

For Immediate Release

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## Firefighter Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the National Guard to become a Chaplain Candidate

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Firefighter Zachary Franklin of the Harrisonburg Fire Department was commissioned on March 29, 2019, as a Chaplain Candidate, Second Lieutenant in the Virginia National Guard.

Chaplain Candidates oversee religious ministries; officiate at worship services, funerals, and memorials; and provide pastoral counseling to United States military personnel and civilians serving in foreign theatres. Chaplain Candidates date back to the American Revolution, when President George Washington wanted to offer a spiritual presence for men caught in the crossfires of war.

“We are extremely proud of Zach on his promotion to Chaplain Candidate, Second Lieutenant and support him in his future goals,” Harrisonburg Fire Chief Ian Bennett said. Franklin is currently assigned to HFD Engine 25.

Franklin is looking forward to this opportunity and the amount of learning and spiritual growth he will gain. He believes this new position will help him as a firefighter for the Harrisonburg Fire Department because it will improve his communication skills and allow him to help other firefighters on their spiritual journeys. He hopes to increase his people skills since being a firefighter is a customer service occupation.

“I feel like this is a calling and I can be used as a vessel to serve people in war zones that are experiencing what others may never in their lifetime,” Franklin added. “I want to help those men and women who are sacrificing everything to make sure our freedoms in the United States stay intact.”

For more information check out the Harrisonburg Fire Department on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@HFDVA) and [Instagram](#) (@harrisonburgfd).

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



*Firefighter Zachary Franklin (above) was recently commissioned as a Chaplain Candidate, Second Lieutenant in the Virginia National Guard.*