



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on August 9, 2022

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## The Goodness of America

### Chicago Hero Rewarded With a Car

After Anthony Perry, 20, saved someone who fell unconscious onto Chicago train tracks, a local businessman decided to surprise him with a car, Chicago news station WLS reported.

Perry recalled the life-changing, harrowing incident that resulted in such a positive turn of events.

Perry was waiting for a train on the platform of the Chicago Transit Authority Red Line on June 5 when a fight broke out between two men, the *New York Post* reported. Both men fell onto the tracks, where they continued to fight until one of the men was jolted unconscious by the electrified rail.

“The guy didn’t have control of his body so I really felt like if I don’t help him, who will help?” Perry told *USA Today*. “Everybody was just standing around recording.”

When Perry jumped onto the tracks, one bystander warned, “Don’t touch him!” Perry recalls feeling a violent jolt as he grabbed the man.

“It was strong — like it went through my whole body,” Perry recounted. “I remember after that, my whole body was still kind of shaky.”

Joined by another commuter, Perry pulled the man to safety and began to perform CPR while he waited for paramedics to arrive. The victim managed to survive the incident thanks to Perry’s intervention.

Two days later, Perry unexpectedly received a call from Early Walker, a Chicago native and founder of the anti-violence group “I’m Telling Don’t Shoot” that encourages people to report crimes to police. Walker called to inform Perry that he and his wife were gifting him with a 2008 Audi A6.

Walker was so moved by Perry’s actions, which had been circulating on social media thanks to video footage captured by bystander Tavi Ghee, that he looked Perry up on social media. In his research, he saw that Perry had recently used his entire savings to purchase a car that turned out to be a lemon and had been relying on public transportation ever since. It is because of Perry’s reliance on public transportation that he was in the right place at the right time to save the unconscious man.

“We just wanted to honor you,” Walker told Perry, according to ABC 7. “We wanted to literally show our appreciation because we need more people like you. We need more Anthonys in the world.”

For Perry, the gift is enormous, as his commute to work via public transportation is 90 minutes.

On the day the car was delivered, members of the community and police officers from the Chicago Police Department’s third district were present to show their support.

“This is just a prime example of how a young man took it upon himself to jump in and do the right thing,” said Lieutenant Yolanda Irving, who was present at the scene when the car arrived.

Perry said he was motivated to act by the belief that God would not want him to walk away from someone in need and the fact that he would want someone to help him if he were in a similar situation.

### A Profound Traffic Stop

When Ashlye V. Wilkerson was pulled over for speeding in North Carolina on March 28 while driving her father home from his chemotherapy treatment, the traffic stop turned into a memory the family will



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never forget.

Wilkerson was driving her father from a round of chemotherapy treatments at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, back to his home in Columbia, South Carolina, when she heard a siren and saw a blue light behind her. It was then she realized the speed limit had been reduced from when she last took note of the speed-limit signs.

“Ma’m, do you know what speed you were doing?” Trooper Jaret Doty said after introducing himself. “I’m going to need your license and registration.”

Immediately, Wilkerson’s father, Anthony Geddis, spoke up in defense of his daughter.

“This is my baby girl,” he told Doty. “She’s driving me home from a chemo treatment at the cancer center at Duke.”

Doty knew he was not going to give Wilkerson a speeding ticket. After going to his patrol car to review Wilkerson’s information, Doty returned to Wilkerson’s car and gave back her documents. He then turned to Geddis and asked, “Can I pray for you?” to which Geddis replied, “Of course, I absolutely believe in prayer.”

The two men prayed together in a moment that Wilkerson felt compelled to capture on camera.

“It was a really beautiful moment for me to see this take place between my dad and the officer,” she later recalled to CNN.

It was also an invaluable moment to witness for her two children, Alana, eight, and Aariah, five, who were in the back seat of the car with their grandmother, Reverend Fannie Geddis, at the time of the traffic stop.

Before parting ways, Doty pressed a small silver cross into Geddis’ hand, a memento Geddis kept on his dresser until the day he died on May 22, two months after the fateful encounter.

That cross now lives on Wilkerson’s dresser, in honor of her father and the man who showed them kindness when they needed it.

The story of this beautiful encounter did not go viral until weeks after the funeral, when Wilkerson decided to post the photo on LinkedIn and pay tribute to her father and give thanks to Doty. It got the attention of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, who messaged Wilkerson to offer their condolences and thank her for capturing the photo and sharing it.

When the story reached Doty, he was shocked. In an interview with CNN, he said, “This is not about me at all. I don’t want any recognition. I didn’t do anything. This man lost his life, and his daughter is honoring him. I want her to be able to honor him the way she wants, and not for something I did.”



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