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Tactics used by the Fire Department are demonstrated.

Credits: Alex Lloyd Gross



Slideshow: Hero Thrill Show held at sports complex

By Alex Lloyd Gross

The Hero Thrill Show is a very important event. It showcases dare devil stunts by Philly Police and dangerous everyday tactics used by the Fire Dept. A ten dollar fee is charged and the proceeds go to help pay for education of family members of police or firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty.

Held in the parking of of the sports complex, the event was delayed just slightly for a bit of rain that came down. The ground was wet which makes it very dangerous for the Highway Motorcycle Drill Team to do their stunts. They were scheduled to kick off the event. The motorcycles went on later in the day.

From K-9 showcases, to bicycle stunts, the crowd was impressed with each unit's performance. The Fire Department showed live burns from a structure that was set on fire, to how firefighters repel from huge heights, using a ladder. People could walk by a static display of hoses and other equipment used by the Fire Dept.

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The Police had many of their specialty units on display as well. SWAT vehicles, Homeland Security Trailers and Boats were just some of the things people could play on and venture inside of . many of the units were selling T shirts with thier unit insignia on it. The spare cash is used to pay for tolls when the members of those units go for training. At times they go out of state or take a toll road. There is no free ride

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for these units even if they are on official business.

The special Grand Marshal of this event was Burt Young, better known as "Paulie" from the Rocky movies. Young is also a former professional fighter and serviceman. He now lives on Long Island New York. After glad handling with the chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments , Young then walked into the crowd before spending the rest of his time watching the show with the families of police or firefighters killed in the line of duty.

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By Alex Gross
Philadelphia in Pictures Examiner

Alex Lloyd Gross has been documenting news for over 35 years. Published in just about every metropolitan paper in the Delaware Valley, Mr. Gross is...

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