

Hats Off!

Saving the Life of One of His Own



AE1 Glen Wall

Water safety and survival has been a part of AE1(NAC) Glen P. Wall's life, dating back to his youthful days as a life-guard. That knowledge hasn't been wasted as an aircrewman and aviation electrician for the past 13 years. CPR has been ingrained as part of his Navy job.

Petty Officer Wall never realized how important his training would be until he and his family were visiting grandparents for the holidays a few years ago. His then-14-month-old son was playing—running here and there, chasing an unwilling dog, just being a kid. Petty Officer Wall was distracted from watching his son when his 4-year-old daughter accidentally locked herself in the bathroom.

It took only a moment to open the door, but that was long enough for things to get quiet—a universal sign to parents that something is wrong. The next words out of Petty Officer Wall's mouth were, "Where's Danny?" Blank stares were all he got in return. His heart sank as he ran throughout the house calling Danny's name, with no luck. Then, he ran into the backyard, where his worst nightmare awaited him. He found his baby floating motionless under the pool cover.

At that point, Petty Officer Wall's thought process stopped, and instinct took over. He knocked aside the cover, jumped into the pool, and grabbed his son, whose limp body was like a bag of sand. He had turned blue, and his eyes had a fixed stare.

Although overcome by a momentary feeling of helplessness, Petty Officer Wall suddenly calmed down and let his CPR training guide him in saving his son. Within two minutes, an ambulance had arrived, and his son was starting to breathe and cough. Christmas had come early for Petty Officer Wall and his family, thanks to his knowledge of CPR. 

Something's in the Air



GySgt. Robert Simmons

It was going to be just another workday for GySgt. Robert Simmons until the MALS-41 avionics-division chief got out of his car. He immediately smelled the odor of natural gas.

Wasting no time, GySgt. Simmons had SSgt. John Rice, the mobile-maintenance facility's senior non-commissioned OinC, notify Public Works and the AIMD quality assurance office. He also had workcenter 991 secure the area and post a watch. Investigation revealed a natural-gas line to the mobile-facility van had broken free at the coupling because of the cold weather. Public Works repaired the pipe without incident.

This story could have had a much different ending if GySgt. Simmons hadn't acted. Only 15 feet away from the leaking gas, on the other side of the building, was a designated smoking area. 