

### **Award nomination for Carrisa Hatfield, Rathbun Lake, Iowa. 2023**

I am extremely pleased to share this story of our volunteer Carrisa Hatfield. Carrisa, and husband Jim, have been campground volunteers for 4 years at Rathbun Lake.

After duties were complete on Friday evening of Memorial Day weekend 2023, they were settling in to enjoy camping time with friends and family. Shortly thereafter they heard an emergency call broadcast over the county aid frequency of a health issue at neighboring Buck Creek Marina. With no responsibility other than good conscience, she rushed over to see if help was needed.

Carisa found a large crowd of people standing in a circle around a fallen male patron at the Marina's café. The on-lookers seemed to be frozen in place and in doubt on what to do. Pushing to the front, she checked and found no pulse. Immediately she began CPR while instructing others on how to be helpful. She ask that someone call and inform the 911 center of the serious nature and ask for Life-Flight evacuation. Soon there-after she initiated AED shock to the patient, re-establishing a heartbeat. Roughly 20 minutes went by before local EMS and ambulance teams arrived. Waiting, Carrisa alternated compressions with others who had some training.

Medical staff praised her efforts stating that the patient was mere seconds from unrecoverable effects. Mistakenly, the on-lookers thought the person over-indulged while celebrating the Memorial Day holiday. Actually, he had suffered a massive heart attack at only 37 years of age.

We often take for granted the extra benefits our volunteers provide, usually providing necessary but somewhat routine and mundane tasks. This is only one of countless examples of what they provide that quietly goes unaccounted for.

My greatest respect and congratulations to Carisa for being the person that didn't look the other way.

Jamison Davis

Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator