



ELSMERE FIRE CO. A, INC.

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM – ELSMERE, NEW YORK

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Commander Lukaschat, Invited Guests, Fellow Firefighters,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the Elsmere Fire Company's selection of Firefighter of the Year. The past couple of years we have had occasion to provide to the Legion, the selection of a member who had performed a heroic action. But that is not always the case. Many times, this award is given to someone for their contribution over the long term, or to someone who has taken on a particular cause.

This year we asked the Legion to recognize a member who has served the community as an Active member of our Company for 33 years. He has served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Director in our Civil Offices, and he served as 4th and 2nd Lieutenant in the Fire Offices. When I became President 3 years ago, I proposed that our Company needed to become closer to the Community we serve. It had been some time since we had gone door to door to speak with our neighbors and I asked the membership to consider returning to this activity. Not as a fund raiser, but as a chance to let our residents know who we are, and what we do. One member in particular came forward and said he would like to assist in this endeavor. In the end, he did much more than assist, he chaired the committee and organized an event that had the precision of a military maneuver. Elsmere had returned to having an annual event that provided the face to face contact with the community I had hoped for. For the past two years, that activity has been an Open House, and while many other Departments host something similar, it was something new to Elsmere. Again, all the I's were dotted and the T's crossed as this member chaired these events. Our membership has recognized the importance of his contributions and respectfully presents the Chairman of our Public Awareness Committee, Mike Cirillo, as 2009's Firefighter of the Year.

James A. Trotta, President

"The Pride of Bethlehem"

PROVIDING FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 75 YEARS