travis Sexton came upon a motor vehicle accident involving two patients. He stopped to check on the two patients and assisted one with a forehead laceration to control bleeding. Firefighter Sexton remained with the patient and transferred care to Gulfport Fire Department once they arrived on scene. Firefighter Sexton deserves recognition for his commitment to serving others off-duty as well as on.*

**Firefighters James Landry, Matthew Newton, Robert Romero**

*On April 19 2019, the crew of Station 1 received a call for help from a gentleman whose cat had been in a tree from the previous night, and the man was unable to get it to come down. The firefighters set up Truck 1 and went up to the cat, which came to the arms of Firefighter Newton, and brought it down. The cat was then returned to its owner, the gentleman's granddaughter, who was a 4 year old with special needs. These firefighters are being recognized for their compassion and dedication to serving others.*

#### **CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION:**

This certificate is awarded to members and/or citizens who have made a significant contribution to the Department and the City that merits recognition from the Fire Chief. This award shall consist of a letter and/or certificate.

Members who have retired receiving a Certificate of Commendation.

In recognition and sincere appreciation of your distinguished service and for the outstanding dedication you have provided to the Biloxi Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Anthony Murphy – 30 years

Firefighter Keith Capehart – 28 years

Battalion Chief Michelle Crowley – 26 years  
Deputy Chief Jeffrey Merrill – 25 years  
Capt. Darren Parker – 24 years

Firefighter Dan Royal – 22 years  
Firefighter John Waltman – 22 years  
Firefighter Greg Jacquet – 19 years

Members and/or citizens receiving a letter and/or Certificate of Commendation are:

**Firefighters Richard Martin, Ray Romero**

*On November 23, 2018, the crew of Engine 3 responded to an accident involving two pedestrians who had been struck by a vehicle. The crew quickly assessed the patients' injuries and provided care. The firefighters stayed by the side of each patient until they were loaded for transport by AMR to an area hospital. They are being recognized for their skills and professionalism during the performance of their duties.*

**Firefighters Nick Dubuisson, Josh McGoey, and John David Parker**

*On February 10, 2019, the crew of Engine 1 responded to a call involving a person in cardiac arrest. Once on scene, the firefighters found the patient on the floor not breathing and with no pulse. The crew immediately began to administer medical aid, attached an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and also initiated CPR and breathing for the patient. The crew's efforts continued until AMR arrived on scene, and they assisted with packaging and transport of the patient. Two of the firefighters rode with AMR to the hospital and were able to get a pulse back on the patient. By the time the ambulance arrived at the hospital, the patient had a pulse and was breathing on her own again. Subsequently, the crew's quick actions and training greatly affected the outcome of the patient's survivability.*

**Capt. Matt Powell, Firefighters Nick Allen, Matthew Bozeman, Brian Dawkins, Ken Morton, Jesse Richard, Donald Tillman and Mickey Worzella**

*On February 26, 2019, the crews of Engine 4, Truck 2, and Air 1 responded to a multiple vehicle head on accident requiring extrication of several patients. The crews split up and tackled both extrications at the same time; however, one patient took a total of 38 minutes to extricate. It was a very difficult task, and all crew members did numerous jobs to safely and effectively get the patient out of the vehicle. These firefighter are being recognized for their skills, quick actions, and professionalism in performing their duties.*

**Firefighter Cory Mooney**

*Firefighter III Cory Mooney utilized his abilities to make numerous station repairs, including cleaning and flushing the station ice machine; repairing the commercial gas oven; replacing two bathroom ventilation fans; soldering and reassembling a headset from Engine 25; repairing emergency light controllers at the stations on Pass Road; and volunteering his time to participate on the apparatus board. Firefighter Mooney deserves recognition for taking initiative and making the workplace better.*

**LONGEVITY RIBBON:**

Presented to those employees of the Biloxi Fire Department recognized for their commitment of 20 years or more of service to the City of Biloxi. This award shall consist of a uniform ribbon.

Members receiving a Longevity Ribbon are:

Boney, Joe

35 years

Murphy, Anthony

30 years

Shook, Anthony	30 years	Davis, Jason	20 years
Howe, Glen	25 years	Dunaway, Steven	20 years
Williams, David	25 years	Rouse, Brian	20 years
Battise, Charles	20 years		

**UNIT CITATION RIBBON:**

Presented to those employees recognized as a functional unit who performed in a superior manner during an emergency incident. This award shall consist of a uniform ribbon and certificate.

Members receiving a Unit Citation Ribbon are:

**Battalion Chief Anthony Trosclair, Capt. Clay Courtney, Firefighters Ryan Byrd and Mark Dronet, Jr.**

*On June 19, 2019, the crew of Marine 1 responded to a victim in the water close to the Biloxi/Ocean Springs Bridge. Due to the tide, current, and the victim’s distress and close proximity beneath the bridge, it took great skill and teamwork to maneuver Marine 1 safely in order to retrieve and get the unresponsive victim on board. Once onboard, Marine 1’s crew placed the patient, who did have a pulse, in recovery position during transport back to shore. The crew then assisted AMR with the patient’s transfer to an area hospital with the expectation of a full recovery. The crew’s quick thinking, professionalism, and skill aided in the swift overall mitigation of the incident. Their conduct exemplifies the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

**Capt. Brian Rouse, Firefighters Gerry Thibodeaux and Bryan Williamson**

*On December 8, 2018, the crew of Engine 4 responded to a call for smoke detectors going off inside a residence where an elderly woman lived. Upon arrival, Engine 4’s crew could smell smoke from inside the apartment and tried to make contact with the occupant, but with no success. They began to notice that the smoke was getting heavier, and they then decided to make forcible entry through the front door. The crew entered the apartment, which was filled with smoke due to a kitchen fire, and found the woman lying on the floor next to the couch. They safely removed her from the apartment and immediately began administering oxygen. The crew’s skills aided in the swift overall mitigation of the incident. Their conduct exemplifies the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

**Deputy Chief Andy Mason, Captains Richard Conine, Charles Hawkins and Curtis Zeigler; Firefighters Joe Bates, Shane Breland, Brian Deas, Bryan Gipson, Timmy Groue, Joseph Gunter, Chad Leitenberger, Cody McDaniel, Charles Parker, Richard Parker, James Steed and William Sudduth (search and rescue of lost person)**

*On August 19, 2019, the crews of Engines 4, 5, 25, Truck 2, Rescue 1, and Marine 1 responded to a lost person incident being worked by Biloxi Police. Fire personnel utilized UTVs and requested helicopter assistance from Harrison County Sheriff’s Department. The crews worked together to set up a Command Post, establish a perimeter, plot a grid search, and assist the police. The helicopter ultimately located the missing individual and one of the utility vehicles retrieved the person and returned him to safety. The skills of these crews aided in the swift overall mitigation of the incident. Their conduct exemplifies the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:**

Presented to those employees who have been awarded this citation by outside organizations. This award shall consist of a uniform ribbon and certificate.

Member(s) receiving recognition for being chosen as the Biloxi Elks Firefighter of the Year are:

**Capt. Jeff Walden, Firefighters Joe Bates, Brian Capehart, Nick Dubuisson, and Mark Seymour**

*On July 7, 2018, the crews of Engine 8 and Air 1 responded to a head-on collision involving two motor vehicles on Old Hwy 67 which left both vehicles in a ditch. One vehicle landed on the driver's side; fortunately, the driver was able to exit the vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle, however, was trapped and required extrication. The patient sustained a broken arm, and both legs were entangled under the dash. Both the position of the vehicle in the water and a steep ravine made for a challenging rescue. Yet the quick actions of the crews resulted in a swift mitigation of the incident as well as a positive outcome for the injured patient. Their actions represent the caring and dedication that best reflects the Biloxi Fire Department's commitment to providing service to others.*

**The recipients of the following Firefighter of the Year Award for Keesler Federal Credit Union's 1st Responders Annual Award will also be receiving the Biloxi Fire Department's Significant Event Ribbon:**

These awards shall consist of a uniform ribbon and certificates. Presented to those employees who were a member of the Biloxi Fire Department during the event and who participated in the event. Members receiving this recognition are:

**Battalion Chief David Williams, Capt. Rodney Strickler, Firefighters Nick Allen, Shawn Battise, Jacob Fairley, Ronald Garcia, Justin Lopez, John Parker, and Jake Vuyovich**

*On Sunday, May 5, 2019, the B shift crew of Central Fire Station #1 responded to a call for officer down in front of the Public Safety Center and a possible active shooter nearby. That officer was Officer Robert McKeithen. The crew immediately assessed the officer and assumed CPR and medical treatment, focusing on the patient's care without thinking of their own safety. Even in the face of a dire situation the firefighters never let the events deter them from their duty. After the patient was transported to the hospital, the crew stayed on scene and provided lighting and equipment to assist police with their investigation. Their actions represent the highest ideals of the Biloxi Fire Department's commitment to providing service to others.*

**LIFE SAVING AWARD MEDAL/RIBBON:**

Presented to those employees recognized for this specific citation. The Life Saving Award may be granted to any member of the department for a fire or non-fire emergency who rendered services that directly resulted in the saving of a human life or lives. This award shall consist of a medal, uniform ribbon, and certificate.

Member(s) receiving this award is/are:

**Capt. Brian Rouse and Firefighter Bryan Williamson**

*On December 8, 2018, the crew of Engine 4, responded to a call for smoke detectors going off inside a residence where an elderly woman lived. Upon arrival, Engine 4's crew could smell smoke from inside the apartment and tried to make contact with the occupant, but with no success. They began to notice that the smoke was getting heavier, and they then decided to make forcible entry through the front door. The crew entered the apartment, which was filled with smoke due to a kitchen fire, and found the woman lying on the floor next to the couch. They safely removed her from the apartment and immediately began administering oxygen. Capt. Brian Rouse and Firefighter Bryan Williamson demonstrated crucial life-safety skills which insured a positive outcome in the life of the*

*elderly patient, and their conduct exemplifies the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

#### **MEDAL OF MERIT:**

Presented to those employees recognized for this specific citation. The Medal of Merit may be granted to any member of the department who has demonstrated an extreme degree of skill or professionalism; or for an outstanding accomplishment that brought credit to the Fire Department; or who consistently displays excellent skills, attitude, and professionalism in the performance of his/her duties. This award shall consist of a medal, uniform ribbon, and certificate.

#### **Firefighters Wesley Gillespie, Bryan Hall, and Charles Meadows**

*On August 24, 2019, the crew of Marine 3 responded to an incident involving a diving victim in the water near Grasshopper Island in Biloxi Back Bay. Once on scene, the crew quickly assessed the patient. They packaged him on a backboard with a headboard, loaded him for transport to the launch, and assisted in loading the patient onto a Life Flight that was waiting to take him to an area hospital. It was later learned that the patient had suffered a crushed vertebrae, and if not for the quick and correct handling of the patient, the outcome could have been very different. Because of the training and skills of the crew, the patient is expected to make a full recovery. Their actions exemplify the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

#### **Firefighter Justin Lopez**

*Firefighter Justin Lopez has volunteered countless hours in working to rebuild the Hurricane Camille Memorial. He also organized a fund raiser to benefit the family of fallen Biloxi Police Officer Robert McKeithen which raised over \$40,000. He also organizes and coordinates the annual local Tunnel to Towers 5k run and stair climb to raise money in memory of the fallen firefighters of 9/11. Firefighter Lopez consistently goes the extra mile on numerous projects, always exhibiting a can-do attitude and high degree of professionalism. His accomplishments represent the highest ideals of the Biloxi Fire Department of service to the community we serve.*

#### **Firefighters Jacob Fairley, Jeremy Fowler, Josh McGoey, and John Parker**

*On August 10, 2019, the crews of Engine 1 and Rescue 1 were dispatched to a single vehicle accident. Upon arrival, the crews found the vehicle had sustained heavy damage, and the driver was unresponsive and trapped inside. Due to the severe damage of the vehicle and how the victim was entangled, it was a very tedious and challenging extrication. The crews worked tirelessly as a team, taking turns with each other to avoid exhaustion. The jaws and cutters were utilized with great care due to the close proximity of the victim's limbs. All members exhibited a high degree of skill and professionalism, and their actions exemplify the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

#### **MEDAL OF BRAVERY:**

Presented to those employees recognized for this specific citation. The Medal of Bravery may be granted to any member of the department who distinguish themselves for an act which exhibits disregard for personal safety in an effort to save lives and property. This will be considered for members acting above and beyond the call of duty and within safe operating policies and procedures of the Biloxi Fire Department. This award shall consist of a medal, uniform ribbon, and certificate.

Members receiving the Medal of Bravery award are:

### **Firefighter Mark Dronet Jr.**

*On June 19, 2019, the crew of Marine 1 responded to a victim in the water close to the Biloxi/Ocean Springs Bridge. Due to the tide, current, and the victim's distress and close proximity beneath the bridge, it took great skill and teamwork to maneuver the boat safely in order to retrieve and get the unresponsive victim on board. Firefighter Mark Dronet displayed remarkable water rescue skills by jumping into the water to retrieve the unresponsive victim and then pulling him onboard Marine 1. The patient did have a pulse, and back onshore, the crew assisted AMR with the patient's transfer to an area hospital with the expectation of a full recovery. Firefighter Dronet demonstrated exceptional courage and skill in a hazardous situation which resulted in the saving of a life. His conduct exemplifies the highest ideals of the Department in its commitment and dedication to the citizens and visitors of the City it serves.*

### **PHIL MCCABE 5 BUGLE AWARD (THE CHIEF'S AWARD):**

Presented to those employees recognized for this specific citation. Phil McCabe was the first Chief of the Biloxi Fire Department (Sept. 1883 - Sept. 1894). He helped to organize the first fire company, Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, which formed on September 19, 1883--the time generally considered to be the beginning of the Biloxi Fire Department.

The Phil McCabe 5 Bugle Award may be granted to any member of the department who models the mission and vision of the department, exemplifies the departmental values of Strength, Honor, Excellence, Dedication, and Service, and lives the Department Motto "*Always Ready with Willing Hearts.*" The selection will be at the sole discretion of the Fire Chief based on observed behavior and attitude during the previous year. This award shall consist of a medal, uniform ribbon, and certificate.

### **Comments from Chief Boney:**

As firefighters we can generally define our careers by one specific event, for me it was an early October morning in 1986, the events of that day I believe have shaped and defined my career. The lessons I learned from the events of that day galvanized for me the dedication and experience required to do this job.

I know that this year's recipient of the Phil McCabe award would agree, and while I do not know if a specific event affected him in the same way, I would suspect it did, and if I had to guess I would say that the events we experienced together in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina would be a good example.

As his battalion Chief for many years, we experienced many life-changing events. On more than one occasion I was directly responsible for placing him and his crew's life at risk. And while it is hard to explain unless you experience it, when people share a life-and-death experience there is a bond that can never be broken. As he has advanced through the ranks, he was tasked with the same responsibility -- and I might add he has excelled.

I can say our relationship has not always been a walk in the park. There were many times when he would make me so damn mad I did not want to see his face, but then there were other times when I was happy to hear his voice crackle over the radio, just so I could breathe again. There were times when I would cringe just to answering the phone, when he would call me during the course of the shift. Like the time he called me and advised that one of his firefighters had been thrown in the brig at Keesler, or another time during the crazy days in the immediate aftermath of Katrina, advising me that a member had just been taken away in a military vehicle by two gun-toting MP's. they were both misunderstandings and eventually worked out. Mayor, our Keesler Cousins, I can assure you, are

very familiar with the Biloxi Fire Department.

I have had the privilege of working with this person for many years, and of all the members of this department I have had the great privileges to work with, he probably knows me best. I hear that he tells many of you, "I know the chief, and he will or will not go for that." When he comes to my office for our daily chat, and when he is particularly frustrated, he will preface our conversation by saying, "I need a mentor moment." His fierce desire to expand his knowledge of the American fire service often exceeds my ability accommodate his desire.

This man's service to God and his fellow man is one of his greatest traits. He is passionately devoted to his family, he is humble, kind, and gentle, and, just in case you did not know, he is a closet Alabama fan, and an expert prankster.

In 1910, then-chief of the department for the FDNY, Edward Croker, stated it best when he said: I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a firefighter, the position may in the eyes of some appear to be a lowly one, but we who know the work that the firefighter has to do believe his, to be a noble calling. It is my belief that this year's recipient is the Biloxi Fire Department's living example of that phrase, and so it is with great pleasure that I award Deputy Chief Andy Mason the 2019 Phil McCabe Five Bugle Award.

**Closing Invocation:** Fire Chaplain Jason Earl Davis

**Closing Remarks and Thanking of Sponsors:** MC Vincent Creel

Thanks to our sponsors: Keith Crosby with Palace Casino Resort, Walmart, the Biloxi Yacht Club and WEHC#3 Fire Museum

***“Amazing Grace”*** by Bagpiper Quinn Chastant

**Script by Sue Boney**

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