



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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VanderMeer Names John Jessop as 70th Assembly District First Responder of the Year

Madison – Today, Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) presented John Jessop, a dedicated Volunteer Firefighter and EMT from Jackson County, the 70th Assembly District's First Responder of the Year Award. The annual award recognizes individuals whose unwavering commitment and selfless service go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

"It is my distinct honor to recognize John Jessop for his extraordinary dedication and heroism across 47 years of service. The sacrifices made by our first responders are the foundation of public safety in the 70th District, and this award is a small token of the profound gratitude we owe them all. John exemplifies the very best qualities of service: courage, professionalism, and deep compassion for their neighbors. His work as a Firefighter, EMT, and community mentor makes our district stronger and safer every single day," VanderMeer said.

John Jessop was nominated for an incredible 47-year career of selfless service to Jackson County as a Volunteer Firefighter and EMT, holding leadership roles including Captain and Assistant Chief. His tenure includes front-line involvement in major emergencies such as the Bar-B fire, countless structure fires, and the historic 1993 flood, during which he tirelessly led evacuation efforts and assisted with subsequent cleanup as part of the City of Black River Street Department. Colleagues, many of whom he mentored, affectionately call him "Big John," a nod to his enduring presence and legacy.

Beyond his emergency work, John's service extends deeply into the community through coaching youth baseball, T-ball, and hockey. He is known for sharing fire prevention lessons and bringing joy to local parades with his beloved old Tanker 2. At one point, John, his son, and his daughter all served together on the same fire department - a true testament to his commitment and the legacy of service he has inspired.

"While we recognize John Jessop today, we celebrate every man and woman who wears the badge or uniform across the 70th District. John doesn't it for recognition. He does it because it's who he is. Please join me in congratulating John on this well-deserved recognition and thanking him for his continued service to our district and our state," VanderMeer continued.

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The 70th Assembly District includes Jackson County and portions of Monroe and Juneau counties