

I went to Lower Frederick Volunteer Fire Company's Thursday night practice, that we were invited to on May 21st, and I was impressed with the coordination and teamwork of all the firefighters. They performed a vehicle rescue along with Upper Salford's Volunteer Fire Company, approximately 20 volunteers, and they all got out of the fire trucks and went right to work. Each one took on the responsibility of performing a task as directed and knowing each move to make safely and efficiently to rescue the victims as quickly as possible.

As a public official, resident, father to two volunteer firefighters, and father-in-law to a full-time firefighter, I can say I am proud of all the firefighters who take their personal time and make this commitment to our community. From a personal perspective, I can tell you my son Adam joined the fire company as a junior firefighter at age 14 with his friends and then got his brother Tom Jr. to join so he would have a ride to the firehouse for practice and calls. They made that commitment as volunteers. Years later, when their younger sister started dating her boyfriend, now husband, he decided he wanted to join as well and eventually became a full-time firefighter.

I can honestly say I knew when the calls for an emergency went out, and when they were up and out the door. I was never concerned about their safety because they all look out for each other like brothers.

I had never attended one of their practices before, and I was very impressed with how efficiently they worked together. While we were there, the chief received a call in another area, and the firefighters responded immediately with him and the firefighters he needed, while the ones working the staged accident scene continued to work to rescue the victims.

I would like to see our communities continue to support our firefighters as they volunteer and make the commitment to respond to the emergencies they are called for. Our state senators and representatives are always asking how they can help our communities, and we are always grateful for the help in receiving grants that improve the safety and services in our communities as they continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Slater Sr.