

# Mountain View



*A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation*

## Randolph Fire Chief Dana Horne named New Hampshire Hero

*By Edith Tucker*



2010 New Hampshire Hero Award recipient Randolph Fire Chief Dana Horne, left, of Gorham met Richard Goff of Richville, N.Y. face-to-face for the first time just before the start of the Awards program on May 5 on the State House lawn in Concord. Mr. Goff, now 25, is the father of two young children whose life and leg Chief Horne selflessly and heroically helped save in sub-zero temperatures on Jan. 2, 2009, following a vehicular accident on Route 2 in Randolph Valley. (Photo by Edith Tucker)

Randolph Fire Chief Dana Horne, a resident of Gorham, has been named a New Hampshire Hero. He was honored at a ceremony on the State House lawn on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Governor John Lynch and Citizens Bank president Cathy Schmidt jointly presented Chief Horne and eight other heroes with awards. Union-Leader publisher Joseph McQuaid served as Master of Ceremonies in a spanking white tent. The fragrance of blooming white and purple lilacs alongside the columns and front steps of the State House provided an impressive backdrop for the program.

The plaque awarded Chief Horne reads: "Courage — For risking your life in an outstanding act of heroism."

Randolph Life Squad member Bill Arnold started the ball rolling to gain recognition for Chief Horne's heroism on January 2, 2009, that likely saved the life of 24-year old Richard Goff of Richville, N.Y.

"I've waited for a long time to meet you guys," said Richard Goff. He was speaking before the start of the ceremony to Randolph Fire Chief Dana Horne, who had lain — belly-down — for two hours on the icy cold steel of a peeled back pick-up truck roof, off Route 2 in the Randolph Valley to support Goff following his collision with an oncoming tractor-trailer.

"We wanted to meet you, too," said Chief Horne, pointing out that the rescue effort of which he was a part had been a group effort. Randolph EMTs and Fire Department members, Gorham Fire Department in which Chief Horne is a captain, Gorham Ambulance, State Police from Troop F and then-Lt. John Scarinza and a two-person DHART crew all played important roles in saving Mr. Goff's life and his right leg which was impaled on the dashboard.

On the afternoon of January 2, 2009, Mr. Goff had been driving east with his wife, Rosemary, and their two very young children, Austin, and Mikaela. He drifted over the center line on Route 2, just west of Appalachia trailhead, and collided with a tractor-trailer. The impact sent his pickup truck over a steep embankment on the north side of the two-lane highway, where it came to rest at the tree line, tipped up on the driver's side. The force of the crash scattered debris across the highway for some 300 feet.

Two tow rigs came from Lowe's Garage. Alan Lowe and Kevin Rousseau positioned one rig so its cables could stabilize the pickup, helping to ensure rescue workers safety. Firefighters trying to extricate Mr. Goff cut open the roof and peeled it back. There was a terrible moment when everyone nearby realized that nothing now supported the driver, explained Bill Arnold.

Almost instantaneously, Chief Horne dove belly-down under Mr. Goff so that he would not start falling out of the driver's compartment, further damaging his severely injured leg. Chief Horne lay on his stomach for two hours. "What I did was automatic; I laid on my stomach underneath him and arched my

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back to keep him from falling out," Chief Horne said shortly after the accident. "He's so lucky he didn't lose a leg-or his life."

It was Mr. Goff's body heat that kept the firefighter from being frostbitten as he lay on the cold steel of the truck's peeled-back roof resting on the snow-covered ground.

Chief Horne's left arm became numb, and his fellow firefighters repositioned and even massaged it. "There was no way I could switch out with someone; it just wasn't possible," he explained. "Besides, I kept thinking it would only take another five minutes."

Chief Horne said that it was not as cold down where the pickup was as it was up on the highway. Lt. John Scarinza said the wind chill made it seem like it was minus 50 degrees. "It was a tremendous effort, originally of quick thinking on his part and then of sheer perseverance in being able to stay pinned under this victim for such a long period of time. Once in that position, Dana stayed there under the injured man for the entire time – at least two hours – keeping him propped up while firefighters tried to cut portions of the truck away to save the man's leg."

A good-sized North Country contingent was on hand to congratulate Chief Horne: EMT Bill Arnold of Randolph, Logan Horne, the Chief's son; former Randolph selectman Ray Aube; and former state representative Paula Bradley of Randolph; as well as relatives of Chief Horne's wife. Coös legislators came to shake Chief Horne's hand: state Senator John Gallus; Rep. Yvonne Thomas of Berlin; and all four representatives of District 2: Reps. Evalyn Merrick, Herb Richardson, Bill Remick, and Rep. John Tholl.

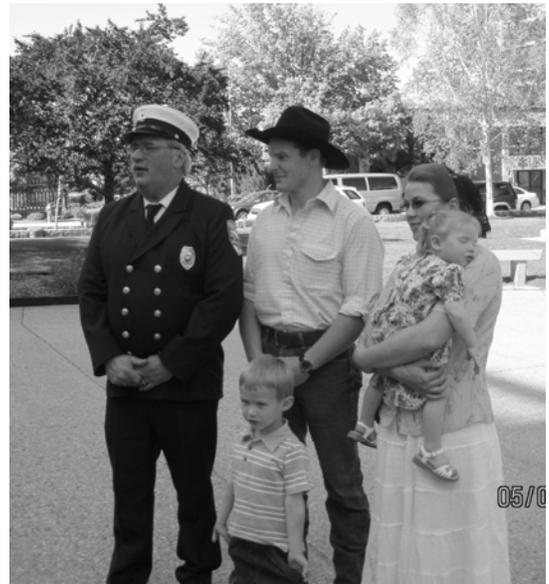
Rosemary Goff who describes her family as Christian believers, and their children, four-year-old son Austin, and two-and-a-half-year-old Mikaela were also in attendance. Rosemary noted that Ed Fenn school nurse and EMT Barbara Arnold of Randolph

acted like a mother to her while she and her children waited for some four hours in one of the warm ambulances as her husband was extricated from their pickup truck and airlifted for treatment

Looking back on that afternoon and evening, Chief Horne said, "That long extrication was a real learning experience for us all. We used what we learned in our twice-a-year extrication training. It was a real team effort to get the driver out, and the other guys worked very hard. I felt bad at the time that I couldn't lend them a hand."

Chief Horne, who works as a mechanic at A & A Auto Repair in Gorham, and his wife Diane, have raised three children: Brett, Alexandria and Logan.

*Note: According to Edith Tucker, who made the nomination that won the Chief this recognition, Dana Horne has long Randolph roots. One of the region's early top guides, Vyron Lowe, married to Ethelyn "Winnie" had a son, Gordon Alan Lowe who married Norah. Gordon and Norah had four children; the oldest child was the late Marion Lowe, Dana Horne's mother.*



Dana and the Goff family.  
Bill Arnold photo