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Remains of third victim from recent airplane crash recovered from Gulf of Mexico

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BRONSON --Remains of the third of three passengers who were in a single-engine airplane that crashed into the Gulf of Mexico on Feb. 12 are believed to have been recovered on March 1, according to the Levy County Sheriff's Office.

The body of Jasper Jerrels, 65, and his fiancé Hue Singletary were previously recovered from wreckage in the Gulf of Mexico, according to information from the United States Coast Guard and the Levy County Sheriff's Office. That plane was going from Brooksville to Cedar Key Airport when it crashed for some reason into the water.

Wreckage was found in the Gulf about six miles south-southeast of Cedar Key, LCSO spokesman Lt. Scott Tummond said.

Singletary's body was seen by a Sea Tow captain on Feb. 19, and recovered. Levy County Sheriff Robert "Bobby" McCallum Jr. instructed his deputies to continue searching for the third body, and among the other agencies that helped was the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, which put a helicopter into the air as part of the search.

Bone fragments believed to be from the body of 17-year-old son of Jasper Jerrels --Dylan Jerrels -- were recently recovered by a man who used equipment for finding objects underwater.

Last Wednesday (March 1), the LCSO, assisted by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Dive Team, responded near the coordinates where the main fuselage of the downed aircraft was located, Lt. Tummond said on Tuesday afternoon (March 7).

Dan Griffith, owner of the volunteer organization Florida Sonar Search Team, located debris and requested divers take a closer look to identify the objects, Tummond said.

ACSO Dive Team members located personal effects and bone fragments at this location. The bone fragments have been examined by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Medical Examiner's Office and are verified as human bone fragments, Tummond said.

Based upon the location where they were found and type of bone, it is believed these are the remains of Dylan Jerrels, Tummond said.

Additional DNA testing will be conducted to positively confirm this, Tummond said.

Sheriff McCallum previously had vowed to continue the search for the body of the boy until he was located.

"I know this family personally and can understand the pain this family has to endure," Sheriff McCallum said. "I will continue this search until we can offer closure to Dylan's family."

Search crews are scheduled to conduct additional searches in this same location later this week.

Sheriff McCallum expressed his thanks to all of the agencies, including other Sheriffs' Offices and all of the many volunteers that have aided the LCSO in this search -- especially Griffith.

"Their assistance has been remarkable and is very much appreciated," Tummond noted.