

October 4, 2007

EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Walker, Chester County Executive Administrator, at (610) 344-6024.

Firefighters receive William H. “Pop” Winters Medal of Valor Award

WEST CHESTER _ The Chester County Board of Commissioners today presented three Phoenixville Fire Department firefighters with the William H. “Pop” Winters Medal of Valor Award and citations. The awards were given to Battalion Chief David J. Meadows, Captain Walter Bohn and Firefighter Nicholas DiVesta.

All three men were recognized as performing above and beyond the call of duty, risking their lives to save the life of a 47-year-old man trapped in an apartment building fire. Just after midnight on January 11, 2007, the Phoenixville Fire Department was dispatched to Church Street, responding to an apartment building fire. The police department informed firefighters of the person trapped on the third floor of the apartment. Without regard for their own personal safety, the three firefighters did a rapid search of the building, found the victim, and removed him to the outside, to Emergency Medical Services personnel.

The victim was taken to Crozier-Chester Medical Center, Trauma Unit, where, after a lengthy stay, was released.

The citation given to each firefighter reads, in part: “The bravery, skill and dedication displayed by Battalion Chief Meadows, Captain Bohn and Firefighter DiVesta is in the best tradition of the Fire Service, and reflects great credit upon themselves, the Phoenixville Fire Department and the memory of William H. “Pop” Winters.

William H. “Pop” Winters gave 60 years of service to the citizens of Chester County and served as the Chief Fire Marshal for 39 years, before giving up his life in the line of duty on October 10, 1997, while investigating a fire in West Sadsbury Township. The Board of Commissioners, the Department of Emergency Services and the Office of the Chester County Fire Marshal found it fitting to memorialize the name of “Pop” Winters with this annual presentation that is bestowed upon a member of the Fire, Rescue or Emergency Medical Services of Chester County. The award is presented to an individual or individuals who have performed above and beyond the call of duty, or who exemplify the mission of the fire service through assistance to fellow firefighters and the community.