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NEARLY QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO CENTRAL FLORIDA PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS AND U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN

ORLANDO, Fla. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$226,489 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded throughout the greater Orlando area during a press event at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Coca-Cola Orlando Eye located at 8401 International Dr. Orlando, Fla. 32819. Lunch to follow.

This special event will take place on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, commemorating the brave men and women who lost their lives 76 years ago, as well as those still living today. One of the guests of honor will be U.S. Air Force Veteran Ed Ferrara, who received an all-terrain wheelchair that will provide him with the mobility and independence to safely participate in outdoor recreational activities. This grant, which is valued at \$14,000, was funded by the Foundation's military fund, which provides programs, services and adaptive tools that enhance our service men and women's quality of life upon returning home from active duty.

"It feels great to be able to help a veteran on such an important day in American history," said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. "We're so grateful for all of our hometown heroes, first responders and service men and women alike. We hope grant awards like the all-terrain wheelchair awarded to Mr. Ferrara shed light on the broad impact we're making, all thanks to the generosity of donors and guests dining at Firehouse Subs."

In addition to Ferrara, the event will recognize 11 other grant awards and will feature live equipment demonstrations from recipients. The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated:

- **Space Coast Regional Airport Fire & Emergency Services** received six sets of turnout gear valued at \$15,399. The awarded gear will allow the organization to add crew members trained specifically in protecting airport communities. This is increasingly important, as there have been numerous general aviation crashes with three pilot fatalities over the last 18 months.
- **Longwood Police Department, Melbourne Police Department and Orange County Sheriff's Office** received 48 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) combined worth a total of \$59,497. The awarded AEDs will be placed in police cruisers, helping ensure officers are prepared to provide life-saving assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest.
- **Lake Minneola High School and Eustis High School** received a total of six automated external defibrillators (AEDs), along with wall mount cabinets and accessories valued at \$12,441. Lake Minneola High School will place its four AEDs in areas and buildings around campus, while Eustis High School will place its two AEDs at the softball and baseball fields, allowing for quicker response time in case an individual goes into cardiac arrest.
- **Flagler Beach Fire Department** received a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air compressor and accessories valued at \$19,995. The awarded equipment will replace the department's 34 year-old compressor, which is unreliable and frequently in need of repair, drastically reducing the amount of time needed to fill one bottle of breathable air from 25 to 30 minutes down to 1 to 2 minutes.
- **Ocoee Fire Department** received a fire extinguisher training system valued at \$20,790. The awarded training system will allow the department to train the community on the safe and proper use of fire extinguishers through hands-on instruction and demonstrations.
- **Edgewater Fire Rescue and Malabar Fire Department** each received extrication equipment worth a combined \$61,430. The awarded equipment will replace obsolete extrication tools, improving the department's rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents by allowing first responders to cut through materials used in modern manufacturing and quickly reach victims in need of medical attention. The Malabar Fire Department averages 400 calls a year, with nearly 20 percent being vehicle accidents.

- **Melbourne Fire Department** received 270 particulate filtering firefighting hoods valued at \$22,937. The awarded hoods will replace outdated gear, helping ensure firefighters are protected in the line of duty by reducing exposure to carcinogenic agents.

Event attendees include: Firehouse Subs and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Founders Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, Firehouse Subs CEO Don Fox, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, first responders, representatives from the granted organizations, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Board Member Brian Lee, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Richard Taylor and several Firehouse Subs franchisees.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they provided food to first responders and survivors. As they traveled back to Florida, they knew they could do more and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was born with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since its inception, the non-profit organization has granted **more than \$29.5 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$4.8 million in Florida.**

Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon buckets, available to guests for a \$2 donation to the Foundation. Donation canisters on register counters collect spare change, while the Round Up Program allows guests to “round up” their bill to the nearest dollar. Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors.

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