



# FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

In Remembrance Of  
Franklin Firefighter-Paramedic  
JD Fotopoulos

# CHIEF'S MESSAGE



**Rocky Garzarek**  
*Fire Chief*

In 2016, we mourned the loss of Franklin Firefighter-Paramedic Dimitris “JD” Fotopoulos. JD was killed tragically in a motorcycle accident over Labor Day weekend while on a mission trip in Honduras. He was 40 years old.

JD was an outstanding employee, friend, brother, son, and person. He brought joy, fun, and light-heartedness to so many, including me. I am honored to have had the opportunity to know JD on a personal basis since 2007 when he joined our team and to have been his Fire Chief.

It was also an honor to travel to Honduras with Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson and JD’s brother John Fotopoulos to bring home his remains. I’m thankful to our city officials for making this possible.

Another significant event of 2016, which sadly coincided with JD’s passing, was the opening of Station 8 in the Westhaven Community.

JD transferred to Station 8 from Station 2. He joined Lt. Max Cook, Engineer Wylie Jones, and Firefighter Cory Swenson in comprising the crew that staffed and stayed overnight at the station on its first day in service (August 22, 2016). We feel blessed that he got to experience that before he left us.

The Station’s grand opening ceremony continued as planned on September 10, prior to JD’s funeral on September 15, and was certainly bittersweet. It began with a moment of silence for JD.

The massive outpouring of support we received from our community following JD’s death, along with the massive outpouring of support from the Westhaven community that continues today for our Station 8 firefighters, is humbling. We are more grateful than words can express.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rocky Garzarek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rocky Garzarek  
Fire Chief

# VISION, VALUES & MISSION

## VISION

### Service Through Excellence



## MISSION

The mission of the City of Franklin Fire Department is to provide the highest level of service and protection through:

- **Prevention**—our proactive approach to eliminate the loss of life and property through code enforcement, public education, and plan review.
- **Training**—our commitment to continuous improvement through organization, team, and individual development.
- **Response**—our efficient, coordinated, and timely mitigation of all emergency and non-emergency calls for service.
- **Communication**—our vital tool that enhances, builds, and strengthens our internal and external relationships.
- **Preparedness**—our community-wide emergency management process that includes preparation for major events and incidents.

# 2016 QUICK FACTS

## **INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) RATING**

Class 1

## **CITY INFORMATION**

Land area protected—41.78 square miles

Resident population protected—70,908 (2016—2017 Special Census)

Estimated value of property protected—\$14.93 billion\* (taxable property)

Firefighters—153

Administrative personnel—13

Civilian personnel—5

Firefighters per shift—51 (minimum staffing is 40 per shift)

Number of paramedics—55

## **FIRE OPERATIONS**

Total incident responses—7,384

Medical and rescue responses—5,003 (68%)

Average response time—5:36 minutes

## **BUDGET**

Fiscal year budget, including capital —\$15,830,473\*

\*Based on 2016-2017 fiscal year



# FACILITIES & APPARATUS

Fire stations—8 (this includes temporary Station 7 at Williamson County Ag Expo Park)

Training Center with classroom building and two burn buildings, including a 5-story burn tower

Administrative offices in Franklin City Hall

Number of Advanced Life Support apparatus—11

Engines—4

Ladders—3

Towers—3

Rescue, light—3

Rescue, medium—1

Air truck—1

Brush truck—1

Boats—7

Reserve ladder—1

Reserve engine—1

Hazmat response vehicle—1

Polaris utility task vehicle—1



# COMMAND STAFF



**Rocky Garzarek**  
*Fire Chief*



**Todd Horton**  
*Deputy Chief,  
Administration and  
Emergency Management*



**Glenn Johnson**  
*Deputy Chief,  
Operations*



**Andy King**  
*Deputy Chief,  
Fire Prevention and  
Strategic Initiatives*



**Joe Polenzani**  
*Battalion Chief,  
A Shift*



**Eddie House**  
*Battalion Chief,  
B Shift*



**Greg Baltimore**  
*Battalion Chief,  
C Shift*



**Jimmy Jennings**  
*Battalion Chief,  
Training*



# NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

**January 5, 2016 Balcony Rescue** – A worker was injured and had to be rescued after falling through the floor of a fourth-floor balcony to a third-floor balcony below it at a construction site. The incident happened at the Cameron at Franklin Park apartments building project, located on Carothers Parkway.



**April 7, 2016 Duplex Fire**—A kitchen fire resulted in an \$80,000 loss to a duplex on Sycamore Drive.

**May 19, 2016 Carrington Hills Apartment Fire/Citizen Response** – A maintenance worker used an extinguisher on a balcony fire which prevented it from spreading throughout the three-story apartment building. His quick actions kept the fire from causing serious harm or damage.

**May 19, 2016 Mutual Aid Brentwood House Fire** – Waterford Drive.

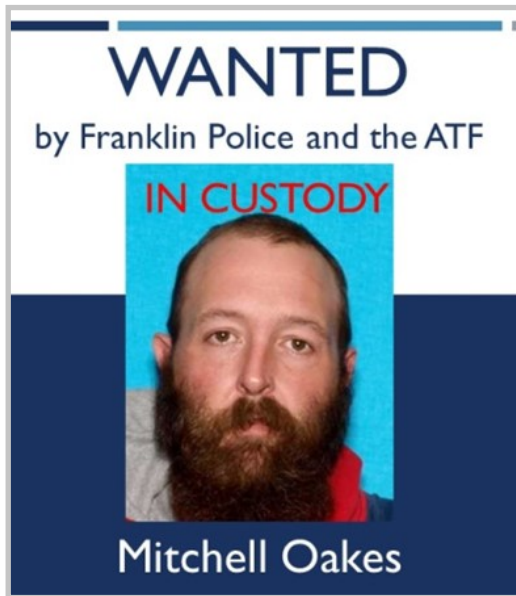
**May 30, 2016 House Fire** – Linseed oil-soaked rags spontaneously combusted and ignited a Memorial Day house fire in the Willow Springs subdivision. The fire, which started in the attached garage, caused \$125,000 in damage and destroyed one vehicle.

**June 15, 2016 House Fire**—A fire that originated in the laundry room of a Lilac Circle home resulted in \$35,000 in damage.

**July 14, 2016 Apartment Clubhouse Fire**—Welding ignited a fire in a two-story apartment complex clubhouse that was under construction on Swanson Branch Way, causing \$51,000 in damage.



# NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS



**July 19, 2016 Condominium Fire** – Improperly discarded wood chips from an outdoor smoker used on a balcony sparked an early morning condominium building fire. The fire caused \$115,000 in damage to the two-story, 20-unit condominium building on North Petway Street.

**August 29, 2016 Public Housing Duplex Fire**—A Franklin Housing Authority duplex fire caused \$35,000 in damage.

**September 10, 2016 Explosives Found in Vehicle at NHC Cool Springs/Subsequent Arrest for Attempted Murder/ Attempted Bombing** – An employee leaving work just after 7 a.m. discovered an improvised explosive device had been placed in her vehicle. The device failed to detonate when she got into the car. It was sophisticated and would have caused extreme injury or death if it had detonated as

intended. The following day Mitchell Hunter Oakes was arrested by ATF Agents in Bledsoe County. He was wanted on state and federal charges for Attempted First Degree Murder, Unlawful Possession of an Explosive Device, and Being a Convicted Felon in Possession of a Weapon. He was also wanted on a felony warrant out of Virginia on an unrelated matter. This incident occurred the same day as the Station 8 grand opening, and prevented some personnel from attending.

**September 26, 2016 House Fire** – A house fire on Gray Fox Lane caused \$65,000 in damage.

**September 29, 2016 Franklin Glassblowing Studio Fire** – Fire caused \$350,000 in damage to this Columbia Avenue business, located in the Carter’s Court office complex. Engineer Anthony Sedlak sustained minor injuries after falling into a





# NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

water meter vault while fighting the fire.

Fortunately, he returned to work after missing only one shift.

## **October 19, 2016 Mutual Aid**

**Barn and Brush Fire** – A worker was injured and a barn was destroyed in a brush fire that also burned several acres of the Williamson County farm located on the corner of Franklin Road and Mack

Hatcher Parkway. The Franklin Fire Department responded to provide mutual aid to the Williamson County Rescue Squad, as did numerous other agencies. The worker was injured while attempting to fight the fire and was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The 50-year old barn, which was approximately 2,000 square feet, was a total loss.



**Sunday October 16, 2016 Off-duty Firefighters Save Citizen in Danger** – On the way to a Titans football game, four off-duty Franklin Firefighters witnessed a single vehicle crash into the median, roll over, then catch fire on I-65. Battalion Chief Eddie House, Captain Clay Mackey, Captain Scott Mainord, and Firefighter-Paramedic Alex Enochs immediately stopped to help. They pulled the single, unconscious patient from the burning vehicle to safety, then stayed on the scene to provide patient care and assist responders until the patient was transported to the hospital. The firefighters were later honored for their actions with an award from Metro Nashville Mayor Megan Barry.

**November 10, 2016 Mobile Home Fire**—A mobile home fire in the Franklin Estates II mobile home park on Edgewood Boulevard was a total loss, causing \$100,000 in damage. Heat from the fire, which originated in the clothes dryer, also damaged the adjacent home.

**November 14, 2016 Restaurant Fire**—Fire at the Granite City restaurant caused \$60,000 in damage. Investigators determined the fire started on the exterior of the building due to an improperly discarded cigarette in the mulch bed.

# NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

**November 18, 2016 Carbon Monoxide Incident at Hotel**—Dispatched as a medical call, the firefighters’ GasBadge carbon monoxide alarm, which they carry on their medical bag, alarmed upon entering the patient’s room. It indicated dangerous CO levels. Firefighters found high levels in many areas of the hotel, which had to be partially evacuated for several hours, averting a tragedy. The result of the CO was a newly-installed pool heater.



**November 23, 2016 Stolen Vehicle Fire** – Firefighters were dispatched to a construction site near Partnership Circle and arrived to find an unoccupied BMW sedan, fully engulfed in flames. Bystanders said they saw an individual throw an object at the vehicle, which burst into flames upon impact, then the individual fled the scene. The vehicle was determined to have been stolen from a Nolensville Road business parking lot in Nashville the previous day. The vehicle, valued at \$89,000, was a total loss.



**November 26, 2016 Youth Firesetting Incident in Grove at Shadow Green Apartment** – Firefighters were dispatched to a smoke investigation but arrived to find a fire that had been set and extinguished by children in a Grove at Shadow Green apartment. The incident resulted in Department of Children’s Services involvement.

**November 30 – December 3, 2016 Gatlinburg Deployment** – *On November 28, 2016, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the City of Gatlinburg were ravaged by the most devastating fire in Tennessee state history. The fire claimed 14 lives, destroyed or*

# NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

*damaged 2,545 homes and businesses, and burned 17,904 acres. The initial fire started the evening of November 23 on Chimney Tops Trail, five and a half miles south of Gatlinburg, in the national park. The fire, which was originally judged as slow-moving, was suspected to have been started by human hand. It spread approximately six acres over four days. By the evening of November 27 and the morning of November 28, a combination of unusually strong winds and drought-like conditions in the area caused the fire to pick up speed and cover more than 500 acres. Downed power lines outside of the park caused multiple new ignitions of the fires, moving at an unstoppable pace across Gatlinburg and Sevier County. As the fire approached, residents and visitors grabbed what they could and fled. Between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., 2,545 structures were damaged or lost. More than 200 emergency response agencies from 50 counties, and 3,535 first responders came to the city's aid. (Courtesy of Anakeesta Mountain Forest Memorial Interpretive Trail, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.)*

The Franklin Fire Department deployed 11 personnel to the Gatlinburg area for emergency response. Deputy Chiefs Todd Horton and Glenn Johnson were assigned to the Incident Management Team. Firefighting crews, including Battalion Chief Greg Baltimore, Capt. Michael Pardue, Lt. Jeremy Martin, Lt. Kirk McGee, Eng. Tommy Anderson, Eng. Jeff Boggs, Eng. Jon Krawczyk, FF/P Nathan Vetitoe, and FF Andy Adams,





# NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

responded to numerous brush, structure, retaining wall, and power line pole fires. They assisted in grid search activities, along with other fire agencies and the National Guard, collected damage assessments, identified animals that were left behind and in need of food, and mitigated threats such as active propane leaks. They encountered downed power lines, downed trees, active propane leaks, ample ignition sources from active or smoldering fires, erosion issues which caused unstable footing and/or blocked roadway passage, distressed wildlife, and more. Our personnel were well cared for. The base staging and operations areas had plenty of provisions. Local hotels and restaurants in Pigeon Forge welcomed responders with open arms and provided complimentary lodging, food, and drink.

**December 13, 2016 Gatlinburg Telethon** - East Tennessee native Dolly Parton hosted a nationally televised telethon, “Smoky Mountains Rise: A Benefit for the My People Fund,” that brought in more than \$9 million for relief efforts. These funds went directly to support those who lost their homes. The telethon took place in Nashville. Our firefighters who were deployed to Gatlinburg were invited to help answer phones and process donations.



*Franklin Firefighters with Dolly Parton at the “Smoky Mountains Rise” benefit telethon. L to R: Eng. Jon Krawcyk, Lt. Jeremy Martin, Dolly Parton, Lt. Kirk McGee, FF Andy Adams and Capt. Michael Pardue.*



# ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

## STATION 8 GRAND OPENING

A grand opening celebration of Franklin Fire Station 8 in the Westhaven community took place on Saturday, September 10. Located at 200 Front Street, the event included a “hose-cutting” ceremony for the new station and a “wetdown” ceremony for the station’s new apparatus, Ladder 8. Children and adults washed Ladder 8, “pushed” it into the bay, and helped place it into service. Station tours, refreshments and giveaways for children were available. Activities were preceded by a moment of silence for Franklin Firefighter-Paramedic Dimitris “JD” Fotopoulos, who passed away over Labor Day weekend.



## ABOUT STATION 8

Franklin Fire Station 8 in the Westhaven community officially opened for business on August 22, 2016. Located at the corner of Front Street and Whitman Road, the \$3.8 million station shortens response times to the western areas of Franklin and provides back-up to downtown Station 1. Designed by the Renaissance Group, the main level of the facility is 11,369 square feet and the mezzanine area provides an additional 1,443 square feet. The



building features three apparatus bays, living and sleeping quarters, a gathering space, a kitchen and eating area, underground utilities, and landscaping. Franklin-based Southeast Contractors, LLC was the general contractor. The land for the building site was donated by the developer of Westhaven, Southern Land.

# ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNICATIONS CENTER CONSOLIDATION

In 2016, the City of Franklin consolidated its 911 Communications Center with Williamson County. This transition, which took months to plan and coordinate, included an upgrade and complete reprogramming of our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software, a new 911 phone software, and all new equipment into a newly-built Public Safety building. With time, this effort will allow all emergency services agencies in Williamson County to be better coordinated to meet the daily demands of each organization. In 2016, the new center handled just over 7,300 calls for service for the Franklin Fire Department.



*Ladder 8, the new apparatus for Station 8, arrived in 2015, along with Ladder 5. The two identical trucks are 2015 Sutphen SA75 Quint Aerial ladder trucks, which cost \$790,576.55 per truck.*

## NEW EQUIPMENT

In 2016, the Franklin Fire Department made two significant purchases to protect our most valuable asset—our people. New self-contained breathing apparatus were placed into service providing the latest innovations available to date. These devices are worn by firefighters and enable them to breathe clean air from a compressed air cylinder while fighting fires in extremely toxic environments and other hazardous situations.

Our second procurement provided every firefighter with a personal escape system. This system provides the means for a firefighter to quickly escape a dangerously escalating fire environment on an upper floor by lowering themselves out of a nearby window when conventional means to exit are no longer viable.

## TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE

The Franklin Fire Department implemented Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training in 2016 to prepare responders for civilian tactical emergencies such as active shooter events. The training was conducted in cooperation with Williamson Medical Center EMS and Brentwood Fire & Rescue. The department was presented with the Education Service Award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) at the EMS World Expo in Las Vegas (2017) for the program. Instructors included Firefighter-Paramedics Brian Brandon, Alan Fulwood, Kevin Hunt, and Jason Webb.

# FIRE PREVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

## QUICK FACTS

- Certificates of occupancy issued—269
- Planning projects—656
- Fire protection projects—338
- 1st graders trained—1,116
- 5th graders trained—681
- Child Passenger Safety seat inspections—281



## SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION PROGRAM

In cooperation with the Williamson County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office, Franklin Noon Rotary, and the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency, the Franklin Fire Department continued a project in 2016 in the Franklin Estates mobile home park to install smoke alarms where needed and teach residents how to prevent and survive home fires. Beginning in December 2015 and continuing through March 2016, together we installed 348 alarms in 190 homes in Franklin Estates I, II, and III.

## NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

**March 4, 2016 House Fire Smoke Alarm Save on Scruggs Avenue**— Just after 1 a.m., two smoke alarms with long-life batteries that were installed by the Franklin Fire Department years earlier, activated and alerted the occupants that the house was on fire. Everyone escaped unharmed. The fire, believed to have been caused by a radiator, caused \$35,000 in damage to the \$130,000 home.

**April 16, 2016 Sprinkler Save at Venue at Cool Springs Apartment** – A single automatic fire sprinkler head activated and prevented a cooking fire from spreading beyond the kitchen of an apartment in the Venue at Cool Springs. The sprinkler system protected occupants of the building, which is valued at \$3 million, and limited damage to \$30,000.

**July 18, 2016 Sprinkler Save at Extended Stay Suites, Bakers Bridge Avenue**—A single automatic fire sprinkler head limited fire loss to just \$12,500 in this \$800,000 building.



# FIRE PREVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

## CPR MARATHON

Lt. Sean Smith taught CPR for 12 straight hours on June 7 during the Franklin Fire Department’s CPR Marathon! In honor of National CPR and AED Awareness Week, the department hosted six free classes, from 8 am to 8 pm, educating 40 participants. Many other Franklin Fire Department personnel assisted with the classes, including Assistant Fire Marshal Geoff Woolard, who manages the Franklin Fire Department’s Twitter account. His CPR-related posts were quite a hit: CPR-related tweets over the course of two weeks generated more than 10,000 impressions. The “ICYMI” tweet alone had 1,632 and 20 engagements.



## AWARDS

**Darrell Waltrip Automotive Hometown Hero**—Michael Fletcher was honored as a Darrell Waltrip Automotive Hometown Hero in 2016, thanks in part to his partnership with the Franklin Fire Department’s “Great Escapes” youth fire prevention program. During the program, Michael, who is the Director of Safety and Security for Williamson County Schools, as well as a decorated U.S. Army veteran, shares his personal experience as a burn patient.

**Diamond of the Year**—Fire and Life Safety Educator Jamie Melton was honored by the Tennessee Child Passenger Safety Center with the “Diamond of the Year” award in 2016.





# PERSONNEL NEWS

## PROMOTIONS

- Lieutenant Josh Thomas
- Engineer Tommy Alexander
- Engineer Jeff Boggs
- Engineer-Paramedic James Gambill
- Engineer-Paramedic Mark Hall

## RESIGNATIONS

- Firefighter Justin Powers
- Firefighter Sharon Yates

## RECRUIT FIREFIGHTERS

- Paramedic Chad Clement
- Paramedic Matthew Engelsdorfer
- Paramedic Gino Fantoni
- Paramedic Gregory Long
- Paramedic Adam Miller
- Paramedic Shane Wyatt
- Kevin Davenport\*
- Jake Farmer\*

*There were no retirements in 2016.*

*\*Kevin Davenport and Jake Farmer graduated from the 2016 Recruit Class as firefighters for other departments, but were subsequently hired by Franklin later in the year.*



**Recruit Class 2016**

The Franklin Fire Department's Training Division trained 10 recruit firefighters from four Middle Tennessee fire departments in 2016—six from Franklin, two from Dickson, one from Columbia, and one from Maury County. The 12-week class concluded with a graduation ceremony on June 9, 2016.

*Pictured left to right: Front—Matthew Engelsdorfer (FFD), Gino Fantoni (FFD). Middle—Gregory Long (FFD), Adam Miller (FFD), Chad Clement (FFD), Jacob Farmer (MCFD). Back—Jacob McCord (CFD), Shane Wyatt (FFD), Justin Manley (DFD), Kevin Davenport (DFD).*

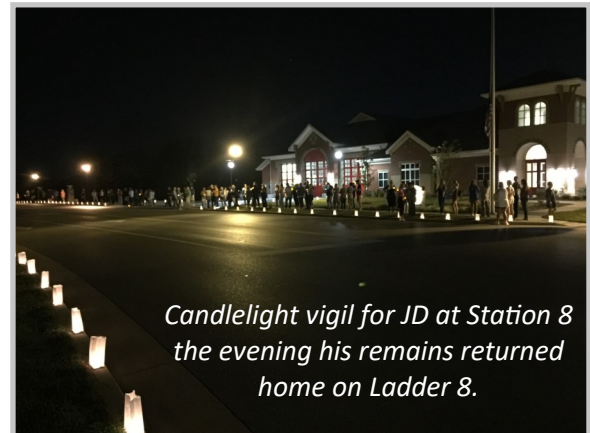
# DIMITRIS “JD” FOTOPOULOS



*April 8, 1976  
— to —  
September 4, 2016*



*Memorial ceremony for JD held by the San Pedro Sula, Honduras fire department.*



*Candlelight vigil for JD at Station 8 the evening his remains returned home on Ladder 8.*



*Top right: JD's brother John Fotopoulos, Chief Rocky Garzarek and Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson (center, back row, left to right) travelled to Honduras to retrieve JD's remains, September 11—13, 2016.*



# PHOTO ON PUBLIC SQUARE



In 2016 we recreated a historic Franklin Fire Department photo taken on the square in the early 1900s.

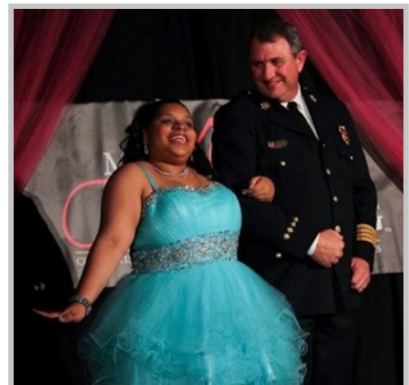
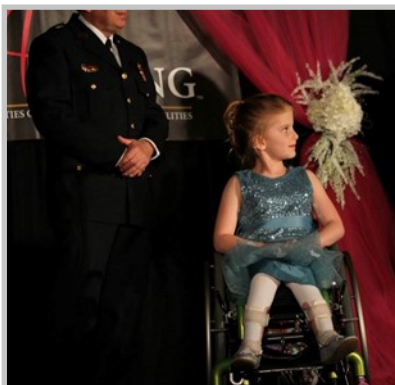
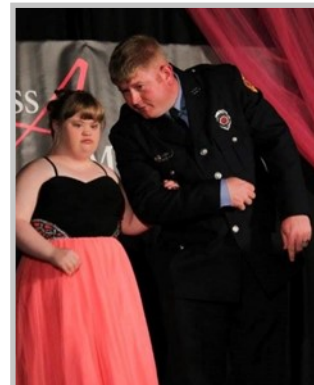
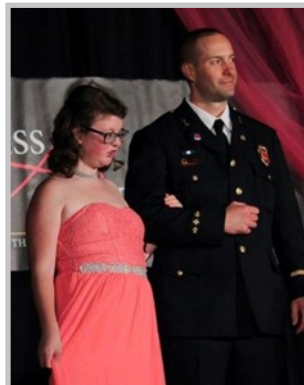
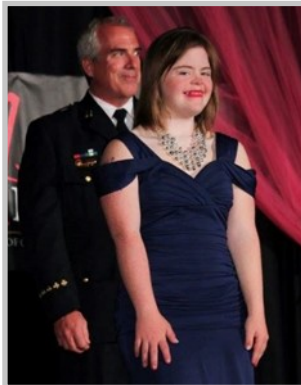
The historic photo was engraved on a challenge coin that was presented to all members of the department in 2015. The coin commemorated our Foundation Development process, during which we identified our department's Vision, Core Values, Mission, and Communication Behavior Agreement.



# LOOKING BACK



*Top left: Lt. Lloyd Baxter (left), and Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson participated in the Kentucky Army National Guard's "Operation Boss Lift" event. They were nominated by Firefighter John Carolan, who is a 15-year veteran and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of the National Guard. Top right: Battalion Chief Eddie House (left), and Firefighter-Paramedic Alex Enochs have lunch with Luke Bryan at Station 2.*



*Several Franklin Firefighters volunteered their time on April 3 to serve as escorts of participants in the Tennessee Miss Amazing Pageant. Several other firefighters from Stations 3 and 6 provided medical standby throughout the day and during the event.*



*This photograph was taken August 22, 2016,  
Station 8's first day of service. Left to right:  
Firefighter-Paramedic JD Fotopoulos, Firefighter  
Cory Swenson, Engineer Wylie Jones, Lieutenant-  
Paramedic Max Cook.*

