



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rep. Jessie Rodriguez

October 10, 2019

(608) 266-0610

Rep. Rodriguez to Honor Fire Chief Joe Knitter as First Responder of the Year

MADISON – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) awarded Joe Knitter, South Milwaukee Fire Chief, with the First Responder of the Year Award during the Assembly floor session on Thursday afternoon. The award is a new recognition program to honor first responders from around the state for their service to their community. Chief Knitter along with his wife Carolyn were present to receive the award during the ceremony.

“People all across our community know Chief Knitter and know that he is a great public servant and a role model for our district,” said Rodriguez. “But what many don’t know is the selflessness he demonstrates even when he’s not in uniform.”

In February 2019, Chief Knitter was a passerby of a single vehicle crash. He stopped to assist and found the driver had suffered cardiac arrest. Chief Knitter, with the help of an officer, immediately pulled the unconscious driver from the wreck and administered CPR before the driver was taken to the hospital.

“Despite being off-duty, Chief Knitter showed us what it means to serve your community and help people in-need no matter the situation. His actions demonstrate that he is a person of great character who truly cares about helping others.”

Chief Knitter has worked in fire service for 39 years and joined the South Milwaukee Fire Department more than 34 years ago. In his free time he teaches fire certification classes at MATC and incident management for the state of Wisconsin. Chief Knitter also holds degrees in fire science and fire service management, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program.

“Day-in and day-out for 39 years Chief Knitter has put himself in dangerous situations to keep members of our community safe and help people in-need. We are lucky to have him in South Milwaukee and are grateful for his service.”

###