

Superintendent Update: November 30, 2018

Quote for the week: "Watch out for emergencies. They are your big chance!"—Fritz Reiner

Have you noticed there are moments in a crisis where some people amazingly just adapt and handle a crisis which seemingly makes them overnight heroes? I wonder often just how I might do in an emergency or crisis in which I had to respond...possibly to even put my own life at risk to save others. Would I do it? I certainly hope I would and I know you would hope to come through in a tough situation as well. We just never know...but it could happen that we will be placed in this position some day. Our precious children depend on us daily to help them through the crises they are going through...and we do! In actuality, we do respond to emergencies of our children. I hope you enjoy reading about the heroes mentioned in this article and make a conscious decision to think about coming through if that BIG emergency ever happens in our school.

Grit. Determination. Willpower. Fortitude. Do you have what it takes to persist in the face of challenges? To pick yourself up and carry on even when it seems like you have hit a brick wall? Mental toughness is a term used in psychology to refer to the resilience and strength that people possess to soldier through struggles and succeed.

A man sees a 75-year-old man stuck on railroad tracks and pulls him to safety. An off-duty emergency worker pulls a woman from a van after it crashes into an icy pond. An NBA star saves a woman from drowning.

A postal worker helps a mother whose baby is unconscious. A father goes into a house engulfed in flames to save two of his children, then returns to save the family's pet.

These are examples of everyday people who, when confronted with a life-or-death situation, jumped in to do what they could -- and became rescuers and heroes.

NBA player saves woman from drowning

Donté Greene is used to being looked up to. He is a 6-foot-11 player for the Sacramento Kings of the NBA. But on Memorial Day he became a lifesaver.

Greene and some friends were on a boat in the American River near Discovery Park in Sacramento, California. Greene told CNN affiliate KCRA that he heard some yelling and then a splash.

A woman had been pulling a ladder onto her boat, and she was thrown into the water when the driver pulled away. Greene saw the woman flailing in the water and dived in.

"I honestly don't even think I was thinking -- I was just reacting," he told KCRA. "I was pretty confident in my swimming abilities."

Off-duty EMT makes icy pond rescue

Tony Gerdom, an emergency medical worker from Iowa, was driving off-duty on December 7 when the van in front of him suddenly swerved off the icy road and fell into a pond. The cold weather had frozen the locks and windows on the van, trapping driver Kathy Van Steenvik.

Gerdom took a tire iron and smashed the van's passenger side window to free the driver. A second man, Brian Ford, held onto him with a rope while Gerdom descended into the pond. Each man shrugged off his hero label.

"I'm just the lucky idiot that jumped in first," Gerdom told CNN affiliate WHO in Des Moines, Iowa. "No matter how cold the water was, it's this overwhelming feeling that I helped save a life. It's tremendous," Ford said. All three were treated at a hospital for minor hypothermia.

Postman delivers CPR to save baby

In Sacramento, California, Robert Sweeney had just about finished delivering the mail on December 11, 2008, when he heard a panicked mother's cry for help. Her baby, 19-month-old Kelly Jimenez, appeared lifeless. Sweeney took the child, placed her on the grass in front of the woman's home and performed CPR while neighbors called 911. Sweeney revived the child before paramedics arrived, CNN affiliate KCRA reported. Sweeney told KCRA that the emotion of the moment didn't hit him until he got back in his truck to go home. That's when he started crying. "You don't ever think you would be in a situation like that," he said.

Father saves children, family dog from burning home

A Michigan father jumped through flames to save his two youngest sons when an electrical fire set their house ablaze December 7. Investigators told CNN affiliate WZZM in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that sparks from an electrical outlet set a living room curtain on fire. After climbing up pitch-black stairs to rescue his 4-year-old and 2-year-old boys, Jonathan Brito went back in the house and pulled out Punchy, the family's dog, who was unconscious. Brito performed CPR and revived the dog, Brito's wife, Charlene Hernandez, told the station. "He got the dog to breathe," she said. "[Punchy] coughed up some smoke and took off running." Brito and Hernandez's other two children were at school when the fire started. The couple, who both work night-shift jobs, lost their clothes, furniture and some Christmas presents. "Thank goodness everybody got out of the house safely," Brito said. "If I've got to jump through fire to save my kids' lives, that's what I'm going to do."

Men honored for saving driver from tanker fire

Truck driver Ronald Tobias, 73, of Syracuse, Indiana, was trapped after his propane tanker truck flipped on its side and exploded. But rather than running from the flames, two people headed toward them. Lonnie Hood, 30, from Acton, Indiana, and Robert Skaggs, 49, from Fortville, Indiana, each decided they had to try to help save Tobias on October 22. Hood was working on a nearby construction job and ran over. Skaggs was in his car on Interstate 465 when he saw flames behind him, stopped, and put his car in reverse. "I just jumped off [a second-story roof] and ran to it. I don't know, I was kind of feeling something telling me to get over there," Hood told CNN affiliate WRTV of Indianapolis. "I just kicked [the window] real hard and it went right in, and I just grabbed him up, me and another guy, and pulled him up to higher ground." Added Skaggs, "For some reason, I just jerked the car off to the side, threw it in reverse and took off backwards toward it." For their actions, they were awarded the Governor's Heroism Award by Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels.

News For The Week:

Work has begun on “Old Main” at the Pleasant View Campus. This building will include administrative offices and a nice reception area for guests. Other functions are in the process of being determined by the Pleasant View staff. This building represents historical significance and community pride for the Pleasant View community. I am excited to watch the planning take place which will guarantee 100% functionality of this beautiful historical structure. I will give more details as the planning progresses.



Dear Principal Williams and Superintendent Myers,

Congratulations! **Mulberry High** has been recognized by the [Office for Education Policy \(OEP\)](#) at the University of Arkansas as a school where students demonstrated high growth on the ACT Aspire! As you may know, the OEP creates an annual report entitled the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards, and this year we are recognizing schools with high student growth. We think growth is the best indicator of the positive impact that your school is having on students.

In our [High School Level report](#) to be released tomorrow, **Mulberry High** received the following award:

Statewide High ELA Growth: High School Level (17th in the state with a score of 83.15--#1 was 85.95)

