

Civil Air Patrol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salem Composite Squadron

NEWS RELEASE

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Three Salem Civil Air Patrol Members Receive Life Saving Awards

Three members of the Salem Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol received Certificates of Recognition for Lifesaving. On October 4th, the Oregon Wing of the Civil Air Patrol held its annual meeting during which time Civil Air Patrol members were honored for their past accomplishments. During the presentation, three Salem members received Certificates of Recognition for Lifesaving for the following two cases.

On July 28, 2003, Cadet Eric Banick, age 15, was attending a squadron outing at Devils Lake near Lincoln City. He saw a small boy, Noah Martinez, age seven, from Sheridan, enter the lake from a boat dock in an area over his head and then not come back up. Cadet Banick went into immediate action and located the child, who began to spit and cough as he was pulled to safety. Major Joe Boyd, Commander of the Salem Squadron, said that Cadet Banick's attention to his surroundings and quick action prevented the potential death of a child.

On June 21, 2002, George Vankeulen, age 42, and his son, Erik, age 12, of Albany became lost while hiking in the Opal Creek area southeast of Salem. The Marion County Sheriff's Office and Boy Scout Search and Rescue teams requested air support in locating the lost hikers. The Rescue Coordination Center at Langely, Virginia, Air Force Base directed the Civil Air Patrol to provide the requested air support. A mission was launched with Captain Eugene Leonard as the Pilot in Command and Second Lieutenant Mark Banick as the spotter. After approximately nine hours of night flying, the Sheriff's Office directed the crew to a reported smoke plume. When they reached the area, they saw a lantern being used to signal them. The father and son were subsequently located and rescued in good health.

Civil Air Patrol, the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a civilian, volunteer, nonprofit, service organization. The unpaid members perform more than 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and conduct one of America's finest youth programs through CAP Cadet Programs

There are more than 800 members in Oregon.

For more information about Civil Air Patrol, call 1-800-FLY-2338

Visit our Civil Air Patrol, National Headquarters Website at www.cap.gov

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Visit our Civil Air Patrol, Oregon Wing Headquarters Website at www.orwg.cap.gov