

## REPORT OF MERITORIOUS ACT

Date

1. BOX N/A (highest alarm) BOROUGH Nassau Cnty DATE 8/14/88 TIME 21452. PERFORMED BY: Lieutenant Albert S. Warta Rank or Grade 46 Batt. Name Haz Mat 1 Unit Assigned  Detailed 3. DID ANY OTHER MEMBER PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THIS ACT? No  
(If Yes)

Rank Name Unit

Is Meritorious Act Report being forwarded for participating member? Yes If not, how did member participate? \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. LOCATION OF MERITORIOUS ACT

a) If in building: Address \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Construction \_\_\_\_\_

Occupancy \_\_\_\_\_ Number of apartments in building \_\_\_\_\_

Floor where act took place \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

b) If not in building: Give complete descriptive information so that physical setting can be recreated. Auto Accident, Car into pole, Heavy damage to auto and to pole.Entire front end of auto completely involved in flames. Two adult males in the front seat, unconscious.

## 5. PERSON(S) AIDED:

NAME	Michael Dodd	Danial DeMolito
ADDRESS	Unknown	16 Cedar St.
AGE - SEX	NYC Police Officer	Male 24 Yrs
RESCUE BREATHING	No	No
EXTERNAL CARDIAC MASSAGE	No	No
RESUSCITATOR APPLIED	Yes	No
HOSPITALIZED	Yes	Yes
NAME OF HOSPITAL	Nassau Medical Center	Unknown
DIAGNOSIS		
LENGTH OF HOSPITALIZATION	5 Days	

6. MEMBER PERFORMING ACT: Did he receive any emergency treatment? YesSpecify Glass cuts of the handsWas medical leave granted? No Diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_7. WHAT SPECIFIC JOB WAS MEMBER PERFORMING AT TIME OF RESCUE? Off DutyWAS MEMBER ALONE? Yes (If not, indicate number of Fire Department personnel in immediate area, and describe their positions in # 11.)WAS A MASK WORN BY MEMBER DURING RESCUE? NoWAS CHARGED HOSELINE IN POSITION TO PROTECT MEMBER MAKING RESCUE? NoHOW WAS VICTIM REMOVED FROM PREMISES? Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Dragged XXX Assisted \_\_\_\_\_WAS A LADDER USED IN THIS RESCUE? No If yes, indicate type, size and placement \_\_\_\_\_

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Albert S. Warta

Name of Member

August 14, 1988

Date of Act

8. NAME(S) OF TWO MEMBERS WHO ACTUALLY WITNESSED ACT (IF AVAILABLE)

RANK

NAME

UNIT

9. NAME(S) OF TWO CIVILIANS WHO ACTUALLY WITNESSED ACT (IF AVAILABLE)

NAME

ADDRESS

Margaret Dell'Orto 11 E. Marine Ave. Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757 516-957-5719

10. Frank Capek 35 No. Lerisa Bethpage N.Y. 516-731 3110

WAS VICTIM REMOVED FROM: Immediate fire area Yes Directly above fire \_\_\_\_\_

Other area (specify in detail):

11. DESCRIPTION OF ACT:

See Attached Sheet

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on August 14, 1968, while travelling east on Spagnoli Road, Plainview, New York Fire Department Lieutenant Albert S. Warta, Jr. observed a fire on the road ahead. Approaching the scene, Lt. Warta observed that the fire source was a car which had struck a telephone pole. There was heavy damage to the front end of the car and the telephone pole, and the car was heavily involved in flames. No fire or police units had arrived on the scene, but there were several civilian bystanders.

Realizing that if this accident had just happened, and if so occupants may still be trapped within, Lt. Warta immediately stopped and rushed over to the vehicle. In the front seat he found two adult male, apparently unconscious.

Despite the intense heat, Lt. Warta tried to open the passenger door, but could not due to damage. He shouted "get out of the car, you're going to burn". On receiving no response from either unconscious victim he reached through the window to release the unconscious passenger's seat belt, which he did with difficulty, as the unconscious driver was laying across the passenger's lap. Although there seemed little possibility of rescuing both men due to the rapid spread of the fire and lack of assistance from rescue personnel or bystanders (no one of the now numerous spectators came forward), he finally got the seat belt released and was trying to pull the unconscious passenger through the window. At this time Mr. Frank Capek arrived to assist Lt. Warta, and together they were able to force the damaged door open and pull the passenger from the blazing car.

Moving to the unconscious driver (a tall, heavy individual), Lt. Warta attempted to pull him from the car but was stymied by the heat, the driver's size and unconscious, limp condition, and the fact that his feet were wedged under the dashboard due to damage. Several times Lt. Warta tried to pull him from the car, making little headway, and eventually tearing the unconscious driver's shirt. Diving into the car, Lt. Warta succeeded in freeing the driver's feet and tried to drag him from the vehicle. Once again the unconscious driver's feet became entangled in the wreckage, and again Lt. Warta dove into the car to free his feet. With fire starting to come through the firewall now, again the driver's feet caught on the wreckage, and for a third time, Lt. Warta again dove in to free them. Lt. Warta and Mr. Capek, who arrived back at the car at that time, finally succeeded in dragging the driver from the vehicle.

Placing the driver across the street by the first victim, Lt. Warta, a previously certified New York State A.E.M.T., checked both men for vital signs and found both relatively stable. By this time Nassau County P.D. units were arriving on the scene, and police officers instructed Mr. Warta to move the victims further from the car as they felt that an explosion was imminent. He did so. Lt. Warta continued to minister to the victims until Plainview F.D. units arrived on the scene to relieve him and extinguish the fully-involved vehicle.

Subsequently, the passenger was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, but the driver was seriously injured enough to warrant transport via helicopter to Nassau County Medical Center. Several Nassau police officers, Plainview firefighters and bystanders on the scene congratulated Lt. Warta and Mr. Capek for their selfless saving of the two victims.

Without regard to their personal safety, without any protective clothing or water protection, and despite great risk to their lives, the quick and courageous actions of Lieutenant Albert S. Warta, Jr. and Mr. Frank Capek undoubtedly resulted in saving the lives of both the driver and passenger. Fortunately, other than several minor cuts and bruises suffered by Lt. Warta, neither rescuer was seriously injured.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Act

12.

DIAGRAM OF APARTMENT OR AREA FROM WHICH VICTIM WAS REMOVED

Indicate location of victim by X.

Indicate path of entrance to apartment (or area) by solid line.

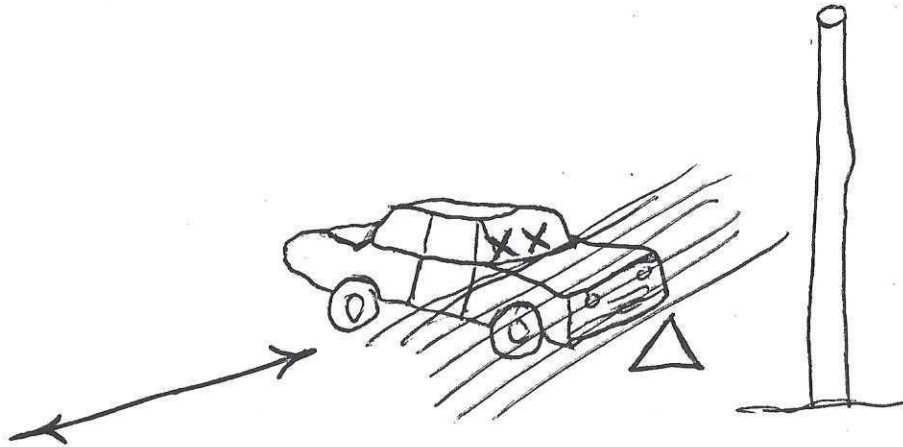
Indicate path of exit (if different than entrance) by broken line.

Indicate point of origin of fire (if known) by △ with floor # inside.

Indicate area of fire by ///////

Indicate locations of hose line by --> --> -->.

Diagram shall include all means of access to area (doors, fire escapes).



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Act

13. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER PREPARING REPORT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rank Name Unit Date

14. BATTALION CHIEF ENDORSEMENT: I was \_\_\_\_\_ at scene, observed act.

\_\_\_\_\_ at scene, did not observe act but investigated  
at scene.

\_\_\_\_\_ not at scene. Investigated.

Conclusion regarding facts of the Meritorious Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rank Name Unit Date

15. DEPUTY CHIEF ENDORSEMENT: I was \_\_\_\_\_ at scene, observed act.

\_\_\_\_\_ at scene, did not observe act but investigated  
at scene.

\_\_\_\_\_ not at scene. Investigated.

Conclusion regarding facts of the Meritorious Act.

RECOMMENDATION: CLASS I \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS II \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS III \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE RATING A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ FILE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rank Name Unit Date