

## Assistant Fire Marshall Andrea Buchanan, Bronze Medal



On March 15, Assistant Fire Marshall Andrea Buchanan was on routine evening patrol. She observed a large number of vehicles illegally parked in fire lanes at the Hilton at Mark Center. Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan parked her vehicle and entered the hotel in the order to determine why the vehicles were parked in the fire lanes. Upon investigation, she discovered there was a very large crowd attending a special event downstairs in the main ballroom. The event was overcrowded, having greatly exceeded the maximum permitted occupancy of the area. This posed a danger for not only the patrons attending the event but also the guests of the hotel as

it created a potential evacuation hazard in the event of an emergency. Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan began working with hotel staff to temporarily stop and gain control of the event. During this time, a section of the ceiling collapsed and reportedly struck a patron attending the event.

The injury was reported to Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan. She immediately entered the ballroom to assist the victim. Even though the event had been stopped because of the injury, the room was packed with people making it difficult to move or locate the victim. She located the victim, who was unconscious and appeared to not be breathing. Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan radioed for medics, however, radio transmissions were difficult due to the excessive noise from the event. She immediately began emergency respirations, performing direct mouth to mouth respirations at risk of her own personal safety. The crowd was becoming hostile due to the halting of the event. Nearby patrons started to confront her as she was performing life-saving measures on the victim. They began grabbing her vest and making advances towards her weapon, in spite of the fact that she was attempting to assist the victim. Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan now had to actively guard and protect her weapon while trying to provide care to the victim. In spite of the potential threats and risks to personal safety, she continued to perform respirations and assist the victim without any assistance or backup from security detail staff or hotel staff on site.

Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan went above and beyond the call of duty to assist the victim, in spite of the potential risk to her personal safety from a large hostile crowd and without the protection of any backup law enforcement personnel to maintain order, and with further threat of potential ceiling collapse. We award Assistant Fire Marshall Buchanan the bronze medal in recognition of her efforts under these circumstances.