

**Supervisor Don Ward's remarks at the Middle Falls Fire Department Annual Dinner,
January 11, 2020**

I would like to acknowledge the families of the firefighters. Without your support their ability to meet their responsibilities would be impossible. Thank you for supporting our firefighters. The days of hopping on the back of a truck with minimal training are long gone! Most people don't realize the time spent on training and recertification. It takes dedication and true grit to be a firefighter. You respond at all hours, in all types of weather to keep us safe. You're always there for us! Thank you!

Tonight your newly appointed officers take an oath to perform their duties to the best of their ability. Their most important duty they have is to make sure everyone returns home to their families at the end of the day and they will acknowledge that duty tonight.

I sat in this room several months ago and attended a meeting about firefighters and cancer. The health risks go beyond your active time as a firefighter.

Please listen to your officers. Take your training seriously. Take care of your equipment. And return to your loved ones healthy and free of injury.

Thank you for your service.

May God bless our firefighters and our great town of Greenwich!