

□ CCSO Deputy Receives Lifesaving Medal After Rescuing Elderly Woman Caught in Burning Building

The Sheriff's Office recognized one of its own today for his heroism in braving a house fire to rescue an elderly female resident this past week.

Deputy Bill Goodwin pulled the 91-year-old Rainier resident from her burning home at 25246 Birchtree Street #25, Rainier on Saturday, May 23, at approximately 12:17 p.m. The home was subsequently destroyed by the fire.

"Deputy Goodwin's actions at the risk of his own safety made a life and death difference in this instance," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "Deputy Goodwin heard fire department dispatched to the location, and because he was in the area, he did not hesitate, but also rushed to the scene.

"When he arrived, he saw heavy smoke coming from inside the structure and heard the voice of the resident still inside. He crawled his way through heavy smoke and located the woman near the kitchen. She advised the deputy that she needed her walker, but she was able to escape the burning building with the assistance of Deputy Goodwin.

"Both Deputy Goodwin and the woman were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene. Deputy Goodwin's actions represent extraordinary lifesaving measures in the line of duty, and for this reason it is my great honor to bestow upon him the Columbia County Sheriff's Lifesaving Medal."

Deputy Goodwin is a retired fire chief from Columbia River Fire and Rescue. He has been serving as a volunteer reserve deputy in the enforcement division since 2009. Recently, he has been employed as a part-time temporary deputy, filling in for the Enforcement Division's depleted manpower following a deputy's retirement in 2014.

Deputy Goodwin teaches CPR and First Aid to Sheriff's Office and other County employees on a regular basis.