



# MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

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## *Distinguished Law Enforcement Meritorious Service Award*

**Deputy Michael Mills**  
**Sgt. Richard Phillips**  
Allen County Sheriff's Office

Thanks to the quick response of Deputy Michael Mills and Sergeant Richard Phillips and their willingness to risk their lives, a helpless man's life was saved this past spring.

In the early morning hours on March 3, 2014, in the middle of an ice and snow storm, the Adams County Sheriff's Office received a call of an active fire with an individual still inside the residence. Deputy Michael Mills immediately headed to the scene and was the first to arrive, noticing as he approached that the home was engulfed in flames. He found safe passage into the home through the garage and located an 80-year-old paralyzed man in a medical bed and his wife, who was unable to get him out of the house. Deputy Mills quickly realized that the only way to get the man outside without injuring him was to carry him out on the mattress down a narrow medical ramp and through a small doorway.

It was then, still within five minutes after receiving the call, that Sergeant Richard Phillips arrived and helped Deputy Mills carry the mattress safely away from the home to a nearby bridge. Fire department and life squad personnel arrived shortly after. Sergeant Phillips cleared the scene, and Deputy Mills remained behind to assist fire and squad members.

The man was taken to a nearby hospital and treated for extreme smoke inhalation.