

Submitted by B shift personnel to Chief Michael Arena for consideration for Lt Sebastian Garay as VOW TOP FF for 2015

Submitted by Captain Stephen Collins

Lt. Sebastian Garay is assigned as a Supervisor at Station 30 in Wellington, and has been with PBCFR for 11 years.

Lt. Garay is a member of the department's EMS CQI Committee, Instructor for the PBCFR Recruit Academy and Paramedic Development Course Program, Palm Beach State College EMS Instructor, Certified EKG Instructor, Proctor for Probationary Employees and Reservists; and a mentor for Take Stock in Children (501c3 non-profit).

Lt. Garay has an A.S. in Emergency Medical Services from Miami-Dade Community College, and lives in Wellington with his wife and three children.

I nominate Lt. Garay for Wellington's Firefighter of the Year.

Submitted by Firefighter Paramedic Andrew McGee, and District Captain Michael Ellis

To Wellington Public Safety Committee:

I would like to express why I think Lt. Sebastian Garay should be Wellington's Firefighter of the Year. Lt. Garay or "Sea bass", as he is affectionately known, has been a long time Wellington resident. He has moved a few times but always within the community which he loves. Whenever somebody mentions that they are thinking of moving, he is quick to enlighten them on all the attributes of the community. He is a husband and loving father of three. He can be found most evenings at Village Park helping coach basketball or baseball or at the fire station teaching the importance of safety to his daughters Girl Scout troop.

Lt. Garay is an asset to this department. He is an instructor at PBSC and his knowledge of the heart and EKGs is beyond compare. He shares his expertise on several of his websites as well as lecturing department run classes. He is always willing to answer questions and help while on or off duty. It is with this proficiency along with his pleasant rapport, that the Wellington Regional Hospital doctors and staff respect and trust his diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Lt. Garay is well versed in all areas of his job showing compassion for people and animals alike. I will always remember a structure fire call in Olympia. All the residents were out, however their beloved pets (1 dog and 3 cats) were trapped inside. With Lt. Garay's quick action he was able to locate and rescue 2 of the home owner's cats which had been over-come by the smoke and toxic gasses. The family dog and 2 of the cats were saved that day. As a result of this event making the local news, someone saw the story and donated several pet oxygen masks to the Village of Wellington fire stations.

In conclusion, Lt. Garay is a leader and a credit to this community as well as the whole department. I am proud and honored to have the opportunity to work with someone who takes so much pride in their job and their neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Firefighter / Paramedic Andrew McGee and District Captain Michael Ellis

Submitted by Captain Mark Tenn, Station 30B

Sebastian Garay is a firefighter with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue where he performs the duty as a Lieutenant. He has served in this capacity for the past 4 years and currently performs in his duty of office at Station 30 located in the Village of Wellington. During his 11 year tenure as a firefighter with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Sebastian has filled many roles within the organization. Sebastian is the consummate professional in his duties as a firefighter as well as an Instructor within a local college. He also instructs students and new employees while on shift and a giver of his time when off duty.

I can go on about Sebastian's professionalism and all the vital statistics about his career, but who Sebastian the person is, is even more fulfilling. "Sea bass" the name he is most fondly referred by, is a quiet person that resides in the Wellington area. He is always willing to lend a helping hand in charities or on a personal level. He encourages a good mood in whatever situation there may be, whether in the professional and stressful setting or in quiet and confidential moments.

Sebastian the father is always encouraging and fosters a healthy father and son bond. He is a provider and a protector to the fullest. He is family oriented and takes great pride in his family. Sea bass the friend is always there with an ear to listen. He is someone to look up to on many levels. Sea bass is compassionate to all and it is the personal attributes that cause Sea bass to stand out. He is always willing to help, a quiet spoken leader that is very informative while providing guidance.

Sebastian Garay is a professional Lieutenant that does not criticize or is unduly harsh when he gives constructive criticism. He is always striving to learn new ways to become a better person to himself and others as well as in his professional career. Moreover, Sebastian the person is a resident and an asset in every aspect of the term.

Submitted by District Chief Samuel A. Eaton, Station 28B

I have been the shift supervisor for the Wellington Fire Stations for the past 2 years and periodically serving here for as a temporary district chief for almost 8 years. When the request for submissions came about for the Village of Wellington Firefighter of the Year, the very first name that came to mind was Lt. Sebastian Garay. This fire officer's professionalism and follow through on requested assignments is second to none. He has been a consistent contributor on our shift and knows his position well and portrays leadership qualities that make his presence at Station 30 a reassuring one.

Lt Garay's position requires him to be part of the development of our probationary firefighters. He takes this responsibility with extra detail and focus. His conversations and communications confirm that this is more a pleasure than "work". It is a lot for a firefighter in a busy station to also take on the very important responsibility of mentoring; this is his passion and he embraces it as such.

Lt Garay has recently, over the past 6 months taken on duties normally assigned to the Captain of the station. He was asked to do this because I felt he was up to the task and he has risen to the responsibility in reliable style. As to our Wellington community, I had the pleasure of seeing him off-duty supporting a very important community action meeting regarding sensitive issues affecting his Wellington neighborhood. I was impressed but not surprised with his attendance and participation in looking for a community based solution to a problem affecting his area.

Submitted to the VOW Public Safety Committee on behalf of

Chief Michael Arena, Battalion 2

