Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.” When I read this quote there is but one single person who comes to mind and that is Paramedic Jesse Jones who I have the privilege of calling my hero and better half. Not long ago I experienced what was determined to be an episode of Super Ventricular Tachycardia. I was having trouble catching my breath, it seemed like I was going to pass out, my heart rate was so fast it was uncountable, and I felt the most terrified I have ever been in my life. Jesse acted quickly and promptly used the skills he has learned as a paramedic, splashing cold water on my face eliciting a vagal nerve response instantly dropping my heart rate to a slower more manageable number and getting me to the Emergency Room. On that day Jesse succeeded in helping me breathe easier and although I cannot repay this debt I would love to give him the opportunity of a lifetime.

For this reason I am nominating Paramedic Jesse Jones to receive LASIK eye surgery through The Eye Center of North Florida. He has proudly and tirelessly served the citizens of Franklin, Gulf, and now Bay County. Jesse has received recognition from physicians, hospitals, and county agencies for his outstanding work as a paramedic and the compassion he shows to his patients. Not only has Jesse impacted the lives of so many people from many walks of life, but he has done so with a visual deficit he has lived with since the age of 5. For twenty years he has lived with the struggle of wearing glasses, he has missed out on opportunities in life that he was not able to pursue due to his poor eyesight. Currently he has a -9.0 prescription for both his right and left eyes and has only in the last year been able to wear contacts. I can remember a time when Jesse broke his glasses which he depended on to see, was unable to make an appointment with his eye doctor, and only had prescription sunglasses to wear while he was at work. Despite this obstacle Jesse went to work, responded to 911 emergency calls and worked in the middle of the night wearing sunglasses because that was what had to be done to help others. I cannot think of any other way to give back this helping hand than to nominate Jesse Jones to receive this opportunity in order to make his job as a local hero in our community just that much easier.