



FORSYTHCOUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE CHIEF NAMED
GEORGIA FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – The Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC) has named Forsyth County Fire Chief Danny D. Bowman the 2010 Georgia Fire Chief of the Year. Bowman was selected for the prestigious award for his professional accomplishments, compassion for his troops, genuine love of the job and willingness to always put others before himself. He was presented the 2010 Fire Chief of the Year award Saturday, August 7, at the annual joint conference of the GAFC and the Georgia State Firefighters Association (GSFA). There are 662 fire departments in Georgia.

“It was indeed a personal honor for me to witness a dear friend, mentor, colleague and neighboring fire chief as he was selected and honored for this award,” Hall County Fire Chief and GAFC President David Kimbrell said. “Chief Bowman exudes the true spirit of service to others.”

As fire chief, Bowman has overseen the substantial growth of the department, working to keep pace with the county’s rapid development as Forsyth remains one of the nation’s fastest growing counties. Bowman has aggressively replaced the entire front-line fleet of fire apparatus and has replaced or added four new fire stations and a new Fire Headquarters at the county’s Public Safety Complex.

Under Bowman’s guidance and vision, the department’s inaugural annual report was printed for the year 2005. The annual report, now in its fifth year of publication, continues to gain national accolades.

“If asked about his proudest accomplishment, Chief Bowman would likely advise of the county’s ISO rating improvement in 2009 from a 6/9 to a 5,” said Forsyth County

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Commission Chairman Charles Laughinghouse, who, along with Forsyth County Manager Doug Derrer, nominated Bowman for the award. “Chief Bowman oversaw the ISO process, and the fire insurance premium rate reductions many property owners are enjoying are certainly thanks to his hard work and dedication.”

“The nomination was limited to 300 words, but 300 words is not enough to describe Chief Bowman’s worth to this county,” Laughinghouse continued. “He is deserving of the 2010 Fire Chief of the Year recognition because the elected officials and administration of the county could seek no better leader of our Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency than he.”

“The Forsyth County Fire Department is a very professional organization that provides outstanding service to our residents,” Forsyth County Manager Doug Derrer said. “That is certainly a reflection of Chief Bowman’s strong leadership skills and dedication to his staff and the community.”

In addition to being nominated by Forsyth County, Bowman was also nominated for the award by Sandy Springs Fire Chief Jack McElfish.

“Chief Bowman has all of the qualities that this prestigious award embodies,” Chief McElfish said. “He is honest, ethical and has strong leadership abilities. Throughout his 42 year fire service career, he has served as a mentor to literally hundreds of men and women, many of whom have gone on to successful careers as firefighters, company officers and chief officers.”

Bowman began his career as a firefighter for the Atlanta Fire Department in 1968, and worked his way up the ranks, eventually serving in the chief administrator capacity for the newly formed Fulton County Fire Department and later as deputy fire chief, interim fire chief and battalion chief for Fulton County. He joined the Forsyth County Fire Department as division fire chief in 2001 and was promoted to assistant fire chief and EMA director in 2002. He has served as chief of department since July 2003 and is very active in the community and in the fire services industry.

Bowman’s lifetime achievements include: past president, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs; past parliamentarian, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs; Elections Committee chair, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs; past president, Metropolitan Atlanta Area Fire Chiefs Association; member, Association County Commissioners Georgia (ACCG) Public Safety and the Courts Committee; EMS Advisory Council member, Georgia EMS Region 2 Council; Forsyth County representative, Lake Lanier Water Safety Task Force; served on the Thompson Group, a Washington, D.C. advisory panel for the Fair Labor and Standards Act; graduate, Leadership Forsyth class of 2006; member, Board of Directors of Leadership Forsyth and Youth Leadership Forsyth (2007-2010); former Major, U.S. Army State Defense Force; and career member of Georgia State Firefighters Association.

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