

# TEXAS PILOTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

DENTON AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD HONORS RESCUERS.

## Texas Pilots Association Officers

The two guys, who were primary in the rescues of Andrea Sumner on January 11, were honored by the DTO advisory board for their heroism in the rescue that we covered in last month's TPA report. The names are Bryan Jacobs and Jeremy Traughber. Mr. Traughber is pretty shy when it comes to publicity, and he didn't show up at the airport board meeting to receive his award, a very nice plaque that will look good on his wall, in case he ever hangs it.

Mr. Jacobs appeared with his wife and two kids (lovely family.) The truly striking thing about these guys is their ordinary-ness. Would "extremely ordinary" present too much of a contradiction in terms? Jacobs has a wife, two kids, a pickup and a ball cap. He reeks just plain folks. But in their ordinary comings and goings when something happened that

placed another human being in jeopardy, and Jacobs and Traughber acted quickly and effectively to solve the problem and go on their way. The word hero causes them to flinch, but heroes they are in my book. They set aside their own safety to rescue someone who was unconscious. Unchecked, the events could easily have resulted in Andrea's death as well as that of other people who might have been involved in whatever crashes could happen when a driver-less vehicle is speeding out of control on a busy freeway. Heroes? Absolutely, by any reasonable definition they are heroes.

There are two other heroes, unknown and unsung in this saga. The article last month pointed out that two trailer trucks maneuvered to block the freeway so that no other traffic could plow into the crash scene. The value of their actions

has been underscored by two, yes, TWO deaths of good Samaritans who stopped to render aid along freeways in the DFW area in the past two weeks. It didn't happen in Andrea's case because of the two truckers, whose identities are unknown, and likely will never be known, to us. They finished their tasks and went on their way, and we haven't the foggiest notion who they are or where they came from. Trucks go all over the place; they could be from California, North Dakota, New York, Florida, or anywhere in the US. We do know they are authentic heroes who likely prevented a secondary catastrophe that we see all too often.

The police and fire folks were there very quickly, too, to do their job with dispatch and skill. They were there because yet another citizen who entered the freeway behind Andrea and called 911 even before the drama had played out. Carolyn Lara,

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who is the Director of Development for the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home in Denton, had no idea who was in the Blazer and was surprised the next day to find that it was her good friend, Andrea.

One footnote: Andrea is recovering quite well from the brain tumor that caused the unconsciousness. She'll be back to work at the airport in a month or so. She is already getting restless with nothing to do.



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