

# Lake County Sheriff's Office

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**John D. Idleburg**  
Sheriff

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Sheriff Idleburg Awards 'Purple Heart Award'**

On January 9, 2021, Sheriff John D. Idleburg presented Auxiliary Deputy Thomas Brasuell with the Lake County Sheriff's Purple Heart Award. Sheriff Idleburg surprised Auxiliary Deputy Brasuell with the award at his residence with members of the sheriff's office and sheriff's auxiliary deputy unit.

The Purple Heart Award is reserved for members of the sheriff's office who are severely injured in the in the line of duty.

On December 23, 2019, Auxiliary Deputy Brasuell was at the scene of a fatal traffic crash in Volo. Auxiliary Deputy Brasuell was blocking the scene and directing traffic away, so sheriff's crash investigators could conduct the fatal crash investigation. While directing traffic, a drunk driver drove his car into Auxiliary Deputy Brasuell, severely injuring him.

It took months for Auxiliary Deputy Brasuell to recover from the significant injuries he sustained in the crash.

Sheriff Idleburg said, "I am proud to present Auxiliary Deputy Brasuell the Purple Heart Award, and while he was severely injured, we are thankful he was not killed by the reckless intoxicated driver who struck him. Our staff report for duty ready to serve the community every day knowing the risks and dangers they potentially face. I am honored to serve alongside such a dedicated group who are deeply devoted to the Lake County community."

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