



MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. Mayor and Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Robin Gomez, City Manager

FROM: Clint Belk, Fire Chief

DATE: 2/12/2025

RE: Firefighter of the Year, Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Wasilewski

Background

The Madeira Beach Fire Department is proud to announce that Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Wasilewski has been named 2025 Firefighter of the Year, an honor recognizing his unparalleled dedication, exemplary service, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Since joining the department in 2021, FF Wasilewski has set a high standard for professionalism, hard work, and teamwork. Known for his outstanding work ethic and positivity, he consistently goes above and beyond to support his fellow firefighters and serve the Madeira Beach community with integrity. His peers commend him as a role model who defines what it means to be a Madeira Beach firefighter.

In just a few short years as a firefighter with MBFD, Mike has achieved many milestones. He completed the Acting Driver and Acting Lieutenant programs, stepping into critical roles to meet operational needs. He earned his certification as a Marine Operator and achieved a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration—an accomplishment that underscores his relentless pursuit of excellence in public service. The most recent milestone worth noting is that one day after being nominated for Firefighter of the Year, FF Wasilewski tested for the open Lieutenant position, scoring the highest out of the three candidates allowing him to meet the criteria for a promotion to Lieutenant.

Lt. Wasilewski is more than a skilled firefighter; he is also a highly respected paramedic with an exceptional bedside manner. He brings calm, competence, and compassion to every call. As a preceptor, Mike takes the initiative to mentor and develop new firefighters and paramedic students, ensuring the next generation of Madeira Beach firefighters meets the department's high standards.

A leader on and off duty, Mike prioritizes physical fitness as a cornerstone of his readiness for emergencies, inspiring his colleagues to do the same. His peers describe him as a professional who represents the department with pride and a role model who challenges others to grow, both personally and professionally.

Revised – December 27, 2018



His commitment to service runs deep. Before becoming a firefighter, he served in the United States Marine Corps from 2011 to 2015, deploying to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012. His dedication extends beyond firefighting—he has served his community as a substitute teacher and lifeguard, embodying the values of resilience, versatility, and service.

It is with the utmost respect and gratitude that we congratulate Lieutenant Michael Wasilewski on being named the 2025 Firefighter of the Year. His hard work, dedication, and leadership inspire us all and remind us why we do what we do.

Fiscal Impact

Recommendation

Attachment(s):

