



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS 2017

APRIL 21, 2017

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION™

The Owens Community College Alumni Association recognizes the tremendous contribution that police, fire and emergency medical professionals make to our communities. Their selfless acts of public courage make our lives safer. To honor their accomplishments, the Alumni Association is proud to sponsor the signature Outstanding Service Awards Celebration. Thank you for joining us to honor the 2017 recipients.

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WELCOME

Bridget Shea, Owens Alumni Association Executive Director

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS INTRODUCTION

Walter Celley, Owens Alumni Association President

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Outstanding Service Awards Committee Members

CLOSING

Bridget Shea

Owens Community College has proudly trained first responders since opening in 1965.

Music brought to you by the Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts student, **xxx**.

The Alumni Association welcome Cadets from the Owens **xxx** program.





2017 OUTSTANDING POLICE AWARD

Officer Joe Ball, Detective/Sergeant Todd Curtis, Sergeant Jason Gladney,
Officer Jim Gross, Detective David Molter

2017 OUTSTANDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AWARD

Paramedic Matt Appelhaus, Paramedic Todd Hager

2017 SPECIAL MENTION FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AWARD

Mrs. Kacie Engle, Mr. Andrew Engle, Mrs. Rebecca Jordan and Mr. Chris Jordan

Nominated by Chief Mark Hetrick, Perrysburg Township Police Department and
Chief Thomas W. Brice, Perrysburg Township Fire and EMS

On March 23rd, The Perrysburg Township Police Department received a call reporting that a victim had been shot and the shooter was still at the location. The civilian callers, Kacie and Andrew Engle, and other neighbors, Chris and Rebecca Jordan, began and continued first aid while the armed assailant continued to stand nearby. Police Officer Jim Gross and Sergeant Jason Gladly responded within a minute and pulled the victim to safety inside an apartment. Detective/Sergeant Todd Curtis, Detective David Molter and Officer Joe Ball arrived immediately after and provided cover on the apartment the shooter occupied. Firefighter/Paramedics Matt Appelhaus and Todd Hager arrived on the scene and were asked by the Police to prepare for an immediate removal of the victim, an action outside of normal protocol and performed due to the critical nature of the situation. Upon arrival at the hospital, the team was told that the victim most likely would not have survived if the on-site treatment and transportation had not happened as quickly as it did.

All award recipients put their personal safety at risk to save the victim's life.

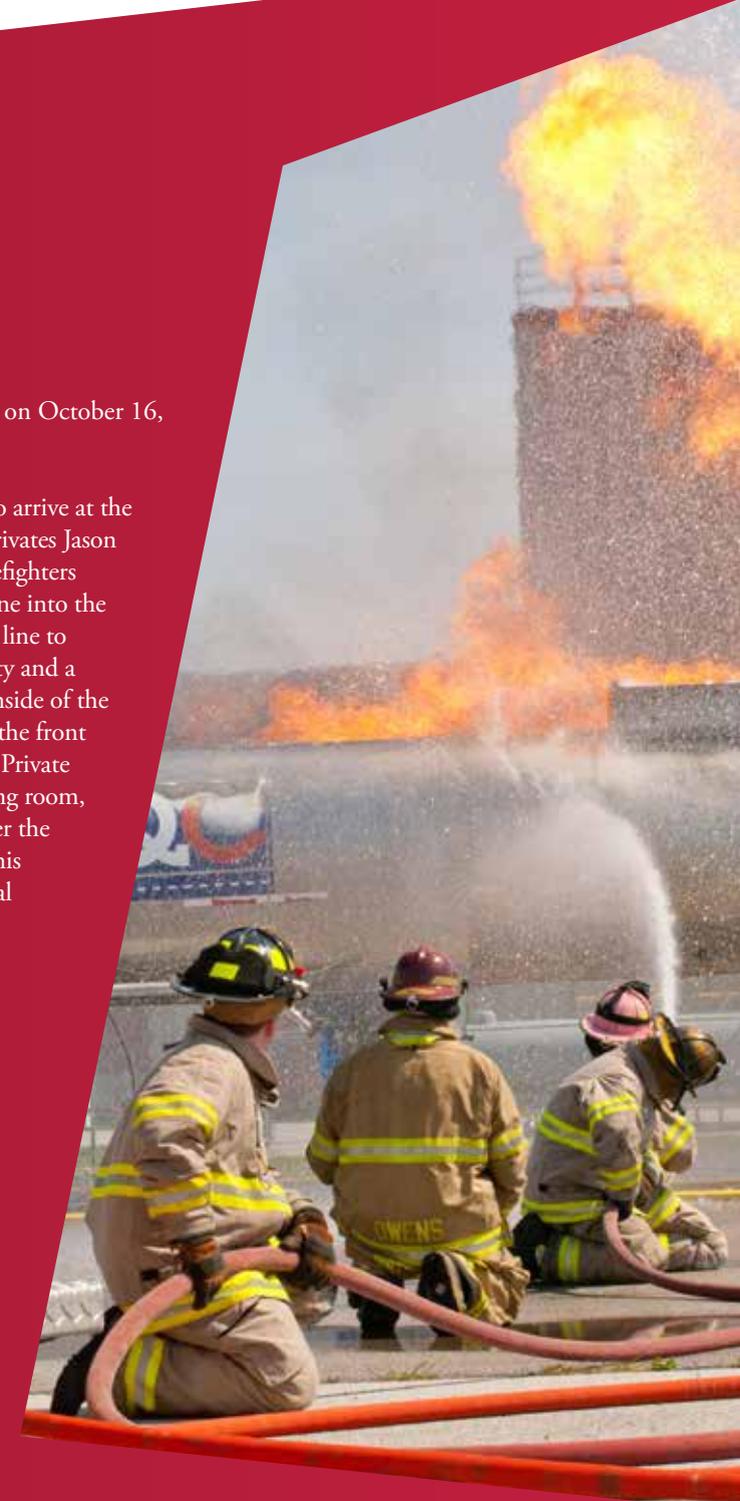
2017 OUTSTANDING FIREFIGHTER AWARD

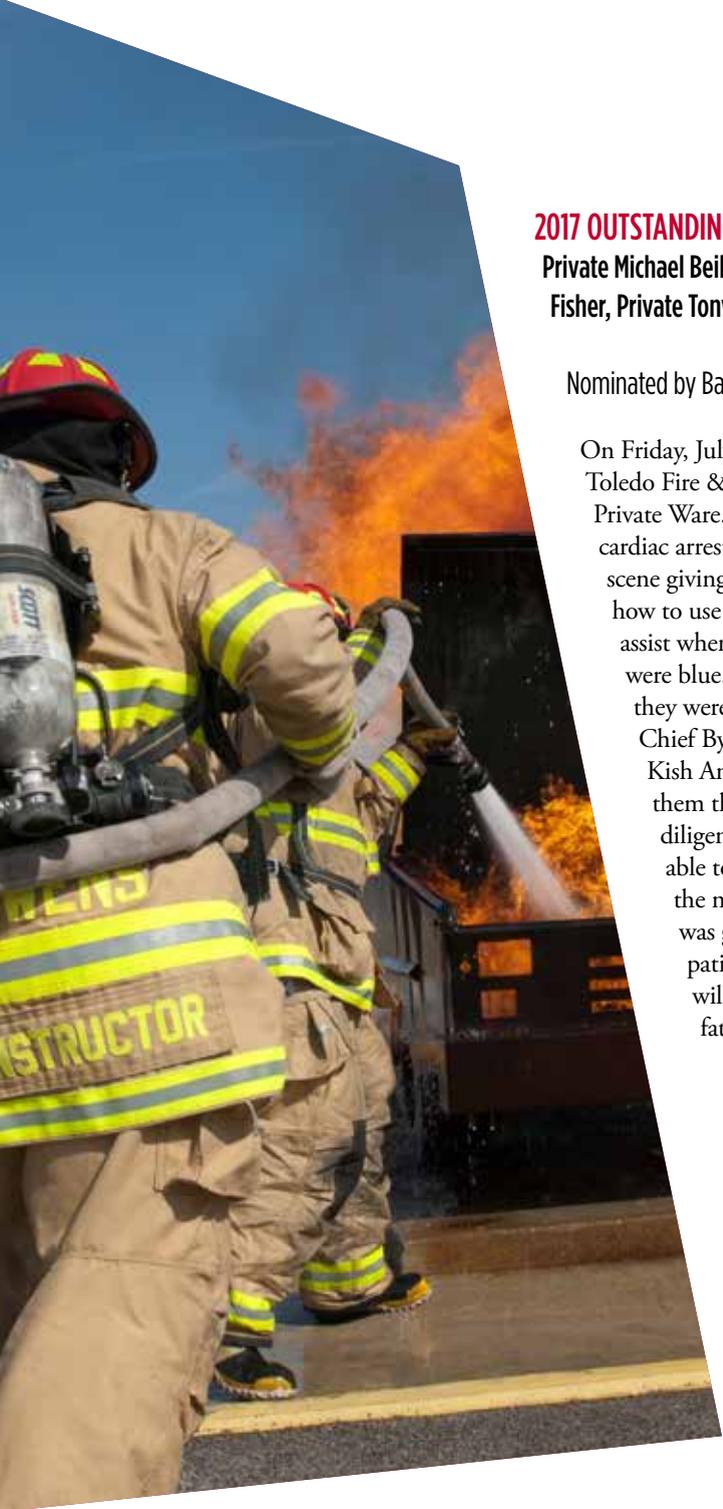
Private Kyle Romstadt

Nominated by Chief David Rodriguez, Toledo Fire Department

Private Kyle Romstadt is honored for his outstanding act of heroism on October 16, 2016.

Engine 17 responded to a structure fire. Engine 17 was the first unit to arrive at the scene and they found a two-story, wood frame vacant home on fire. Privates Jason Files and Kyle Romstadt were assigned attack on division one. The firefighters forced entry into the burning home. Private Files advanced the hose line into the structure, while Kyle Romstadt was near the front door advancing the line to him. Within seconds, the atmosphere turned deadly, with zero visibility and a complete flashover occurred. Private Files was heard screaming from inside of the structure. Witnesses stated that Private Files' silhouette was seen from the front window, appearing to be walking in circles, confused and disoriented. Private Romstadt quickly responded and rescued Private Files from the burning room, directing him outside to safety, where he used his own body to smother the existing fire on Private Files' fire gear. It is a great honor to recognize this outstanding act of heroism by Private Kyle Romstadt. Using his tactical training and quick actions, a tragic event was avoided.





2017 OUTSTANDING FIREFIGHTER AWARD

Private Michael Beilstein, battalion Chief Brian Byrd, Private Damon Datson II, Private Juston Fisher, Private Tony Hague, battalion Chief David Hitt, Private Kamal Parker

Nominated by Battalion Chief Gerald E. Takats, Toledo Fire Department

On Friday, July 22, 2016, five fire fighters and two Battalion Chiefs from the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department were attending a boxing match featuring Private Ware. In the first round of a preliminary fight, one of the boxers went into cardiac arrest. Encountering many obstacles, including the doctor on the scene giving less than adequate CPR, the ambulance crew did not have or know how to use the correct equipment, and the awardees were not let into the ring to assist when the incident first occurred. All the while, the boxer's face and hands were blue. The Awardees found and told the security officers at the venue that they were Toledo Fire Fighters and then they were allowed to enter the ring. Chief Byrd spoke to the venue person in charge to find out that he was calling Kish Ambulance. Chief Byrd's response was, "Call for a life squad and tell them that there is a full arrest". He then went back to assist. Through these diligent efforts and overcoming the obstacles they faced, the awardees were able to get a rhythm and bring the boxer back. They went to the hospital the next day to check on the boxer's condition. He was up, doing fine and was going to be released the following day. It should be noted that the patient had a 3 month old at home. Because of the awardees efforts and willingness to do more than be bystander's, they were able to bring a father home to his family.

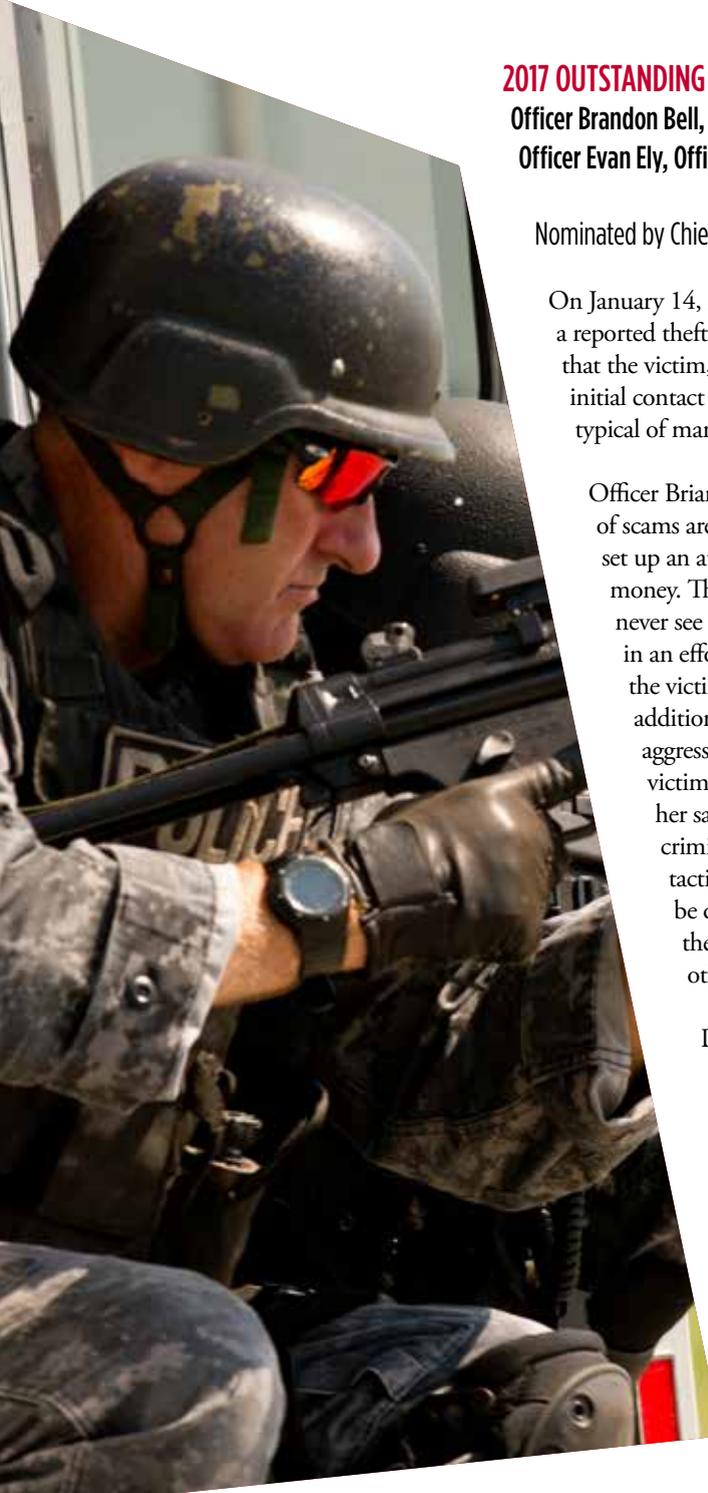
2017 OUTSTANDING POLICE AWARD

Trooper Matthew Davis

Nominated by Lt. M. Brent Meredith, Ohio State Highway Patrol Post Commander

Trooper Davis embodies what a public servant should be and he truly cares about others before himself. Trooper Davis stopped into the Marathon Gas Station in Bettsville to gas up his patrol car. While inside, the clerk advised him that her apartment was burglarized and all of her Christmas presents, TV, Playstation, and many other items were stolen. The Clerk further advised Trooper Davis that she had a young daughter and she felt that her Christmas was ruined. Trooper Davis purchased a new Playstation from the Fremont Walmart and returned to the Marathon Gas Station. As he handed the clerk the new system she became speechless. Trooper Davis left the gas station abruptly and did not give the clerk time to say thank you. Trooper Davis is a humble employee that does not like to bring attention to himself or the work he does. He told no one of this good deed, except his wife. A couple of months had passed when Trooper Garry Odom stopped in at the same gas station. The employees of the gas station advised Trooper Odom what Trooper Davis had done. Trooper Odom brought this kind act up in front of most of the dayshift and Trooper Davis down played how important this gesture really was. Trooper Davis works hard to keep Ohio safe. More importantly, he looks at every situation and asks himself if he can help. Trooper Davis is a true public servant that puts the needs of others first. He does not do it for recognition, but does it because it's the right thing to do.





2017 OUTSTANDING POLICE AWARD

Officer Brandon Bell, Officer Corey Brian, Officer Nate Elliot,
Officer Evan Ely, Officer Gabe Wedge and Dispatcher Nesbitt

Nominated by Chief Keith N. Loreno, Fosteria Police Division

On January 14, 2016, Officer Brian was dispatched to a residence for a reported theft. After speaking to the victim, Officer Brian discovered that the victim, a senior, had been scammed for over \$16,000. The initial contact with the victim was via social media. The scam was typical of many that are plaguing our communities.

Officer Brian took the report and was obviously upset that these type of scams are successful and through the details given, he requested to set up an attempted sting to get the criminals to show up for more money. The victim was resigned to the fact that she would probably never see her money again. She agreed to cooperate with our officers in an effort to get the criminals to return to Fostoria. In January, 2016, the victim contacted the criminals and told them she should have additional money within the following week and they continued to aggressively call the victim. Arrangements were made to meet at the victim's residence. She was followed by plain clothes officers to ensure her safety while picking up a money bag at her credit union and the criminals came to her home shortly after. Officers were placed in tactical areas to ensure the victim's safety and that the criminals could be quickly captured. One of the criminals came to the door to collect the money, saw one of the undercover officers and ran. She and the other two criminals were quickly captured by the awardees.

Dispatcher Nesbitt spent a considerable amount of time in determining the actual identities of the criminals. The criminals were from the Philadelphia, PA area. Working with Ohio Homeland Security, it was determined that two (2) criminals are naturalized citizens and one (1) is not a US citizen. The investigation is continuing on the federal level due to money transfers going around the world, including Sierra Leone in West Africa, Monrovia in Liberia and Vietnam. The criminals were convicted and are serving their sentences at the Ohio Department of Corrections.

The listed Officers were able to recover the original \$16,000 stolen from the victim. The officers went well above the normal. To actually be able to convince these fraud artists to return is unusual.

2017 SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Volunteer Fire Chief David Swisher

Nominated by Mr. Jerry L. Griggs, Mayor Rawson, Ohio

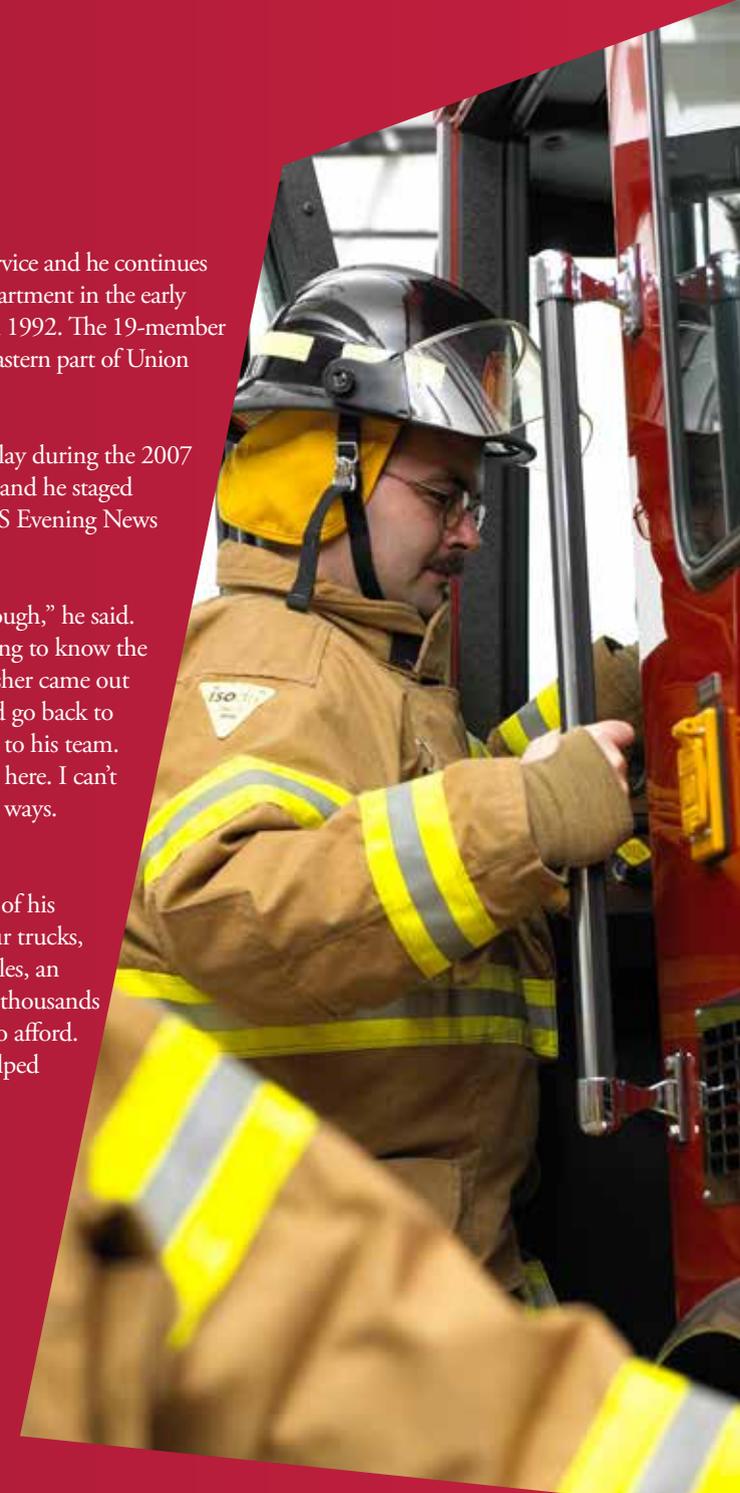
Rawson Volunteer Fire Chief Dave Swisher has retired after 25 years of service and he continues to serve as a firefighter with the department. Chief Swisher joined the department in the early 1980's and later served three years as Assistant Chief, and became Chief in 1992. The 19-member department covers 36 square miles, including the village of Rawson, the eastern part of Union Township and the western portion of Eagle Township.

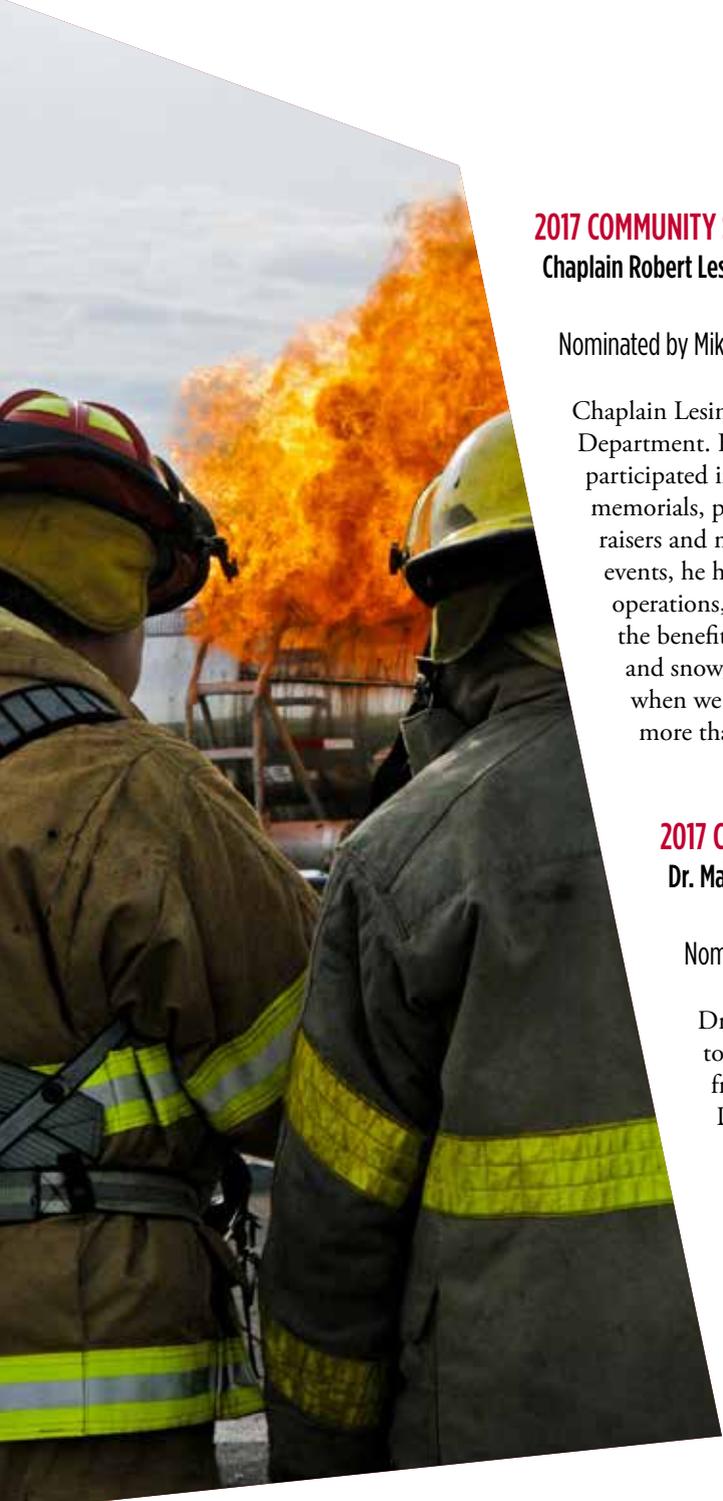
One of the most noteworthy calls he ever got was from the City of Findlay during the 2007 flood. The shift lasted 24 hours. Chief Swisher was in charge of staging, and he staged everything from the man down the road with a little rowboat to the CBS Evening News to the U.S. Coast Guard.

"We see people on the worst day of their lives, sometimes that's pretty tough," he said. "Since it's a small town, there's better than a 50 percent chance we're going to know the victim where we're going, and sometimes that's a little tough. Chief Swisher came out for any kind of run. If it was not very serious, he would turn around and go back to work. For more serious calls, Chief Swisher often stayed to lend support to his team. "Maybe there was a medical call. Maybe there was a death. I'd come out here. I can't save that person, but maybe my guys ... people deal with death different ways. I want to make sure that my guys are OK," he said.

Keeping track of the department's equipment and vehicles was also part of his responsibilities. The station, located on Hancock County 37, houses four trucks, including a former ambulance that is used for extra lighting and air bottles, an equipment truck, a pumper and a tanker. Fire vehicles cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, which can be difficult for a small volunteer fire department to afford. Federal grants and tax levies supported by the district's residents have helped with the purchases. Being Chief also involves a lot of paperwork, and Chief Swisher said he is ready to give up that part of the job. He and his black lab, Sparky, continue to be familiar faces at the station, usually making the 3-mile trip from home once a day.

He and his wife, Patricia, have seven children between the two of them and "lots of grandkids," he said, who are involved in school sports. Chief Swisher decided to retire in order to spend more time with his family.





2017 COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Chaplain Robert Lesinski

Nominated by Mike Cummerow, EAP Coordinator, Toledo Fire and Rescue Department

Chaplain Lesinski selflessly gives of himself to the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department. He spent the last ten years as Chaplain for the TFRD. He has participated in firefighter weddings, baptisms of fire fighters children, funerals, memorials, promotions, recruit class ceremonies, fire fighter benefits and fund raisers and many fire department events requiring a chaplain. Besides outside events, he has invested a tremendous amount of time with fire crews during daily operations, primarily the B shift. Visiting the B shift, often on his own time for the benefit of fire fighters. He has missed meals, gone to fires, stood in the rain and snow, laughed and prayed with and for us all, and made death notifications when we lost two brothers. Mr. Lesinski is a true hero who has cared for us more than we'll ever be able to give him credit for.

2017 COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Dr. Marion Boss (posthumously)

Nominated by Captain David Fridell, Lucas County Sheriff

Dr. Marion Boss tirelessly served as a mentor, advisor and friend to many at the Lucas County Sheriff's Office and the community from 1995 until her passing on January 4, 2017. She worked in the Departments of Criminal Justice and Health and Human Services at The University of Toledo while also volunteering with the Lucas County Sheriff's Office. After retirement, Dr. Boss started a school for autistic children and provided counseling services for inmates with mental health and substance abuse issues. She also organized and expanded the correction center's library when the paid vendor's contract expired. She wrote and received several grants that benefited Lucas County. Known for boundless compassion, tenacity and high energy, Dr. Boss lived life with a passion to teach and serve the community.

DETECTIVE KEITH DRESSEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

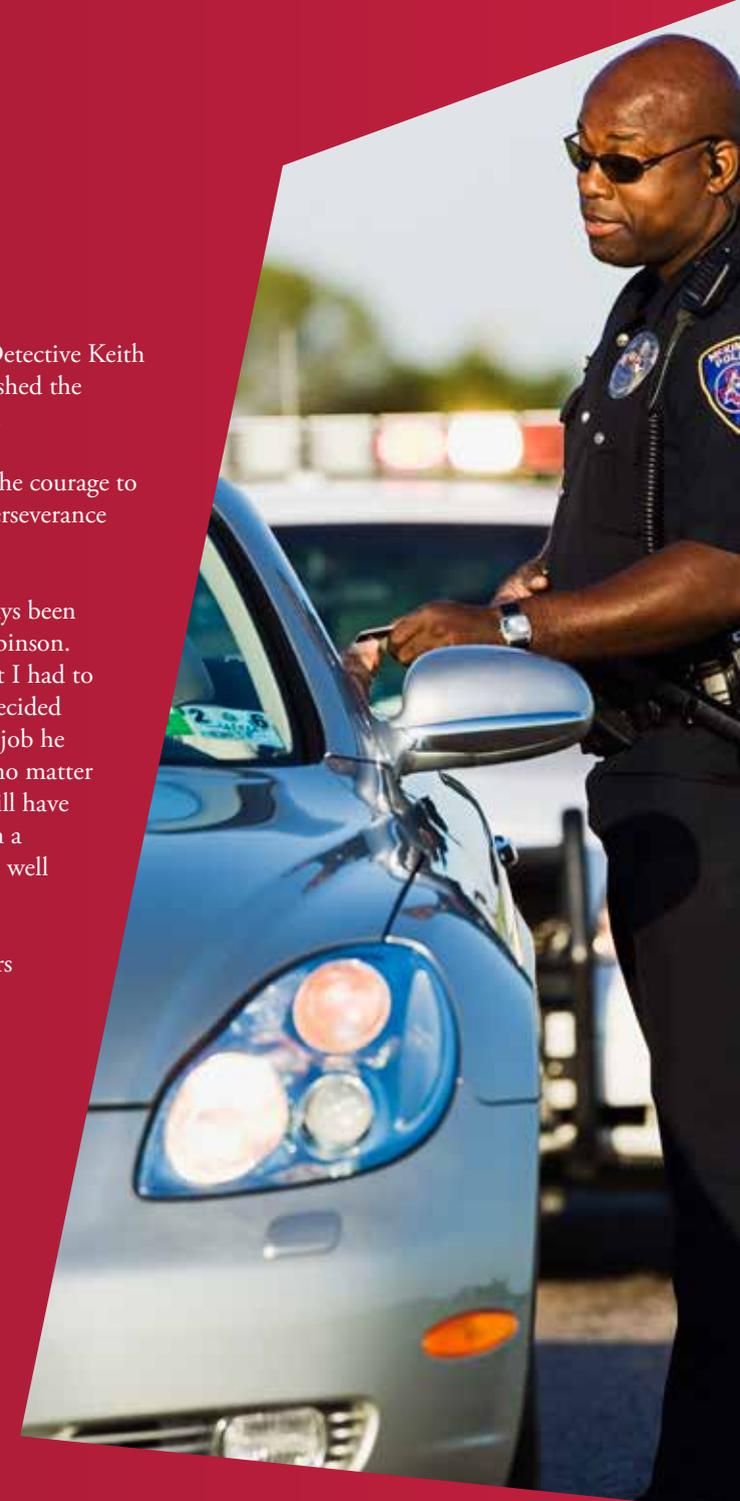
Austin Robinson, Criminal Justice Technology
School of Business, Information and Public Service

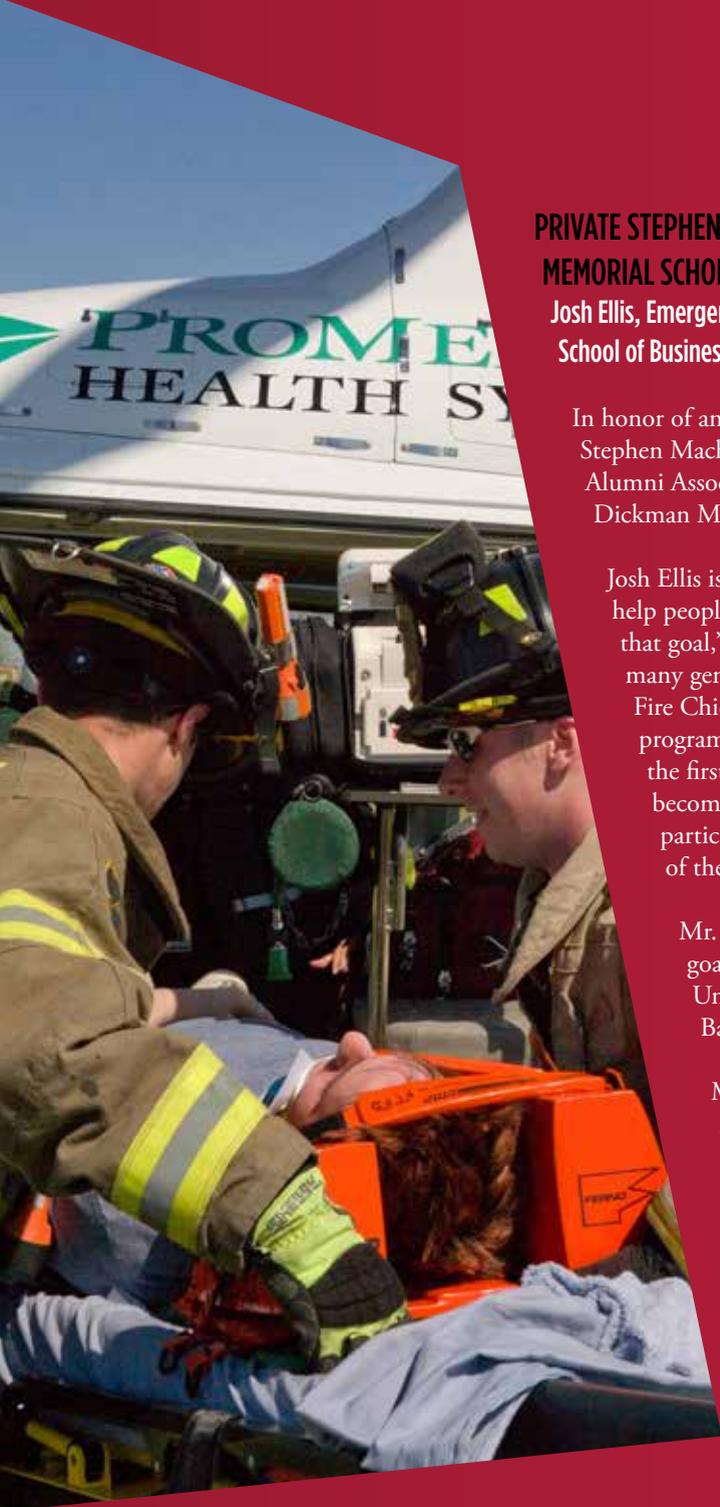
In tribute to and appreciation for the memory, life and heroism of Detective Keith Dressel, the Owens Community College Alumni Association established the Detective Keith Dressel Memorial Endowment Scholarship in 2007.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to an Owens student who has the courage to become a police officer and embodies the passion, conviction and perseverance demonstrated by Detective Dressel during his career.

Austin Robinson is the 2017 recipient. "The one thing that I've always been interested in since I was young was being a policeman," says Mr. Robinson. "For the longest time when I knew I had to make a decision on what I had to aim for as a career." After considering joining the armed forces, he decided that the best thing was to join the police force as he knew this was a job he would enjoy. Mr. Robinson expressed, "I know that every decision, no matter how severe or how quickly I have to make this decision, I know it will have to be for the best of the people." His goals are to attend Owens, with a sponsor if possible, to get an Associate Degree in law enforcement as well as complete the police academy.

In high school, Mr. Robinson joined International Club, took honors mathematics and sciences all four years as well as honors band and spanish. He was active in band, and volunteered with Partners for Clean Streams.





PRIVATE STEPHEN MACHCINSKI AND PRIVATE JAMES DICKMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Josh Ellis, Emergency Services Technology
School of Business, Information and Public Service**

In honor of and gratitude for the remembrances, lives and heroism of Private Stephen Machcinski and Private James Dickman, the Owens Community College Alumni Association established the Private Stephen Machcinski and Private James Dickman Memorial Endowment Scholarship in 2014.

Josh Ellis is the 2017 recipient. “At a very young age I decided that I wanted to help people. At the time I didn’t exactly know how I was going to accomplish that goal,” Mr. Ellis said. His family has been involved in the fire service for many generations, including his brothers, father and grandfather who was the Fire Chief in the City of Oregon. While participating in the Fire Explorer program he learned how unpredictable and powerful fire was and it was the first time that he knew that he was going to dedicate his life to the becoming a firefighter. As a junior and senior at Clay High School, Mr. Ellis participated in the Medical Technologies program and has been a member of the Oregon Fire Explorer Post 5002 for six years.

Mr. Ellis is studying Emergency Service Technologies at Owens with goal if receiving an Associate Degree, then continuing on to either the University of Toledo or Bowling Green State University to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Fire Department Administration.

Mr. Ellis has been an active community volunteer. He has been involved in “Be a Hero for Autism” collection, during the Toledo Water Crisis he spent several days distributing clean water to those affected, and assisted with fire prevention projects. Through his work with the Oregon Fire Explorers he found employment with the Oregon Fire & Rescue Department as a Firefighter/EMT recruit. He now educates all current Explorers in the same material that he learned.