



Village of Glencoe
Department of Public Safety

675 Village Court - Glencoe, Illinois 60022 (708) 835-4111

April 10, 1997

1997 NAEVT Award Program Committee
29 Stillman Road, P.O. Box 97
Lynnfield, MA 01940-0097

Re: Nomination of Tim L. Wirfs for 1997 Technician of the Year

To Whom It May Concern:

Our Department was first introduced to Mr. Wirfs in 1993 when he was designated as the Pierce Manufacturing Warranty Service Center. We had purchased a new Pierce Rescue Pumper and began servicing that vehicle through Mr. Wirfs.

At that time our staff had been researching fire department emergency vehicle service providers to determine if outsourcing vehicle maintenance would provide a higher level of reliability and lower costs. Since our Village has been incorporated the maintenance has been provided by our Public Works mechanics. Our vehicles have continuously become more technologically advanced and our in-house staff became less able to provide adequate service to the fleet.

As our contacts increased with Mr. Wirfs our research indicated that many of the surrounding municipalities were having him conduct their vehicle maintenance and emergency repairs. In the fall of 1993 we switched all of our fire department vehicles to Mr. Wirfs for semi-annual, annual, and emergency repairs.

His work is performed in a timely and accurate manner. If further follow-up is required or a emergency arises Mr. Wirfs is accessible 24 hours a day. He is able to respond on location or to our station in the event of a unexpected breakdown.

Mr. Wirfs has been a firefighter for 20 years and has held the position of fire department vehicle maintenance supervisor for his department. He is involved in design and specification development for all vehicles purchased within his own department. His history experience and advanced training within the fire service makes him imminently qualified as a emergency vehicle technician.

Police * Fire * Emergency Medical

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He has achieved national certification as a emergency vehicle technician. His involvement with Fire Chief's organizations, National and local conferences and manufacturers advance training programs provides for a expertise unsurpassed within our area. He requires all members of his agency to obtain and maintain national certifications.

His experience in the metal fabrication and the welding field has made it possible to retrofit vehicles as if it were part of the original specifications. He also has expertise in diagnosing problems with fire pumps, electrical systems, suspension and steering, drive train / transmissions and engine power plants. During our relationship with Mr. Wirfs no problem has arisen in which a practical and satisfactory solution was not reached.

Mr. Wirfs currently maintains our fleet which includes 2 custom fire pumpers and 1 custom fire rescue pumper. He has assisted our Department in the design and specifications for our newest pumper which was delivered in 1996. His knowledge and industry contacts are considered invaluable. He has become a consultant each time a new vehicle has been specified.

He developed a semi-annual and annual maintenance program for each type of fire apparatus currently manufactured. He and his staff continuously evaluate this program and make changes and additions as required. His attention to detail has built confidence and loyalty among the many municipalities who now contract for this type of service. The maintenance program goes from front bumper to rear with each and every area checked. The burned out cabinet light gets the same attention as a major repair. Any item found not within manufacturers specifications is quickly brought back into the required specification. If a major repair is noted the Department is contacted and authorization is requested before work continues.

Mr. Wirfs has provided many innovations and new ideas for our fleet. Our rescue pumper has been retrofitted with such innovations as a rear bumper skid plate assembly to prevent lower cabinet and tailboard damage and customized extrication power tool storage compartment. Everything was measured and the storage area was designed and fabricated to fit the equipment.

On our recent engine delivery we budgeted a special line item to include custom fabrication and tool mounting of small tools by Mr. Wirfs because the committee felt Mr. Wirfs knowledge and workmanship was superior to the manufacturer.

He has also designed a method where our cascade system along with the on board air booster pump will be able to refill the storage bottles of the system. This innovation is unlike anything currently being used within our area and we expect to add this to our vehicle once budgeting is approved.

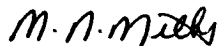
Mr. Wirfs also has a transportation system established to and from his shop so that delivering or picking up a fire department vehicle can be achieved using one person. This adds to the ease in which a vehicle can be brought in for service and personnel needed to take a vehicle out of service.

In conclusion, It is my opinion that Tim Wirfs should be selected as the 1997 Technician of the Year. He has established himself as a leader in the emergency vehicle repair industry within the Illinois / Wisconsin region. His attention to detail and ability to perform all tasks in a competent and professional manner make him a valuable asset in today's fire service.

As municipal budgets get more restrictive maintenance costs rise, vehicle's become more complicated and competition for budget dollars increase a technician such as Mr. Wirfs becomes as important decision as the original specification process. Specifying and purchasing firefighting vehicles is a time consuming and important process but I believe it is only one half of the process. The progressive fire department of today requires longevity and reliability. A competent qualified technician is as vital a consideration as designing and purchasing the vehicle.

If you have any questions or wish to contact me for further information please call me at (847) 835-4112, ext. #130.

Sincerely,



Mikel N. Milks
Public Safety Commander

(For Completion by Nominator)

I, Mikel N. Milks, Nominator of Tim L. Wirfs as the recipient of the *1997 Technician Of The Year Award*, hereby certify, that the information contained in this official 1997 Nomination Form and Questionnaire, is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury, this 10 day of April, 1997.

Mikel N. Milks
Nominator's Signature

Address: 325 Hazel Ave.
Glencoe, IL 60022

Work Telephone: () 847-835-4112

Home Telephone: () 847-562-9190

Relationship to Nominee: Customer

All supporting documentation, including letters of reference, copies of Certification certificates, and the like, must be submitted with official 1997 Nomination Form and Questionnaire, and mailed to:

1997 NAEVT Awards Program Committee
29 Stillman Road, P.O. Box 97
Lynnfield, MA 01940-0097

Deadline for postmark: Midnight, May 1, 1997.