



WALLA WALLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

To: Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office, Search & Rescue Team Members:

Daniel Androes
Tom Beyer
Tawny Clark
David Fesler
Nickie Gunther
Randy Hallowell
Joe Hays
Sandy Jordan
Brooke Martin

Anita Moro
Terry Olson
Dale Preas
Don Schacht
Margaret Schacht
Mike Smith
Dwayne Weston
Ken Ziegele
K-9 "Bentley"

From: Chief Deputy John King

Re: Letter of Commendation for Dedication to Duty on February 25, 2014

Date: March 3, 2014

On February 25, 2014, at approximately 1700 hours, members of the Walla Walla Police Department requested the assistance of the Sheriff's Office, regarding a runaway female. The female, who purportedly suffered from mental and emotional issues, had run away from her group home at 15 West Morton Street. What made the situation more dire was the fact that the outside temperature was roughly 25 degrees and she had left the group home wearing nothing but a pair of jeans and a t-shirt. Exposure to the elements with such scant clothing, put her at a greater risk of hypothermia. The Police Department had tried desperately to find her; however, she was nowhere to be found. After hours of searching, the Police Department requested the assistance of the Walla Walla County Search and Rescue team.

The wheels were quickly put into motion and the call-outs began. Within a short period of time, 17 members of the Search and Rescue team responded to the Sheriff's Office, including K-9 Bentley. A briefing was provided and the team launched into the field. Each member combed his/her area of responsibility, feverishly searching for the missing female. Eventually, the team caught a break and determined the female had been recently seen at a nearby church. With the scent still relatively fresh, K-9 Bentley picked up the trail of the female and led the Search and Rescue team members to the missing female. Though the female was still agitated, the Search and Rescue members were able to keep her calm until

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the police officers arrived. Upon arrival, the officers took custody of the female and provided the assistance she needed.

Each of the aforementioned Search and Rescue members are commended for their superior dedication to duty and for answering the call to assist a person in need. Each of these members are volunteers, who used their own time and resources to render aid. This unselfish professionalism is what makes the Walla Walla County Search and Rescue team the best in the state. I received countless calls and e-mails from the Police Department thanking you for the tremendous job you did. You made an incredible impression on the Police Department.

I am absolutely certain your efforts saved this person's life. The Sheriff's Office is very proud of all of you and extraordinarily grateful for your dedicated service. Your dedication is in keeping with the highest standards of devoted public service and the vision, mission, and core values of the Walla Walla Sheriff's Office.

Thank you all for another job very well done! |



JOHN A. TURNER
Sheriff