

2014 United Fire Fighter of the Year Award

Winner's Story for Presentation, September 4, 2014

Julian is one of those rare Arizona individuals. He was actually born in Tempe and grew up in Phoenix. He knows what hard work is, and worked in an automobile machine shop before deciding to become a firefighter about 8 years ago. He is married, and has two children of his own, a two year old boy, and baby girl.

And yet, at midnight on March 23, 2014, he thought only about saving another family.

Engine 44 was short a crew member, when they were the first to arrive to an apartment fire in downtown Phoenix. Heavy smoke was showing on the second floor and flames were lapping up to the third floor. Firefighter Lucas immediately jumped into action, donned his protective gear, pulled a handline, proceeded to the second floor and began knocking down flames on the landing to be able to enter the apartment door. Once inside he experienced high heat and fought the fire as he made his way to the back hall and bedrooms.

It was so hot both of Firefighter Lucas's ears got burned, but he continued to move through the bent and burnt bedroom door, and while searching came across a carseat. Upon a closer look, he saw that a baby was still in it. He quickly contacted his captain, handed the carseat to another crew member and recognized that he needed to continue to look for other members of the family. Julian found three other children and one adult. All 5 victims were in respiratory arrest when pulled from the building, but with the help of Squad 44 and outstanding paramedics, amazingly 4 of the 5 survived.

Julian Lucas was poised and professional throughout the incident, and his expertise helped save the family. He faced a huge challenge, but stayed Brave, Dedicated, Professional, Strong, and Compassionate. He lived by the words that describe his profession.







