



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on February 16, 2015

Published in the February 16, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 04

---

## **The Goodness of America**

### **Late-night Swim**

Jim Rogers seemed to find superhuman strength to rescue a young woman from her vehicle submerged in the Santa Rosa Sound in Florida on January 3.

Northwest Florida Daily News reported that Rogers was standing in his kitchen when he noticed the woman speed through his subdivision, drive across his backyard, and plunge into the water. He immediately ran to her rescue. A retired military man, Rogers actually pushed the vehicle into shallow water before pulling the driver from the car to safety.

“I wasn’t sure what I would find,” Rogers said, recalling his 11 p.m. plunge into the dark salt water. “I was over my head a little bit with the current, the waves and stuff. It was cold.”

“He told me he really relied on the training he’d gotten in the military,” said Rogers’ wife, Joanne.

Rogers then tended to the driver until paramedics arrived. By the time rescue workers reached the scene, the driver was wrapped in a blanket provided by Rogers.

According to friends of the driver, she had been suffering from depression. Investigating deputy Robby Naylor’s report indicates that the driver may have been overwhelmed by stress. “[The victim] stated she did not have any formula for the baby and did not have any money to buy any,” the report said. “[The victim] stated she had just had enough and could not handle it anymore.”

Rogers was incredibly concerned for the driver’s well-being and showed no anger at the damage that the driver caused by driving through his yard. “She was panicked,” he said. “I was just trying to make her safe and get her out. I don’t know what would have happened if I hadn’t been here or facing that window.”

### **Lottery Donor**

A mystery woman in Buffalo, New York, donated her lottery winnings to Mary Hall, who faced losing her house to foreclosure before the generous donation.

WIVB 4 reported, “Faced with losing the house her family has called home for nearly 40 years, Mary Hall Called 4 Action, but ... a mystery donor gave up her lottery winnings to help Mary’s family pay back taxes that forced the east side home into foreclosure.”

Hall’s story appeared on Call 4 Action on November 3, after she learned that the city had sold her family’s homestead of over 30 years at a foreclosure auction.

[Lottery24.Net](#) explained, “Hall had discovered that the city had sold the house that had been owned by her family for over 30 years at the annual tax foreclosure auction because she owed just a few hundred dollars in back user fees.”

“I felt like they just took our parents’ house from us without us even having a say so,” Hall said.

A viewer who had heard the story won \$100 in the Win 4 lottery several days later, and donated it to Mary. That viewer asked to remain anonymous.

“I had prayed to God, she needed assistance, and the number came out and I felt it was necessary to



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on February 16, 2015

Published in the February 16, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 04

---

provide it to her," she said.

Amazingly, the donor was unable to reach Mary to offer the winnings, and decided to replay the same four numbers in the lottery again, and won another \$100 on December 23. At that time, she contacted Call 4 Action and asked them to pass along the winnings to the Hall family.

Mary stated that the generous donation has allowed her to pay the back taxes, and with the help of a lawyer from the Western New York Law Center, she was able to reverse the foreclosure sale. The home may now stay within the family.

"Hopefully for 40 more years. My kids can have it and do whatever they want to do with it. As long as I can keep my grandmother, that is all I was worried about," she said.

## **Take-charge Guy**

Gene Rickle was driving through Milltown, New Jersey, on December 12 when he noticed smoke, so he slowed his vehicle to see where the smoke originated.

He observed smoke coming from the window of a two-and-a-half story building and took action. [NJ.com](#) reported that Rickle witnessed a frail, confused woman in her thirties open the door to the building and step onto the porch, only to go back inside. It was then that Rickle pulled into the driveway and jumped out.

He told a crowd that had gathered to call 911 while he ventured into the building.

"I ran up the steps, pulled the door open and brought the lady back out onto the porch," he recalled. "I said, 'Your house is on fire. Is there anybody else in the house?'"

The woman had inhaled so much smoke that she was dazed and responded that everything was fine. According to Rickle, she was "not in a very clear state of mind."

Rickle refused to let the woman back into the building, and instructed her to remain in his vehicle until the paramedics arrived. He then proceeded to check to see if any other tenants were in their apartments. He suspected someone was trapped in the downstairs apartment and attempted to kick in the door, but his peripheral neuropathy, resulting from years of chemotherapy, made it impossible. Fortunately, it was then that Rickle turned to see a police officer, who took over. There was no one in the apartment.

Milltown's deputy fire chief, Jack Bicsko, was grateful for Rickle's efforts. Bicsko noted that the smoke had inundated the entire home, and that by refusing to allow the woman to re-enter, Rickle spared her further smoke inhalation, and virtually "saved her life." Three pets, one dog and two cats, had in fact died in the building, and the house was later "red-tagged," meaning it was too severely damaged for anyone to live there.

"He helped the woman out. He saved her life," Bicsko said. "I think we should say thank you to this man and have him recognized in public."

But Rickle believes his actions were not extraordinary. "I just went up the steps and did what I think any self-respecting person would do if they saw someone in distress, which is to help," Rickle said.



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on February 16, 2015

Published in the February 16, 2015 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 31, No. 04

## Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

### What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.