

# John E. Fitzgerald Medal for Most Meritorious Act

On March 16, 2022 at 2138 hours, Fire Alarm transmitted Box 3397 for a building fire at 43 Kerwin Street, District 8. Upon arrival, Engine 52 and Ladder 29 reported fire showing from the third floor of an occupied wood frame building. While entering the building, Firefighter Mark Pietchel of Ladder 29 passed an evacuating occupant who informed him that there was a person trapped on the third floor. Ahead of a charged line, through heavy smoke, Firefighter Pietchel made his way to the third floor where he forced open the apartment door and began to search for the occupant. Firefighter Pietchel had to pass several fully involved rooms as he searched. He located an unconscious man in the rear of the apartment and dragged him out to the main stairway where Engine 52 was now entering to begin an attack on the fire. With the help of the members of Ladder 29 and Engine 18, the victim was removed from the building and placed under the care of Boston EMS.

Firefighter Pietchel performed these actions without hesitation, disregarding his own safety. He placed himself at extreme personal risk to save the life of an unconscious person trapped in his burning home. But for the heroic efforts of Firefighter Pietchel, the victim would likely have perished.

Therefore, the Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department, acting on the recommendation of the Board of Merit, hereby orders the John E. Fitzgerald Medal for Most Meritorious Act be awarded to:



**Firefighter Mark S. Pietchel**  
*Ladder Company 29*