



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce Presents its 13TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO HOMETOWN HEROES

Sirens wailing, horns blowing, confetti flying, and the lighting of The Avenue Christmas tree characterized this year's Salute to Hometown Heroes. Last Saturday, November 21, 24 eastern Baltimore County firefighters, police officers, hospital workers, and military and citizen heroes were honored for their service to our community as they drove through the twinkling holiday lights along The Avenue at White Marsh.

Our dedicated and creative group of volunteers really rose to the considerable challenge of holding this year's celebration in the midst of a pandemic. What normally would be a formal banquet and awards program for hundreds of people had to be completely revamped to follow COVID restrictions. And the entire event had to be kept a secret so as not to draw a huge crowd of people to The Avenue. The team knew, however, that, especially this year, it was important to recognize and show our profound gratitude for those who do so much for our community.

After leaving The Avenue, the motorcade drove to the beautiful new Avenue Grand apartment complex, where, as the heroes drove by, they were handed a special gift bag, containing a plaque, citations of

recognition from our county and state representatives and a few gifts. The ladder truck from BCFD Fullerton Station 8 lit up the parking lot, where our heroes parked, waiting for our elected officials to call them one-by-one to be recognized and have their photos taken with their families in the Avenue Grand clubhouse.

The Chamber wishes to thank Jamie Costello from WMAR 2 News for serving as master of ceremonies and the staff of Federal Realty Investment Trust for hosting the motorcade. Saturday was the 23rd anniversary of the annual tree lighting at The Avenue at White Marsh.

Secondly, we wish to thank Maryland Delegates **Harry Bhandari, Carl Jackson and Lauren Arikan** as well as Baltimore County Council members **Cathy Bevins and David Marks** for joining the motorcade and introducing our heroes. We also appreciate the time and effort of the staff members who arranged for the citations at the County and State levels.

Without the support of our sponsors, advertisers and donors, this event would not be possible. Nor would the Salute for Hometown Heroes program have taken

place without the herculean effort of the Hometown Heroes Committee – **Bill Bafitis**, Bafitis & Associates, LLC; **Kayla Belcher and her staff** at the Avenue Grand; **Jenifer Fedeli**, Mamas on the Half Shell; **Lisa Geiger and her team** from Federal Realty Investment Trust at The Avenue at White Marsh; **Sharon Jones**, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center (Ret.); **Maya Lennon**, L2 Defense; **Sophia Montgomery**, Country Inn & Suites by Radisson Baltimore North; and **T/Sgt. Enjoli Saunders**, Maryland Air National Guard, 175th Wing. Our sincerest thanks to you all.

Take a look at the Facebook live video on The Avenue at White Marsh's page. Following the Thanksgiving weekend, the Chamber also will have a special video and details on our heroes available on our web and Facebook pages.

Lastly, the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of the unsung heroes in our community for supporting one another through this difficult time. We wish you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Best wishes—Sharon Kihn, Executive Director



Congratulations 2020 Hometown Heroes

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Companies

Essex: President Anthony Schield
Middle River: EMT/Rescue Diver Joshua Wolf
White Marsh: Paramedic Alyssa Mooney

Baltimore County Fire Department

Essex Station 7: Fire Specialist Ray Raleigh
Fullerton Station 8: Fire Specialist Adam Lublinsky
Parkville Station 10: EMT/Firefighter Samuel Jean
Middle River Station 12: Paramedic Amanda Iman
Golden Ring Station 16:
EMT/Firefighter Rebecca L. Budnick
Chase Station 54: Paramedic Beth Castle
Perry Hall Station 55: Paramedic Joanne Boyd

Baltimore County Police Department

Parkville Precinct 8: Officer First Class Annette Savoy
White Marsh Precinct 9: Sergeant Angela Mickle
Essex Precinct 11: Officer First Class Richard Knight
Marine Team: Officer First Class James Michael Fitch, Jr.

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources Police

Officer First Class Alexandra Mankofsky

Community College of Baltimore County

Corporal Kenneth Blackwell

Johns Hopkins Corporate Security

Security Officer First Class Dominic Carter

175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard

Technical Sergeant Jennifer L. Wyrick

Maryland Civil Air Patrol

Major Agatha M. Vogelgesang

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Roberta I. Eyring

MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center

Leslie R. Kaminski

Baltimore County District 5

Pat Ecke

Baltimore County District 6

Mary Franz Rohrer

Baltimore County District 7

Leah Biddinger

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