



National Volunteer Fire Council Award Recipients

William J. Darley Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by Darley

This award honors those individuals whose remarkable achievements in the fire service and community exemplifies outstanding performance. To be considered for the award, nominees must have been a volunteer firefighter for at least 20 years. Recipients are as follows:

2025 – David Denniston (NY)	2009 – Fred Allinson (WA)	1993 – Joseph A. Jackson (MO)
2024 – Steve Austin (DE)	2008 – John Doster (PA)	1992 – Ray Crouch (TN)
2023 – LeRoy Koopman (SD)	2007 – Robert T. Bettenhausen (IL)	1991 – Joseph R. Robison (MD)
2022 – Steven Klein (NY)	2006 – Lawrence F. "Sonny" Ruff (KS)	1990 – A.E. "Gus" Welter (MN)
2021 – Theodore Schroll Jr. (CT)	2005 – Patrick Hlavaty (TX)	1989 – William A. Hagevig (AK)
2020 – John Brooks (NJ)	2004 – John S. DaVanzo (NY)	1988 – George F. Comp, Jr. (MD)
2019 – Wylie Donaldson Jr. (MD)	2003 – Phil Sayer (MO)	1987 – Elsworth Greer (TX)
2018 – Ronald Farr (MI)	2002 – James Mahoney (NY)	1986 – Louis DeFillipo (NJ)
2017 – Freddy Johnson, Sr. (NC)	2001 – Dan Stevens (MD)	1985 – James L. Grote (CT)
2016 – Donald Snyder (NY)	2000 – Dale Perry (GA)	1984 – William Irvine Talley (AZ)
2015 – Edward J. Mello (AB)	1999 – Robert "Red" McKeon (CT)	1983 – Russel D. Salak (NE)
2014 – Charles Singleton (VA)	1998 – William Wutz (NY)	1982 – D.W. Mathesin (IA)
2013 – John M. Buckman III (IN)	1997 – Walter Smittle, III (WV)	1981 – Eugene M. Braun (NY)
2012 – Lawrence Plumer (WI)	1996 – John A. "Jack" Scheben (KY)	1979 – John Moehring (CT)
2011 – Glenn Jernigan (NC)	1995 – David S. Dwyer (MD)	1978 – O.E. Hirst (WI)
2010 – John McAuliffe (CT)	1994 – Aubrey N. Boudreaux (LA)	

Fire Prevention and Education Award

This award honors a volunteer firefighter or non-operational Fire Corps volunteer who exemplifies the philosophy of fire prevention. The award was established in the memory of volunteer firefighter Marc Mueller. Recipients are as follows:

2017 – William Wren (NY)	2008 – Donald Dalrymple (NY)	1999 – Joe Stambush (KY)
2016 – Michael McLeieer (MI)	2007 – Kimberly Herskowitz (PA)	1998 – Doug Rodenbeck (IN)
2015 – James Jarboe (MD)	2006 – Dayna Hilton (AR)	1997 – Tom Dillon (NJ)
2014 – Jim Pickett (AK)	2005 – Diane M. May (MD)	1995 – Joseph Abbruzzese (NJ)
2013 – Rhonda Cerny (NE)	2004 – Jeff Williams (MD)	1994 – Thomas Van Vranken (NY)
2012 – James Conomea (FL)	2003 – Don North (UT)	1993 – Brian McQueen (NY)
2011 – Kenneth Pagels (NY)	2002 – Art Mercurio (NJ)	1992 – Cindy Tarquini (MD)
2010 – Earl Cunningham, Jr. (PA)	2001 – Neil Critchlow (UT)	
2009 – Edward Sawicki (DE)	2000 – Linda Stuckey (MS)	

James P. Seavey Sr. Health and Wellness Leadership Award

Co-sponsored by VFIS and Ward Diesel Filter Systems

This award honors a volunteer firefighter, EMS provider, or rescue worker who has served as a leader in creating or promoting emergency responder health and wellness programs or initiatives in areas including, but not limited to, firefighter cancer, heart health, behavioral health, and overall health and wellness. Recipients are as follows:

2025 – Jeremy Sonenschein (NV)
2024 – John Swan Sr. (IL)
2023 – Mahlon Irish Jr. (NY)
2022 – John M. Buckman III (IN)
2021 – Robert James (CT)
2020 – David Lewis (MD)
2019 – Brian McQueen (NY)

Junior Firefighter of the Year

Sponsored by California Casualty

This award honors a junior firefighter who has gone above and beyond in their service to their fire department. Recipients are as follows:

2025 – Jiya Jadhav (NY)	2017 – Parker Ketler (OH)
2024 – Joseph Valentino (NJ)	2016 – Brittany French (WV)
2023 – Kyra Kozey (NY)	2015 – James Thomas “Jimmy” Johnson (NC)
2022 – Kaylee Gianforte (NC)	2014 – Jennifer Schaefer (ND)
2021 – Paige Davis (KS)	2013 – Andrew Krahm (NY)
2020 – Donald Cieciuch (NJ)	2012 – Katherine (Kassie) Brierley (CT)
2019 – Robert Dowd (NY)	2011 – Brendan Finley-Davis (KS)
2018 – Jared Hagen (OH)	2010 – Michelle Alyssa Carilli (CT)

Junior Firefighter Program of the Year

Sponsored by California Casualty

This award honors a junior firefighter program or Explorer Post that has demonstrated significant community impact, innovation, and creativity. Recipients are as follows:

2025 – West Virginia University Fire Service Extension Junior Firefighter Camp	2018 – Gaston Volunteer Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program (NC)
2024 – Inver Grove Heights Fire Department Explorer Program (MN)	2016 – Northwest Fire Explorer Post 1854 (OH)
2023 – East Norwich Junior Program (NY)	2015 – Hedgesville 4-H Junior Volunteer Fire Company (WV)
2022 – Rowlett Explorer Post One (TX)	2014 – Washington County High School Fire and Rescue Academy (MD)
2021 – Colonia Fire Department Explorer Program (NJ)	2013 – Arcadia Junior Fire Company (MD)
2020 – Westhampton Beach Fire Department Junior Program (NY)	2012 – Cherryville Fire Department (NC)
2019 – Westport Fire Department Explorer Post #774 (MA)	2011 – Lake Carmel Fire Department Explorer Post #2041 (NY)
	2010 – Westhampton Beach Fire Department’s Junior Fire Company (NY)

E. James Monihan Director Award

Sponsored by Provident

This award honors a current or former board member whose remarkable achievements on the NVFC board exemplify outstanding performance and have gone above normal expectations. Recipients are as follows:

2025 – Brian McQueen

2024 – Ron Roy (WA, award given posthumously) and Kevin Quinn (RI)

2022 – Philip C. Stittleburg (WI)

2021 – Thomas Miller (WV)

2020 – Michael Bird (MA, award given posthumously)

2019 – James P. Seavey Sr. (MD, award given posthumously)

2018 – Kenn Fontenot (LA)

2017 – Norm Hoeft (NE)

2015 – Pat Hlavaty (TX)

2014 – Robert "Red" McKeon (CT)

2013 – Bryant Stiles (KY, award given posthumously)

2012 – Ken Knipper (KY)

2010 – Jeff Cash (NC)