

Firefighters Saved By Fireman-Paramedic

(NAPSA)—A firefighter and paramedic with the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department, William R. Chrimes, demonstrated extraordinary courage when he helped rescue two firefighters after their fire engine plunged more than 1,200 feet over an embankment.

Chrimes, a participant in a Virginia Department of Forestry program that sends firefighters to help control large fires throughout the nation, volunteered to travel to California during his vacation in the summer of 2002 to work with several hundred firefighters managing wildfires in Klamath National Forest. His unit was alerted to a serious accident: a fire truck had plummeted down an embankment. Chrimes was the only paramedic on the fire line who could get to the scene. With only a headlamp to light his way, he hiked 500 feet down treacherous, vertical slopes to help his fellow firefighters to safety. After administering emergency medical treatment he helped carry the victims several hundred feet down to the closest road.

For his efforts, Chrimes received the 2003 Stihl National Heroism Award. Stihl Inc., manufacturer of the world's number one selling brand of chain saws and premium-grade outdoor power equipment, created the National Forestry Heroism Award to give special recognition to one extraordinary individual who works with or in the forestry industry.

Ann M. Veneman, secretary of the U.S. Department of Agricul-



Billy Chrimes, 2003 Stihl National Forestry Heroism Award recipient, with Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ann M. Veneman.

ture, gave Chrimes the award, saying, "Thousands of brave men and women every year battle fires to protect our lives and our communities, our property, wildlife and critical habitats. We are grateful that we have men and women with the courage and character of Billy Chrimes."

Added Ken Waldron, national marketing manager for Stihl, "William Chrimes is a remarkable young man. He acted unselfishly and heroically to save the lives of others. We are proud to have him hold this most deserved honor."

Nominations are open to firefighters, loggers, forest and park rangers, and others employed in the care and maintenance of forests. Applications for the 2004 award can be completed online at www.stihlusa.com or requested by calling 1-800-GO STIHL (1-800-467-8445).