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N e w s R e l e a s e

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Deputy James Grimaldi Named 2009 Deputy of the Year

Sheriff Champagne is pleased to announce that Deputy James Grimaldi has been named 2009 Deputy of the Year.

On November 5, 2009, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office responded to a reported automobile crash on Airline Highway in St. Rose, Louisiana where the vehicle had run off of the roadway and was immersed in a canal.

Deputy Grimaldi was the first to respond to the accident and located a white automobile immersed nose down in the middle of the canal with only the back of the roof and trunk exposed above water and the occupants sitting on the roof of the vehicle. Deputy Grimaldi attempted to calm the subjects due to none of them knowing how to swim. Deputy Grimaldi then advised dispatch that he was making entry. He then jumped into the canal and swam to the car where he made contact with three subjects, a mother with her two children, ages 11 and 9. Deputy Grimaldi then swam with the 11 year-old juvenile on his back to the shoulder of U.S. 61 to safety. He then returned to the vehicle to rescue the nine year-old juvenile, who he also carried on his back and swam to safety. Deputy Grimaldi returned to the car a third time with the assistance of a St. Rose Volunteer Fireman and rescued the driver who was the mother of the two juveniles. It was later learned that the depth of the canal is approximately 8 to 10 feet.

James Grimaldi, who serves as a deputy in the Patrol Division, has been with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office since 2006.

For his quick thinking and brave actions, Deputy Grimaldi has been named 2009 Deputy of the Year.