

Retired Brunswick employee Tony Sammons saves a life

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016 – Former Brunswick area manager Tony Sammons may have retired from Georgia Power, but he proved last week he is still a citizen wherever he serves saving the life of an elderly gentleman.



Sammons, who retired in June after 44 years with the company, 21 of which were spent in Brunswick, was sitting in unusual bumper-to-bumper traffic on Sea Island traveling to a funeral when he noticed a man in distress standing in the middle of the sidewalk several hundred feet ahead of him.

“I noticed the gentleman looked like he was in trouble, but I was far enough back that I thought someone else would help him before I could reach him,” said Sammons. “As traffic inched a long, I had a flash back to when my neighbor fell in his driveway and couldn’t get up. I could hear him calling for help.”

Sammons said that when he saw the man sit down and no one was going to the man’s aid, he pulled his car off to the side of the road, called 911 and ran to help. The 911 operator told Sammons not to move the man.

“I checked the man’s pulse and he did not have one,” said Sammons. “I noticed his left arm was white, so I knew I had to ignore the operator and do something. I gave the phone to a passer-by and started doing chest compressions. About that same time, another gentleman came up to help who happen to teach CPR through the Red Cross. He and I continued CPR until the paramedics arrived.”

Fortunately, the local fire station was located on the same road only a half of a mile away, so they arrived quickly and used the defibrillator to get a pulse, Sammons said.

A few days later, the victim’s wife called Sammons to thank him and to let him know her husband is in an induced coma in the hospital.

“She said her husband is in his 80’s and is a tough old bird,” laughed Sammons. “She said he did not have a heart attack but did experience cardiac arrest and the paramedics had to use the defibrillator several times on the way to the hospital.”

Sammons said he is thankful to Georgia Power for his CPR training and he is glad that was able to use it for good.

“Everyone should know how to do CPR, especially if you have children or grandchildren” he said. “It is one of those things you need to know and hopefully won’t ever have to use it. I definitely hope I won’t ever have to do it again but I was glad I was able to help that day.”

The Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber Commerce President Woody Woodside sent an email to express his gratitude from the community:

“Tony, word has reached me that you were able to quickly respond at the right place and right time in your neighborhood with your CPR skills save someone’s life. Just like you! You Georgia Power folks are always around to help, even if you’re retired!”