

'Angel in Uniform' – Operator David Lane Is a Real Lifesaver

By ERIC RAPP

(May 14, 2002) For South Bay Division 18 Operator David Lane – a Long Beach Police Reserve officer – June 21, 2001 started just like any other day.

As he was on patrol that evening, he came to an intersection and noticed a vehicle stopped across the street at a stop sign. It wasn't moving and he couldn't see anyone in the vehicle.

Moments later, a woman burst out of the driver's seat, ran to the passenger side and pulled out a small child. Lane heard her screaming something, but couldn't understand what she was saying. He ran to assist her.

"As I approached her, I could hear that she was screaming 'My baby can't breathe, my baby can't breathe, somebody help me!'", he says.

Lane picked up the child and realized that the situation was serious. "He was gone," says Lane. "His eyes were rolled back in his head and he had turned blue."

Thought the worst was over

He quickly administered the Heimlich maneuver; the child coughed once and said "Mommy." Thinking that the worst was over, Lane set the boy down. But, although the obstruction was partly cleared, the boy still could not breathe and he fell down.

Lane picked the child up and performed the Heimlich maneuver again. It worked. "The gumball popped out right into my hand."

Paramedics later told Lane that if he'd been another 30 or 40 seconds later the boy could have died.

Since that day, Lane has received a Meritorious Award from the Long Beach Police Department, a Special Recognition Award from the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, and an award from the Long Beach Fire Department.

The most thanks, however, have come from the family of Joshua Honore, the boy whose life Lane saved.

Angel in uniform

At the Long Beach Police Department's awards ceremony, the boy's mother, Miesha Honore, said that "every single night, we bless the angel in uniform. That's our ritual."

A 27-year MTA veteran, Lane is no newcomer to saving lives. In his role as a reserve police officer, he also once saved a nine-year-old boy from drowning.

And, although he is enjoying the awards and the attention, he hasn't let the



^ Operator David Lane, a 27-year MTA veteran and reserve police officer, is credited with saving a child's life.

fame go to his head.

"I'm just happy I was there at that time," he says.

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