



PRESS RELEASE

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January 13, 2020

For Immediate Release

BYSTANDERS RESCUE WOMAN TRAPPED INSIDE SINKING VEHICLE St. Lucie County Fire District presents Citizen Hero Awards

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL - The St. Lucie County Fire District will recognize Tim O'Brien and Carl O'Dell as Citizen Heroes at tomorrow's Fire Board meeting.

The presentation will be tomorrow, Wednesday, January 15, 2019, at 3:00 pm, at the beginning of the Fire Board Meeting, held at the St. Lucie County Fire District Administration offices, 5160 NW Milner Drive, Port St. Lucie FL.

On November 25, 2019, following a single car accident, Geraldine Crocitto found herself trapped inside her vehicle that was rapidly sinking. Tim O'Brien and his wife were driving home from shopping when they saw the car plunge into the water. While Tim's wife called 911, he swam out to the sinking vehicle. Since he could not open the door, Tim yelled to the driver to roll down the window. Through the window, Tim directed her to take off her seatbelt and after a brief struggle was finally able to pull her out of the car.

Carl O'Dell was also in the area and witnessed the accident. He swam out and helped bring the driver to safety on the shore.

"I grabbed on to her forearms and pulled as she twisted out of the window. At that point, I know that with all my strength, Jesus pulled me by the shirt. I think this was a miracle." – Tim O'Brien.

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