

SOMAC holds holiday awards dinner

Volunteers and personnel are recognized for their dedication

By Carolyn Godfrey, Mid York Weekly

Volunteers and emergency personnel from Madison County, as well as invited guests, turned out for the 21st annual Southern Madison County Ambulance Corps (SOMAC) holiday awards dinner on Sunday, Dec. 2 at the White Eagle Conference Center, just outside of Hamilton. "We are here this evening to celebrate you, the members of SOMAC, as well as some of our neighbors from bordering departments," said SOMAC Chief of Operations David Snyder, during the awards program that followed dinner. "I want to thank all of you for the numerous hours you volunteer."

The presentation of two special awards for distinguished service to the organization, the Dr. Merrill L. Miller Award and the Thomas J. Gilpatrick Award, highlighted the evening's program.

The Dr. Merrill L. Miller Distinguished Service Award, presented each year to a student or students who show exemplary service to the corps, other students and the greater Hamilton area, was presented to Colgate seniors Lauren "Lee Lee" Redstone and Morgan Kellogg. SOMAC members Morgan Larson and Julie Durdick were honored as recipients of the Gilpatrick Award. Named for SOMAC's first president who was instrumental in the organization's formation, the Gilpatrick Award is presented for dedication, service before self, years of service, attention to detail and outstanding patient care. Several other awards were

presented during the program including Service Awards to Darryl Wilson for five years and Otto Young, for ten years as well as three "Special Chiefs Awards." "The criteria for this award is simple. The chiefs have spotted someone going out of their way that needs a little more than a pat on the back," Snyder said when announcing the recipients. This year's awards were presented to Hillary Tillsdale, who was instrumental in designing SOMAC's website; Hamilton Police Chief Jim Tilbe; and EMS coordinator Bob Sturdevant. Special thanks was also extended to Jan and Erwin Lamb for 20 years of service, and many others in attendance including members of Colgate's graduating class – Kellogg, Redstone, Tyler Burd, Cara Delaney, Alexandra Dulude, Adam Kusovitsky, Shannon Larabee and Carlie Tharp. "These seniors have truly made a large impact on the SOMAC family and will be greatly missed next fall," praised Snyder. Following the announcement of several humorous bloopers awards, thanks to the spouses of volunteers and a Brotherhood Presentation to Earlville Fire Chief Bob Tracy, the evening concluded with the presentation of centerpiece and poinsettias to several in attendance. Snyder thanked those in attendance by saying "As the chief of operations, I want to say thanks for making a great department to lead and being there as that extend family everyone should have."

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