



CITY OF VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Chief Shawn Carvey

September 20, 2016

The Venice Fire Department is pleased to announce that Battalion Chief Scott Blanchard has been awarded the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award through the 16th Congressional District's Congressional Fire and Rescue EMS Award (CFREA). The award was presented by U. S. Representative Vern Buchanan during the ceremony on September 19, 2016 in Sarasota.

Quoting Mr. Buchanan's Press Release (09/19/16):

"We owe so much to our police, firefighters, and EMS. Our community is made safer, quieter, and more prosperous because we have first responders watching our backs," Buchanan said. "When called upon, they often arrive at scenes of danger and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get 'the call.' These stellar individuals exemplify what it means to serve a community."

The honor was bestowed as a result of actions taken during an emergency response. In 2015, then Lieutenant Blanchard was part of a response team to an incident involving a person preparing to jump from the ledge of a 3-story building. While another firefighter provided a distraction, Scott was able to approach, grab and rescue the individual. Scott's actions put himself at extreme risk due to the location and the unpredictable state of the individual. It should be noted that the rescue was a success.