



**NATIONAL
SEA RESCUE
INSTITUTE**

BRAVERY AWARD

SILVER

Presented to

Reza Yon

for his courageous actions when on the 25th September 2022, he went to the assistance of 3 teenagers caught in rip currents off Mnandi Beach at the Strand, sadly losing his life in the process.

There were rough sea conditions that day with big breaking waves and a dumping shore break and strong rip currents.

He noticed 3 teenagers caught in a rip current, some distance away from Mnandi beach, and the alarm was raised. On the beach Reza knew NSRI were on their way but he reasoned that the teenagers were going to drown if no one did something immediately.

Being a good swimmer, with a life growing up at the ocean, and respect for the sea, he took a body board and swam out to them (wearing a wet suit) and armed with the board.

Reaching them in the back breakers a struggle commenced with 2 of the teenagers trying to hold onto Reza until they were able to get hold of the board and then tread water.

Reza then went after the third teenager and on reaching that teenager kept holding onto him and started to swim the 3rd child towards the beach. But now, without the support of the board Reza battled to manage the return trip to the beach constantly being getting separated from the teenager in the wave action.

Ultimately, now exhausted, Reza managed to get the 3rd teenager closer in-shore and he was able to swim out to where friends waded in and got him onto the beach.

NSRI Rescue 16A had now arrived and the initial 2 teenagers were rescued from the body board by Rescue 16A and brought ashore.

Eye witnesses on the beach had by now lost sight of Reza at about the time the rescue craft was arriving on the scene. Quickly redirected, Rescue 16A commenced a search for Reza, and he was found about half way from the back breakers towards shore, semi submerged and popping up in wave action which is how NSRI crew spotted him.

Reza was taken to shore and immediate CPR was started to attempt to resuscitate him, aided by SA Police Services and WC Government Health EMS. Paramedics continued with CPR on Reza, but sadly, after all efforts to resuscitate him were exhausted, he was declared deceased.

Reza's bravery and selfless actions that day undoubtedly played a major role in saving the lives of the 3 teenagers. His subsequent passing is mourned but he will be remembered for the ultimate sacrifice he made, his life for theirs. As fellow South Africans we are proud to be able to recognise and honour his achievement and will treasure the legacy left by Reza, for all South Africans. Saving Lives at Sea.

Dave Macready
Chairman: Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date