

**From:** David Vaughan  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2015 3:14 PM  
**To:** Sammy Sanchez  
**Subject:** Re: Valentine Schaff report

I wanted to pass along some really, really great news.

In late May 2015, SWFD responded to a near drowning @ 500 meters west of Tower 6. It was a yellow flag day with a dumpy shore break.

A man on a boogie board got slammed into the sand and coded. SWFD and WCSO personnel responded.

The man called me out of the blue from an unrecognized number last Friday evening and reintroduced himself with: "Mr. Vaughan? This is the guy that died on your beach a few months ago..."

He's alive, not paralyzed, and very happy about it! So are we! I had the great pleasure of meeting Valentine Schaff and his wife Joni, a few days ago at a restaurant under much better circumstances. He's given me permission to tell you this account:

He was fortunate that a Head of Surgery at Villanova University and that surgeon's wife, a trauma nurse, pulled Mr. Schaff out of the water, began CPR and alerted Lifeguards Sam Burt and Brad Stewart; who then responded and called it into dispatch. Coincidentally, both Chris Lambert and I were at Tower 6 taking care of administrative duties and responded as well.

Lifeguard/Paramedic Sam Burt inserted an OPA, attempted an AED, and BVM'd the patient, then took over CPR from the bystander Doctor. Chris and I assisted in continuing ventilations, holding c-spine, and WCSO assisted us with getting the patient off the beach to Rescue 3 and Engine 3 in the Ed Walline Parking lot. Rescue 3 & Engine 3 crews then did what they do best...

We got brief follow up reports that he'd survived; but it wasn't clear that he'd come out of a coma; then when he came out of the coma, he was likely a lifelong paraplegic at least....

Turns out, with almost 3 months of the intense, excellent services at the Shepard Institute in Georgia, he fought back to where he is today. He's walking, laughing, getting stronger every day, seriously contemplating future athletic racing, and one of the most genuinely nice people I have ever met.

This outcome is a great reminder and validation of everything we strive for!

Val and Joni Schaff have deeply thanked all of us at SWFD and WCSO for what we do and our roles in saving Val's life that day.