

Mayor Coleman and Chief Holton Award Two Saint Paul Firefighters for Meritorious Service

(Saint Paul) - Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Saint Paul Fire Chief Doug Holton today recognized two outstanding members of the Saint Paul Fire Department with Meritorious Service awards. The awards were presented to Bill Rondeau and Tom Henry at a ceremony at Fire Station 18 in Saint Paul this afternoon.

"The men and women of the Saint Paul Fire Department represent the best of what our City has to offer. Bill Rondeau and Tom Henry serve our City with great valor, and we are honored to present them with these Meritorious Service Awards for their courage and bravery," Mayor Coleman said.

"Bill Rondeau and Tom Henry are outstanding firefighters, and I'm honored to present them with these awards today," Fire Chief Doug Holton said. "Their actions did more than save a life, they also showed the resolve and heroism Saint Paul residents have come to expect from the members of the Department of Fire and Safety Services."

On August 5, 2006, with little regard for his own safety, Firefighter Rondeau ascended a ladder and attempted to talk a victim into climbing out the window of a heavily involved exterior fire. He finally convinced the victim to slide forward and sit with his legs over his shoulder with his back to the ladder.

Firefighter Rondeau proceeded to take the full weight of the victim in his arms while bracing both himself and the victim against the ladder. Firefighter Henry was just below him on the ladder and saw the perilous situation he was in. He immediately moved up the ladder and braced himself against Firefighter Rondeau preventing him and the victim from falling. Through the efforts of both firefighters, the terrified victim was safely brought down the ladder to receive necessary medical treatment.

The Meritorious Service Award is the highest award given by the Saint Paul Department of Fire and Safety Services.