

Eagar officer Greg Taylor recognized for heroism

Judy Hayes
The Independent

PHOENIX — The 100 Club of Arizona recently recognized Eagar Police Officer Greg Taylor for heroism during a ceremony held in Phoenix.

The 100 Club of Arizona recognized Taylor with the 2008 Jason Schechterle First Responder Outstanding Performance Award during a scholarship ball held Sept. 20 at the Arizona Grand Resort. Each year the club's outstanding performance award goes to a police officer and a firefighter who have distinguished themselves through their performance on the job or in their community.

"Officer Taylor was chosen to be recognized by the 100 Club of Arizona based on his demonstration of extraordinary valor in the line of duty and commitment to his community, where he serves as both a sworn Eagar police officer and volunteer firefighter," read a 100 Club press release.

Taylor was responsible for pulling an elderly woman, Elva Boles, from her burning Springerville home last April. Police and fire were called to the house fire on Hopi Street at 3 a.m. on April 19. Taylor was one of two officers first on the scene. Despite the thick smoke that filled the home, Taylor dove into the house and pulled Boles to safety.

"Officer Taylor dons two hats in his community, police and fire," said Jack Ballentine, program chair of the Jason Schechterle Scholarship Ball. "And while on duty as a police officer, he comes across a house fire, dons his fire hat and goes into action. If it had not been for him, she would not have survived."

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In Phoenix to celebrate the recognition were Taylor and his wife Buffy, his parents and

other members of his family, Eagar Police Chief Mike Hogan and his wife Karen, Eagar Sgt. Troy Czarnyszka and his wife Sueanne, and former colleague Tommy Tiemen and his wife Christy.

The event is named after Jason Schechterle, a former Phoenix police officer severely burned in March 2001 when a taxi cab rear-ended his police cruiser, causing the vehicle to burst into flames with Schechterle trapped inside. With fourth degree burns to his face, arms and upper body, Schechterle remained hospitalized for four months, over two months of that in a drug-induced coma. His story made national news.

The 100 Club of Arizona provides financial assistance to public safety officers and firefighters when they are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. They also provide resources to enhance the safety and welfare of public safety officers and firefighters. The club was started in 1968 and since its inception has given more than \$3 million in financial support to Arizona's men and women who stand behind the badge. For more information, log on to www.100club.org.

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— Jack Ballentine,
Jason Schechterle Scholarship Ball program chair





Jason Schechterle (right) presents Eagar Police Officer Greg Taylor with the 2008 Jason Schechterle First Responder Outstanding Performance Award during a scholarship ball held Sept. 20. The 100 Club of Arizona recognized Taylor for heroism during the ceremony held in Phoenix. Taylor is credited with saving the life of an elderly woman after pulling her from a burning Springerville home last April. Schechterle, a former Phoenix police officer, was severely burned in March 2001 when a taxi cab rear-ended his police cruiser, causing the vehicle to burst into flames with Schechterle trapped inside. He suffered fourth degree burns to his face, arms and upper body.