



# PRESS RELEASE

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## St. Lucie County FIRE DISTRICT

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### For Immediate Release

#### **Citizens Perform CPR until First Responders Arrive St. Lucie County Fire District presents the Citizen Hero Award**

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL** - The St. Lucie County Fire District recently honored six local citizens for their quick thinking and immediate actions that helped avoid a possible fatal outcome.

On May 13, 2020, Rick Hatcher, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Sports Commission, collapsed at his Port St Lucie home while mowing the grass. Mr. Hatcher had suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. Fortunately, nine-year-old Nicholas DeRosa, was playing nearby. Nicholas ran into the house yelling for his father. Joe and Natalie DeRosa quickly ran outside to Mr. Hatcher's aid. Another nearby neighbor, Rudi Halgryn, witnessed what was happening and ran to assist. The DeRosa's and Mr. Halgryn began CPR.

Inside her house as she prepared dinner, Lisa Stanford, a nurse at Cleveland Clinic, saw what was happening and called to her husband as she ran to help. Lisa jumped in to assist the others in CPR while Steve Stanford ran to the front of the house to flag down rescue and bring the first responders back to the scene.

With fire board meetings being held virtually during the pandemic, certificates of appreciation and citizen hero medals were mailed to all. If not for the prompt attention and swift actions of these six individuals, the outcome could have been very different.

"Unfortunately, cardiac arrest calls do not usually have happy endings, so it is especially nice to honor these citizens." –Fire Chief Nate Spera

In the attached photo from left to right: Rudi Halgryn, Steve & Lisa Stanford, Rick & Cheryl Hatcher, Joe, Natalie, & Nicholas DeRosa.

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