

The individual distinguished himself or herself while serving as a crossing guard supervisor for a school. That morning this individual was directing traffic at the intersection in front of the school. They halted traffic to help lead a student through the crosswalk and noticed a vehicle barreling toward them and the student. In a split-second decision the individual shielded the student with his or her own body and was struck by the reckless driver. This individual sustained massive injuries and was able to prevent the student from being seriously injured.

The individual distinguished himself/herself by extraordinary heroism when an incident occurred in their neighborhood. The individual became aware of a domestic dispute in which a man locked his girlfriend inside of a bathroom and then set the house on fire. Without regard for personal safety the individual valiantly went inside of the burning home, fought off the boyfriend, broke down the bathroom door, and rescued the woman and her two children who were trapped inside.

The individual distinguished himself/herself by extraordinary heroism by reacting to the bridge collapse on I-35 over the Mississippi river. The individual was riding on a school bus, as a part-time youth worker, as it plunged into the river during the bridge collapse. The individual saved the lives of 50 children by quickly reacting to the incident, racing to the rear of the bus, and opening the emergency access door. The individual then started passing the children to awaiting bystanders.

The individuals distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism during a hurricane. Facing high winds, torrential rains, and flooding, officials in the town of Braithwaite had to call off rescue efforts because their vehicles couldn't get through the high water. The individuals, knowing there were people and families stranded in rising waters, refused to give-up. They went into the flooded streets in their boat time after time, and saved one-hundred-and-twenty people. In one particular life-threatening rescue, they reached a family of five including young children, clinging to the roof of their trailer and brought them to safety, just minutes before rising waters covered their entire home. The individuals continued these rescue efforts despite losing their own home to flood waters during the storm. Their example of courage, sacrifice, selflessness, and unwavering commitment in the face of life-threatening weather, was an inspiration to the community of Braithwaite.

The individual distinguished himself/herself with extraordinary selfless service to their community over the last eight years. The individual has worked to solve the problem of immobility in developing nations. There are over 100 million disabled adults and children in Third World Countries, many of whom are poor and isolated. The causes of disability range from diseases that have been eradicated in Western countries, to injuries from land-mines and war. For many of these people, medical aid is not available, and adaptive equipment is even harder to come by. The individual's solution is a low-cost, mass-produced wheelchair made of a resin lawn chair, metal tubing, and bicycle tires. The individual's non-profit organization, The Free Wheelchair Mission has donated over 800,000 wheelchairs to date. The individual has gone above and beyond to improve the lives of the disabled across the global community.

This individual distinguished himself/herself, for their volunteer philanthropic work on behalf of Gold Star children. While visiting a restaurant with their family, they found \$20 in the parking lot. During breakfast, they saw a soldier and his family eating in the restaurant and decided to give the money to the soldier out of respect. After this remarkable story was told nationwide, many people sent this individual \$20. But instead of taking any money, the family directed those donations to various charities that help kids who have lost a parent to war. To date, donations total more than \$2,000,000.