

Purple Merit Star – Dan Wellman (Ausblick Ski Patrol)

Sponsor: Abby Horn

On Wednesday, November 6, 2019, Dan was traveling to Atlanta, GA on Delta Airlines flight 2539 that departed from Milwaukee, WI at 6:50am. Approximately 30 minutes into the flight, a woman came running down the aisle frantically asking if anyone was a doctor. Dan was the initial responder to the request for help. Upon following the woman, he found an unresponsive male approximately 50 years of age with no pulse. After assessing vitals, Dan asked for flight attendants to make the call for additional support of individuals with CPR training. Subsequently two nurses joined the effort to revive the individual. Dan and the nurses moved the individual to the exit aisle that allowed them enough space to reassess vitals and begin CPR. They removed his clothing and Dan began compressions. The nurses asked the flight attendant to assist by locating and bringing the AED. Upon receiving, the AED was not user friendly and neither of the nurses could locate the power while Dan continued compressions. When they asked the flight attendant to help, the Delta flight attendants stated they had no idea as they had no training on how to use the AED device or conduct CPR.

Approximately 3 minutes into compressions (Dan was conducting the compressions), they obtained a pulse. Dan requested, via the flight attendants, that anyone with any blood pressure monitoring devices please identify themselves. Through fellow passengers they located an automatic blood pressure cuff and a pulse oximeter.

For the duration of the flight, Dan and the nurses remained with the gentleman constantly monitoring his vitals. They were met at the gate in Atlanta by medical personnel where the gentleman was transported to the nearest hospital.

Delta Airlines formally recognized Dan Wellman's services through flight awards.

Dan's calm leadership in this situation kept passengers and flight crew calm to ensure the situation was maintained at a calm level, allowing them to concentrate on the immediate needs of the individual. The combination of the leadership skills of NSP and the training of NSP allowed for efficient collaboration and communication between Dan and the nurses. This created a "leader -team" dynamic that was critical as Dan administered life saving actions.

It is because of Dan's training received through National Ski Patrol that allowed him to both conduct necessary lifesaving interventions and provide the leadership necessary to control a situation in an uncontrolled environment. Dan was able to revive the gentleman, saving his life, and work in partnership with the nurses to ensure vitals were maintained until he could be transferred to the next level of care.

Purple Merit Star – Mathew Shea (Little Switzerland Ski Patrol)

Sponsor: Kevin Ketter

It is my pleasure to be submitting Matthew for a Blue Merit Star for stopping to help at the scene of a single vehicle accident on August 6, 2019 in the Town of Polk. Matthew was driving the night of August 6th when he came upon a damaged car in the middle of the road and found one unresponsive man lying next to the vehicle.

Matthew immediately called 911 to report the incident then grabbed his patrol bag from his vehicle and ran to the individual needing help. When the first responders arrived, Matthew was performing CPR on the unresponsive individual. It was also discovered at the same time that another vehicle occupant was ejected from the vehicle and down into an embankment.

All individuals left the scene alive. The firefighters by starting to help right away, it gave them a better chance at survival. Unfortunately, as hard as Matthew and the first responders tried, the injuries overcame them and they both died after being transported from the scene.

The assistance at the scene by Matthew before any responders arrived was outstanding and shows that patrol training serves us not only on the hill but anywhere our job takes us. His dedication to training and the help he offers shows his commitment to the National Ski Patrol and its mission.