

2018

Captain Jeff Braemer

Fairport Harbor Fire Department

For the second year in a row, the Grand River separating the Villages of Grand River and Fairport Harbor would be the catalyst which would lead to a member of the safety forces being nominated for the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service Award.

The incident occurred on May 1, 2018, while Captain Jeff Braemer of the Fairport Harbor Fire Department was conducting driver training with an engine. An important but rather mundane task that personnel must attend to regularly, to be able to safely perform their duties. A call was dispatched to Fairport Harbor and Painesville City Fire Departments involving a possible water rescue. Captain Braemer quickly responded to the scene, where he found a male in the water, trying to rescue a female victim and her dog. The female had apparently entered the water to save the dog. They were approximately 40 to 50 feet off shore in 54 degree water, and a depth of about 5-6 feet.

Captain Braemer, removed his boots and without a water rescue suit or personal flotation device, immediately entered the water. He directed the male back to the shore and then was able to get the victim and her dog safely out of the water.

Braemer was nominated by Fairport Harbor Fire Chief Bob Lloyd, and the Blue Coats accepted the nomination. At the awards banquet, State Senator John Eklund stated that "Part of the reason why we are so grateful for the things that you and your colleagues do, is because we never have a chance to do them."

Captain Braemer modestly stated that "one thing that I learned early in my career, is that we are not here for me, we are here for we, and we are here for them."

Professionally, Captain Braemer was also been awarded the Ohio Fire Service Valor Award for the rescue, an award presented by his peers throughout the State of Ohio.