

Today we are honoring two Firefighters, members of ESTERO FIRE RESCUE, with the Rotary Club of Estero's VOCATIONAL SERVICE "Certificate of Excellence":

Alex Llanten, a firefighter/paramedic and

Patrick McCafferty, firefighter/EMT

All ESTERO FIRE RESCUE firefighters work 24- hour shifts and then are off for 48 hours. Both of the honorees are assigned to fire trucks, or fire engines as we used to call them, as ESTERO does not have ambulances and both are on Shift A.

Independently, they worked ENDLESS HOURS OFF-DUTY to provide the help that was needed and sacrificed their own time normally spent with their own families, helping others for weeks and months after hurricane storm IAN.

I will now read the nomination of each awardee as was submitted to the Rotary of Club of Estero as part the recognition of the Vocational Service Month of January 2023:

ALEX LLANTEN went above and beyond in his service to both the Estero Community and others impacted by Hurricane Ian. After serving the residents of Estero, Alex spent many days down on Ft. Myers Beach offering assistance where he could. He made it a point to visit those he met regularly to insure they had the basic supplies. One couple in particular was unable to make it to the designated location to pick meals and supplies. Alex went daily to drop off what they needed and to make sure they were not forgotten.

2.

PATRICK McCafferty's outreach to those in need spread beyond the Lee County borders – and this is not the first time. During Hurricane Irma, Patrick and several friends brought much needed supplies to the firefighters in the Keys when their islands were devastated by the storm. After Hurricane Ian, Patrick was, once again, gathering supplies to make sure that first responders had what they needed in order to recover so that they could return to work helping their local communities. After assisting our fire family both here at ESTERO FIRE RESCUE and throughout the county, Patrick worked his way to other counties in need, including a large shipment of tools and supplies to the Desoto County Fire Department.

It is my greatest pleasure to nominate both Alex Llantén and Patrick McCafferty for this recognition.

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
~ John 15:13*

Nominated by *Susan M. Lindenmuth, MS, MPIO, CPC-PIO*

Director of Public Affairs

Estero Fire Rescue

Gordon Drawer, Rotary Club of Estero

April 11, 2023

Vocational Service Chair, Board of Directors