11/11/15

Re: Lasik for a Local Hero

I would like to nominate my husband Randy Layman.

Randy has been an EMS professional for nearly four decades. He started as an EMT/Firefighter with a Volunteer Fire Department when he was only seventeen. Since then he was a Paramedic for almost thirty years starting with ground ambulances services and progressing to helicopters as a Flight Paramedic/Director. He has also served in Disaster Response for over twenty five years on the state and federal level. Randy has cared for countless disaster survivors from tornados, floods, hurricanes and man-made disasters without a second thought for his own health and safety.

At the present, Randy still works in Disaster response on the state level, Florida State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and on the national level with Florida One National Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). His most recent deployment was being honored as a selected few who supported the medical disaster teams for the Papal Visit in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York and the UN General Assembly in New York City.

Randy also is a volunteer for our local fire department and first responder system, South Gulf Fire and Rescue. He is a member of the board of directors and also the coordinator for their first responders.

The request for Lasik surgery is because as he has aged, he has experience the changes in his eye sight that go along with the aging. He no longer can wear contacts in the field as he hasn’t been able to adjust to the mono lens process allowing both distant and close up clarity. When he wears contacts, he has to also carry “reading glasses” which make it extremely difficult to perform his duty in the emergent conditions. Primarily, he wears progressive glasses now with transitions lenses. They work well, but are still very problematic with the heat of Florida resulting in them constantly fogging and/or falling off from sweating while he is working on a patient or at a fire scene. They are also very problematic when he is wearing an air support system (SCBA) when in at a fire scene or during a hazmat situation.

He has supported those who have experience harms way throughout the United States and Panhandle for decades with pride and the honor to serve. I would request your kind offer be provided to him as a gift of gratitude for his service.

Respectfully,

Linda Layman