Dear Eye Center of North Florida and Bay County Chamber of Commerce,

I am nominating my husband, Firefighter Michael Kinkade for the LASIK for Local Heroes Contest because I understand firsthand the issues he has had with his eyes over the past few years.

Michael has worn glasses since he was in first grade, and started wearing contacts in sixth grade. This has never been a problem until at the age of 28 decided to make a career change to become a Firefighter so he could spend more time with our growing family. He immediately knew that this was his life calling. As a firefighter he works 24 hour shifts, and wearing glasses unfortunately is not an option. So he must wear his contacts for the full 24 hours he is on duty, this includes while he is sleeping.

In the last year he has had numerous eye infections which have resulted in him not being able to wear his contacts for sometimes weeks at a time. Since he must wear his glasses, this doesn’t allow him to perform his duties as a firefighter and as a result misses time being at work. I can see how much this bothers my husband since he has such a passion for what he does. I’ve never met anyone who enjoys what he does as much as him.

Being able to have LASIK surgery would be such a blessing to my husband, and he would forever be thankful. I couldn’t think of a better Christmas present.

Thank you