

Sheriff's Officer Receives Life-Saving Award

BRIDGEWATER – Recently Somerset County Sheriff's Officer Scott Jepsen was awarded a life-saving award by the Somerset County 200 Club.

Officer Jepsen was recognized for his actions on Oct. 20, 2007. While off-duty, he came upon an overturned vehicle on the corner of Douglas Road and Liberty Corner Road in Far Hills. The vehicle was heavily damaged and the door would not open, which required that he climb into the back seat to aid the driver, Robert Villani Jr.

Mr. Villani suffered serious injuries to his face and airway. Officer Jepsen held his head upright to keep his airway open until paramedics arrived and placed a neck brace to stabilize his head and provided mechanical ventilation.

Far Hills Police Chief Kenneth Hartman and several Somerset County Sheriff's Officers assisted Officer Jepsen at the scene.

According to statements made by a paramedic at the scene and the flight medic on the rescue helicopter, Officer Jepsen's quick and correct response made for a positive outcome in this life-and-death situation.

"This is an outstanding example of first responders working hand-in-hand to protect the residents of Somerset County," said Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano. "The Sheriff's Office is very proud to have Officer Jepsen serving the citizens of Somerset County."

Officer Jepsen is an Iraq War veteran who received emergency medical training (EMT) and CPR training in basic boot camp in the Marine Corps. Before he was deployed to Iraq, he received intravenous and basic triage training. He is currently an active member of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard and Sheriff's Special Response Team.

The Somerset County 200 Club is a non-profit group of residents and businesses with a deep concern for the welfare of police, fire and rescue-squad personnel.

The award was presented to Officer Jepsen at the annual luncheon of the 200 Club, which was held at the Redwood Inn.

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