

The Franklin Chronicle

Friday, July 18, 2008

Apalachicola officer presented Valor Award

BY ANNA CARMICHAEL
Chronicle Correspondent

During the Apalachicola City Commission meeting on July 8th, Officer Anthony Croom was awarded the 2008 Valor Award.

Mayor Van Johnson read an anonymous e-mail that was sent to the City of Apalachicola Police Department. The letter stated that on June 21st a fire occurred at 115 7th Street. Officer Croom asked if anyone was at home and I said, "I don't know'."

The anonymous author went on to say, "...but the courageous

thing that the officer did...another house that was next door to my brother's had caught on fire also, and people was still inside if that house. I saw Officer Croom go to every window beating on the house to get that family out of there, and then go underneath the porch that was ablaze and boiling with flames to open the door and get the family, with both houses overfilled with smoke. ...but the part that touched me the most was that the neighbor had just got off work...and we all know that the smoke alone can take you away, but, it was just perfect timing that the officer came and awoke (him).I want to thank

The Mayor and the Chief of Police for that officer's heroic effort in saving that life. I'm very grateful to have this Police department. Thank you Greatly, Officer Croom, You're Greatly appreciated."

When asked if he knew for certain if someone was it the duplex, Officer Croom replied, "I don't really know the man that lives there, but I've seen him at the same gym I use and I knew it was possible that he was sleeping. I crawled under the front porch that was on fire in order to gain entrance into the (smoke filled)

Continued on Page 14 ➡

➡ **Officer
FROM PAGE 1**

home."

The unknown author closed his letter of thanks with these remarks. "It was by far a blessing and honor to have him on the scene of that fire."

Officer Anthony Croom Jr. is the son of Anthony Croom Sr. and Tammi Croom of Apalach

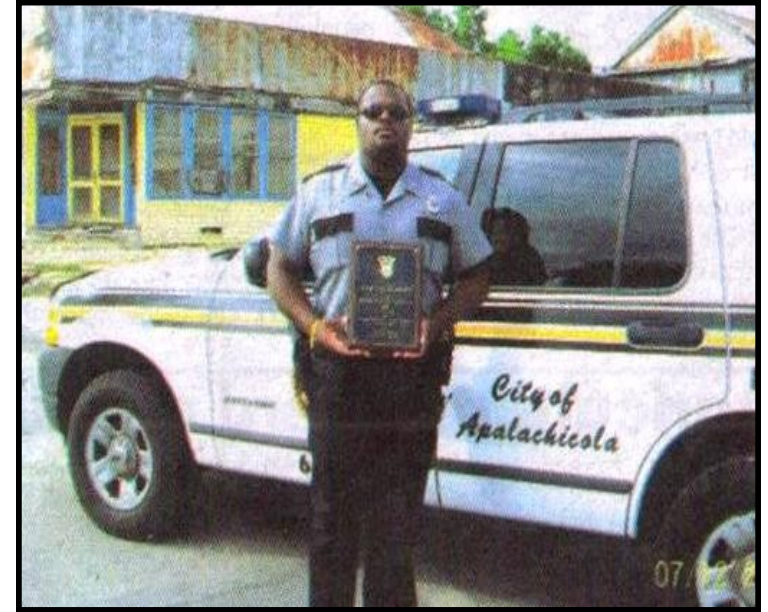


PHOTO BY ANNA CARMICHAEL

Officer Anthony Croom with the award

-icola. He was a student here before his police training at the Chipola College and the Tallahassee Community College Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. He made Dean's List and graduated with top honors before returning to his hometown and training to become a volunteer firefighter and police officer.

Officer Croom has been with the City of Apalachicola Police for two years. He has goals to

become a DEA or FDLE Special Agent, possibly in drug enforcement or insurance fraud investigations.

When asked why he became a policeman, he responded that he used to like watching "CHIPS", and "I really have the heart to help people." He added that drugs are a big thing and he wants to help kids realize the alternatives.