

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Media Release

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### ***Hiram Sergeant to receive Patrol's prestigious Citation of Merit for life saving actions***

#### ***Ohio Turnpike Commission worker to receive Certificate of Recognition***

HIRAM— A sergeant from the Hiram Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and an Assistant Foreman for the Ohio Turnpike Commission were honored today for their life-saving actions during a single-vehicle traffic crash on the Ohio Turnpike, near milepost 191, in Portage County on August 11, 2010.

Sgt. Leslie (Les) D. Brode was presented the highest form of honor; the Citation of Merit and Mark W. Kinzer, Assistant Foreman, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition today at the Berea District Headquarters, by Colonel David W. Dicken, Patrol superintendent, for their life-saving actions.

On August 11, 2010, Ohio State Highway Patrol Sgt. Brode and Mr. Kinzer were the first responders to a one-vehicle crash on the Ohio Turnpike. They found the vehicle crashed into trees off the right side of the road and the entire front of the car was engulfed in flames.

Each man took a fire extinguisher from his vehicle and ran down an embankment to reach the crash. As Sgt. Brode fought back flames, Mr. Kinzer opened the vehicle's driver-side door. The men could see two people inside. The driver was unresponsive, but the passenger was conscious. Sgt. Brode pushed through debris and tree limbs to open the passenger door and found the elderly female passenger alert, but confused. Sgt. Brode pulled the woman out of the vehicle and carried her to Mr. Kinzer, who moved her farther away from the fire.

Mr. Kinzer and Sgt. Brode then returned to the vehicle and pulled the female driver out. Sgt. Brode performed CPR on the driver until emergency medical personnel arrived, but despite the efforts of all involved, she was pronounced deceased at the scene. The passenger was flown to a hospital where she was treated for her injuries with a full recovery expected. Had it not been for the heroic actions of Sgt. Brode and Mr. Kinzer, another life would have been lost in the car fire.

Sgt. Brode began his career with the Patrol as a member of the 136<sup>th</sup> Academy Class in September 2000. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to Canton Post. In May 2007 he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Patrol's Training Academy to serve as an instructor. In December of that year he transferred to his current assignment at the Hiram Post.

Originally of Youngstown, he currently resides in Rome with his wife, Chandra, and their two children.

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