

Town of Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Town of Chilmark Beach Committee

August 1st, 2021, the conditions of the ocean were yellow flag (CAUTION). My shift was scheduled to start at 11 AM, it was reported to be a calm day, surprisingly quiet at 11:17 AM. The next text was EMERGENCY at Cliff A, with the ambulance on the way at 11:20AM.

This day will be a day that will never be forgotten by the staff who were on duty and those who responded to the emergency.

Within our staff, some are raised in Chilmark, some are Chilmark summer residents, and others are island resident employees.

On duty August 1, 2021 were the following individuals:

- Leif Iversen, 13 years 22 days Lifeguard/Assistant Supervisor
- Lila Norris (Conroy,) 5 years 1 month 22 Days Lifeguard/Assistant Supervisor- Supervisor on this date
- Hayden Sausville (Poole), 6 Years 26 Days Lifeguard
- Luke Sausville (Poole), 6 Years 26 Days Lifeguard
- Noah Gamper, 2 Years Lifeguard
- Parker Bradlee, 1 year 1 month Parking Attendant
- Teagan Myers, new this summer Parking Attendant
- Chilmark Resident Janice Brown, Nurse and regular beach patron

Responded to the aid of a patron pulled out of the water unresponsive and in need of life saving intervention and responsible for calling EMS and relaying information over the phone.

The events of this day were overshadowed by other island tragedies involving drowning and rescues. However, to the Chilmark employees who responded with interventions (CPR), this day will be etched in their lives forever. They followed procedures and did everything they were trained to do. The staff has drilled and practiced prior to this date which enabled them to engage in a successful rescue.

I am proud of our staff for their quick response who saved a life on this day. In conjunction with the bystanders who retrieved the unconscious party and alerted the Chilmark Guards, a newly

appointed Assistant Supervisor, local nurse Janice Brown, Chilmark Fire personnel, Tri-Town Emergency Medical personnel, and both Chilmark and Aquinnah Police departments. .

As lifeguards, one is prepared and trained, but nothing can really prepare them for an event so life changing as they were faced with on August 1st, 2021.

I recognize the staff as true heroes.

Martina Mastromonaco
Superintendent
Town of Chilmark Beach Department