



## Employee Recognition Lifesaving Award



### Deputy Mark Empting and Deputy Gabe Tweten Receive the Lifesaving Award April 1, 2008

On Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at the Clay County Board Meeting Deputy Mark Empting and Deputy Gabe Tweten received the Lifesaving Award for their actions as stated in the following nomination made by Patrol Division Commander, Lt. Steve Todd.

#### Nomination Letter

It is my privilege to nominate Deputy Mark Empting and Deputy Gabe Tweten for the **Lifesaving Award** as described in Article 30, Section 30.3, subdivision **Lifesaving Award**, of the Clay County Sheriff's Office policy manual.



Deputy Gabe Tweten, Gary Strom & Deputy Mark Empting

At approximately 04:06 hours on January 27, 2007 Deputy Mark Empting and Deputy Gabe Tweten responded to a medical assist call with Moorhead Police Officer Adam Torgerson at 2306 17<sup>th</sup> St S in Moorhead. Red River Regional Dispatch informed the responding officers that a 56 year old male was having a heart attack and that he was not breathing. The involved officers were only a few blocks from the scene and arrived within moments. Deputies Empting and Tweten along with Officer Torgerson made entry into the residence where they assessed the victim and determined that he was not breathing and had no pulse. Working as a team the three officers began performing chest compressions, providing rescue breathing, and connecting an automatic external defibrillator (AED) to the victim's chest. The officers performed CPR on the victim thru two shock cycles from the AED. Paramedics and firefighters arrived on the scene and informed the

officers that the victim's heart had started beating on its own.

The victim's name is Gary Strom and I have had recent contact with him. Mr. Strom is remarkably healthy and has informed me he will be forever grateful to Deputy Empting, Deputy Tweten and Officer Torgerson. Mr. Strom stated with no uncertainty that if it were not for the quick response and action taken by the officers, he would not be here today.

I have reviewed the reports completed on this incident and have spoken with each officer involved as well as with Mr. Strom. It is clear that each officer involved played a valuable role in working together to reach a successful conclusion on this medical assist. The key factors which the officers accomplished to obtain this success were the quick response time, the proper assessment of the victim's condition, the correct application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the proper deployment of the automatic external defibrillator. Above all, the most important factor in this incident was the officers' ability to work as a group towards a collective goal.

Our department policy on awards states that to receive a **Lifesaving Award**, the officers must distinguish themselves by an act that contributes to the saving of a person's life. My investigation has led me to conclude





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that Deputy Empting, Deputy Tweten and Officer Torgerson undoubtedly saved Mr. Strom's life during this incident.