

Red Cross Salute to Everyday Heroes

2008

Medical Good Samaritan

Dr. Thomas Butts

Brighton Resident

“On August 28, 2007, I died. I know this because when I was finally released from the hospital three weeks later, the discharge instructions listed my diagnosis as “Sudden Cardiac Death.” I had been playing golf in the weekly men’s league at Oak Pointe and just finished putting out on my eighth hole when I suffered ventricular tachycardia and collapsed.

The format of the league is very informal and each week members are more or less randomly paired. The last thing I remember that evening was looking over at one member of the foursome, whom I didn’t know, and seeing him smile over at me. I am absolutely positive that if I hadn’t been paired with the owner of that smile that I wouldn’t be here today. He is Dr. Thomas Butts and he initiated CPR and without the assistance of an AED he managed to keep my heart pumping and oxygen circulating to my brain for an extended period of time until being relieved by the Brighton Fire and Rescue team.”

The fact that I am here and able to draft this letter today, is without question, due to the extraordinary efforts of Dr. Butts. He knew what actions were necessary and took my survival as a personal challenge working beyond any expectation of success. I might have played golf that night with fully a hundred different people. There is no doubt in my mind, however, that I won that particular lottery.



Nominated by: John Watkins, Survivor
Also nominated by: Oral & Facial
Surgeons of Michigan

Dr. Thomas Butts