



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 5, 2023

Published in the December 25, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 24

The Goodness of America

Ex-criminal Turned Good Samaritan

When a Houston police officer was shot by a carjacking suspect during a shootout on November 11, an unlikely hero put himself in harm's way to get the officer to safety.

USA Today reported that ex-convict John Lally thought he was being pulled over when he heard sirens and saw a police car in his rear-view mirror. He quickly realized the police vehicle was not targeting him, but instead was involved in a chase on US 59 in Houston's West Loop. The chase ended in a crash.

"When I saw the car crash happen, I thought I was going to take somebody out of one of the cars," Lally said. "It was like an explosion because there was so much noise and vehicles involved. I thought that was going to be the extent of it."

It turns out the crash was the stolen car hitting other vehicles, *USA Today* reported.

Lally said he began recording the incident to show his boss why he was going to be late for work. Then he heard shots fired. When Lally saw that Officer John Gibson was wounded, he immediately jumped into action.

"As soon as I saw him get shot, I could immediately feel his pain," he explained, having been shot in the leg himself.

"That's when I grabbed [him] by the vest and dragged him all the way back to my work truck," Lally told Fox 26. He then sat with Officer Gibson and held his hand while other officers applied a tourniquet.

Lally's video, which has gone viral, captured the moment that he pulled Gibson to safety as bullets continued to fly past them.

"I got you! Come on!" Lally yelled as he helped Gibson. "You're OK, bro!"

The *Daily Mail* reported that Lally has a long criminal history in Texas and Tennessee, with charges ranging from narcotic use and weapon possession to aggravated assault and theft. His most recent charge dates back more than two years.

Lally later told KKTU that, despite his past, he respects police officers and would not hesitate to intervene again if the situation called for it.

"I believe that we're all here for a reason. I also believe that if you see somebody in dire need, it's our job to help each other out," he said.

Houston Police Chief Troy Finner applauded Lally's actions and said the department planned to formally thank him for his heroics.

"People make mistakes, but a truly reformed individual is a person that we can use. He stepped up and other citizens stepped up, and I don't want that to get lost," Finner said.

Iowa Teen Grows Produce for Food Banks

Calamus-Wheatland High School student Lauren Schroeder of Dixon, Iowa, has grown 7,000 pounds of produce and given it all away to food banks and nonprofit organizations in the Quad Cities area over the



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 5, 2023

Published in the December 25, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 24

last two years, since a pandemic-era community food drive underscored the need for more nourishing foods. Her goal is to donate 20,000 pounds of vegetables by the time she graduates in June 2025, KWQC reported.

Schroeder couldn't help but notice during the 2020 food drive that all of the donations were canned and nonperishable items, and did not include any fresh produce. She made it her mission to grow food for people in need to ensure they were receiving healthier options.

Her parents gifted her a half-acre of land, where she grew 7,000 pounds of vegetables with a market value of approximately \$15,000. Her mother, Katie, said Lauren was all-in on her mission, even studying agronomy and earning a small grant for supplies and seeds from Future Farmers of America.

Her efforts paid off, as she was able to donate 15 different vegetables to organizations such as Community Action of Eastern Iowa, Lost Nation Food Pantry, and River Bend Food Bank, to name a few.

Schroeder estimates she's given more than 1,000 hours to her mission, and hopes to add another 1,000 before she graduates.

Love After Death

New York City book publisher Casey McIntyre died of ovarian cancer on November 12, and her dying wish was to make a posthumous plea for her loved ones to honor her by raising enough money to erase millions of dollars in medical debt.

McIntyre enlisted her husband's help to post a social-media message following her passing to encourage her family and friends to help her fulfill her goal of buying up the medical debt of others.

Days after McIntyre's death, her husband posted on X: "If you're reading this, I have passed away."

Her posts included a link to a fundraising campaign through the nonprofit group RIP Medical Debt, ABC 11 reported. RIP Medical Debt purchases medical debt from hospitals, healthcare providers, and the secondary debt market and bundles it for a fraction of its original value. Every dollar donated purchases approximately \$100 in debt, the nonprofit explains.

Within three days of posting, the campaign had raised \$140,000, enough to purchase around \$14 million in medical debt. By the following week, the campaign had raised more than \$550,000, enough to pay off approximately \$55 million in medical debt.

According to McIntyre's widower, Gregory, Casey had excellent health insurance and received her care through Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, but she was very aware that many people could not afford good cancer treatment.

Casey and Gregory began planning for her memorial and fundraising campaign after she almost died in May, he told ABC 11, after they saw a video featuring North Carolina churchgoers buying up \$3 million in medical debt.

"Casey was very, very sick at the end of her life, and she couldn't finish everything she wanted to finish," Gregory said. "But I knew she wanted to do this memorial and debt jubilee. So I set that up and ... did it the way I thought she would have wanted."

RIP Medical Debt spokesman Daniel Lempert told ABC 11 that the organization had never had a



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 5, 2023

Published in the December 25, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 24

campaign started posthumously.



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 5, 2023

Published in the December 25, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 24

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.