



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A. J. MILLER NAMED RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Two volunteers share Rookie of the Year honors

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 4/1/09) – A.J. Miller has been named the Temple Terrace Fire Department's *2008 Reserve Firefighter of the Year*.

The 23-year-old firefighter, who lives in Plant City, joined Temple Terrace's reserve unit one year ago and has shown tremendous dedication, leadership and enthusiasm, said Fire Department Capt. Robert Sapp, who heads the reserve program.

Miller is a recently certified firefighter/EMT and is eager to begin his career in fighting fires and saving lives, Sapp said. Since becoming a volunteer, he has been actively involved in many Fire Department functions, such as the MDA boot drive, Advanced Life Support competitions and the annual Open House.

The *2008 Rookie of the Year* award will be shared by two volunteer firefighters: Christopher Damico, 28, and Matthew DiGesare, 36, both of Tampa. Damico, a graduate of the University of Florida, is a certified firefighter/EMT and will begin the state paramedic program this summer. DiGesare, a graduate of the University of Central Florida, is a certified EMT and will begin his firefighting training in May.

Sapp also announced the addition of five new recruits to the reserve unit, bringing the total role call to 21. The recruits are Robert Dubose, Francis Hernandez, Chris Hockley, Frank Meszaros and Francisco Velasquez.

Temple Terrace has a very active Reserve Firefighter Program, giving volunteers a chance to practice their skills and gain experience as they learn fire suppression and medical services. Reserve firefighters are required to put in a minimum of 20 hours of shift work each month. In addition, the reserves are required to attend 50 percent of the department's reserve training classes. Reserves also are required to be certified or currently attending class as Emergency Medical Technicians, and/or State Firefighter 1, prior to working a shift.

Lt. Sapp has headed the reserve unit for 12 years.

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