



Deputies' Lifesaving Actions Recognized in Commendation Letter

July 24, 2018

County deputies who, along with other first responders and bystanders, rescued a cardiac arrest victim at the National High School Final Rodeo in Rock Springs on July 18, were recognized recently in a commendation letter sent to Sweetwater County Sheriff Mike Lowell.

In his letter to Lowell, Ron Gatti of Sweetwater Medics said “Because of the quick actions and efforts of your Deputies, the patient survived this brush with death. Please relay to every one of the deputies involved, our highest respect and gratitude.”

The victim, a 72-year-old Indiana man, complained of chest pain, then collapsed in the grandstands. Bystanders began applying CPR, and on-scene emergency first responders revived the man by deploying an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Lowell described the rescue as “a team effort involving the bystanders who initially administered CPR and members of the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office, Rock Springs and Green River Police Departments, the Rock Springs Fire Department, and Sweetwater Medics.” He identified the deputies involved as Sergeant Rich Fischer, Corporals Steve Powell and Tony Niemiec, and Detectives Jim Rhea, Jeff Sheaman, Matt Wharton, and Rich Kaumo.

(Commendation letter follows on next page)



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July 22, 2018

Sheriff Mike Lowell
50140B U.S. Highway 191 South
Suite 100
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Sheriff Lowell,

I am writing to recognize the efforts of numerous Deputies during the National High School Finals Rodeo. On July 17th at approximately 1925 hours, there was a person who suffered a cardiac arrest in the grandstands during a performance. Recognizing the emergency, your deputies immediately responded performing CPR, using an AED and communicating the need for medical help.

The deputies then supplied a stokes stretcher and assisted Sweetwater Medics and the Rock Springs Fire Department personnel in extricating the patient from the grandstands and loading the patient into the ambulance.

Because of the quick actions and efforts of your Deputies, the patient survived this brush with death. Please relay to every one of the deputies involved, our highest respect and gratitude. Their actions and advocacy to humanity, has resulted in the history of the world being rewritten for the patient's family and all of humanity.

I want to thank you personally for your support and advocacy for Emergency Medical Services in Sweetwater County. Because of this support, we can continue to deliver excellent emergency medical services to the community.

Sincerely,

Ron Gatti, NREMT-P
Director
Sweetwater Medics, LLC