



# #I AM Richmond 911 D.C. Creasy

Coming from a public safety family, David C. Creasy Jr. learned to pay it forward.

“Since I was young, my dad and grandpa taught me to do what I could to help others,” said Creasy, electronics specialist supervisor for the Richmond Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) and the #IamRichmond911 honoree for June 2019.

For 10 years, D.C. was a volunteer firefighter for Chesterfield County. After an injury ended his service, he missed helping the less fortunate, he said, and he was dealing with his dad’s extended illness.

A friend introduced him to the Bearded Villains, a self-described “brotherhood of elite bearded men from all over the world” that supports its members as well as helps others, his friend told him.

A bit skeptical at first, D.C. wondered whether Bearded Villains was like a gang, so he talked to his dad about it.

“Dad thought it was a great thing, no different from him being in Shriners,” D.C. said.

Since joining the Virginia chapter in August 2018, he has competed in beard competitions to raise funds and helped veterans, the homeless, breast cancer survivors, Special Olympics and more, he said.

“It brings all races and beliefs of bearded guys together to help each

other and to help others,” D.C. said.

For one event, he loaded up his 8-foot truck bed to take clothes to a potluck for the homeless.

“It was a very eye-opening and humbling experience,” he said. “Some people see bearded guys all tatted up and think, ‘Oh, here’s a biker gang.’ We’re not. We’re here to do things for those who need it. It’s nice getting to see how much people appreciate it.”

D.C. joined the Technology Division of the DEC in 2015 and became a supervisor in 2017. He manages the work of installing and maintaining vehicle technology to meet the unique needs of officers on Richmond’s roads and waterways.

He and his team turn basic models into specialized vehicles such as the Fire Marshall K9 SUV, which includes detailed systems to sense and monitor the internal environment for the working dogs, and police detective cruisers with specialized lighting.

“We give departments the best equipment they can get with the money they’re given, so people can focus on their jobs,” he said.

D.C. says that he is uniquely suited to his position, serving those who serve the public.

“I know what men and women in public safety go through and what the public goes through. ... I can make good decisions on a level playing field as a citizen and as a member of public safety.

“The people who come with the lights and sirens are not the only ones helping the public. There are people helping them that the public doesn’t see and doesn’t even know about. But there is no public safety without them. 911 is the beating heart of public safety.”



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of Emergency Communications**

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