



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

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NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

LEROY SMITH
DIRECTOR

October 20, 2015

Corporal Antonio M. Brown
4078 Charleston Highway
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29115

Dear Corporal Brown:

I have learned of your recent actions that led to the finding of a missing elderly driver following a one-car collision outside of Vance, S.C.

On October 10th you came upon a vehicle, ignition still running, which had undoubtedly been in a collision; however, the driver could not be located. It is my understanding you became immediately concerned for the well-being of the driver as there was medication found inside the vehicle. At one point, while the vehicle was being towed, you thought you heard a dog barking in the woods so you searched the immediate area, but found nothing. You continued to pursue additional information, and you were able to make contact with a family member at the vehicle owner/driver's residence. You obtained additional information about the vehicle owner, an 80-year old man who needed daily medication, and he would probably have a dog with him. With this additional information, you refused to give up searching. You called for back-up to the scene of the collision and proceeded to search into the woods, which were wet and swampy from all the recent rain. The elderly man was found sleeping in the rain. He was shivering, and could barely walk, but the team was able to get him out of the woods and into safety. He was then transported by ambulance to the hospital.

Your compassion to go the extra mile, and keen instinct in the performance of your duties, probably saved this man's life. Your actions make us so proud. In addition, I am certain your efforts will never be forgotten by this citizen. Job well done!

Sincerely,


Leroy Smith
Director

LS/bb

C: Honorable Nikki Haley
Colonel Michael Oliver
Captain A.K. Grice



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL



STATE TRANSPORT POLICE



BUREAU OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES



IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT UNIT



Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



Trooper saves 80-year-old man



OCTOBER 18, 2015 11:45 PM • BY PRINCESS B. WILLIAMS T&D STAFF WRITER

Going the extra mile led S.C. Highway Patrol Cpl. A.M. Brown to find the missing driver of a vehicle after a one-car collision outside of Vance on Oct. 10.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., an 80-year-old man was traveling east on Highway 310 in a 2003 Ford four-door vehicle when he lost control of his vehicle, ran onto the side of the road and struck the embankment.

When Brown arrived at the scene, the vehicle was still running with medication inside of it, but the driver was nowhere to be found.

Brown called for a tow truck. Orangeburg County Councilman Johnny Ravenell's R&R Towing Company responded to the call.

While the vehicle was being towed, Brown thought he heard a dog barking in the woods.

Ravenell said he did not hear barking, but thought the noises were coming from the running vehicle, and then proceeded to tow the vehicle.

Brown searched the immediate area. A family member at the driver's residence informed Brown that the driver would have a small dog with him and took medication daily.

After finding out that the driver took medication, Brown thought about the medication he saw in the vehicle and thought to himself, "I've got to find this guy tonight."

"I couldn't work the rest of the shift knowing that I possibly heard something, and I didn't go and verify whether it was the driver or not," Brown said.

Brown called Trooper Askins to meet him back at the scene of the collision.

"We went in the woods. It was still wet and swampy from all the rain," Brown said.

As the troopers continued walking in the rain, they saw what appeared to be a person.

"It was raining, but he was asleep. We got him up and we started to walk him out. He could barely walk," Brown said.

Brown led the way out of the woods, moving briars as Askins walked with the driver.

"He was shivering pretty badly and he was really pale," Brown said. "He couldn't stand up on his own."

Brown said he and Askins realized the driver need medical help and called for an ambulance. The 80-year-old was taken to the hospital.