Nomination for John Sabo, Wildland Firefighter

John “Johnny” Sabo is a Wildland Firefighter for the Florida Forest Service based out of Panama City, Florida. Not only does Johnny exemplify the meaning of the word hero, he sets an example for his fellow peers and others in the community. Johnny manages the Chipola Forestry Center for the Florida Forest Service and is responsible for Wildland Firefighting activities within the seven county area. He is humble, hardworking and there is never a task too big that he cannot accomplish.

For three weeks in August, Johnny spent his time as a division supervisor fighting wildfire in California camping in the Shasta-Trinity wilderness and protecting homeowners and the general public. During his deployment, Johnny worked long hours through dense smoke and rough terrain. Often, his contacts would become dried out and he would have issues with his eyes. Once returned, Johnny visited his eye doctor to find out he had a slight abrasion in his eye from the particulates and other debris. He has had to use medicated drops and daily contacts in order to heal.

This experience has made Johnny really look into Lasik surgery since his return, and this procedure would immensely help him in his career and keep him safe while fighting fire. Not only is Johnny my hero, he is a hero to everyone he encounters and I cannot imagine anyone else more deserving of this gift.

Christina Brown