

SHELBY COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Shelby County Fire Department Public Information Officer and Explorer Post 343 Advisor Brent Perkins receives the 2015 Jerome Turner Community Service Award

The Board of Directors of the 100 Club of Memphis created an award for the purpose of recognizing an employee of any of the local law enforcement or firefighting agencies who has given extraordinary time and effort in service to the community. This award is in honor and memory of the late Federal Judge Jerome Turner. He is remembered throughout the community for his life-long pursuit of justice and the very positive impact he had on everyone in the area. Candidates that qualify are screened and one person is selected annually by the Valor Committee. Shelby County Fire Department Public Information Officer Brent Perkins was recognized as the 2014 Recipient of this prestigious community service award at the annual 100 Club Dinner that was held on January 26th, 2015.

Public Information Officer Brent Perkins is the recipient of the 2015 Jerome Turner Award for his considerable contributions to the Memphis and Shelby County Community by mentoring to 25 young adults in the Shelby County Fire Department Explorer program. These young adults come from all geographical areas of Shelby County. This program that Brent has started from infancy has become a model program for other Explorer Post's to follow. The Explorer Program does not only teach these young adults the basics of firefighting and rescue skills, but they also are taught how to work as a team and they learn how to be responsible for their actions. Brent has been the Lead Advisor for this Explorer Post since 2005, and he is responsible for at least 12 past Explorers to make the career decision to become professional firefighters. He is also responsible for at least 10 Explorers entering the Emergency Medical Career Field as Paramedics or Emergency Medical Technicians as well as the Explorers of this Post joining the United States Military. If the past Explorers have not entered the Fire Service, Emergency Medical Field or entered the Armed Services they have learned valuable lessons of being responsible for their actions and achieving goals by staying in school and pursuing lifetime dreams. Brent is available to these Explorers 24 hours a day and serves as an additional adult role model during their adolescent years. He also requires all of his Explorers to maintain passing grades while in high school to remain in the Post. To maintain the future career goals mentoring 25 young Explorer's at all times and to raise his own family is a large commitment of time and effort that Brent has accomplished for the past 8 years. This commitment and impact Brent has contributed to today's youth is extraordinary.

The Shelby County Fire Department is extremely proud of Brent Perkins in receiving this prestigious award and for his outstanding community contributions through the Explorer Program.