AMBULANCE CREW WINS BATTLE TO SAVE A LIFE

Community Is Fortunate To Have Acadian Ambulance Here

Charles Lenox

The hustle and bustle of lunch at Don's is an everyday occurrence; the near-tragedy recently was an exception. It was shortly past noon when a man in his 90's experienced breathing problems. The gasping sound from the entire dining room. An immediate call on the

intercom for a doctor was successful as a doctor started CPR. Fire department emergency personnel responded from across the street, but seconds later Acadian Ambulance paramedics were there.

BATTLE FOR LIFE CONTINUED

The battle for life continued. The heart had stopped beating and the paramedics were in a battle for life. It was a controlled panic as the paramedics fervently tried to restore the heartbeat. The minutes stretched into a half hour and the frantic activity never stopped.

A backup unit from Acadian Ambulance came, but it was the original crew that never let go. They would not accept defeat — would not sacrifice that life.

The patient lived. The man's heart responded and the crew was able to transport him to a local hospital.

LAFAYETTE IS FORTUNATE

Only in Lafayette and other metro areas served by Acadian Ambulance is this type of service balance. It is the backbone of the operation and without it the service could not exist. The kind of thing happened to dis-credit the service with the public, the membership would fail and the service would be in jeopardy. They know this, but feel that their love affair with this community will never end. We hope not.

ZUSCHLAG BEHIND 911 SERVICE

While we are being thankful for Acadian Ambulance, we should point out that Zuschlag took time away from his business duties to be very actively involved in the establishment of the 911 service.

Rep. Lake LeBlanc and others deserve a lot of credit for this and there is plenty for everyone. But when Zuschlag became chairman of the 911 Commission, things started to move.

He certainly did not do all the work as the list of people who made 911 a reality would fill this page. But Zuschlag is a mover and a shaker, he gets people together and he makes things happen. When the roadblocks came up on the road to 911, he simply would not back off. Zuschlag is certainly not homegrown talent, having migrated from Pennsylvania, but he is an example of the type of person we need to have in Lafayette and Acadiana so unique.