



Lifesaving Awards

Whenever a life is saved, share the story!



American Red Cross
Training Services

Inspiring Stories

Eastern North Carolina Region



(From left: John Gunter, Pat Gunter, and Red Cross Executive Director, James Jarvis)

Pat Gunter and her husband, Topsail Beach Commissioner John Gunter, started their day like any other. Pat was in the kitchen while her husband was in the bedroom when she heard a terrible crash. She ran into the room to see John lying on the floor, face down. She ran to him and lifted his head up. It was immediately clear that he was not breathing. She called 911.

When the 911 dispatcher asked Pat if she could do CPR, she said that she could try. She had to turn him onto his back first. By that time, he was turning blue and there was no doubt in her mind that he was “gone.” She just knew that every second was critical, so she started chest compressions.

Eventually John began to move his head slightly and took, what she later learned to be little “guppy” breaths. While they were not effective breaths, they were at least something. Soon after, Officer Ryan Benway of the Topsail Beach Police Department arrived and took over compressions until paramedics arrived.

[Read more...](#)

Connecticut Region



Instructor Spotlight

Each month we highlight instructors who have taught students who in turn used their lifesaving skills to save or sustain a life.

Randy Feesler was honored for teaching a student Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED skills. Randy’s student used their skills to help sustain the life of gentleman who fell unconscious at a state park in Mt. Sterling, OH.



Lifesaving Awards Vault

The following vault story comes from The Nassau Daily Review in 1931 (Long Island, New York)



(From left: Honorees; Nicholas Dionne, Lee LeBlanc and John Roberts)

A male patron was in the sauna when he started to feel ill and fell unconscious. John Roberts was notified and promptly responded. The Emergency Action Plan was put in place. Lee Leblanc retrieved the AED and brought it on scene. Lee and Nicholas Dionne removed the gentleman from the sauna. An assessment was conducted and it was determined CPR was needed. One of the bystanders announced she was a nurse and came to administer chest compressions with the help of Nicholas, Lee, and John.

The AED was setup and advised a shock was needed. All stood clear as a shock was delivered. Another assessment was conducted and CPR resumed. The AED analyzed again and advised another shock was needed. The AED delivered another shock. John, Nicholas and Lee continued providing the gentleman with ventilations until the he became responsive.

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Arkansas Region



Raj Rao, trained in American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, helped to sustain the life of a female staff member who fell unconscious during a meeting at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR. Staff were having a meeting in the Chancellor's Conference room. Shortly after the meeting began one of the female staff members appeared to be slumped in her chair. One of the staff members stood up, stopped the meeting and advised 9-1-1 needed to be called. Mark Power and a fellow staffer performed an assessment and placed the woman on the floor. Mark started to perform chest compressions while Raj Rao helped perform rescue breaths. University police were notified of the situation. Jim Coleman stayed in the room and helped to notify University police of any changes.

FREEPORT MAN HONORED AS HERO

Lloyd Calkins Gets Certificate For Part In Rescue Of Men From Drowning

Lloyd Calkins of Bedell street, Freeport, has received from the American Red Cross a certificate of merit in recognition of his part in the rescue of two men from drowning.

The rescue occurred several months ago. Calkins and his wife, who lived at that time in Hicksville, were entertaining relatives from Syracuse and were driving along the road from Oyster Bay to Bayville. About 300 feet off shore a fishing boat had capsized, throwing the three occupants into icy water. One man started for shore, but encumbered by clothing was making slow progress and growing perceptibly weaker.

The crowd gathering on shore was distressed but no one made a move toward relief. Calkins, then installer for the New York Telephone company, and his brother, one of the guests from Syracuse, threw off their outer clothing and plunged in.

One Brought To Shore

They seized a man floundering in the water and brought him to shore. Meantime, George Pattri, frameman of the telephone company, started to the relief of the other two men who were clinging to the boat farther out. By the time Pattri reached the craft one of the men lost his hold and disappeared. Pattri made a sixth dive before he found the man.

Calkins' brother became entangled with submerged fish nets and had to be extricated. Pattri finally was reached, with his apparently lifeless burden and then the third man was brought in. All were taken to the Glen Cove hospital and all recovered from the effects of the accident.

Both Pattri and Calkins were reticent about their deed, but witnesses from the shore brought the matter to the attention of authorities, the certificate of merit which Calkins proudly owns being the result. Calkins now is a doorman at the Grove theatre in Freeport.

Saving lives starts here.

[Read More...](#)

Interactive Map of the Lifesaving Awards

Interested to see if a Lifesaving Award recipient was awarded in your area? Please view our interactive Lifesaving Awards map to see where a life has been saved as well as where we have honored awardees.

[View the NEW interactive map on RCVIEW](#)

Nominate. Recognize. Inspire!

View even more inspiring actions by Lifesaving Award recipients on the Training Services and American Red Cross social media pages.



YouTube

If you or someone you know has used **skills** and **knowledge** learned in an American Red Cross **Training Services** course to help save or sustain the life of another individual, visit [LifesavingAwards.org](https://www.americanredcross.org/lifesavingawards) to nominate, recognize, or be inspired.