

# 1980

## Patrolman David Ard

### Eastlake Police Department

“It’s the most prestigious award in the county, and probably in the state as far as I know” said Eastlake Police Chief William DePledge in commenting on the actions of Patrolman David Ard for which he was honored by the Lake County Blue Coats at their annual dinner at Hellriegel’s Inn in Painesville, on December 17, 1980.

The events were set in motion by a house fire in the City of Eastlake on August 11, 1980. A 16 year old boy discovered a fire in his East 349<sup>th</sup> Street home and called the Eastlake Fire Department. He then attempted to extinguish the fire himself, but was overcome by smoke. “I almost had the fire out when I passed out” he would later say.

Meanwhile, Patrolman Ard was patrolling the neighborhood. He received the call of the fire, and responded. Arriving before the fire department, he immediately went into the residence, located the boy, and then carried him out of the structure. The boy would state that the next thing he remembered is being outside and Ard shaking him, trying to wake him up.

Chief DePledge would express his pride in having Officer Ard on the force, and in the fact that the members of the Eastlake Police Department had been the recipient of prior awards.

Doctor Jorge Medina, president of the Blue Coats presented the award to Ard, stating that it was “a heroic act which he was not trained to do.”

Ard is currently retired.