**LASIK for a Local Hero Nomination**

**Jacob Alexander Moore, Panama City Beach Police Department**

This essay is a nomination for Officer Jacob Alexander Moore of the Panama City Beach Police Department. Jacob and I have been friends going on five years now and I know no one who is more dedicated to law enforcement than him.

I believe it is quite one thing to not have vision. It must be a crippling and disheartening feeling that I cannot even begin to imagine. Jake has worn glasses and contacts since high school and over the course of our friendship, I've watched as his vision deteriorated. Between working night shift and switching to days and making sure contacts are not in short supply, I’ve seen him deal with the challenges of correcting his vision and making sure it does not interfere with his job.

In saying that, I believe it is quite another thing to not have a vision for your *life*. Jake may not be able to see well through his own eyes, but through his goals and aspirations Jake sees just fine. He is the only person I know that carries his goals around in his pocket—literally.

Found written on a piece of paper tucked away in Jake’s wallet is a plan for his life. He has goals marked for every five years; when he wants to make Sergeant, Corporal, and even Lieutenant. There they sit in his wallet as a constant reminder of his determination. The paper is worn and wrinkled, but his perseverance is not.

In August 2012 I was working for News 13 as a reporter and Jake was working nights for PCBPD when a 22-year-old by the name of Robert Dick III hit and killed a 21-year-old girl in a DUI crash. The victim’s sister who was seriously injured could do nothing but watch as Dick fled from the scene leaving their cars in a watery ditch. Jake was one of the first officers to respond and it didn’t take long for him to track down Dick, who was soaked and also injured, to some nearby woods. I remember him reading his name in the paper for the first time and how humble he was about the whole ordeal.

Since that time Jake left Panama City Beach for Florida Highway Patrol only to come back to Bay County just over a year later when his grandparent’s health started to deteriorate. He asked to return to Panama City Beach Police and was re-hired in September of this year spending his off time cooking and sharing time with his grandfather and grandmother.

On November 8th, Jake’s grandmother, Fay Moore, passed away; only proving to me more that his vision has always been a selfless one: a life of service and commitment to his career and family life of service and of commitment to his career and his family. That’s why I believe he is so deserving of this opportunity.

Jake has needed LASIK since I’ve known him. I think as a first responder it would greatly benefit his quality of life and his vision.