

1992

Firefighter Michael E. Fielder

Perry Township Fire Department

Firefighter Michael Fielder just wanted to go to dinner with his family. Family time is often precious to members of our safety forces. They miss birthdays, holidays, school plays, sporting events, and other important family events. So the opportunity to spend an evening with his wife and son had to be special for Fielder. However, on September 9, 1992, dinner would have to wait.

At approximately 7:00 P.M, Fielder's pager went off, and he was alerted to a motor vehicle accident only about ¼ mile from the restaurant. The firefighter in him took over from the family man, and he immediately responded to the scene. Arriving, Fielder found a serious one vehicle accident. The male driver was slumped over the steering wheel. Fielder could not detect any breathing or pulse. He was certain that this was a fatality. He even advised his dispatcher to slow the rescue squad.

A Lake County deputy arrived on scene and assisted Fielder in removing the victim from the wreckage. Suddenly, the victim made a gurgling sound and Fielder shifted gears into a life saving mode. He immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation, ultimately saving the victim's life. Fifteen days later, the victim was out of the hospital, and within 3 months, was back to work.

Fielder was nominated for the award by Perry Township Fire Chief Stephen R. Sitz, who stated, "There is no doubt in my mind that Fielder's actions bought very valuable time until the fire apparatus arrived."

The victim of the accident later thanked Fielder, stating "I wouldn't be alive if it weren't for Mike."

Fielder was awarded the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service award at the annual Blue Coats meeting and banquet at the La Malfa Center, held on February 3, 1993.

Michael Fielder passed away in May, 1996.