

Bend Fire Captain Receives Community Service Award

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Bend Fire & Rescue Captain Mark Taylor has received the 2006 Community Services Medal from the Oregon Department of Human Services -â€“ Emergency Medical Services Division (ODH-EMS). Captain Taylor was awarded the "State of Oregon Community Service Award". The recognition is a statewide professional achievement award and is the highest honor awarded for community service from ODH-EMS. Taylor was recognized for â€œputting his dreams into actionâ€•; his ongoing dedication and compassion towards his fellow citizens around the world; and his commitment to emergency management services in Oregon.

Captain Taylor (left), shown here with Mayor Gustavo Rodriguez of Condega, Nicaragua â€œAlthough I have taken the lead on several projects,â€• said Mark Taylor, â€œI have always been surrounded by a great number of folks with equal dedication and compassion. I could not have accomplished a single project without the help from a multitude of people, including: the support of the City of Bend; the Bend Fire Department and Chief Larry Langston; and the people of Bend and Central Oregon. I may have been recognized with the award, but it is best shared with the above mentioned.â€• The Community Service Medal recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding commitment to the non-patient care aspects of a community's EMS system. Special emphasis is placed on EMS public information, education, and relations, community education, and prevention programs. Captain Taylor was nominated for the award by the East Cascade Emergency Medical Services Council. The Council is an EMS organization representing the fire and ambulance agencies and hospitals in Central Oregon. Taylor was recognized for his many contributions which include:

- Â§ Assisting with medical needs and water systems in the rural community of Oaxaco, Mexico. Taylor was involved in two trips to Mexico as a part of the Northwest Medical Team
- Â§ Ongoing work in establishing a first time fire department in Bend's sister city, Condega, Nicaragua
- Â§ Leading efforts to raise funds for the families of the New York firefighters who were killed in 9/11. Taylor's efforts helped raise \$97,000 in two weeks
- Â§ Working in New York City to assist with debriefing programs for the firefighters when they would exit Ground Zero
- Â§ Establishing the Central Oregon Debriefing Program. The program provides critical stress debriefing free of charge to fire departments east of the Cascades.

The Oregon EMS Awards Program is intended to recognize excellence, to foster achievement, and to honor those in and around EMS Systems whose acts and deeds stand out from the day-to-day excellence of that system.

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