



**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Public Information Office

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Media Release

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**San Francisco Firefighters  
Acknowledged for Service and Valor**

**WHAT:**

San Francisco American Legion Police and Fire Post 456 Annual Officer and Firefighter of the Year awards Dinner.

**WHEN:**

Thursday October the 18<sup>th</sup> (invitation Only event) Contact [patricia.c.brown@sfgov.org](mailto:patricia.c.brown@sfgov.org) for info.

**WHY:**

Firefighter Matthew Lane, Steve Keller, and Dewayne Eckerdt to be honored as follows:

- Firefighter Dewayne Eckerdt- Firefighter of the Year for Community Service. *Firefighter Eckerdt runs the Departments [SFFISE](#) Program. The San Francisco Firefighters in Safety Education Program teaches an established 30-minute interactive burn prevention & fire safety curriculum to approximately 9,000 grade school students per year and provides information for parents in their primary language.*
- Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Lane and Firefighter Steve Keller-Firefighters of the Year for Valor. Both have also been awarded the 2017 Michael O. McNamee Award of Valor Award by Firehouse Magazine (<https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/article/21019104/2017-michael-o-mcnamee-award-of-valor-top-winners>): *On Sept. 20, 2017, Engine 43 was dispatched for a medical call that was eventually upgraded to a fire call. With people still inside a burning two-story residential building, Firefighter Steve Keller and Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Lane deployed a 150-foot hose-line to the front door and entered the structure to search. Lane began a right-hand search while*

***Keller waited with the nozzle at the front door for water to protect Lane's search. Lane opened a bedroom door and saw a woman standing in the corner of the room, but she resisted his instructions to go with him. He picked her up and removed her from the house where she was transferred to a Paramedic crew.***

***As Lane went back to the house, Keller returned toward the front door as the flames were intensifying and he needed to protect their egress. Lane crawled toward the rear of the house and opened the closed door of the third bedroom and saw an unconscious man against the wall.***

***Calling for help, Lane dragged the man down the hallway. Other firefighters were then able to help remove the man from the building, and he was turned over to paramedics. Both victims were transported and survived.***

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