**AWARDS SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DON HUNT**

Hello everyone (**Do you want to thank the person that introduces you?**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for that very generous and kind introduction... I am honored and thankful and **practically** **speechless**.... wellll **MAYBE** I have a **COUPLE** of minutes worth in me... (**Wait for the laugh**). To be this year’s recipient of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Award, is rally humbling... **very much** welcomed but **REALLY** humbling!

Benjamin Franklin said, “Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.” I have to say that I cannot be me and I cannot do the things that I love, without the encouragement and support of all of you. Sometimes I wonder, what young boy doesn’t have dreams of being a fireman? I’m sure I had more than one.... and you know what? I’ve gotten to **live** that dream... for the past twenty three years it has been a privilege to serve this community as a volunteer fireman... neighbors helping neighbors... it’s really what I believe in... and not only have I had the privilege to serve in Lumberland’s volunteer fire department, for seventeen years I have held every officer position chief rotation... **(Is that correct wording? That’s how it is stated in the instructions**). ... talk about **climbing the ladder**...!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Before I became a volunteer firefighter, I would always be out doing what I could to lend a hand, checking to see if the neighbors needed anything... (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) ... Okay.... show of hands... how many of you have lawns mowed by me??? Okay... who did I shovel snow for??? Changed a tire??? Gotten a cat out of a tree???? (**Wait for the laugh**)... the point is that I just love sharing a helping hand, giving support... and doing whatever I can to make life a little easier, safer, more secure for all of you. ... and believe me when I say, it is **ME** that is thankful to you.... it’s true that the real gift is in the **giving** and your appreciation and acknowledgement mean the world to me. I really believe that in a world in which circumstances threaten to divide us, that it is more important than ever to really, **REALLY**, honor our neighbors, watch out for one another, and be there for our community every day and especially in times of need.

(**If any members of your family or close friends will be there and you want to acknowledge them, do that here**). Of course there are people in my life that inspire me every day. When I think of or hear about a crisis situation, I think about what I would do to serve and protect **them** and that gives me the momentum to take action. To (**Name your parents, wife, partner, children, close friends, etc... whoever is closest to you and watches out for you**) my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for watching out for, and caring for, me. Your love and support keeps me going and going and going...... and as I have been inspired by the very special people in my life and in this community, I hope that I have inspired others to carry the torch.... but **BE CAREFUL**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

If Ben Franklin we’re watching this right now, I’d want him to know that I’m working on my vices... not so easy!!! I would HOPE I’m at peace with my neighbors, and I look forward to being a better man, a more devoted friend, and a good example to all of you in the coming year!!! Thank you all!!