

St. Lucie County Fire District

News Release



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Lettera presented with Citizen Hero Award by the St. Lucie County Fire District

St. Lucie County, FL – The St. Lucie County Fire Board presented a Citizen Hero Award to Michael Lettera of Port St. Lucie for saving the life of a neighbor.

On the morning of May 9 Lettera was sitting on his front porch when he heard a strange popping sound and noticed smoke coming from the back of 1207 SE Pinewood Terrace, just across from his address. He ran over to his neighbor, Mrs. Ann Treich who lives on the second floor of that address, knocked on her door and entered to check on her. Mrs. Treich was trying to gather some belongings when Mr. Lettera noticed fire and heavy smoke coming from the back porch. He began urging her to get out, but to no avail, until after several attempts he was able to assist her to safety, down stairs and out away from the building. He then ran back into the unit with two portable fire extinguisher and attempted to put the fire out, but it was getting to big.

Arriving crews saw smoke coming from the second floor porch and other residents of the complex were evacuated. The damage was limited to the back porch and it was determined the fire was caused by a lit candle.

“It is encouraging to know that there are residents in St. Lucie County that have the courage and bravery to risk their lives for the sake of another,” said Fire Chief Ron Parrish. “It is certainly an honor to present Mr. Lettera with the award.”

Lettera is no stranger to firefighting. He was a volunteer firefighter at the age of 14 in Miller Place, New York.

Currently, Lettera is employed as an Occupational Safety & Health Specialist at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs in West Palm Beach. He is a Fire Safety Specialist.