Chino High senior Gabriel Powell honored for heroism

Braving hot embers from the roof of a neighbor's burning home in March, Chino High senior Gabriel Powell helped lead four people in the house to safety.

Gabriel was honored for his heroism at the May 21 Chino Valley Unified School District Board meeting at Woodcrest Junior High in Ontario. He was also recognized at the board meeting by the Chino Valley Independent Fire District, who had recently presented the student with a citizen commendation.

On the morning of March 4, Gabriel was on his way to school when he smelled a fire. He initially thought it was someone barbecuing. When Gabriel discovered flames and smoke coming from a house behind his family's home, he leapt into action. Hearing people screaming, he ran into the house, checked all the downstairs rooms and helped an elderly couple get out. Gabriel also helped two men who were coming from upstairs get out of the home.

He arrived later at school with ash still on his face and t-shirt.