

**For Immediate Release**

**Friday, September 1, 2017**

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**ARIZONA FIRE SERVICE NEWS:**

***The 24th Annual United Fire  
Firefighter of the Year Award***

At the very core of the firefighter's character is the desire to help those who can't help themselves. Often that means going beyond the requirements of your standard duties, taking calculated risks with your own safety, and/or volunteering your own time and resources to assist strangers in need.

You are cordially invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the **44th Arizona State Fire School** to learn more about **Firefighter Jesse Simpson**, Mesa Fire and Medical Department, the **2017 Firefighter of the Year** for the State of Arizona.

**Date: Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Time: Welcome, 9:00 AM – Firefighter of the Year Award, 11:00 AM (Approx.)**

**Place: Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall, 263 N. Center Street**

**Agenda:**

- Presentation of Colors
- Firefighter Memorial Service
- Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame Induction
- **Feature Presentation:** United Fire Firefighter of the Year Award

**Please plan on attending!**

**Take this opportunity to interview the  
2017 Firefighter of the Year after the ceremony.**

Firefighter Jesse Simpson exemplify's what every fire department looks for in their employees on the job, and his actions off duty speak volumes to his tremendous character as well. As a combat veteran Jesse saw first hand the affects that combat can have on his fellow marines. Unfortunately, Simpson's close friend and fellow marine that he had served with committed suicide after being honorably discharged. A suicide that Jesse felt could have easily been prevented, but for lack of reintegration into "normal" society after returning from war.

This all too frequent scenario influenced Simpson to start his own non-profit organization called "Calm, Fit, Complete." The non-profit organization was established with the single goal of capitalizing on the strengths of the men and women of our armed forces returning from combat duty, ensuring a successful transition into the civilian workforce, all while mentoring at risk youth who may have otherwise been overlooked.

During a recent fire department call, Firefighter Simpson's instinctive and public service oriented nature lead him to believe that the condition of the victim he and his engine crew responded to required greater attention than what is considered normal operating procedures.

Attend this years award presentation and learn what Jesse did that day and continues to do everyday to help strangers in need.

**LET YOUR READERS/VIEWERS KNOW: "ANYONE can make a nomination – if you or a loved one have been rescued by a firefighter hero, go to [FDAZ.ORG](http://FDAZ.ORG) to find out how you can make a nomination for the 2018 Arizona Firefighter of the Year."**

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