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Hometown Hero: “A Phenomenal Person”

By Trish Rife

In speaking with Ted Poszywak, Fire Chief for the Frederick-Firestone District, it became apparent rather quickly who our next Hometown Hero should be.

Never before have I heard such glowing remarks about an employee and co-worker. All heads nod in consistent agreement during a meeting when her name is mentioned. She is the newly-promoted administrative manager at the fire station



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Hometown Hero

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located on Walnut and First St. in Frederick, Ms. Dale Ingraham.

Fire Chief Ted Poszywak tells how his exemplary employee is extremely sacrificial with her time. Ms. Ingraham has worked at the fire station for roughly 3 years and during that time, she has maintained consistency in her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. I am told by Chief Poszywak that she is “very positive and never lets any frustrations come through. Dale is more than willing to help anybody. She’s a jack of all trades and she is extremely humble.” I was told that it would be an impossibility to get Ms. Ingraham to speak of herself. She is the kind of woman who thinks and lives for others.

Ms. Ingraham is an extremely busy woman. While balancing her time between payroll, human resources responsibilities, assisting in budgeting management, tackling all Board of Director requests, and volunteering her time with the local elections in Frederick and Firestone, her niece and nephew manage to enjoy the pleasure of her company on the weekends. She adores animals and has an extra soft spot in her heart for canines. Ms. Ingraham handles all the benefits in the administration area and I’m told she’s a “one stop shop” for all administrative needs.

Co-worker Tammy Reasoner says “Dale is one of a kind. She has a wonderful sense of humor and I have never seen her be negative, never. She is truly overall the best person that I know.” Tammy tells of Christmas parties where each employee is introduced one by one. Along comes the time for Dale’s name to be called and she gets a standing ovation “across the board.” Tammy also stated that if anyone were to go against Dale in any way, they would “have an army against them.” When asked how Dale handles having a rough day, which we all experience from time to time, I’m told that Dale Ingraham just “grins and bears it.”

Firefighter Ryan Fossen speaks about Ms. Ingraham in only the highest regards. “She’s like our mother here. She’ll do anything we need her to do and I honestly do not know what we would do without her. She is a phenomenal person.”

What an employee....what a co-worker....what a woman! This is the kind of daughter and sister who makes her family proud. This is the co-worker that brightens everyone’s day. This is the kind of employee that every employer is dreaming to obtain. Dale Ingraham is the breath of fresh air of whom everyone is raving. This is the type of person we are so grateful to have as part of our community.

When reflecting on Hometown Hero’s spirit, testimony, devotion and kindness, we should all be in agreement that she is deserving of yet another standing ovation.