

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Cape VFW Men's Auxiliary Donates to BackStoppers**

Cape Girardeau's VFW Post 3838 Men's Auxiliary has donated \$500 to The BackStoppers, an organization that assists the families of first responders who die in the line of duty. The BackStoppers recently added Cape Girardeau county to the list of counties covered by the group.

Members of the Cape Girardeau law enforcement and fire service community participated in the presentation coordinated by Bob Neff of Ford Groves who serves on The BackStoppers board of directors.

"Earlier this year we were able to combine the services of the Guardians which we established in 2001 with the larger BackStoppers organization which has been in existence for more than 50 years," Neff said. "We hope we never have that tragic situation but our men and women can rest easier knowing The BackStoppers are there."

The BackStoppers provide immediate financial assistance to the families of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical providers who die while on duty. The organization later assists the families with mortgages, other monthly payments, medical and educational expenses.

"Our emergency responders community protect our lives and property every day and they risk their lives in doing so," said Chief Ron Battelle, Executive Director of The BackStoppers. "We are pleased to provide this coverage to Cape Girardeau community and appreciate the support we receive from the Cape VFW and other area organizations and individuals."

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