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Bruce E. Medley receives Air Force commendation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UM AEROSPACE PROF
GETS HEROISM AWARD

Capt. Bruce E. Medley, assistant professor of aerospace studies at the University of Montana, is the recipient of an Air Force commendation for "saving a child's life."

UM President Robert Johns presented the commendation to Capt. Medley Friday. Johns said he was pleased to be able to present such an honor to a University faculty member.

The commendation from Brig. Gen. William C. Lindley, Commandant of the ROTC, USAF, said: "It was my pleasure to be informed of the heroic and humane act performed by you while attached to Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps 455, University of Montana."

Then the commendation recalled Capt. Medley arriving on the scene of an accident last September. A two year old boy had been discovered lodged face down in a ditch filled with water. The apparently lifeless body was extracted from the deep ditch, and Capt. Medley immediately commenced mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After two or three minutes the boy began gasping and started to breathe.

Capt. Medley wrapped the boy in a blanket and began to rush him to a hospital in his car. Half way to the hospital, he was met by a police car responding to the call for an ambulance, and it escorted the Captain and the small boy the rest of the way.

The attending emergency physician at the hospital told Capt. Medley that his quick action and knowledge of emergency first-aid procedures had undoubtedly saved the child's life.

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The boy, Phillip Emerling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Emerling, 1417½ South Second West, had been playing with his sister when he fell into the ditch. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hiller had seen the child floating in the ditch just as Capt. Medley arrived. Capt. Medley held Hiller while he pulled the boy from the ditch.

Gen. Lindley goes on to say to Capt. Medley in the commendation, "You have brought great credit upon yourself and the United States Air Force by displaying such coolness and professionalism in the face of a potential tragedy.

"I wish to express to you my personal appreciation and pride for having under my command an officer who displays the highest degree of concern for his fellowman. Yours is indeed an example every Air Force Officer may follow in striving to be worthy of his title and position.

"I wish you continued success in a career which I am certain will be rewarding both to you and to the Air Force."