



Utica's Taurisano receives American Legion EMT award

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UTICA — The Oneida County American Legion recently awarded a Utica Fire Department emergency medical technician with the EMT of the Year Award for the legion's Fifth District.

Philip Taurisano was given the award for his daily performance and extensive training, locally as well as overseas, said Paul Wojcik, Fifth District Chairman for the Law and Order program.

Taurisano studied in Poland, working with foreign EMT units.

He was chosen out of candidates from the 25 American Legions in Oneida County, in addition to all the legions in the district's five other counties — Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and Onondaga. Taurisano originally was nominated by Utica Fire Chief Russell Brooks.

When it comes to the nominee, everything is taken into consideration.

"The training, the dedication, if they're involved in any community events and sometimes a particular incident might play a role in the selection," Wojcik said.

Taurisano now will be submitted for consideration for the American Legion state and national awards.

Taurisano was presented the award by state Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-Rome, and Wojcik.

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