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WASHTENAW ONE HUNDRED CLUB ANNOUNCES FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Ann Arbor, MI --- The Washtenaw 100 Club is proud to announce it is honoring Pittsfield Charter Township Firefighters Captain Craig Liggett, Firefighter Edward Carnahan and Firefighter Gary Polenz as the 2011 Firefighters of the Year.

Additionally, the Club is proud to announce it is honoring Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety Officers Shana Thompson and Douglas Wing as the 2011 Police Officers of the Year.

In addition to awarding \$15,000 in scholarships to families of fire and police personnel, the Washtenaw 100 Club annually selects individuals to honor at their annual meeting as Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year. For 2011, the Washtenaw 100 Club has selected Pittsfield Charter Township Firefighters Captain Craig Liggett, Firefighter Edward Carnahan and Firefighter Gary Polenz as Firefighters of the Year.

Captain Liggett, Firefighter Carnhan and Firefighter Polenz took their motto of "Not a Job, a Commitment," to extreme lengths this past summer. On July 20, 2011 the Pittsfield Charter Township Fire Department was called to assist the Saline Area Fire Department with structure fire on Macon Road. "The weather was steamy and it was a humid summer day making fire fighting conditions extremely difficult," said Pittsfield Charter Township Fire Chief Sean Gleason. Approximately an hour into the fire, the three nominees were using the aerial device to assist with ventilation operations on the roof of the structure. At that time, a Lieutenant from the Saline Fire Department received a life-threatening electrical shock rendering the Lieutenant lifeless and causing him to fall to the roof. The three sprung into action risking their own safety to save the Lieutenant from falling off of the roof and positioned the Lieutenant's limp body into the bucket of the aerial device to return the Lieutenant safely to the ground. "At this time, we realized the aerial device itself was charged with electricity from an unknown source and the three firefighters were receiving several minor shocks while bringing the injured Lieutenant to the ground," added Gleason. The injured Lieutenant is currently recovering from the injuries, and hopes to return to work some day. Captain Liggett is has served as a firefighter in Pittsfield Township since 1995, and is currently the Office in Charge on Shift One.

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Captain Liggett has undergone extensive training in numerous areas of fire service and is an instructor for numerous disciplines in the department. Firefighter Carnahan is the senior-most firefighter in the Pittsfield Township Fire Department; having served the department since 1993. Firefighter Carnahan also serves as one of the Township's Fire Investigators. Firefighter Polenz has served the Pittsfield Fire Department since 1993 and has become an efficient member of the department and has received training in numerous areas of fire service.

The mission of the Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety is to organize security and public activities which enhance the quality of campus life, and protect life, property, and individual rights. For EMU Officers Shana Thompson and Douglas Wing the early morning hours March 2011 both officers sprung into action to save the life of an individual believed to have had a seizure. Upon arrival, Officer Thompson and Officer Wing found the individual unconscious and not breathing. Moving into action quickly working as a team with Officer Thompson beginning CPR and Officer Wing preparing the AED device. Through their efforts, the individual began breathing again. The individual was transported to the hospital for treatment. Without the efforts of Officer Thompson and Officer Wing, the individual's survival would not have been likely.

Officer Thompson is known for her high level of interaction with the public during her shifts; conducting herself in the utmost professional manner. Additionally Officer Thompson serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the local Police Union; is a IPMBA certified Bike Officer; RAD Instructor; Evidence Technician; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center Advisory Board Member. Officer Thompson has served the Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety since 2007 and is true example of someone who enjoys being a part of the EMU Community and interacting with students, staff and faculty. Officer Thompson is known for her initiative in the department and often takes on special assignments such as producing Departmental Instructional Videos. Officer Thompson has been a key member of the department, and her keen crime-solving abilities have enabled numerous Breaking and Entering crimes to be solved. Officer Thompson is known for her positive relations with the university community which allows her to enlist their assistance beyond the norm. Officer Thompson is married and enjoys spending time hunting and fishing.

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Officer Wing is also known for his high level of interaction with the public and serves the University Community in the highest of professional standards. Additionally, Officer Wing serves a source for the implementation of Departmental Procedures and University Policing. Officer Wing began his law enforcement career in 1992 for the University of California Police Department where he served as a patrol officer, bike officer, field training officer, defensive tactics instructor, baton instructor, hostage negotiator, special response unit member and detective. During his tenure with the University of California Police Department, Officer Wing had been promoted to Lieutenant in Charge of Special Operations overseeing over 200 special events per year, ranging from major athletic events to visits from heads of state. Officer Wing's last assignment with the department was serving as the Administrative Lieutenant in the Office of the Chief. After serving 17.5 years with the University of California, Officer Wing relocated with his family to Washtenaw County. Officer Wing joined the Eastern Michigan University Police Department in 2010 where he currently serves as a patrol officer. He is currently married with two sons.

The Washtenaw One Hundred Club, an organization of area business people, whose mission is to support local active police officers and fire fighters. To learn how to become involved with the Washtenaw 100 or for information about the upcoming Annual Dinner visit www.washtenaw100.org.

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