

Safety and Heroism



CAPT. STEVEN BULLINS

North Carolina

Wildlife Resources Commission

Capt. Steve Bullins of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) Law Enforcement Division serves the people of Surry County with integrity and selflessness. What seemed like a normal evening at home on January 8, 2020 quickly turned in to a life-or-death situation.

At approximately 9 p.m., Capt. Bullins was at his Elkin residence when he thought he heard a gunshot. Though he was off duty, he immediately put on his uniform and proceeded in his patrol vehicle onto Roaring Gap Church Road to investigate what he suspected to be unlawful deer poaching activity.

After searching along the roadway and finding nothing, Capt. Bullins redirected his search to the sprawling agricultural areas off the main road where he noticed flashing lights coming from a ravine in a cow pasture. He turned on his emergency lights and approached the scene, where he found a truck that had collided with a large tree.

Capt. Bullins noticed gasoline leaking from the vehicle and his mind raced back to a similar incident he had witnessed early in his career, when emergency personnel were unable to pull an occupant from a vehicle before it caught on fire, leading to the person's death.

That's when he climbed on top of the truck and pulled the driver from the wreckage.

Although suffering head trauma, a broken arm and severe blood loss, the driver was stabilized and survived thanks to Capt. Bullins' heroic efforts. In the face of tremendous danger, Capt. Bullins displayed tremendous courage to save someone's life while risking his own.

