

# **Okaloosa County News Release**

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## **EMT Barbara Chestnut Receives HERO Award**

Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners awarded Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Barbara Chestnut with the HERO Award for a truly humanitarian act performed while on duty in late November 2013. The HERO award recognizes a deed, act or event in which an employee not only goes beyond the scope of what his or her job entails, but has done something of a humanitarian or heroic nature. This can include acts occurring outside work hours and submissions by people outside Okaloosa County staff. (HERO is an acronym for Humanitarian Efforts Recognized by Okaloosa County.)

On the evening of November 23, 2013, Barbara Chestnut transported a sick child from North Okaloosa Medical Center to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. The child was accompanied by her great grandmother and legal guardian. Ms. Chestnut took note that the grandmother was in a tired and weakened state, and upon inquiry learned she had no money and had not eaten all day. Barbara took her to a nearby Wendy's and bought her dinner. "This is a true act of kindness," said County Administrator Ernie Padgett.

"This shows true compassion that many EMTs exhibit and Ms. Chestnut's helps was far reaching, providing nourishment for the grandmother so she could better respond to the needs of her sick grandchild," stated Public Safety Director Dino Villani.

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