

THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA

C-PORT Award

2019

Presented to:

Captain Casey Canady of Sea Tow Marco Island, Florida

And

Captain Thomas Crossland of Sea Tow Marco Island, Florida

And

Captain Bob DiSanto of TowBoat US Block Island, Rhode Island

Captains Canady and Crossland:

At approximately 1600 on October 6, 2019, Sea Tow Marco Island's Captain Thomas Crossland, while on standby at the office, overheard and responded to a distress call made by a Good Samaritan for a victim in the water near the S.S. Jolley Bridge in Marco Island, Florida.

Captain Casey Canady, while off duty on his own personal boat with his 5-year-old daughter, overhead the same distress call and immediately responded to the area.

Upon arriving on scene, Captain Canady observed a male victim face down in the water with an unmanned jet ski circling around. With Captain Crossland watching his 5-year-old daughter, Canady immediately jumped onto a Good Samaritan's boat which had just arrived on scene and pulled the victim up onto the boat. Crossland then entered the water to retrieve the circling jet ski and secure it from running into any of the responding vessels.

Once the victim was aboard, Canady observed that the victim was bloated and blue from head to toe. This is when Canady's training as a firefighter kicked in, and he immediately began hands-only CPR on the unconscious victim. Canady continued doing chest compressions for a few minutes until another Good Samaritan, who happened to be a nurse, jumped onto the boat to assist.

With the nurse now doing CPR, Canady went to the helm and piloted the vessel to shore. Upon arriving at the dock, Canady resumed chest compressions until EMS personnel arrived and took over care, transporting the victim to a nearby hospital. After spending a few days in critical condition in a medically induced coma, the victim recovered with no signs of permanent damage.

There is no doubt that Captains Crossland and Canady's fast response, dedication, and skill directly contributed to saving this man's life.

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Captain Bob DiSanto of TowBoat US Block Island, Rhode Island

At approximately 1300 hours on August 18, 2019, Captain Bob DiSanto of TowBoatU.S. Block Island overheard a call from the Block Island Marine Patrol to the Block Island Harbormaster. The Marine Patrol reported that they had received a call for a medical emergency and directed the Harbormaster to exit Block Island's Great Salt Pond and respond at "wide open throttle".

DiSanto, long accustomed to working with the Marine Patrol and Harbormaster, replied and offered to assist with the TowBoatU.S. towboat, which is much faster than any vessel operated by the Block Island Harbor Department. Thankful for the assistance, the Marine Patrol requested that DiSanto meet them in the center of the main entrance channel.

The two vessels met in the channel, DiSanto in the 33-foot TowboatU.S. vessel, and the Harbormaster in their Oldport launch. Two Assistant Harbormasters boarded the TowBoatU.S. vessel to quickly respond to the emergency, while a third followed behind in the slower Oldport launch.

The trio exited the harbormaster at over 35 knots, all the while, receiving updates on the description and location of the vessel, as well as the nature of the medical emergency.

They arrived on scene with a 34-foot Trojan powerboat to find one individual, later identified as the grandson, driving from the flybridge, his elderly grandparents seemingly unconscious in the cabin, and his mother frantic in the cockpit, unable to open the doors to enter the cabin.

One Assistant Harbormaster jumped aboard and quickly broke through the doors to enter the cabin. As he did so, it became readily apparent that the vessel was suffering from an exhaust leak, as the noxious and polluted air began to pour out the doors.

Acting as a team, all three quickly assessed the situation and identified one victim with shallow breathing and a thready pulse. The other, bleeding from the nose and mouth, did not appear to be breathing and had no pulse at all.

Captain DiSanto immediately instructed the operator to shut down the engines and quickly placed the Trojan in a hip tow. While the Harbormasters pulled the victims from the cabin and began lifesaving measures, DiSanto motored both vessels into the harbor while managing communications, providing updates on the victim conditions, and coordinating with paramedics to transfer the patients to definitive care.

With the Block Island Marine Patrol clearing a path through the busy channel and anchorage, DiSanto brought both vessels quickly to the pier, where Advanced Life Support awaited. The victims were brought ashore and placed on awaiting aircraft for emergency

transport to the mainland. Happily, due to the quick thinking, rapid action, and seamless coordination between Captain DiSanto and the Block Island Harbors Department, the lives of both victims were saved with no permanent effects or damage.

Later, in an interview for the local Block Island newspaper, Assistant Harbormaster Kate McConville said about Captain DiSanto, “Everybody did exactly what they had to save people’s lives. Because of that, these people are still alive. (Bob’s) known as the Cardinal on the Great Salt Pond. He truly is a part of the Harbors family.”