

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Jim Mathias

The County of Nevada Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in recognizing CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer North Division Chief Jim Mathias for significant contributions to public safety during his 36-year career in fire service.

Jim began his career in 1986 as a volunteer with the City of Grass Valley Fire Department Eagle Hose Company 2 and then with Alta Oaks/Sunset Fire District. After graduating from high school and taking various community college classes, Jim went to work for Lincoln’s Ambulance in Grass Valley.

In the late eighties, Jim became a certified emergency medical technician and paramedic before working full time for Sierra Nevada Ambulance and Penn Valley Fire Protection District (PVFPD). To this day, he still works part time as a paramedic for Sierra Nevada Ambulance in Grass Valley.

At PVFPD, Jim was eventually promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic. In 1997, he joined CAL FIRE in the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit (CZU) and graduated number one in his class at the CAL FIRE Academy. During his time with CZU, Jim was a team leader with California Task Force 3 Urban Search and Rescue Team and the unit’s paramedic supervisor. He was awarded the Medal of Valor for multiple swift water rescues during the 1998 floods in CZU.

In 2001, he was promoted to permanent Fire Captain/Paramedic in the Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU), and served as the unit training officer. Two years later, Jim joined CAL FIRE’s Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit (NEU) at the Sunset Station, where he became battalion chief and again served as the unit training officer. He was also a cadre member of the CAL FIRE Swift Water Curriculum, led all three Rapid Intervention Crew Class re-writes, and served as Incident Management 1 and 2 cadre. He is an active California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) instructor in multiple disciplines, a CSFM Certified Fire Officer, Fire Investigator I, Fire Instructor I, CAL FIRE Public Officer, as well as a U.S. Fire Administration IMT 305 Instructor.

In 2019, Jim was promoted to the prestigious position of North Division Chief for NEU, responsible for operations in Nevada, Yuba, Sutter, and western Sierra Counties, Washington Ridge Camp, and the CA National Guard Hand Crew.

The Board of Supervisors is grateful to Jim for his many years of service, his partnership, and his extensive contributions to public safety.

Susan K. Hoek, Chair

Heidi Hall, District I

Edward C. Scofield, District II

Dan Miller, District III

Hardy Bullock, District V