

Sheriff Rick Staly

## NEVER TRULY OFF DUTY

*FCSO sergeant helps save boy's life while on vacation at Dollywood*

Around Thanksgiving, Sergeant Paul DeSousa was on vacation at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee with his family. He was out of his uniform, out of the state, and enjoying his time at the theme park... but a first responder is never truly off duty.

As he was walking through the park, Sergeant DeSousa heard cries for help and leaped into action. He located the source of the cries and encountered a park employee trying to perform the Heimlich maneuver on a young boy who had stopped breathing.



Sergeant DeSousa took the boy and assessed his condition. He couldn't see anything in the boy's mouth or throat, but his face had begun to turn blue from a lack of oxygen.

Sergeant DeSousa began performing CPR until a paramedic, who was also on vacation with his family, arrived to assist. Together, the two worked to get the boy breathing again. The two first responders then stayed with the boy until an ambulance arrived.

Recounting the incident, Sergeant DeSousa said, "I never prayed so hard in my life. It all happened so fast. I just thank God that the child started to breathe again."

When he learned about the incident, Sheriff Rick Staly commended Sergeant DeSousa for his quick thinking and heroic action and also awarded him the Life Saving Medal.

"First responders may take off their badges, but they're never off duty, even if they're on vacation multiple states away," said Sheriff Staly. "I commend Sergeant DeSousa for running towards the screams and helping to save this boy's life. And although we don't know who he is or where he is, I'd also like to commend and thank the off-duty paramedic who also came to the rescue and together they saved this child's life."

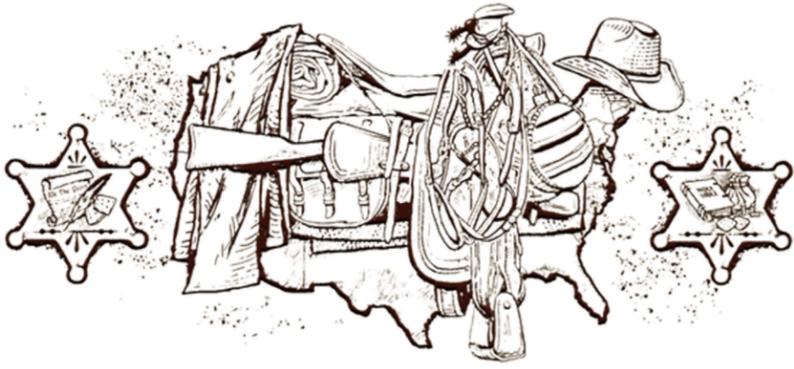
Sergeant DeSousa has served the citizens of Flagler County since joining the Flagler County Sheriff's Office in 2007 as a Deputy Sheriff. He currently serves as a sergeant in the Community Policing Division.



# The story of the Sheriff's saddle

## A tribute to the American Sheriff - Part Two

(Continued from Edition No. 1)



Sitting next to the saddle is the Sheriff's hat, which offers a shield from the sun, wind, and rain. This protection will provide clarity of vision.

Hanging off the saddle horn is a bridle and a set of spurs. The bridle and spurs represent the Sheriff's responsibility for directing the agency. The Sheriff uses the spurs to signal the need to move forward

or to pick up the pace and a touch of the reins to slow things down. Over time, a wise and practiced Sheriff learns to give subtle clues by simply shifting in the saddle and using only a light touch of the reins and spurs.

The Sheriff also carries a supply of hardtack in a pouch and a canteen of water slung across the saddle horn. The Sheriff needs both of these provisions to maintain strength.

Tied behind the saddle is a bedroll and beneath the saddle is a wool blanket, which when unfolded, gave added warmth for the many long and cold nights that the Sheriff will spend away from home.

There is also a duster draped across the back of the saddle. Throughout the journey of holding office the Sheriff will encounter many storms. The Sheriff must be prepared to face them head on and will do so under the protection of the duster.

### Word Search

Find all the FCSO-themed words!

- |               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Deputy        | Patrol  |
| Dispatch      | Protect |
| Emergency     | Safety  |
| Flagler       | Serve   |
| Jail          | Sheriff |
| Investigation | Staly   |

Hint: Look for diagonals!

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| L | I | Q | J | M | L | T | O | K | F | S | E | R | V | E |
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