



Press Release

April 12, 2024

**St. Lucie County
FIRE DISTRICT**

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For Immediate Release

**Citizens Rescue Overboard Deputy
St. Lucie County Fire District Presents Citizen Hero Awards**

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL – On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, the St. Lucie County Fire District will recognize Kyle Purvis, Cody King, and Brandon Keller for their quick actions that averted a potentially life-threatening situation.

The presentation will take place in the Commission Chambers, at 3:00 pm, during the Fire Board meeting, held at the St. Lucie County Fire District Administration office, 5160 NW Milner Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL.

Last month, Purvis, King, and Keller were camping with their families on an island, when on March 9, they witnessed Deputy Betsinger get thrown from his marine unit and struck by the engine propellers after hitting a very large wave. Without hesitation, the three men jumped into action to rescue Deputy Ryan Betsinger from the Indian River. With the deputy's vessel still circling the area, they were able to get close enough to pull Betsinger out of the water and into their boat.

Once inside the boat, they used towels to pack the open gashes from the propeller and take deputy Betsinger to the Coast Guard station where paramedics met them, initiated treatment and transported him to the hospital.

"If not for the quick actions of these three men, the outcome could have been very different. Our paramedics could have been facing a completely different scenario!" -Fire Chief Jeff Lee

"If it wasn't for the swift actions of our community, first responders, and medical staff, we're certain Ryan wouldn't be with us today. For that, we are forever in their debt." -Sheriff Keith Pearson.

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