



CATAWBA COUNTY

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EMERGENCY SERVICES EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED WITH NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY PATROL LIFE SAVING AWARDS

NEWTON- Three Catawba County employees were recently honored by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol with Citizen Life Saving Awards. Secretary Reuben Young of the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety and Colonel Michael W. Gilchrist, Commander of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, presented the awards to EMT Paramedic and Crew Chief Brad Harris, EMT Paramedic Eric Jones and Steven Parkhurst, a volunteer with the Oxford Fire Department who works in the Catawba County 911 Center, at a November 16, 2011, ceremony in Raleigh.

According to the Highway Patrol, the award “recognizes a citizen who participated in, or assisted in, an event of an exceptional nature to save the life of another person, a member of the Highway Patrol, or prevent injury with/without risk of personal life.”



NC Highway Patrol Commander Michael Gilchrist congratulated Catawba County EMT Paramedic and Crew Chief Brad Harris.



NC Highway Patrol Commander Michael Gilchrist presented Catawba County EMT Paramedic Eric Jones with the Citizen Life Saver Award.

In 2010, a vehicle struck a building and became engulfed in flames. Brad Harris, responding with Catawba County EMS, Eric Jones, responding with the Claremont Rescue Squad and Steven Parkhurst, responding with the Oxford Fire Department, helped rescue a person trapped in the burning vehicle. Their actions, together with others on the scene, led to their recognition by the Highway Patrol.

“Each of these employees is to be commended on their actions and contributions to the citizens of the state of North Carolina,” said Young.

Harris has been an employee with Catawba County EMS for 18 years and a Crew Chief for 10 years. In January 2007, Harris was named EMS employee of the year for 2006, after being nominated by fellow employees. In addition to being a Paramedic and Crew Chief, Harris is also a Field Training Officer and EMS Driving Instructor.

Jones has been employed with Catawba County EMS for 10 years, a member of Claremont Rescue for 11 years, and with the St Stephens Fire Department for 11 years. He also serves on the State Medical Assistance Team and Special Events Team for Catawba County EMS. Jones said, “God got [the person] out of the car that day, we were just there to help.”

Parkhurst has worked in the Catawba County Communications Center since July 2001.



Steven Parkhurst