



**Blacksburg
Rotary Club**
Rotary International
District 7570

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2009

Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Honored as Rotary Citizens of the Year
Rotary Club of Blacksburg Presents Annual Pat Cupp / Ward Teel Citizen of the Year Award

Congratulations to the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad for being recognized as the Rotary Club of Blacksburg's Citizens of the Year. The all-volunteer student squad, which was founded in 1969 by four students, today has approximately 40 members. This group was acknowledged for their service to the community in the campus shootings of April 16, 2007, -- as well to the squads continuous rescue work over four decades, 24 hours a day.

"It's been said that the students on the squad major in Rescue Squad and minor in whatever it is that they are studying," commented Tommy Loflin, director of the Rotary committee who coordinated the awards. "Typically the squad members work 20 hours per week but those in leadership positions may work up to 40 hours."

"This group defines Rotary's motto of service above self," said Montgomery County Emergency Services Coordinator Neal Turner. "It is an honor to work with a group of individuals so enthusiastic about what they are doing. Their professionalism is unmatched." Turner, who had nominated the squad for this award, addressed the Rotary Club at the Award ceremony.

Presented each January, the Rotary Club of Blacksburg recognizes a non-Rotarian who meets the standards of Rotary International through the **Pat Cupp / Ward Teel Citizen of the Year** Award. The award recipient is a person or group who sees a problem, gets involved and achieves results and lives by the Rotary motto "SERVICE ABOVE SELF". The Citizen of the



Representatives from the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad: Captain Matthew Johnson; Lt. William Booker; Ashley Frink; Allison Fluke(front), Tyler Farrish, and Jacki Kretzer.



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Year Award begun in 1990 and in 2000 was renamed after two of club's deceased members who were model citizens.

In accepting the award, Capt. Matt Johnson said, "We're greatly honored and deeply humbled. "This award renews our drive to uphold Tech's motto: Ut Prosim" -- Latin for "That I may serve."

Rotary International is a global network of community volunteers, an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provides humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Founded in 1905 in Chicago, today there are approximately 1.2 million Rotary club members belonging to nearly 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. The Rotary Club of Blacksburg began in 1978 and today consists of over 100 members who meet at noon on most Thursdays at the Blacksburg Country Club. To learn more about the service of the Rotary Club of Blacksburg see its Web site, www.blacksburgrotary.org

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