



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



January 2022 Edition

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- # 10 – Donation Thank You Letter to Grand Home Furnishing of Harrisonburg



Awesome

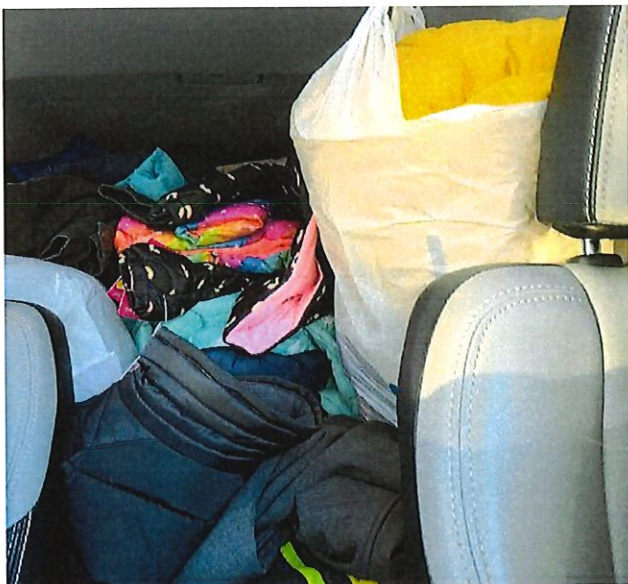
WOW!



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



The 2021 Winter Coat Drive was a great success! The department was able to provide 201 coats to the City of Harrisonburg School kids. A big thank you to everyone in the community who donated coats. A special thank you to The Denton Family Charitable Foundation, Ryan Sodikoff with Steven Toyota, and Ginger Neff with Harrisonburg Center for Healing for your generous donations.





THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 01, 2021

Mr. Tripp Denton
Denton Family Charitable Foundation

Dear Mr. Denton,

Thank you for your donation to the Harrisonburg Fire Department Coat Drive. Your donation will make a difference for the children in our community.

With your assistance, we were able to meet our goal of 100 coats and exceed it by an additional 101 coats, for a grand total of 201 coats. This donation to the City of Harrisonburg School kids will help ensure that students can stay warm this winter.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to make this an annual event. The ultimate end goal is to provide Harrisonburg City Schools with a coat closet for kids in need of a winter coat. With donations such as yours we believe that we can make that happen.

Thank you once again for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

CC: Eric Campbell, City Manager
Michael Parks, Director of Communications



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 01, 2021

Mr. Ryan Sodikoff
Steven Toyota

Dear Mr. Sodikoff,

Thank you for your donation to the Harrisonburg Fire Department Coat Drive. Your donation will make a difference for the children in our community.

With your assistance, we were able to meet our goal of 100 coats and exceed it by an additional 101 coats, for a grand total of 201 coats. This donation to the City of Harrisonburg School kids will help ensure that students can stay warm this winter.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to make this an annual event. The ultimate end goal is to provide Harrisonburg City Schools with a coat closet for kids in need of a winter coat. With donations such as yours we believe that we can make that happen.

Thank you once again for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

CC: Eric Campbell, City Manager
Michael Parks, Director of Communications



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 30, 2021

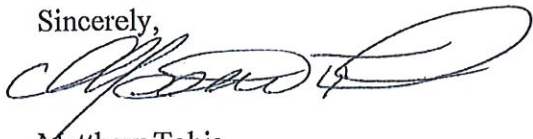
Trinity Presbyterian Church

Dear Church Members,

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your donation of _____ to our department. It is community members like you, that continue to help us prosper and serve the community with the best equipment and personnel possible.

Thank you once again for your kindness.

Sincerely,



Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

CC: Eric Campbell, City Manager
Michael Parks, Director of Communications



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 15, 2021

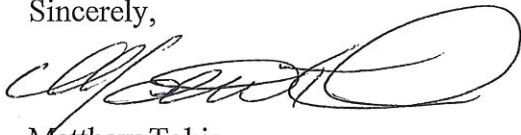
Steve and Debbie Proctor

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor,

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your donation of _____ to our department. It is community members like you, that continue to help us prosper and serve the community with the best equipment and personnel possible.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

Sincerely,



Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

CC: Eric Campbell, City Manager
Michael Parks, Director of Communications



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



Congratulations



Congratulations to Firefighter Brandon Dyer and his partner Jess Tappy on the birth of their first child!!





THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 13, 2021

Priscilla D. Liskey

Ms. Liskey,

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your donation of _____ to our department. It is community members like you, that continue to help us prosper and serve the community with the best equipment and personnel possible.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

CC: Eric Campbell, City Manager
Michael Parks, Director of Communications



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



The News Virginian did a special publication to honor local veterans for Veterans Day titled "Hometown Heroes." Our very own Firefighter Mark Baulch was featured in the publication. Thank you, FF Baulch, for your many years of service to our department and most importantly our country!

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HOMETOWN HEROES

NAVY VETERAN MARK BAULCH NOW A PARAMEDIC WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

JOHN HACK
JHACK@NEWSVIRGINIAN.COM

Growing up in a military family, the concept and practice of one's sacrifice is persistent. For Shenandoah Valley resident and Navy veteran Mark Baulch, it's practically habitual.

Baulch grew up in a military family as his dad was in the Air Force for almost 30 years. It was a background he felt comfortable enough in to attend college with the intention of getting into the military.

Baulch's original dream was to go into the Air Force, like his father, but wasn't allowed to fly because of his vision impairment. He wore prescription glasses.

"So I chose the Navy," said Baulch, adding he received a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from Texas A&M in 1980 at a time when the Navy was evolving their nuclear powered vessel program.

After being accepted into the naval nuclear power program, Baulch said he spent the first part of his career as a nuclear engineer. He began training in Florida before getting married to his wife in Texas and then moving to Idaho for more training.

For the next 27 years, Baulch said he went through various jobs while ascending higher up the chain of

command.

"I had never been to sea before, and found out I really enjoyed it," he said. "I had the opportunity

to command a guided missile frigate out of the Mayport naval base in Orlando, which was the most humbling job of my entire life. It was special because one of the things

I got out of the Navy was this entry into a brotherhood and sisterhood of people that was an all-volunteer force, and still is. The sailors I had working for were patriots."

Baulch said during this time, he became close with many of the ship's crew on many different levels because they all bonded together through a common mission.

"This was prior to the Gulf War, it was post-Vietnam," Baulch said. "The military in general was in a transition. A lot of the elements that had affected the military during the 1960's and 70's were working themselves out.

"It was just that opportunity to be a part of an organization that's

bigger than yourself," said Bulch who's brother also served in the military as a nurse during Operation Desert Storm.

Baulch retired as a Navy captain in September 2007 in Virginia Beach, before going back to work in the Navy for

about five years as a civilian in Norfolk.

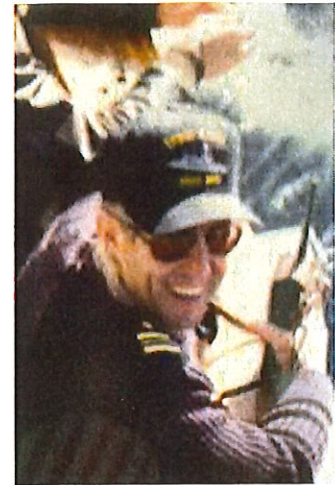
Although he had an opportunity to do things while being in the Navy he otherwise wouldn't have been able to do such as see and meet

the world people from different countries and cultures, he always liked 'retuning home.

"Probably the best time in the military is the day that a ship comes home after being gone for six or eight months," Bulch said.

During his time in Virginia Beach from 2001 to 2013 he took part in two commands, the second of which Bulch said took care of a phase of training for the surface ships in Norfolk. When he retired in 2007, he went back to an organization that supported the maintenance for the H-class destroyer ships.

Both Mark and his wife moved



Mark Baulch poses for photo while he served in the United States Naval Academy. (Submitted)

from Virginia Beach to the Valley in 2013 in order to be closer to their daughter and two grandchildren.

"While I enjoyed the job, I had a daughter that decided she wanted to go to James Madison University, so she came out here in 2004 and got her degree and met her husband here," Bulch said.

In Augusta 2013, Bulch joined the Harrisonburg Fire Department where he got an opportunity to be introduced to emergency medicine.

"And the ironic thing is my mom and my brother were both nurses," Bulch said. "While I was exposed to it, I was a late bloomer."

Bulch said this medical influence had finally awoken when he became a firefighter and noticed his interest in EMS peek. About two and a half years ago, Bulch said he received permission to take the paramedic program at Blue Ridge Community College, which, upon graduating from, he became certified as a paramedic.

"The interesting thing was, what

Article continued next page



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



HOMETOWN HEROES

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drew me to the fire department was that the small community of young men and women that are bonded together by something bigger than themselves drew me to Harrisonburg," Bulch said.

Bulch said he has a son-in-law who's an officer in the H.F.D and credit's his influence, along with his daughter, to get Bulch to take a harder look at that profession as a job, which he described as "rewarding."

"Listening to him talk about life in an engine company here, the training opportunities here; They're very rich. The quality of the firefighters, the dedication and all these things that were very, very similar to what I experienced in the military drew me there," said Bulch.

While he was stationed at Host Company 4, Bulch said it took about six months to receive his firefighter's certification.

As a veteran, Bulch said he feels a great deal of satisfaction being a part of a culture consisting of people who bond together at the fire department. Even more so, he said that some of the firefighters he's worked with have talked to him about how they considered military service.

"When you take a step back and look, there are a lot of similarities in the culture. My experience

was that we moved as a family frequently," Bulch said, noting that never went to the same school in consecutive years until he got to high school in Nebraska.

Despite these frequent environmental changes and the hindrances on his ability to make somewhat lasting friendships, Bulch said he understood and appreciated what his father did and why he did it in his own military service. He said he saw the same ability in his daughter growing up to quickly make friends.

Bulch also said he and his family have loved living in the Shenandoah Valley since they moved here in 2013 and eventually settled in Linville.

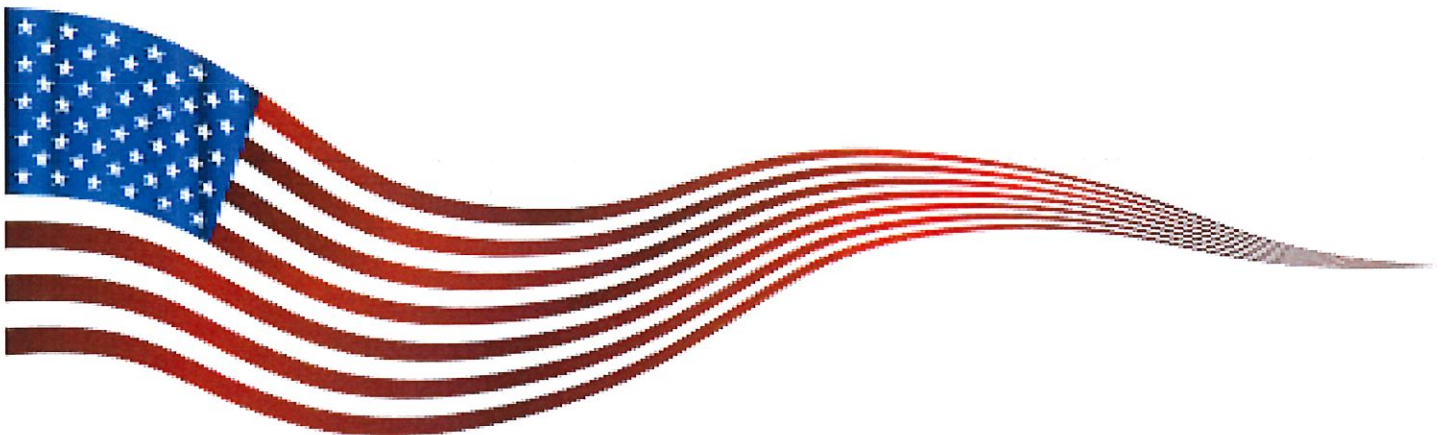
"This is home for us, now," he said.

One lesson Bulch said he people who aren't veterans or military members can learn, especially on Veteran's Day, is to respect those that have already served.

"Listen to them, listen to their stories, talk to them and learn from them," he said. "Their experiences may be different, but it's important to listen to the words from the past and honor their sacrifice cause we're still in a position that we need to continue to sacrifice to keep what we enjoy here."



Mark Baulch poses for photo while he served in the United States Naval Academy. (Submitted)





THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 20, 2021

Ms. Judy Lee
Acorn Mini Storage, Inc.

Dear Ms. Lee,

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of _____ to our department. Support from community members like you makes our job easier and more fulfilling. Generous donations from supporters like you provide us with the best equipment and personnel possible to serve the community.

Thank you once again for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

CC: Eric Campbell, City Manager
Michael Parks, Director of Communications



THE JOYFUL DISPATCH



December 20, 2021

Ms. Melody Strickland
Grand Home Furnishings of Harrisonburg

Dear Ms. Strickland,

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of _____ to our department. Support from community members like you makes our job easier and more fulfilling. Generous donations from supporters like you provide us with the best equipment and personnel possible to serve the community.

Thank you once again for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tobia
Fire Chief

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Michael Parks, Director of Communications