



# The Des Moines Register

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## Thanks, but he'll be going now

River rescuer wants peace for survivor, recognition for her mate, anonymity for himself



MARY CHIND/REGISTER PHOTOS

**Monday:** With firefighters looking on, Des Moines Fire Chief John TeKippe presents certificates to Robert Cramer, president of Cramer & Associates, and Jason Oglesbee, center, and Chad Coalbank, in cap, Cramer employees who were part of the dramatic Des Moines River rescue.

Jason Oglesbee isn't big on curtain calls. If that wasn't apparent after the river rescue seen around the world a month ago, it was perfectly clear before, during and after Monday's award ceremony at Des Moines City Hall.

The presentation lasted about 15 minutes. Mayor Frank Cownie led things off. A group of firefighters stood nearby as Fire Chief John TeKippe praised the heroic actions of Cramer & Associates construction workers Oglesbee, Joe Lowe and their supervisor, Chad Coalbank.

"June 30th," TeKippe said before handing out certificates of appreciation, "was a day of tragedy, heroism and tragedy averted."

It was the day Oglesbee and



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his colleagues plucked Patricia Ralph-Neely, 67, of Pleasant Hill out of the river. She and her husband, Alan Neely, 62, had been caught in the churning waters after their boat went over the Center Street dam.

On Monday, Lowe was off working at a bridge job in Bellevue, but Oglesbee, 47, and Coalbank, 28, an engineering grad from Iowa State University, were there at City

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**June 30:** Suspended in a harness and guided into position by crane operator Joe Lowe, Oglesbee reaches out to Patricia Ralph-Neely, struggling in the water after the boat she and her husband were in had gone over the Center Street dam.