

# ERIE COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR



**SCOTT KUHLMIEY**

## **Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department**

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Third Assistant Chief Scott Kuhlmeiy, as Fire Fighter of the Year for the Erie County Fire Chief's Mutual Aid Organization.

Scott, who currently is an Assistant Chief for the Citizen Hose Company in the Village of Lancaster, did respond on December 28, 2006 at 0838 HRS to a report of a mattress fire and possible entrapment at 94 Sawyer Avenue in the Village of Lancaster.

Upon arrival, Second Assistant Chief Jim Robinson took command, directing incoming emergency vehicles. Assistant Chief Kuhlmeiy, fully geared, including a Scott Air Pac, did enter the apartment house and proceeded to the second floor of the building which was consumed by light smoke. Kuhlmeiy located a door partially opened and could see clothing and blankets burning. Kuhlmeiy attempted to open the door with great difficulty. He finally did open same, finding the victim Chris Lizauckas age 52 and 300 lbs + was lying on the floor behind the door unconscious. With the fire burning in close proximity to the victim, Kuhlmeiy kicked the burning pile of clothes and blankets away and proceeded to vacate the bedroom with the victim dragging same. Once in the hallway several other firemen, Assistant Chief John Burke, lieutenant Daniel Rinow, Lieutenant Kevin Hertzog and firefighter Brendan Kennedy, assisted Kuhlmeiy in evacuating the victim to the outside of the building.

Once outside the victim was immediately transported to ECMC VIA Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Te victim spent at least 12 days in the critical care unit with airway burns and severe smoke inhalation. It was later learned that the cause of the fire was that the victim became semi-conscious while smoking due to a previous medical condition. The victim dropped his cigarette and continued to decline medically from the smoke and heat. It is the belief of the Firefighters, Medical Personnel, and the Fire Chiefs on location that Assistant Chief Kuhlmeiy's quick action and extreme diligence in evacuating a 300 lb person to a safe area did save the victims life.