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of Commerce

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **State Fire Marshal Presents Former Cleveland Heights Officer with First Responder Award**

*Deputy U.S. Marshal Josh Robertson Saved Boy from Burning Home in 2019*

(CLEVELAND, Ohio) — State Fire Marshal Kevin S. Reardon presented Deputy U.S. Marshal Josh Robertson with the Ohio Fire Service First Responder Award today for rescuing a child from a house fire last July.

Robertson, then an officer with the Cleveland Heights Police Department, was first on the scene of the Greyton Road fire when he learned a 6-year-old boy was trapped inside home. Without hesitation, he crawled inside the burning structure and braved heavy smoke to find the child and pull him to safety.

"None of us who enter into public service do so to be called a hero. We don't run into burning buildings for spotlight or to have our names etched onto awards," said Marshal Reardon. "But Josh is a hero. He's a hero to that little boy, a hero to that little boy's family, a hero to his own loved ones, and a hero to his community."

Today's ceremony kicked off the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame and Fire Awards for the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of State Fire Marshal, which partners on the event each year with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of EMS.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Robertson and this year's 11 other honorees are being recognized individually at smaller, more intimate award ceremonies in their home communities or online.

Robertson was joined inside the Carl B. Stokes Federal Court House Building by his wife, Elizabeth Robertson, and several of his peers. He has been with the U.S. Marshal's Service since April.

This award is handed out annually to first responders in the state of Ohio who, at great personal risk to themselves, are credited with directly saving or attempting to save a life or lives during an extreme emergency situation.

Earlier this year, former State Fire Marshal Jeff A. Hussey presented Robertson with the Ohio State Fire Marshal Heroism Award for his bravery during the incident.

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*Ohio State Fire Marshal Kevin Reardon presents Deputy U.S. Marshal Josh Robertson with the Ohio Fire Service First Responder Award inside the Carl B. Stokes Federal Court House Building.*

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*The **Division of State Fire Marshal** is part of the Ohio Department of Commerce. The department is Ohio's chief regulatory agency, focused on promoting prosperity and protecting what matters most to Ohioans. We ensure businesses follow the laws that help them create jobs and keep Ohioans safe. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at [com.ohio.gov](http://com.ohio.gov).*

*The **Ohio Department of Public Safety**, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated and prepared for emergency situations.*

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