

GRAND ISLAND FIRE
CELEBRATES 87th ANNIVERSARY

This past Saturday, Grand Island Fire Company members attended their 87th Anniversary Dinner. President Mike Dallessandro started the evening off by welcoming GIFC members, their guests, NYS Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, Town Supervisor Pete Marston, Town Council members, and guests from other neighboring fire departments.

President Dallessandro expressed that its not only the members that make the sacrifice and volunteer for our Grand Island community, but it's the family members, the spouses, and their children whom feel the effects of the volunteer fire service, and how we're forever grateful for their sacrifice to the volunteer fire service.

Assemblyman Morinello shared his thanks and appreciation to the GIFC volunteers and their service. He commented on the younger generation that crowded the room and how thankful he is to see the dedication and commitment by those young individuals. The volunteer fire service doesn't get enough recognition when its near a 3-billion dollar savings to the NYS taxpayer.

Board Chairman Jeremy Pullano shared the "State of the GIFC" beginning with remembering an icon of the GIFC for his development in the paramedic program, Ted Rayhill. Quoting Benjamin Franklin, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" – with the dozens of training exercises...the hundreds of hours for in-class training and certifications...the 1900+ calls in 2024...and the 700+ calls already for 2025...the EMTs for their skills...and our dispatchers for their calm presence when bringing that familiarity of the island to enhance our response.

Chairman Pullano expressed that the human connection goes beyond just the call of duty. For GIFC members, it isn't just about the beginning and the end of the call, its what happens after that...it's the community support...it's the education we share with the community. "It's you, the volunteer member, that make this place happen." In closing, Chairman Pullano thanked our elected town officials for their constant support and that their trust hasn't gone unnoticed.

Fire Chief Omar Sortino and President Dallessandro both presented the Service Awards to members whom achieved 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 60, and 65-years-of-service to the Grand Island Fire Company and the community.

Receiving 5-years, Tim Woroniecki Sr., Tim Woroniecki Jr., Zach Bernfeld, Carl Finn, Vincent Malpica, and Collin DeMartin.

Receiving 10-years, Ron Warner, Josephine Ciffa, Pat Hahn, Michael Madigan, and Cory Rozell.

Receiving 15-years, Jourdain Benoit, Steve LaMarco, Dan Mathes, and Sean O'Donnell.

PRESS RELEASE

May 21, 2025

GRAND ISLAND FIRE COMPANY

Receiving 20-years, Life Membership, Peter Sukmanowski, Dave Castiglia, Christian Krawczyk, and Tony Mastantuono.

Receiving 25-years, Michael Braun.

Receiving 30-years, Barbara Stouter.

Receiving 35-years, Steve Stouter.

Receiving 40-years, Roger Kaiser and Don Portik.

Receiving 45-years, Steve Morgan.

Receiving 60-years, Lance Kohn and Robert "Butch" Meyer.

Receiving 65-years, Peter McMahon.

It was another remarkable year for GIFC members as we look forward to the future. Thank you members for your volunteerism and our community for your constant support!

Photos and videos can be found on our Facebook Page @GrandIslandFireCompany

Ron Stipp
Public Information Officer