

Okaloosa County News Release

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EMT David Griggs Receives 1st HERO Award *EMS Week May 17-23*

Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners awarded the first HERO award (Humanitarian Efforts Recognized by Okaloosa County), to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) David Griggs. EMT Griggs, on his way to work, arrived at the scene of a vehicle accident before emergency vehicles and broke out a passenger window, in order to attend to a victim. He then remained to assist the emergency responders until the patient was flown to Sacred Heart Hospital.

Though he claims he was just doing his job, Public Safety Director Dino Villani submitted him for this deserving award. "The timing of what EMT Griggs did demonstrates his commitment to his profession and also coincides with Emergency Medical Services or EMS Week, a time we like to show our appreciation for all our dedicated public safety employees," stated Villani.

The HERO award recognizes a deed, act or event in which an employee not only goes beyond the scope of what his or her job entails, but has done something of a humanitarian or heroic nature. This can include acts occurring outside work hours and submissions by people outside Okaloosa County staff.

Local businesses and medical facilities show their appreciation for Okaloosa County EMS throughout the week, and residents are encouraged to take a moment to thank all of these hard-working, dedicated personnel. The North Okaloosa Medical Center, Twin Cities Hospital and Ft. Walton Beach Medical provide free lunches for EMS throughout the week, and Sprint sponsors a cookout on Friday. Additionally, Publix stores works with EMS to provide a food drive for Caring and Sharing each year.

"This year's theme is 'EMS: A Proud Partner in Your Community,' and we are very proud of our public safety professionals," stated EMS Division Chief Al Herndon.

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