



ROBERT GEORGE

WORCESTER, MA BRANCH 12

“I heard a huge explosion,” Branch 12 member **Robert George** said. He had been pulling out of a church parking lot in Leicester, MA, after making a delivery on June 4, 2013. When he looked about 50 yards up the street, he saw that a large steel hauling truck had jumped a curb and plowed through a stone wall in the front yard of a house.

“It so happened that my son was coming by at the same time,” George said. The grown son, Tim, had been traveling in the opposite direction and witnessed the accident; he also ran across the street toward the scene. George looked inside the vehicle and saw a man inside. “He was stunned, dazed inside the cab of the truck,” he said.

The carrier and his son wanted to get the man out. “He kind of rolled out of the truck,” George said. But then the driver wanted to sit near the vehicle. “We looked up and started to see flames and we thought, ‘No way,’” the carrier, an Air Force veteran, said.

George and his son pulled the man to safety far away from his vehicle and called 911. “He could walk, but I think he was in shock,” George said. Because the truck was carrying a welding unit with oxygen, it became engulfed in flames within minutes.

The letter carrier stayed with the driver until EMTs, police and firefighters arrived. An ambulance soon took the man to a local hospital, where he was treated and released. Investigators believed the cause of the accident was a mechanical failure in the truck.

“There was nothing left of the truck,” George said. “It all happened so fast.” Meanwhile, the house’s facade had been melted by the flames, but no one was inside the home at the time.

If George and his son hadn’t been at the scene at the time, the driver might not have gotten far enough away from the burning vehicle. “Making sure of his safety was first,” George said.

Because of this, judges had an easy time naming George the Eastern Region Hero. “The significant damage that resulted shows how much danger he was in,” they said. “Without regard for his own life and against all instinct, he saved the lives of others.”

The 21-year postal veteran said that being called a hero is humbling, but added that “there was not much thought about going and doing it. It was just the right place at the right time,” he said. “We are out in public every day and you never know what could happen.”



**The wreckage of
the crashed truck**