

2025 Frontline Hero Award

John Bryant – Formerly at Hickory Creek

This individual is a dedicated nurse who has proudly served the local community for nearly two decades. Throughout his 18-year career at a regional care facility, he has committed himself to the specialized care of geriatric patients, consistently demonstrating a high level of patience and respect for those in his charge.

His path to the nursing profession was deeply personal. In his early twenties, as the only child of a single mother, he served as her primary caregiver throughout her battle with cancer. The experience of supporting her until her passing gave him a firsthand understanding of the physical and emotional challenges involved in end-of-life care. This period of his life served as the catalyst for his professional journey, inspiring him to provide the kind of compassionate support he knew other families would desperately need during their most difficult moments.

Today, he is regarded as a steady and selfless presence on the front lines of healthcare. He consistently goes beyond his basic duties by advocating for the needs of his residents and offering comfort to families navigating the complexities of elder care. By treating every patient with profound dignity, he has made a lasting impact on the local community, serving as both a caregiver and a source of strength for residents and their loved ones alike.

James Nicholson – New Castle Police Department

This lifelong resident has dedicated over three and a half decades to serving his community in law enforcement. His journey began with a childhood passion for the profession, leading him to participate in youth explorer programs and eventually earn a degree in law enforcement in the late 1980s. After starting his career as a dispatcher for a state police post, he spent years gaining hands-on experience by riding along with local officers on his nights off, demonstrating a relentless drive to master his craft.

Since joining the local police department in 1990, he has risen through the ranks to serve as Chief of Police and currently holds the rank of Captain. His impact on the community is perhaps most visible in his role as a School Resource Officer, a position he has held since 1994. In this capacity, he mentors youth through difficult life situations and guides students considering careers in public safety, fostering a positive relationship between the next generation and the law.

His approach to policing is defined by a level of respect and integrity that leaves a lasting impression. He is frequently approached by individuals he encountered years prior who thank him for his professional and fair treatment, noting that his respect helped them find a better path in life. This legacy of mentorship continues within his own family, as his son has followed in his footsteps to serve the same department.

Beyond his official duties, he is known as a selfless individual who helps residents in ways that rarely make the news. Even after 36 years of service, he maintains the same passion and

dedication he had on his first day. His career is a testament to the idea that a true frontline hero is someone who combines long-term institutional leadership with a quiet, persistent commitment to the individual lives of the citizens they protect.

Jason Losekamp – New Castle EMS

This individual began his career as a paramedic in 2002 and currently serves as a captain, having spent more than half of his tenure in leadership roles. Beyond his primary medical responsibilities, he manages fleet maintenance for the emergency medical services department. This is a critical, year-round task, as the community relies on the constant readiness of ambulances to respond to 911 emergency calls.

His dedication is marked by a consistent willingness to work extra shifts, ensuring the department is always fully staffed and operational. For years, he served as a training officer, leading the education of new recruits and managing the ongoing professional development of veteran paramedics. His clinical expertise has been particularly impactful since the implementation of a local whole-blood transfusion program; he has personally performed half of the life-saving transfusions conducted by the department.

His commitment to saving lives often extends beyond his scheduled hours. In one notable instance, while off-duty, he heard a call for assistance in his immediate vicinity and responded to help the on-scene crew perform a vital transfusion. Through his dual roles in leadership and fleet management, combined with his high-level clinical skills, he has made a measurable difference in the safety and well-being of the regional population.