



September 6, 2018

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Presentation Recognizing Damon Faust - American Legion's Firefighter of the Year

Purpose/Outcomes	Recognize a local firefighter's national award - county resident Damon Faust.
Strategic Plan Alliance	Recognizing the essential work of county volunteers, especially emergency responders and health care workers, is part of ensuring safe, healthy and secure communities and the county's commitment to focus on the well-being of all our families and communities.
Contact Person	Tracy Moreland, Commission Policy Advisor: 503-742-5974

BACKGROUND

Damon Faust is a county resident and volunteer firefighter with the Estacada Rural Fire District. He recently traveled to Minneapolis to attend the American Legion National Conference, where he received Firefighter of the Year from that organization.

That award, according to the organization, is bestowed upon a firefighter who "has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement."

Faust has a long history of service to his country. Specifically, he:

- o Served with the U.S. Army for seven years. For life-saving actions taken in Iraq, he was awarded the **Soldier's Medal for Heroism**.
- o Worked with the disaster relief organization **Team Rubicon**, in which he assisted many communities affected by natural disasters, including Hurricane Sandy, the Oso Mudslide in Washington State, and the Moore Tornado in Oklahoma.
- o Worked with the group **Hero Client Rescue**, during which in Haiti, he trained emergency medical technicians after Hurricane Matthew.

At the Estacada Rural Fire District, he focuses efforts on the district's **Veteran to Firefighter** program, which connects veterans with the fire service as they transition back to civilian life. This program was one of the primary reasons he was honored by the Legion.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board of County Commissioners recognizes resident Damon Faust for his national award of Firefighter of the Year and his service to Clackamas County and its citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Moreland
Commission Policy Advisor

8-29-18

Media and Interested Parties
Commissioners to recognize local firefighter at Sept. 6
Business Meeting
Damon Faust receives National Firefighter of the Year award from American Legion this week

Clackamas County Commissioners will recognize and commend Estacada firefighter Damon Faust at their weekly Business Meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6.

This week, Faust is being honored by the American Legion as that organization's National Firefighter of the Year. That award, according to the organization, is bestowed upon a firefighter who "has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement."

Faust has a long and impressive record of service to his local community and country. Prior to his current volunteer tenure with the Estacada Rural Fire District, Faust served:

- The U.S. Army, for seven years, where he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism for life-saving actions he took while in Iraq.
- The disaster relief organization Team Rubicon, in which he assisted many communities affected by natural disasters, including Hurricane Sandy, the Oso Mudslide in Washington state, and the Moore Tornado in Oklahoma.
- The group Hero Client Rescue, during which, in Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, he trained emergency medical technicians.

After joining the Estacada Rural Fire District a few years ago, Faust began focusing efforts on the district's Veteran to Firefighter program, which connects veterans reentering their lives here in America with the fire service. This was one of the primary reasons Faust was selected by the American Legion for their honor. He currently works for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs as a firefighter/EMT.

"Damon is a true hero," stated Clackamas County Chair Jim Bernard. "Clackamas County is proud of his actions during his storied career of helping all kind of people. His altruistic nature is a model to us all."

Several local representatives and leaders may be on hand for the Sept. 6 Business Meeting, which the public is invited to join. The presentation is expected to open the meeting.

For more information, members of the media and public may contact Community Relations Specialist Dylan Blaylock at dblaylock@clackamas.us or 503-742-5917.