

# 2009 Firefighter of the Year

## Firefighter/EMT Patrick Taaffe



Firefighter Patrick Taaffe was selected by the awards committee for Firefighter of the Year. In his relatively short time as a member of St. Johns County Fire Rescue, Firefighter Taaffe has shown himself to be a conscientious, dependable and a hard working asset to the department. Patrick has been a leading member in the participation and implementation of the departments Marine Rescue training program and has proven to be very effective as a responder in this area. Specifically, on August 29, 2009, he responded on foot from Station 9 when a frantic parent ran up to the station stating her child was in the water and in distress. He ran across A1A with the stations water rescue board, made water entry, rescued the victim and brought them safely back to shore without any injuries. In a separate incident in early September, he performed a water rescue of an adult swimmer caught in a rip current on the north side of the St. Augustine Inlet. Firefighter Taaffe has shown in both general working conditions and specific acts of valor that he is a firefighter that goes above and beyond what is expected. Patrick acts in the highest traditions of the fire service and the St. Johns County Fire Rescue Department and has proven a valuable asset to this community through his service.