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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Debbie Bartram Receives Inaugural “Flame of Distinction Award”

FREDERICKTOWN – At the fire meeting on January 25, members of the Fredericktown Community Fire District took time to honor a local citizen for recognizing an emergency and knowing exactly what to do. On the night of December 7, 2006, Nicole Krucker, of Bellville, was driving along Sparta road near Mile Run Road headed to work. The night was cold, windy, and the first real snow was starting to cover some road surfaces with a slick mess. Suddenly Miss Krucker lost control of her vehicle, and it was sent off the roadway crashing upside down into a patch of brush and trees. The vehicle came to rest about twenty feet from the roadway, almost invisible to passers-by.

Debbie Bartram, of Fredericktown, was traveling home on Sparta Road after picking her daughter up from a basketball game when she noticed something that didn't look right. “I thought I saw a flicker of light, and something just didn't look right,” stated Bartram. She stopped her vehicle, got out, and found Ms. Krucker's vehicle upside down in the woods. “She quickly identified the problem, called 911, and remained with the victim to comfort her even after the trained responders arrived for the rescue,” said Fire Chief Scott Mast. “When I walked up to the car, I thought that whoever was in that vehicle was dead. I think Nicole was a lot more calm than I was. I knew I had to call 911, and I needed to talk to her. There wasn't much else I could do,” Mrs. Bartram said when talking with firefighters at the Thursday night meeting.

The call that came into the Knox County Sheriff's Office dispatched Fredericktown Fire and EMS to the area on Sparta Road. Upon arrival on the scene by Chief Mast, it was quickly determined that the car on its roof was going to require an extensive extrication to remove the patient with multiple serious injuries. Based on this assessment, the fire department requested to have Med Flight respond to the scene of the accident. The extrication, using the jaws-of-life, took a decent amount of time to get the patient safely removed from the vehicle. The patient was moved into the squad so EMS personnel could begin to stabilize her and treat the injuries. When Med Flight arrived, they assessed the patient and loaded her for a flight to Grant Hospital in Columbus for treatment.

Ms. Krucker was happy with the opportunity to speak with the firefighters, medical personnel, and Mrs. Bartram at the Thursday night meeting. "It's been 49 days since the accident. I don't remember the first two days after everything happened. I keep getting bits-and-pieces of information that are coming back to me and it's very scary," explained Ms. Krucker to the group in attendance. "I couldn't see because of the extent of my injuries. I didn't know what was going on," exclaimed Nicole. "After I came to, I was in the ICU at Grant wearing a full body brace that covers the neck and torso. I was told I broke six ribs, the top two vertebrae, along with three thoracic vertebrae, one of which was crushed," Ms. Krucker explained to the members.

"The outcome of this incident ended on a positive note. Mrs. Bartram's alertness to her surroundings and her willingness to act in a moment of crisis were vital components to the survival of Nicole. Nicole could have easily succumbed to her injuries or the freezing temperatures, if it had not been for Mrs. Bartram's actions," stated Fire Chief Scott Mast.

For more information about the Fredericktown Community Fire District you can visit their website at www.fredericktownfire.net

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