

EVERYDAY MVP

Whether he's launching himself into harm's way while in the line of duty or throwing the first pitch in front of a crowd of thousands at Tropicana Field, **Deputy Troy Savetz** doesn't have a problem with nerves.

For his particularly heroic actions responding to a recent PCSO call, **Deputy Savetz** was named an "Everyday MVP" and selected to throw the first pitch at the June 30th Tampa Bay Rays vs. Cleveland Indians game as part of the "Rays Up for our Heroes" campaign.

"Baseball is our national pastime," Rays Pitcher Matt Moore said in a promotional video for the campaign, "and we wouldn't be able to enjoy it without the great men and women who protect us."

The Rays honored **Deputy Savetz** for protecting a 24-year-old man – standing on the railing of the Bay Pines Bridge in Seminole – from himself.

"Get away from me, or I'm jumping," was the only response that **Deputy Savetz**, now retired **Sergeant Jeffrey Esterline**, and **Corporal Jim Brueckner** could elicit from the man that day in April 2014, so they knew they had to stay calm and act fast.

After establishing the plan through hand-gesture communication, **Sergeant Esterline** and **Corporal Brueckner** continued distracting the man as **Deputy Savetz** inched to his blind spot. Then, he leapt.

"I wasn't nervous at all," **Deputy Savetz** said. "I knew I had a moment to move, and I did."

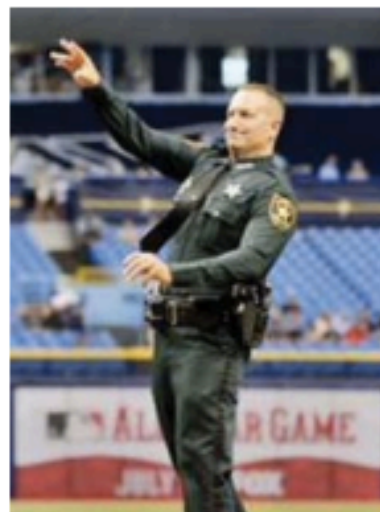
Deputy Savetz transported the man to the hospital, but he hadn't obtained any serious injuries. He was safe, and he was grateful.

"I definitely opened his eyes, letting him know the Sheriff's Office cares about him, and so does his family," **Deputy Savetz** said. "I know he wants to heal and attempt to move on with his life."

Because of **Deputy Savetz**, **Sergeant Esterline**, and **Corporal Brueckner**, now he can.

Although he has been recognized for his actions in this case by multiple organizations including the Personal Enrichment Mental Health Services (PEMHS) and All Children's Hospital, **Deputy Savetz** was thrilled to be named a Tampa Bay Rays "Everyday MVP."

"I really enjoyed throwing out the first pitch," **Deputy Savetz** said. "It was exciting, and anytime I can represent the Sheriff's Office in front of 7,000 Rays fans, I'm more than happy to do it."



Rays Pitcher Matt Moore and Deputy Troy Savetz

