

Two Charles W. Queen FOP Lodge #84 Members lauded as heroes

The McDowell News by MIKE CONLEY and RICHELLE BAILEY

Two members of the Charles W. Queen FOP Lodge #84 in McDowell County have been lauded as heroes – one for saving a man from jumping off a bridge and one whose quick thinking saved a baby's life.

On Friday, Feb. 29, Sgt. Rusty Jenkins of the Marion Police Department responded to a bridge on Main Street in Marion where a man was climbing the railing.

Jenkins and other officers arrived to find the 30-year-old standing on the ledge threatening to jump.

Jenkins slowly made his way closer and closer to the man and, when he looked away, Jenkins grabbed him.

Marion Police Chief Mika Elliott recently presented Jenkins with a lifesaving award.

The other officers present were Cpl. Charlie Oliver and Officers Chad Bailey and David Jordan, also members of the local FOP lodge.

On Friday, Feb. 8, Breanna Rose and her husband, Dean, were taking care of their 9-day-old son, Drue, at their home in the Glenwood community of McDowell County.

At one point, Breanna looked up and noticed her newborn son had spit up. Soon after, the baby started turning blue.

Trooper Josh Dowdle of the N.C. Highway Patrol was patrolling U.S. 221 South in Glenwood. He heard the emergency call on his scanner. Rather than waiting for someone else, Dowdle decided to take action. He was only 1½ miles away from the Rose house.

He arrived at the residence and immediately began giving Drue rescue breaths. After about half a dozen of those, the baby regained consciousness. The family credits Dowdle for saving Drue's life.

Doctors say it was acid reflux that caused the infant to stop breathing. Today, he is on medication and doing well.

