

# 1985

## Patrolman Robert A. Varner II

### Madison Township Police Department

You don't have to be experienced to be a hero. You just have to have the ability to recognize a need for action, and the fortitude and courage to carry out that action. On October 17, 1985, Patrolman Robert A. Varner of the Madison Township Police Department found that he had what it takes to become a hero.

On that date, only 6 weeks after joining the township department, Varner came upon a burning house. Something in his gut told him that there were people inside. He knew that he had to do something. Entering the burning residence, he located two adults and their two children, and led them through the flames to safety. He would later credit that "gut feeling" with his heroic actions on that date.

Madison Township Police Chief Howard Shetler expressed his extreme pride in Varner's actions, stating "I'm very pleased with the way he responded. It's the way we hope all officers would respond, putting the life and safety of the family above his own."

Officer Varner was honored, along with several other local officers, at the annual banquet meeting of the Lake County Blue Coats, Inc. at the Mentor Harbor Yacht Club on November 13, 1985. He was the first Madison Township Police Officer to be honored with this award.