

Girl, 9, Honored For Life-Saving 911 Call

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CANTON -- Her blond hair covered her eyes as she shyly looked away, but the 9-year-old Van girl took a deep breath and began talking about the summer night she called 911 and saved her mother's life.

Linsey Culver sat in a Van Zandt County courtroom as she waited to be recognized as the first East Texas Council of Government's Angel in Action for her actions, which included calling 911 and directing medical personnel to her home on June 25.

Linsey said she was in another room when she heard a loud crash that woke her up.

"I went to look, and I found my mom on the floor bleeding really badly from the head," she said. "She had tripped over my rabbit Cocoa's cage and hit her head on it."

Linsey said her mother, Judy Culver, had been using a walker to assist her after being injured in an earlier car accident.

Linsey not only called 911, but she also grabbed towels and pressed them to her mother's head to stop the bleeding.

"I saw blood everywhere, but I helped her up onto the bed and stayed right there with her as I talked to the person on the phone," she said.

On the 911 tape released by the county, Linsey is heard talking to her mother and telling her everything would be all right.

As the dispatcher talked to the girl, Linsey responded to questions with "Yes, ma'am" and "No, ma'am."

Linsey then told the dispatcher she was applying pressure to her mother's head and had turned on the porch light for the emergency personnel to find the house. She further added more description, including the type and color of the vehicle in the driveway.

When asked how she felt about being awarded with citations for her actions she replied, "I'm excited and a little nervous because I've never done anything like this before."



ALL SMILES: Linsey Culver, 9, giggles while State Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Van, presents an official proclamation from the Texas State Legislature declaring "Linsey Culver Day" on Wednesday. (Staff Photo By Jaime R. Carrero)

Still a little nervous, Linsey made her way to the front of the courtroom, where Van Zandt Sheriff Pat Burnett read a synopsis of Linsey's 911 call as she stood beside him.

Burnett then looked down and said, "I'd like to thank you for not only being an angel, but a hero."

State Representative Dan Flynn, R-Van, presented Linsey with a certificate recognizing her "heroic" actions, and he told her he would give her a personal tour of the state capitol.

Linsey also received the honor of being the first Angel in Action, a new program developed by ETCOG to recognize youths who demonstrate the proper way to call 911.

"My mom taught me to only call 911 when there is an emergency and at no other time," she said.

Van Zandt County Judge Rita Koches also presented Linsey with a proclamation naming Jan. 20, 2010, as Linsey Culver Day for her bravery.

After the ceremonial part of the event was over, Linsey smiled and said, "I guess I'm a superhero now," to which several in attendance said, "Yes, you are."