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Headline: Local Officers Go Above and Beyond to Make a Special Holiday Delivery

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CONCORD – Two Concord Police officers, with the help of a high-flying friend, make a very special delivery to a fellow law enforcement officer's family hundreds of miles away. On Thursday morning, the officers delivered a beautiful homemade dollhouse and other gifts to Elizabeth City, North Carolina to try to brighten the holidays for a family that recently lost nearly everything in a house fire. The method of delivery was very Santa-like, short of falling down a chimney.

Early in December, Concord Police Officer Kevin Williams, who is in charge of the annual 'Shop with a Cop' event, received a unique donation from a Concord couple. The couple, who wish to remain anonymous, donated a beautiful homemade dollhouse that they labored over for weeks in their basement. The couple had been solicited to give money for the 'Shop with a Cop' program and decided to help by donating their labor of love to the Fraternal Order of Police. The couple's only request was that the dollhouse either be auctioned off to assist the 'Shop with a Cop' program or given away to a needy child.

Earlier this week, Officer Williams found out that a fellow law enforcement officer was in serious need this holiday season. A statewide call for help was sent to members of the Fraternal Order of Police regarding Officer Jamie Judge of the Elizabeth City Police Department. Officer Judge's home was destroyed in a fire and his family lost nearly all of their possessions, including Christmas presents for their three children. Due to a lack of renter's insurance, the family was having a very difficult time coping financially. Officer Williams immediately contacted a member of the Elizabeth City F.O.P. lodge and discovered that Officer Judge's daughter, Brittany, had lost her dollhouse and a collection of dolls in the fire.

“There was no doubt in my mind that the donated dollhouse was meant to belong to Brittany,” Officer Williams said. He immediately began making arrangements to deliver the dollhouse to Elizabeth City. The initial plan was to drive the dollhouse to the Raleigh area and have an officer from Elizabeth City meet him there. Fellow Concord Police Officer Andy Berry and Officer Williams, who are both private pilots, discussed the possibility of delivering the dollhouse by airplane to avoid inconveniencing the ECPD officer or making a 12 hour round-trip drive. However the costs associated with such a flight made it a difficult proposition for the officers.

Officer Berry told Larry Morris, a local flight instructor, about the dollhouse donation and Mr. Morris immediately volunteered his services as a pilot. “He didn’t even hesitate. He said he wanted to fly us there in his twin-engine ‘Baron’ airplane and even altered his schedule so we could go on Thursday,” says Officer Berry. Mr. Morris, who owns Tarheel Aero Tech, a flight school at Concord Regional Airport, refused to charge for his services or the use of his airplane. Officer Williams purchased some dolls and furniture for the dollhouse and collected several other wrapped presents for the Judge children that were donated by Eva Drive Baptist Church.

Early Thursday morning, the trio loaded Mr. Morris’ airplane with the donations and took off from Concord for the hour and a half flight. They were greeted in Elizabeth City by Norman Watts, the president of the Elizabeth City F.O.P. Lodge. Norman has been handling donations and well-wishes for the Judge family from all over the state. After the group loaded the back of Norman’s SUV with the donations, he treated them to lunch where they met several law enforcement officers from the Elizabeth City area. Our three local Santa’s then returned to their sleigh for the flight back home.

“We felt great on the way home knowing that the dollhouse was going to be a special present for a little girl that has lost all her toys,” says Officer Williams. “This is what Christmas is really about, selfless acts by folks such as Larry Morris and the couple who built the dollhouse to help someone that they have no personal connection with. This was a rare chance to literally go above and beyond to spread some Christmas joy.”

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