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St. Lucie County Fire District

Heroes come in all sizes

St. Lucie County Fire District presents the Citizen Hero Award

St. Lucie County, FL – The St. Lucie County Fire Board will present a Citizen Hero Award to 2-1/2 year old Elena Betancourt for saving the life of her baby sister from drowning in the family pool.

The presentation will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 3:00 pm, at the beginning for the Fire Board Meeting, held at the St. Lucie County Fire District Administration offices, 5160 NW Milner Drive, Port St. Lucie FL.

On the afternoon of December 9, 2016 units responded to a call that a 10 month old baby had been pulled from a swimming pool by her sister. Upon arrival crews were met at the rescue truck by a Pt. St. Lucie Police officer who related the child had been in the water for an unknown period of time. Araceli Betancourt was immediately transported in very serious condition, but due to the heroic efforts of her sister survived and is doing well today.

When asked why she was wet on the day of the incident, wrapped in a blanket, Elena declared, “It’s because I know how to swim, so I jumped in the pool to help my sister.”

For Release As soon as Possible
