Bob O'Toole was a part-time firefighter with both Centerville/Washington Township and Clearcreek Township when he lost his life on the morning of January 12, 1998. About 6:00 a.m. Bob and his squad had responded to an accident on I-675 near Wilmington Pike. After the crash victim had been placed in the rescue vehicle, Bob and his partner Chuck Arnold, along with Centerville police officer John Kalaman, returned to the damaged vehicle. Another car traveling west lost control on the "black ice," crossed the median and struck the three men. Officer Kalaman died instantly, and Bob died shortly thereafter in a hospital emergency room. Firefighter Arnold survived the crash, but with considerable injury.

Bob O'Toole was a 1990 graduate of Centerville High School, having spent his entire K-12 years in Centerville, and was attending Sinclair Community College to become a Paramedic at the time of his death. He left a wife, his parents, two sisters and two brothers, as well as nieces and nephews.

The Noon Optimist Club of Centerville established the Robert J. O'Toole Award in Bob's memory and to honor those in our community who unselfishly give of themselves in service to others.

OPTIMIST CREED

PROMISE YOURSELF

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OPTIMIST CLUB OF CENTERVILLE – NOON

www.centervillenoonoptimist.com

WASHINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT J. O'TOOLE EMT/FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Noon Optimist Club
of Centerville

Patrick Powell

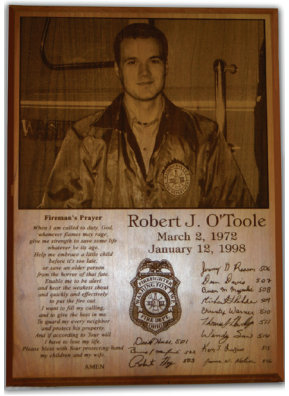
Lieutenant Patrick Powell has dedicated his fire service career to the Washington Township Fire Department and the community he has always called home. A lifelong Centerville resident, Patrick began as a volunteer firefighter in 2009, serving at Stations 45 and 42. He became a part-time firefighter in 2011, transitioned to full-time in 2014, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2019. Today, he leads the Ladder 41 crew on Third Platoon at Station 41.

A paramedic and rescue technician, Patrick is a resourceful and highly capable fire officer. As Ladder 41 is the department's primary rescue company, he places a strong emphasis on ensuring his crew is prepared for fires, technical rescues, and other challenging incidents. In recognition of his leadership and contributions, Patrick was named the department's 2025 Officer of the Year.

Patrick holds an associate's degree from Sinclair College and also serves as the Training Lieutenant for Third Platoon, working closely with the department's training program manager to ensure effective training and documentation across the shift.

Patrick's professionalism, resourcefulness, and dedication are evident throughout the organization. Whether leading Ladder 41, developing firefighters, mentoring future officers, or helping the department navigate change, he remains deeply invested in the success of the Washington Township Fire Department and the community he serves.

Bob served at station 45 on McEwen Road where a lazer engraved plaque signed by his fellow firefighters commemorates his life and sacrifices in the line of duty.



Terry Blair was a dedicated public servant and a committed member of the Centerville Noon Optimist Club. He was an integral part of the creation of our EMT/Firefighter Award in 1998, believing that those who risk their lives in the service of others should receive the community's thanks and appreciation. It is in this spirit we recognize and thank Terry for his service to his club, his community, and his state.

EMT/FIREFIGHTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

WASHINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT J. O'TOOLE
EMT/FIREFIGHTER
OF THE YEAR AWARD

1998	*Charles D. Arnold*
1999	*Denise M. Smith*
2000	*Tom Gunlock*
2001	*Dr. Randy Marriott*
2002	*Ken Luzius*
2003	*Loretta Gaul*
2004	*Christopher DeWitt*
2005	*Curt Cobler*
2006	*G. Thomas Achor*
2007	*Jeff Joseph*
2008	*Justin Keller*
2009	*David Lantz*
2010	*Scott Haas*
2011	*Scott Henry*
2012	*Dick Ewing*
2013	*Greg Ortel*
2014	*Ethan Heigel*
2015	*Tad Parks*
2016	*Jeff Joseph*
2017	*Brandon Strunk*
2018	*Paul Conover*
2019	*Joseph Andrews*
2020	*Jeff Joseph*
2021	*Mariana Jones*
2022	*Matt Lolli*
2023	*Nick Bergman*
2024	*Tyler Foust*
2025	*Kyle Vincent*
2026	*Patrick Powell*

Noon Optimist Club of Centerville
(937) 221-6720
Every Tuesday, 12 Noon, at the Yankee Trace Golf Course Clubhouse
www.centervillenoonoptimist.com