



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**

## **FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FCSO Deputy Selected As Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year For Flagler County**

*K9 Handler Marcus Dawson Honored For Rescuing Child From Burning House*

**DAYTONA BEACH, FL** – A Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) K9 handler was recognized for his heroism while rescuing a three-year-old child from a burning home in Palm Coast last October.

Deputy First Class (DFC) Marcus Dawson received the 2022 Flagler County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from [Crime Stoppers of Northeast Florida](#) during their annual banquet last night (September 15, 2022) at Daytona International Speedway.



*FCSO Deputy First Class Marcus Dawson (left) receiving award alongside Sheriff Rick Staly during the banquet.  
(Photos courtesy of CrimeStoppers)*

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“Deputy Dawson exemplifies a life of dedicated service and acts of kindness and compassion, both professionally and personally,” said Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly, who was on hand to see Dawson win the award. “His quick response and courage prevented what could have been a terrible tragedy. I would also like to congratulate Bunnell Police Department Officer Alexander Kilpatrick for being recognized by Crime Stoppers.”

[On the evening of October 17, 2021](#), Deputy Dawson responded to a house fire in the W section of Palm Coast. He discovered flames inside the kitchen and thick black smoke spreading from there to the rest of the home.

After receiving no response from anyone inside, Deputy Dawson entered the home through an unlocked screen door in the back patio and spotted the child watching cartoons while hiding under a blanket in the master bedroom. DFC Dawson carried the child out to paramedics, who checked him out and found no injuries.

[Click here to view body camera footage of the rescue.](#)

Deputy Dawson joined FCSO in March of 2016 after serving his country for eight years with the United States Air Force, leaving the service as a Staff Sergeant. He is currently a member of FCSO’s K9 Unit and Emergency Response Team.

DFC Dawson is also a volunteer mentor with FCSO’s Police Explorer Program, the same program he joined in 2006 while attending Flagler Palm Coast High School.

Deputy Dawson becomes the sixth consecutive FCSO sworn member to win this award, following [DFC Crista Rainey in 2021](#), [Detective \(now Corporal\) Agustin Rodriguez in 2020](#), [Deputy Jennifer Prevatt in 2019](#), [Detective Elizabeth “Annie” Conrad in 2018](#) and [Detective Richard Petkovsek in 2017](#).

The banquets for 2021 and 2020 were canceled due to COVID-19, but DFC Rainey and Corporal Rodriguez were also recognized during this year’s banquet.



*Pictured from left: Sergeant George Hristakopoulos, Corporal Agustin Rodriguez, Sheriff Rick Staly, Deputy First Class Marcus Dawson, Deputy First Class Crista Rainey, Chief Jon Welker (CrimeStoppers)*

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