



# Media Alert

For Immediate Release  
Save A Life Foundation  
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## **“STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS JOIN SALF IN HONORS OAK FOREST, ORLAND PARK and CHICAGO FIREFIGHTERS”**

Kids play safer in Oak Forest, Orland Park, and Chicago, because of the life saving dedication of firefighters/paramedics, Lt. John Vogel, Lt. Jeff Floyd, Charlie Sopko and Jim Conney.

On December 1st, firefighters/paramedics Lt. John Vogel, of Orland Park, Lt. Jeff Floyd, and Charlie Sopko, of Oak Forest Fire Departments will receive Save A Life Foundation’s “Christina Jean Award” and Firefighter Jim Conney of Chicago Fire Department will receive the “Dr. Peter Safar Award”. These prestigious awards will be presented to these servants of the public for not only risking their own lives to save others as firefighters/paramedics, but contributed their off time to training students and promoting the value of “saving a life” to area students. It is hoped by teaching skills such as the Heimlich Maneuver, bleed control, rescue breathing to children ages 4-12, with the Save A Life For Kids program, they will become responsible citizens who “care not stare” in an emergency.

To honor these men, Orland Park Fire Chief John McCastland will open his Administration Building to residents and the public, 9788 West 151st at 7:00 p.m. Among those local and state leaders joining in this celebration will be, Illinois State Senator Patrick O’Malley, and Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy.

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“No one will ever know how many lives will be saved with their unselfish dedication, but these gallant men have devoted their life to saving others” said Carol J. Spizzirri, SALF’s President/ Founder.

“Knowing how to summon local paramedics is a valuable skill for children to have, but it’s also important for them to know what to do until professional emergency personnel arrive to assist an injured person,” Spizzirri explained. “Knowing what to do and what not to do is the key to keeping someone alive until emergency crews arrive at the scene.” “The “missing link” in the chain of survival today is the untrained bystander or citizen who watches helplessly while a seriously injured friend co-worker or loved one waits for professional help to reach them, she said. Those precious few minutes before EMS help arrives often are the difference between life and death in many cases. Basic emergency skills can save a life and can make us better citizens,” Spizzirri explained.

The “Christina Jean Award” is in honor of Carol Spizzirri’s daughter who died as a result of first responders not knowing what to do after she was injured in a accident, Labor Day, 1992. The “Dr. Peter Safar Award” is in honor of Dr. Safar, “Father of CPR”, who dedicated his life to the research and development of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), after the death of his daughter in the early “50’s”. These two awards are the most prestigious of all SALF awards and can only act as a thank you to a job well done”. said Spizzirri.

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