Sirens wailing, Medic 741 flickers down Battery Lane on a recent Monday night. The slumbering Battery Park neighborhood is reminiscent of a less urban, more residential Bethesda that Firefighter/EMT Logan Dana grew up in. “There are a lot more high-rises and apartment buildings now than when I was growing up here.” He is behind the wheel tonight, responding to an elderly resident just blocks away from the Squad. Sitting in the passenger seat is Paramedic Andy Goldstrom, a seven-year veteran and Logan’s roommate.

Logan and Andy both live in a semi-private dormitory on the second floor of the Rescue Squad in return for sitting duty four nights a week. “I like to tell people I live in a 30,000 sq-ft place with an eight-car garage in Bethesda ... but I share a bathroom, a hallway, and a light switch,” said Logan.

As a “live-in”, he feels that he is able to build camaraderie with members across multiple crews and help them navigate the serpentine path of classes, check-offs, internships and training sessions required to become a Firefighter, Paramedic, or EMT.

“Living in” also means more calls, and more experience, a distinction illustrated on that recent Monday night as Medic 741 approached the nursing facility to which Andy and Logan had been dispatched. Andy recognizes that he had responded to this patient just a few nights prior. He remembers having met her daughter at that time, who explained a condition that significantly obstructed the patient’s airway.
Andy grew up in northwest DC, attending a small private school on 16th Street. Not too many friends from high school chose his path in life. Coming out of high school, Andy felt that his calling was to help make society more equitable. “At first, that meant seeking justice and order,” Andy says. His pursuit led him to join the military and then seek a profession in law enforcement. He eventually concluded that his personal calling was to help through “soft contacts” rather than “catching bad guys.” As a paramedic, the calls that stand out to him are the ones where he was able to make a change beyond the immediate emergency - from helping a father seek assistance in addressing a child’s struggle with addiction, to advocating for a patient with limited access to health care.

Logan’s path to becoming a firefighter was more personal. He attended a large public high school in Bethesda and then had to move to Texas for a couple of years, only to return in his senior year. “People said, ‘that guy looks familiar’ when I came back,” Logan remembers, “but there were only one or two people that remained my friends.” Now a transplant in the town he grew up in, Logan graduated from high school still unsure of his path, watching his peers pursue more “traditional” careers. “I considered the military,” Logan says, “I was living with my older brother on Wisconsin Avenue, taking some college classes and working odd jobs.” Tragedy then struck, as Logan’s brother passed away from sudden cardiac arrest in bed in the room the two of them shared.

If you are interested in gaining the experience of a lifetime as a live-in member or a regular volunteer, please contact the Rescue Squad to learn more today, or visit us online, at https://www.bccrs.org/join.

“...continued from front...”

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