



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

# Investiture *citations*

## Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

RESCUE COMMENDATION AWARD CITATION

OCTOBER 12, 2018 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

## Elaine Soetaert

BACKYARD HOME POOL, PEORIA, ARIZONA – APRIL 1, 2017

**THE RESCUE COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE** recognizes an outstanding rescue by a person who is not a Lifesaving Society award holder.

On April 1, 2017, Elaine Soetaert and her husband Martin were preparing to close their winter home in Peoria, Arizona, prior to returning home to Alberta.

Martin was cleaning the water filter for the backyard swimming pool, as he had done for many years. Elaine, who was in the house, heard an explosion and ran out to the back yard. The pool filter housing had blown apart but Elaine couldn't locate Martin in the backyard. Calling out, Elaine ran to the front and side yards. After checking the water shut-off valve in the side yard and throughout the house, she returned to the backyard. Just at that moment, she noticed Martin's shoe float up to the top of the water, between the edge of the pool and the pool tarp. Pulling the tarp away from the edge, she saw Martin motionless at the bottom of the deep end of the pool. Even though Elaine is not a confident swimmer and is reluctant to submerge her head in the water she bravely entered the water and made her way to the deep end of the pool. She went under the water and was able to reach his clothing and pull him to the surface. She dragged his unconscious body to the edge of the pool and was able to prop herself and Martin on a submerged ledge, where she managed to unlock his jaw in order to start CPR. Martin was unresponsive and not breathing. It was difficult to do CPR from where they were so she moved him to shallow water so she could have more solid footing. She continued CPR until he vomited water, coughing and foaming from his mouth and then started breathing on his own. His breathing was very irregular, however he regained consciousness.

The neighbours, who also heard the explosion, had called 911. The neighbours provided assistance during the emergency.

EMS, Fire and Police arrived and assisted Martin out of the pool and treated him on site, prior to transporting him to the nearest medical centre. The ER physician then transferred Martin to a tertiary care facility as he had sustained trauma to his head, chest, and kidneys and had also suffered a heart attack.

For her bravery, quick response and outstanding effort, **Elaine Soetaert** is awarded the Rescue Commendation Certificate.