

Deputies Honored for Saving Man's Life

On January 9, 2008, Lt. Paul Greiner and Deputy Sheriff Scott Steva received the Sheriff's Commendation Award presented by Sheriff Bob Merski, together with Chief Deputy Richard Seaman, District Attorney Brad Foulk, County Executive Mark DiVecchio and County Councilman Kyle Foust.

A press conference was held to honor these deputies for vigilance, bravery and rapid response in saving the life of Mr. Earl Ebbert. On September 29, 2007 both deputies were in route to the Erie County Prison via Interstate 79 after picking up a prisoner from Crawford County Jail. The deputies stopped at an accident scene, where Mr. Ebbert was trapped in his vehicle, which had overturned in water. Lt. Greiner and Deputy Steva broke the steering wheel to free the victim's leg, and pulled him to safety.

Lt. Greiner is a 20-year veteran of the Erie County Sheriff's Office. He has held various positions in the office throughout his 20 years of service. He started and trained the original S.E.R.T. team and is presently the Lieutenant in charge of the Civil Division.

Deputy Steva is a 13 -year veteran of the Erie County Sheriff's Office. Scott was one of the original S.E.R.T. team members. He has served his country in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom from November 2001 to June 2002. Again in February 2003 he was called to Iraq and served as Captain of a security detail until June 2004. He retired from the Army Reserves in 2005.

Just a side note: The men are such good friends, a week after the rescue, Paul served as best man in Scott's wedding.



