**Region 6**

On November 24, 2015, a little after midnight, 53-year-old Douglas Crabtree of Lewisburg, Tennessee called his daughter gasping for breath to tell her that he was having difficulty breathing. His daughter was understandably concerned and quickly dialed Marshall County 911, reaching Dispatcher Robin Malinak, who immediately sent Lewisburg Fire and Police Departments, as well as Marshall County EMS, to her father’s residence.

Lewisburg Fire Department responded without delay to Mr. Crabtree’s home to find that the lights were on, but no one responded to their knocking. Emergency Medical Responders Captain Jason Davis and Firefighter William Lee, quickly begin looking for access to the home only to find that the front door and windows were locked. As they circled the house they caught sight of Mr. Crabtree through the bathroom window. What they witnessed was not good: Mr. Crabtree was curled up on the bathroom floor, lying on his left side, unconscious, and ashen grey in color. They needed immediate access to him! At this very moment, Lewisburg Police Department Officer Gaylon Thomason arrived on scene, so they “legally” forced the back door and unlocked the front door. The bathroom was cramped with little room to assess and assist Mr. Crabtree, so they moved him to the nearby kitchen and started two-person CPR.

Marshall County EMS Medic 42, with Paramedics Christopher Carlough, Jeneal Whitmore and Supervisor Justin Whitsett, arrive, come through the front door and assume patient care. At this point, Mr. Crabtree had no palpable pulse and was not breathing. The emergency providers continued CPR with bag-valve-mask ventilation and quickly moved Mr. Crabtree to the ambulance and Medic 42 was on its way to Maury Regional Medical Center. An oro-pharnygeal airway is inserted to maintain Mr. Crabtree’s airway and a cardiac monitor is applied. Five minutes after initiating high-quality CPR in the kitchen, the monitor now displays a sinus tachycardia and Paramedic Whitmore palpates a strong carotid pulse. A silent cheer goes up. A twelve lead EKG confirms sinus tachycardia and shows no ST segment elevation. This is good.

A right antecubital IV is placed for medications and fluids. Mr. Crabtree’s breathing remains shallow and rapid, so the team continues to assist his breaths with a bag-valve-mask, keeping end tidal CO2 readings between30 and 50.

At 1:20 AM, thirty-one minutes after initiating CPR, Mr. Crabtree becomes responsive and the oral airway is removed. Nine minutes later, as the ambulance pulls up to the ED doors, he regains consciousness and, in a weak voice, can state his name as his care is transferred to the ED staff.

Paramedic Carlough later writes, “This call is a moment that embodies the tenants of our profession, because a patient survived cardiac arrest thanks to a multi-departmental cooperative emergency response. Through a bathroom window, the unconscious patient was identified by an emergency medical responder, followed by an atypical forced entry by emergency medical responders and a police officer on the scene. Early cardiac arrest recognition, combined with early BLS care, returned the patient’s pulse. Competent ALS follow-up led the patient down the road to a complete recovery. The actions on scene, patient assessment, patient care and treatment encapsulate who we are and what we do as a first responder profession. Mr. Crabtree is able to be with his family, because of the collaboration of the responders who invested their talents into saving his life.”

It is for these reasons that Lewisburg Fire Department, Lewisburg Police Department and Marshall County EMS and 911are receiving the 2016 Star of Life Award for Region 6.

Director Tidwell will now present to Douglas his “Certificate of Life” that reads: “It is hereby certified and solemnly attested that Douglas Crabtree survived a life-threatening event on November 24, 2015. This certificate commemorates the first day of the rest of your life.”