My Local Hero is Doug Sims, my husband. He has been in law enforcement for 25 years, serving his community and keeping all of us safe as we go about our daily lives. We don’t really think about what all law enforcement officers do on a daily basis until the unfortunate happens to us. Then they are there, to comfort, to shield and to protect us from the things that try to hurt us. At times placing themselves in the way of danger so that we may live without injury or long term effects. Daily, as he gets ready for work, putting on the vest and the gun, sometimes almost routine, but always in the back of our heads we know that tonight could be the one. He kisses us goodbye and always we tell each other “I love you”. We never take for granted one opportunity to tell each other that and to steal a passing kiss.

I am entering him in this contest because of his love for the water. In his first job with a federal government agency he covered several hundred miles of the Tennessee River, lakes and tributaries as Lead Marine Boating officer. He was a pivotal person for the largest river event in Tennessee called “Riverbend” with hundreds of boats locking in and out of the damns in Chattanooga, TN area. When 911 happened, he spent over 60 nights without a day off on the river in the freezing cold on a 25ft open console boat to protect the waterways leading up to Nuclear Plants in our area. He initiated the first “Lake Watch” program which he was able to prosecute individuals for destroying and contaminating the river waters, and to help ensure public safety.

After retirement of 20 years of service with that agency, he went to Afghanistan for 2 year as a curriculum developer and trainer to the Afghanistan national police. To help mold them and train them so that as a country they could gain the knowledge and skills needed to be able to defend themselves against terrorist in their own county. While there he saved many of friends from harm’s way, and many civilians are alive due to his unwavering dedication.

We moved to Panama City Beach in the summer 2013, were he was first employed with Panama City Police department. While there he was directly involved with some of the more memorable cases, such as when the husband come to the doctor’s office to kill his wife. Well, it was Doug and one of his partners that got the nurses out of the building and took down the individual safely without incident. Another incident: He was there when a gunman was running around an apartment complex and was shot by a fellow officer; Doug was the first to jump in, apprehend and cuff the suspect with no regards for the blood he got covered in. His first thought was for the safety of his fellow officers and that no one else got hurt. No awards were given for his heroism, that’s him just doing his job.

He was thankful for his position at the Police department but it lacked what he desired most and that was to be on or near the water. In February of this year, he transferred over the Sheriff’s office and is now on the Beach Surf Rescue team, also a member of the SRT Dive team. He has a talent and a gift in the water. He wears contacts and I know he is careful, but I would love to see him be able to perform his job and to be his utmost best by not having to worry about his vision. We all know the ocean can be a violent place at times, and knowing Doug, even if he couldn’t see and was totally blind he would still place himself in danger to save yours if you needed.

My husband hasn’t received many “official” recognitions or medals, but every day he is someone’s hero, every day he is MY hero.

Thank you for considering him for this procedure.

Sincerely,

Nanci Sims