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Assistant Fire Chief Terry Henry, left, and Lieutenant/Paramedic Adam Massingill are presented with the "Fire Hero" award by Laura Schultz Pipis on behalf of the Madison Township Fire Department during the "Everyday Heroes Banquet" at Adrian College. The two acted swiftly after a horrific automobile accident in 2016 involving 17-year-old MacKenzie Ream (not pictured).



Officer Joshua Perry and his K-9 companion, Diesel, are presented with the "Law Enforcement Hero" award on Tuesday. Officer Perry and Diesel provided off-duty assistance to a search for a missing autistic 16-year-old boy in 30-degree weather with a chill factor of 20 degrees.



Hannah Young offers thanks and a brief description of her work to send packages to children battling cancer during Tuesday's "Everyday Heroes Banquet" at Adrian College.

Cazmarae Williams of Oak Park, center, sings with the AAAWWESOME Troop from Second Baptist Church on Tuesday evening during the "Everyday Heroes Banquet" at Adrian College.



Veteran Navy World War II pilot Bob Frelich cracks a few jokes Tuesday while accepting the "Military Hero" award from another Navy veteran, Kelly Castleberry of Adrian at the "Everyday Heroes Banquet" at Adrian College.

HEROES

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other people like him doing this work every day.

Community Hero

The late Joe Ann Steele was honored for her years as a business and community leader in Adrian. Described as spunky, giving and compassionate, Steele's death in 2016 left behind a legacy of selfless acts and generosity. Well known for her business based in downtown Adrian, Steele also touched many people's hearts through various humanitarian efforts.

The Everyday Heroes description said she had a deep passion for helping anyone and everyone who crossed her path.

In accepting to award for her mother, Susan Steele said, "The community was so important to her and more importantly the people were so important to her."

Educator heroes

Brock Rychener, who served as teacher in the Hudson Area Schools and Brooklyn area, also died this past year and was recognized for his work as a coach, teacher, school recovery leader and at-risk youth role model. He was described as a person who left a lasting impact on both students and colleagues with whom he worked. In his description, it was said they credited him for many things from encouragement, support to the easy-going preprofessional manner in which he served.

"He made a tremendous impact in this world for his short 36 years and he will be greatly missed," the Everyday Heroes description read.

In an emotional tribute, his brother, Jason Rychener, accepted the award and said Brock would have been very proud.

The second educator award went to Jim Black, who is a bus driver and custodian for Sand Creek School and is known for being a beloved classroom assistant for special needs children. Black has been known to capture kids hearts for years in different ways, from singing "Happy Birthday" on the bus to his family's annual Christmas celebration at his farm. He's also given back through humanitarian efforts such as delivering supplies to the Flint-area during its recent crisis and to Alabama after a devastating hurricane.

Black credited his faith in leading to inspire others in life.

A tearful Black said he dedicated the award, "to all of the kids."

Faith-based heroes

The AAAWWESOME Troop



An overwhelmed Laura Van Sickle says "thank you" for her "Laura Haviland/Human Services Professional" award on Tuesday during the "Everyday Heroes Banquet" at Adrian College. TELEGRAM PHOTOS BY HANNAH WARNER

of the Second Baptist Church was honored for its 27 years of providing positive, faith-based encouragement and inspiration to help many young people learn, grow and success. This Adrian-based group, which stands for African and All-American Women and Warriors who Expect Success, Opportunity to Motivate toward higher Education and Total Respect for other people, has been teaching leadership, respect, diversity, acceptance, education goals and giving back. It's comprised of children 3 to 17 and frequently reforms inspirational

music and dances at local nursing homes, churches and parades.

The group began when founder MiChel'La Anelo-Jones wanted to create a positive thing for her own children. It's grown over the years to impact many.

"It feels very nice to get some recognition," Anelo-Jones said.

Fire heroes

The Madison Township Fire Department was recognized for its extraordinary response and professional compassion as well as its life-saving emergency service given to 17-year-old

MacKenzie Ream after a horrific auto accident in April 2016. It was nominated by Chris and Erin Phillips, who witnessed the response to the crash because it happened in front of their home in Madison Township. They said the firefighters and first responders saved Ream's life that day through their calm, cool and professional and caring efforts.

In addition to all of the first responders, the Ream family specifically credited the assistant Fire Chief Terry Henry, who lives near them, for the fast actions in saving their daughter's life.

In accepting the award, Henry said they were more than happy to assist their neighbors in need as well as the community.

Adult Good Samaritan

In connection with that auto crash and near death, the Phillips family also was honored for helping Ream and her family. They aided MacKenzie's sister, who was with her in the car during the crash, but was not hurt. They called 911, gave comfort and accompanied the family to the hospital. The Ream family credits them as well with their fast actions to help their family.

In thanking them, MacKenzie's mother said she felt her life is blessed because of fast-acting community members like the Phillips family and fire department.

Youth Good Samaritan award

The Lenawee Youth Council

was honored for its 20 years of efforts to make Lenawee County a better place and for being role models to youth through leadership and volunteer activities.

Made up of youth 12 to 19, the LYC has raised funds, given grants, mentored, performed community service projects and has gone above and beyond in its work. The group averages over 1,400 service hours each year and granted more than \$800,000 to various groups in the community.

In its description, Everyday Heroes said the group follows the principal, "no matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world."

The other youth award went to Hannah Young, who started a program to send packages across the nation from Lenawee County to children battling cancer. She typically helps to brighten the day of children 13 and younger. She calls her packages "happy bundles" and includes in them coloring books, stickers notebooks, pocket games and the toys. Most of it is paid out if her own pocket.

"Hannah in an inspiration to all young people," the Everyday Heroes description said.

Laura Haviland/Human Services Award

Working in the human service field since the 1970s, Laura Van Sickle was honored for her tireless efforts both in volunteering and professionally. She has served with the Lenawee Intermediate School District, with the Community Action Agency and with programs such as Prevention First and the Migrant Resource Council. She volunteers on at least 20 community-based program committees and has been called an advocate for all.

"There isn't any project or person that Laura won't go out of her way to ensure their success," said Burt Fenby, her co-worker at CAA.

Van Sickle said she's had a passion to advocate for and help other people throughout her life.

Justice Court Hero

Senior Trial Prosecutor Angela Borders was recognized for her many hours and days handling sexual assault cases, many of which involved child victims. In the Lenawee County court system, Borders has taken up the cause of many who have been abused, victimized and robbed of their innocence. She was described as someone with the unique ability to fight for and give voice to those who need it most.

Retired Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Joe Costello said Borders has the ability to put the victims at ease and let them know she is their friend and ally.

In accepting the award, Borders was humble and gave thanks to the other honorees in the room, saying they are the true heroes.

Law Enforcement Hero

In their efforts to save a missing autistic teen, Adrian Police Officer Joshua Perry and K9 Diesel were honored for stepping up on a cold Christmas day. Perry and his dog, on a day off with family, were called out to help find the 16-year-old in weather conditions that could have led to injury or death. They searched an area that had been searched by others, but upon their arrival the missing teen was soon found cold and shivering.

"These are the moments that make being a law enforcement great," Perry said of finding the missing teen.

The other law enforcement honor went to Michigan State Police troopers John Hoard and Waylon Jones. Also on a frigid day, the two troopers went on the search for a missing 85-year-old man with Alzheimer's disease. They found the man lying in Posey Lake, just off the shore line, with a head injury due to a fall and in the early stages of hypothermia. They were honored for the dedication to finding the man and quick actions to help him.

Hoard, in his acceptance, echoed Perry and said helping someone in need was of the utmost importance for a law enforcement officer.

Medical Professional Hero

A phone call from a friend in need led Emergency Medical Service professional Troy Vance to be honored as a hero. Vance was called by a friend who would end up in cardiac arrest and collapsed on the floor of her home. Vance acted quickly by performing CPR and calling 911.

He was credited with saving her life.

The Everyday Heroes description said the cardiologist in charge of his friend's case credited Vance's action with saving the woman's her life. In accepting the award, Vance urged the attendees to learn CPR and other life-scaling measures.

Military Hero

This honor went to Robert Frelich of Adrian, who served in the U.S. Navy and fought in World War II as a pilot. He saw action against the Japanese at the Battle of Leyte Gulf and later was shot down, only to survive on a Pacific island for nearly 50 days before being rescued. He would later raise a family in Adrian while working for Brazeway.

This past fall, as the only surviving member of the U.S. military from the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Frelich was able to attend a peaceful reunion with the Japanese sailors he fought against 74 years earlier.

In nominating him for the award, his friend Lisa Riley said he is "an amazing man who grew up with his brother in an orphanage in Adrian, was shot down in WWII and survived. He lives every day for others."