

# Lake Wales Police Department



## Commendation

On August 11, 2014, David Frederickson and Walter Lettermen were hauling orange juice to California along their weekly route across the country. At approximately 5:23 p.m. they watched in horror as a vehicle entered the highway, crossed all lanes and collided with a truck on Interstate 10 near Biloxi, Mississippi. The vehicle struck the truck's fuel tank, creating an explosion and igniting the vehicle into flames.

David exited the truck with fire extinguisher in hand, rushing toward the flaming vehicle. He extinguished the flames enough to see the driver desperately trying to kick open the door. He also saw an infant in a car-seat located in the rear of the vehicle. He forced open the front door then opened the back to reach the infant. Gasping through the smoke, he was able to rescue the infant and pull her from the vehicle. Walter grabbed the baby and carried her to safety as David continued battling the fire along with others that arrived to assist. Moments after backing away from the vehicle, it exploded again. If not for your quick thinking and fearless actions, the grandmother and her grandchild would likely not be alive today.

There are times in our lives when we are faced with challenging or unimaginable obstacles. This event exemplified one of those times. Each of you exhibited incredible teamwork during this incident. You acted with bravery, urgency and precision during a life threatening situation and as a result, two lives were saved. On behalf of the Lake Wales Police Department, the City of Lake Wales and residents of our community, you are hereby commended for your actions. We are proud to know there are heroes like you among us.

September 16, 2014

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Eugene Fultz, Mayor