

Nomination for Company Officer of the Year

Lieutenant Allen Green

Chattanooga Fire Department

Lieutenant Allen Green embodies the very essence of transformational leadership in the fire service. From the moment you meet him, his spirit of service, humility, passion, and unwavering dedication to both personal and professional growth are unmistakable. He represents what it truly means to lead at every level – not simply through rank, but through action, influence, and intentional investment in the people around him.

Lieutenant Green consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to improving outcomes for everyone he encounters. His energy for progress and excellence is contagious, and his ability to connect with both the community and his fellow firefighters reflects a rare and authentic leadership presence. He understands that modern fire service leadership extends far beyond emergency response. It is rooted in prevention, education, mentorship, and building trust within the community long before an emergency ever occurs.

A Leader Forged by His Own Story

To understand the leader Lieutenant Green is today, you must understand the journey that shaped him. Allen grew up in foster and group homes, supported through his childhood by Bethel Bible Village – an organization he has championed ever since. He graduated from Hixson High School in 2004 and enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to pursue a degree in chemistry. In 2012, he made the difficult decision to pause his education to provide for his twin sons, and that decision became the doorway to the fire service.

More than a decade later, that doorway has opened into a calling. While serving in fire suppression as an operations firefighter, Allen returned to UTC and completed his chemistry degree in 2022 – more grounded, more determined, more intentional. His own words capture his life's mission best: *"I am dedicated to making sure the once hopeless will no longer be captivated by*

hurt and pain or failure, but will raise above their circumstances. Pain and suffering will be the driving force for hope.”

That mission isn't a slogan. It is the lens through which he leads every shift, every classroom visit, and every conversation with a young person who needs to see what is possible.

Redefining Community Risk Reduction

As a Fire and Life Safety Educator with the Chattanooga Fire Department, Lieutenant Green has redefined what proactive, data-driven community risk reduction looks like in his city. He doesn't simply deliver fire safety messaging — he engineers it around the communities most at risk. Recognizing that fires occur disproportionately in areas marked by poverty and limited resources, he uses systems, data, and research to get ahead of the call. As he puts it, *“education is the foundation to prevention.”*

That conviction led him to create **Read to Succeed**, a literacy and fire safety initiative that pairs Chattanooga firefighters with elementary students in high-need schools. Once a month, firefighters visit every class, reading aloud and weaving in life-saving messaging while quietly building trust between children and first responders. Allen launched the program at Calvin Dunson Elementary — the very school he attended as a child — a deliberate, full-circle act of giving back to the South Chattanooga and Alton Park communities that raised him.

When the books available off the shelf didn't carry the precise safety messaging he needed, Allen did what only the most committed educators do: he wrote his own. *“Mom! Dad! What Should I Do?”* was published in January 2025 to teach children about creating and practicing fire escape plans, establishing a safe meeting place, and the importance of working smoke alarms. The book features characters that represent children throughout the Chattanooga community, ensuring young readers see themselves in the story — and in roles like the firefighter holding the book. Proceeds support his nonprofit and his literacy program. Other fire departments across the country, including in Cleveland, Ohio, have already requested copies to use in their own outreach.

A Nonprofit Built on Hope

Lieutenant Green's commitment to youth doesn't end at the schoolhouse door. He founded **PPCH, Inc. — Pain, Perseverance, Character, Hope** — a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring at-risk youth and providing the support, motivation, and example so many of them lack. The name is autobiographical; the work is generational. Through PPCH, he provides what Bethel Bible Village once provided him: a steady adult presence, a model of what perseverance looks like, and the hope that circumstance does not have to determine destiny.

Long before he founded PPCH, Allen was already pouring into the next generation on his own time, mentoring young boys at Barger Academy of Fine Arts and continuing to support Bethel Bible Village as both a volunteer and an advocate. That work earned him one of the most meaningful recognitions of his early career: the **Ralph Cothran Civil Service Fire Fighter of the Year Award**, presented by the Chattanooga–Hamilton County Branch of the NAACP at the Chattanooga Convention Center. The award honored both his service on the line and his consistent, quiet investment in Chattanooga's children.

A National Voice in Fire Prevention

Lieutenant Green's influence reaches well beyond Chattanooga. He serves as a driving force behind the **Sound Off Initiative** alongside nationally recognized fire and life safety leader Meri-K Appy, helping amplify the message of working smoke alarms and home fire safety to families across the country, particularly those who are deaf or hard of hearing. He leads conversations on best practices, innovative outreach strategies, and the future of fire service education — bridging the gap between department messaging and real, measurable community impact. He has traveled to other cities and states to teach, has been invited to career fairs, and has even presented to university classes at UTC.

Servant Leadership in Its Purest Form

What makes Lieutenant Green especially remarkable is his humility. Despite his accolades, his growing national platform, and a published book carrying his name, he continues to lead with authenticity and grace. He is the

firefighter who shows up early, the lieutenant who knows his crew's families, the educator who remembers a child's name a year later, and the mentor who shows up at graduations. He shares credit freely and seeks none for himself.

He once described his work this way: *“Teaching and educating, for me, is like a ministry. It’s not just about giving out information. It’s about implementing change and growth.”* That ministry is visible everywhere his career has touched – in classrooms where children now know the sound of a smoke alarm, in fire stations where younger firefighters look to him as a model of what a company officer can be, and in a nonprofit that exists because one man refused to let his own pain be wasted.

Why He Is the Company Officer of the Year

Lieutenant Allen Green exemplifies servant leadership in its purest form. He leads with compassion, inspires through action, and continually pours into the lives of others without seeking recognition. His career reflects the future of the fire service – courageous, community-centered, innovative, and deeply human. He has taken every lesson from his own life and converted it into service for someone else's. He has taken the responsibilities of a company officer and expanded them into a model of what fire service leadership can look like in the modern era.

He is not only deserving of this nomination – he stands as a benchmark for what leadership in the fire service should aspire to be. It is my distinct honor to nominate **Lieutenant Allen Green of the Chattanooga Fire Department** for Company Officer of the Year.

Respectfully,

Sheena L. Glover

Assistant Fire Marshal – Omaha Fire Department

References & Supporting Coverage

- **University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (March 2025):** “Fighting fires: UTC alum becomes educator and children’s book author.”

<https://blog.utc.edu/news/2025/03/fighting-fires-utc-alum-becomes-educator-and-childrens-book-author/>

- **NewsChannel 9 / WTVC (January 2025):** “Interview: Chattanooga firefighter writes children’s book to teach fire safety.”

<https://newschannel9.com/news/local/interview-chattanooga-firefighter-writes-childrens-book-to-teach-fire-safety>

- **Chattanooga–Hamilton County Branch NAACP:** Ralph Cothran Civil Service Fire Fighter of the Year Award recipient — Firefighter Allen Green.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChattFireDept/posts/firefighter-allen-green-recognized-by-naacp-please-join-us-in-congratulating-fire/2187192634688122/>