

# Life-saving sky diver honored by aviators

A sky diver who rescued a woman from falling to her death last month was honored Saturday night for "exemplary" action at a banquet sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Gregory Robertson, who received a pewter trophy, was one of a group of sky divers jumping near Coolidge when he saw Debbie Williams, a 31-year-old teacher from Post, Texas, collide in midair with another parachutist.

Realizing she was unconscious, Robertson dove down to her and pulled her rip cord just 10 seconds before she would have crashed.

On Saturday night, Robertson received a standing ovation from more than 300 people attending the dinner at the Holiday Inn at Peoria Avenue and Interstate 17.

"I didn't expect anything like this," he told the crowd. "I thought I was here to get a free meal."

KTSP-TV (Channel 10) provided the trophy. Its helicopter pilot, Len Clements, said before the banquet that Robertson's feat "struck us that this was something so outstanding."

"We wanted to give him some recognition," Clements said. "He literally put his life aside for someone else."

Robertson, a 35-year-old engineer for American Telephone & Telegraph, already has been honored with his company's highest award for heroism, but Clements said others involved in aviation safety wanted to acknowledge his actions.

"He is being recognized in front of a peer group representing all facets of aviation in Arizona, who have some feeling for what he was up against," Clements said.

The annual banquet honors people who have demonstrated a concern for aviation safety.