

Aurora firefighter to be honoured by Governor General

By Brock Weir

Aurora resident Larry Martin is slated to be among 11 firefighters honoured by Governor General Julie Payette on Thursday with the Medal of Bravery.

The firefighters' citation stems from their bravery following a Mississauga explosion in 2014.

On April 23, 2014, paramedics Ean Smith and Eryn Smith, as well as firefighters Matt Attwell, Brian Chapman, Anthony Colabufalo, Bruce Hicks, Larry Martin, Marcus Middleton, Travis Robbins, Daryl Roy and Derek Wilson, were instrumental in the rescue of three firefighters injured in a warehouse explosion in Mississauga, reads their citation.

A violent blast inside the warehouse caused a wall to collapse, burying the firefighters under the rubble. The remaining firefighters either had their breathing apparatus blown off by the explosion or had to remove them after quickly running out of oxygen. Despite flying debris, heavy smoke and secondary explosions, the firefighters and paramedics combined their efforts to recover their injured colleagues, and moved them away from the intense heat and flames to safety.

In all, the Governor General is expected to present 41 Decorations for Bravery at Rideau Hall.