



Written by [JKelly](#) on June 4, 2018

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## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Wall of Trucks

When a Detroit man attempted to end his life and stood on an overpass over a busy highway preparing to jump on April 24, truckers arrived just in time to stop him — an extraordinary scene captured with photos.

The Daily Wire reported that 13 tractor-trailers pulled into position directly under the bridge to break the man's fall and remained in place until the situation was resolved. A picture of the scene was captured by MSP Metro Detroit and went viral.

CNN reported that troopers closed off both directions of Interstate 696 and asked for truckers' help. Chris Harrison was one of the truckers in the "trucker wall." He posted on Facebook about the act. Harrison told Facebook users that the police waved through six or seven truckers from the eastbound side of the highway to park under the bridge, and did the same on the westbound side.

According to Lieutenant Mike Shaw of the Michigan State Police, if the man had jumped, he would have fallen only five or six feet before landing on the roof of a truck, not 14 feet more to the pavement.

State troopers reported that 911 calls had alerted the police to the man around 1 a.m.

Lieutenant Shaw told CNN that asking truckers for help in such cases is not unusual, but rarely do so many trucks intervene because "most of the time these events are [resolved] pretty fast, so we only get one semi." In this particular instance, the ordeal took approximately three hours before police were able to talk the man down.

After the man returned to safety, the highway patrolman who flagged down the truckers walked to each truck and shook each driver's hand to thank the drivers for their contribution, WBIR reported.

Sean McNally, spokesman for the American Trucking Association, told the *Detroit News* that he was proud of the drivers for their intervention. "The photo makes us so proud and shows quick thinking," said McNally. "It also shows how our industry works with law enforcement to keep our highways safe and the quality of people we have driving."

### Nurse Takedown

A nurse in Wisconsin is being credited with putting her own life at risk to rescue two police officers on April 15.

Breitbart News reported that when two police officers in Portage, Wisconsin, were attempting to make an arrest, the suspect's girlfriend began to attack them. Sergeant Eric Walters was able to secure the woman, but while he was trying to cuff her on the ground, the male suspect, Jacob Hellenbrand, broke free from Officer Brian Loewenhagen and kicked the kneeling Sergeant Walters into unconsciousness.

The Portage Police Department described the scene on its Facebook page:

While the male was being stabilized against the wall of a building in a standing position by Officer Loewenhagen, nearby Sgt. Walters was attempting to ground cuff the female. The male was able to blade his body toward Sgt. Walters and forcefully kick Sgt. Walters on the right side of his face and head. The force of the kick caused Sgt. Walters to lose consciousness.



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Divine Savior Hospital employee Vanessa Guerra was witness to the scene and immediately rushed into action. She approached Sergeant Walters first to check on his condition. Meanwhile, Hellenbrand's girlfriend, Olivia Boomsma, broke free and "continued her assault on the officers, yelling she had a knife and intended to use it," Breitbart News reports.

What happened next goes far beyond the actions of a concerned nurse. Guerra then reportedly body-slammed Boomsma and held her until officers were able to once again take control of the situation.

The Portage Police Department said that Guerra was concerned that Boomsma was going to stab the officers and "disregarded her own safety to help protect" the men.

She told WKOW, "I'm in the medical profession. When you get into that mode, you're there for your patients; you're there for the person that you see in need. And that's what you do."

Both Hellenbrand and Boomsma face felony charges for battery to a law-enforcement officer and resisting arrest.

## Waffle House Nightmare

James Shaw, Jr., is the brave man who helped defuse a deadly shooting at a Nashville Waffle House in Tennessee by wrestling the gunman, Travis Reinking, to the ground.

Shaw was sitting with his friend at the Waffle House on April 22 when a gunman wearing nothing but a green jacket opened fire outside of the restaurant, CNN reported. Shaw saw a victim lying on the ground, prompting him to jump to the ground and slide along the floor toward the restroom. But, he said, he continued to keep watch for the gunman.

The moment the shooter paused, Shaw sprang into action. He charged the man, and they wrestled for approximately two minutes. When Shaw managed to wrest the gun from the shooter, it was still hot, he recalled. He tossed it behind the counter, and the gunman fled the scene, only to be captured the following day after a 34-hour, door-to-door manhunt throughout Nashville. Reinking was found hiding in the woods about one mile from the restaurant where the shooting occurred, the *Washington Post* reported.

Shaw suffered a burn on his hand and a bullet wound to his elbow, where he was grazed during the encounter. "I figured if I was going to die, he was going to have to work for it," he told reporters.

One witness, Chuck Cordero, who was outside of the Waffle House, saw the entire scene through the restaurant's large windows. He said that Shaw's actions saved a lot of lives that day because if the gunman was able to resume shooting "there [were] plenty more people in that restaurant" he could have targeted.

Though Shaw claimed that his actions were "selfish," as he acted to save himself, he broke down in an interview with WSMV thinking about the people he could not save and apologized to their families. Shaw created a GoFundMe page to assist the victims of the shooting. After mere hours, the \$15,000 goal was reached.

Shaw also visited two of the survivors in the hospital the day after the shooting. This does not sound like a man who acted purely in his own interests on that fateful day.



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