



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Staly Uses Heimlich Maneuver to Save Woman

On Wednesday evening, Sheriff Rick Staly may have saved a woman's life by being in the right place at the right time.

While attending a "Meet the Candidates" event for the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture at the Pine Lakes Golf Club in Palm Coast on Wednesday evening, Sheriff Staly noticed a woman in distress. She was unable to speak but indicated to the Sheriff that she was choking when he approached her. Sheriff Staly performed the Heimlich maneuver on the woman and on the fourth attempt was able to dislodge the food that was stuck in her airway. The woman, identified as Sharon Demers, was then able to breathe again and thanked the Sheriff for "saving my life."



Left: Sharon Demers and Sheriff Rick Staly after the incident Wednesday evening.

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“I’m just so grateful to Sheriff Rick Staly for saving my life,” Sharon Demers said after the meeting concluded. “He was in the right place at the right time. I don’t think I would have survived if he hadn’t been there. He was even kind enough to sit next to me for the rest of the evening to make sure I was okay.”

The entire room applauded the Sheriff for his quick life-saving measures. “I saw the commotion and saw the Sheriff quickly spring to action,” Flagler County Commissioner Greg Hansen said, who attended the event. “This could have easily been a tragedy if not for the Sheriff’s quick response.”

“If anybody has a guardian angel it was Sharon Demers tonight and it came in the form of a Sheriff,” Crime Stoppers President Edward Fuller said after the incident. “He saved her life; there are no ifs, ands, or buts about it.”

“I’m just happy that she is okay,” Sheriff Staly said. “I would hope that anyone in my position would have done the same thing.”

The woman was thankful for the Sheriff’s aid and declined further medical assistance.

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