

January 13, 2022

Jacob Hurd

Fire Captain

Cave Spring Volunteer Fire Department

4212 Old Cave Spring Rd.

Roanoke VA, 24018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to support Michael Svec's application for the Chief Lawrence J. Nemec Jr. Memorial Scholarship. I have gotten the chance to work alongside Michael for the past two years at the Cave Spring Volunteer Fire Department. Since Day one Michael has shown great potential not only in his willingness to learn but also in his personal growth with our department. This is why I am recommending him for the Chief Lawrence J. Nemec Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

Michael started with our department in November of 2019 and from day one you could tell that he loved the fire service. He immediately started going through our department's rookie check sheet and learning as much about our department as he could. He was so eager that he even took the time to find an academy in a neighboring county that he could attend so he wouldn't have to wait until August when the next Roanoke County academy would take place. Unfortunately, during the middle of his academy, we were hit with the Coronavirus pandemic that forced them to suspend the academy until further notice. Michael never let this affect him though, continuing to come to his shifts and learn as much as he could. After months of the shutdown, it was determined that although he had already been through over half of the Firefighter 1 material, he would have to start over in a new academy going through everything he had learned over again.

He again didn't let the phase him and started the academy once more. This time becoming the class president and according to Retired Deputy Chief Maxey one of the best students he's ever had the pleasure of teaching. His active, caring personality has made him the perfect addition to our family. He always goes above and beyond what is expected of him on calls and when we get back to the station, he asks me what could he have done better. I am confident that Michael will be a great leader in the fire service and that he will be a great choice for the Chief Lawrence J. Nemec Jr. Memorial Scholarship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jhurd@cavespringfire.org.

Sincerely,

Jacob Hurd