



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRIS ASHLEY NAMED 2008 "FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR"

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 2/16/09) – Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Ashley has been named the Temple Terrace Fire Department's *2008 Firefighter of the Year*.

The award recognizes Ashley's high level of performance as a firefighter and paramedic, along with his commitment to the community and personal efforts to help those in need.

Ashley, 35, said he was surprised to find himself named Firefighter of the Year.

"It's an important award, and it's nice to be singled out when there are so many others who deserve recognition," he said. "I just do my work, and I really don't think about awards. But this means a lot."

Ashley began his career with the Temple Terrace Fire Department in February, 2006. Fire Chief Keith Chapman said Ashley "not only works tirelessly while on duty as a firefighter and paramedic, but he works just as hard off duty, on his own time, helping others less fortunate."

Ashley serves as the secretary and treasurer of the Local 3582 (firefighters union). He is vice president of the Temple Terrace chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters. He heads up the annual "Hits for a Cure" charity softball game, and spearheads the department's Advanced Life Support competition team.

Ashley also organizes the fire department's involvement with the MDA Summer Camp each year, as well as helping raise funds for the Shriner's Children's Burn Charity. Additionally, he serves on the department's Labor Management Committee and Open House Committee.

For these efforts, Ashley was a 2008 recipient of the BayNews 9 "Everyday Heroes" award.

Ashley and his wife, Alisa, have been married 10 years and have two children; Tanner, 8, and Avery, 4.

For his countless hours of dedication and commitment to the fire department and community, Chapman said, Ashley "is well deserving of the Firefighter of the Year award."

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