

**LAKEPORT FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
Serving the Community since 1894



## NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars – Firefighter and EMT of the year**

**Lakeport, CA, September 14, 2009** – On September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM two exemplary Lakeport firefighters were nominated for Firefighter and EMT of the year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Lakeport, Chapter 2015. Fire Captain/Paramedic Bob Ray and Firefighter/Paramedic Danny Copas were nominated by Chief Ken Wells for their dedication and contributions to Lake County emergency services.

Bob Ray, a 37 year veteran of the Lakeport Fire Protection District was recognized for his volunteer and paid service to the progression of emergency medical services in Lake County. Captain Ray has been instrumental in EMS training for the department, serving on many medical committees and functioning as liaison officer with Sutter Lakeside Hospital and North Coast EMS. Ray became an EMT in 1974, gaining valuable experience before upgrading to Paramedic in 1992. A Clearlake High School graduate, Ray has spent his entire life in Lake County. He has 5 children and 3 grandchildren. Firefighter/Paramedic Danny Copas was recognized for his overwhelming support of the Fire Service for both Clearlake Oaks Fire Department and Lakeport Fire Protection District. Since starting a career in the fire service 24 years ago, Copas has been an innovator to the Lake County fire service. He coordinated the development of Clearlake Oaks ambulance services in 1993, served as a fire training officer for volunteers and new recruits, and assists local law enforcement with the “every 15 minutes” program. Copas is an active member with the Lake County Arson Task Force and is a State certified Fire Officer and Firefighter II. He has been married for 19 years and has 6 children.

Award presentations were done following a potluck dinner at the Lakeport Senior Center; both Ray and Copas were presented with plaques, certificates of appreciation and \$75. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 2015 will be submitting their names at the State Level where they will be reviewed and sent to the national level.

### **Contact Information**

Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Hajik

Office: (707) 263-4396

Fax: (707) 262-1282

Email: [bhajik@lakeportfire.com](mailto:bhajik@lakeportfire.com)

*All Lakeport Fire Protection District Public Service Announcements are available online at  
[www.lakeportfire.com](http://www.lakeportfire.com)*

**445 North Main Street, Lakeport, CA 95453**