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Firefighter, dispatcher receive life-saver award

A Murfreesboro firefighter and an Emergency Communications specialist were among those honored with the Jerry Anderson Hero Award from the Murfreesboro Branch of the NAACP Saturday (Jan. 25). The awards were presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast held at Middle Tennessee State University James Union Building.

Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Department (MFRD) Battalion Chief Tim Rowlett received the award for his self-less actions July 21, 2019. Rowlett was off-duty but responded to a fire near his home in his personal vehicle to assist with firefighting and the transport of an injured County firefighter. He used his four-wheeler to move water and personnel up to the front of the line and made it possible to move an injured firefighter from the hot zone to an ambulance 2,500 feet away. As the scene ended, Rowlett used his truck and trailer to haul the county's fire hose to a safe location so they could reload it.

"Rowlett is a prime example of the caliber of firefighters that make up the Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Department," MFRD Chief Mark Foulks said. "Our firefighters are never off-duty when it comes to helping our citizens and fellow firefighters."

Dispatcher Brady Lutton earned the award for helping to convince a suicidal man who was nearly 500 miles away in Gulfport Mississippi not to take his life. He encountered the on a firefighter's Facebook chat group December 26, 2019. The distraught man thanked Lutton for saving his life.

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“Emergency Communications is vital,” said Murfreesboro Emergency Communications Director Seth Russell. “We are very proud of Brady’s live-saving actions and the outstanding work of all our Emergency Communications Professionals who serve in the City’s Emergency Communications Center as the critical communications link between our citizens and public safety field personnel.”

The Hero Award was named in memory of Jerry Anderson. Anderson drowned after jumping into the Stones River, saving the lives of two young boys May 27, 1989. He was a Central High School football star who went on to play for the University of Oklahoma. He also played in the National Football League with the Cincinnati Bengals and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

City Councilman Kirk Wade was presented the Humanitarian Award at the event.

Tennessee Branch of the NAACP President Gloria Sweet-Love was the keynote speaker at the breakfast.

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Attachments: Photos

Photo 1: (L-R) Murfreesboro Branch of the NAACP member Rev. Goldy Wade, Jerry Anderson Awardee Tim Rowlett, Murfreesboro Branch of the NAACP member Carolyn Cox

Photo 2: (L-R) Murfreesboro Branch of the NAACP member Rev. Goldy Wade, Jerry Anderson Awardee Brady Lutton, Murfreesboro Branch of the NAACP member Carolyn Cox

Photo 3: (L-R) City Councilmember and Humanitarian Awardee Kirk Wade, City Councilmember Madelyn Scales-Harris