

1971

Patrolman James Rarick
Patrolman Daniel Vehr

Wickliffe Police Department

Many men and women join our safety forces at a relatively young age. Their own adult lives are just beginning. They may have recently married and are starting families. They have young children. When a call comes in which involves a child, it is often one of the worst experiences that a policeman or fireman can have. However, when the outcome is a positive one, it will be one of the most memorable days in the member's career. For Patrolmen Rarick and Vehr, that memorable day was April 28, 1971.

On that date, a 5 year old boy had fainted at his residence on Truman Avenue. The boy's parents were in a state of near panic when they called for emergency assistance. When Rarick and Vehr arrived at the home, they found that the boy was not breathing and they could not detect a heartbeat. They immediately began to give mouth to mouth respiration and external heart massage, and rushed him to West End Hospital in Willoughby. Doctors there were able to stabilize the boy, who eventually recovered. They told the father that "another minute, it might have been too late."

Wickliffe Police Chief Leon Montgomery nominated the officers for the award. Doctor Jorge Medina, in presenting the awards, stated that several officers were nominated from departments in Lake County. "These men were chosen because of their quick thinking and application of first aid in saving the boy's life, and because they have been excellent workers throughout the year."

The awards were presented on November 10, 1971, at the Blue Coats meeting at the Kirtland Country Club.

Both Rarick and Vehr have retired from the Wickliffe Police Department. Rarick continued in law enforcement as a part time deputy with the Lake County Sheriff's Department. He is now retired.