

## **PA VFW Honors Local Public Safety Professional**

The Pennsylvania Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars recently recognized recipients of its annual Public Safety Awards. Each year, the Pennsylvania VFW presents awards to an outstanding fire fighter, police officer and emergency medical technician to honor them for the critical roles they fill as first responders. This year's Award winners are residents of Middletown, Lenox/Clifford Township and Erie.

"The VFW has a long tradition of honoring and supporting veterans for their role in protecting and preserving freedom. We also proudly honor and support public safety personnel who put their lives on the line every day to protect us where we live, work and play," said VFW State Commander Thomas M. Hanzes, a Vietnam War veteran. "Americans are able to enjoy life knowing that there are dedicated professionals who train and work hard to assist persons facing disasters and life-threatening situations. We thank our award recipients for answering the call to fill vital roles. Citizens can enjoy live confidently while our fire, police and EMT personnel have their backs." •

"PA VFW Emergency Medical Technician of the Year": Phillip P. Price, an emergency medical technician with the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Department, sponsored by VFW Post 8488 and District 14. He has been involved in emergency services since 16 years of age. In the mid-1970s, he trained as an emergency medical technician, one of the first to do so in Susquehanna County. Over the past three years, he has responded to more than 850 ambulance calls totaling more than 2,400 hours of service. Price retired from the Tobyhanna Army Depot in 2011 and the U.S. Air Force in 2007. He served in the Air Force from 1970-2007 including at Phu Cat Air Base and Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam. Price remained in the Air Force and Reserves ultimately, elevating to the rank of senior master sergeant. While in the military, he earned the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and numerous Air Force decorations for good conduct and achievement.