

BOARD OF AWARDS: The following citations were approved by the department's District and Division Review Panels and the Board of Awards Committee. The ranks of the officers are those held at the time of the request for citation.

November 2012

Lifesaving Award:

Tpr. Richard Chaffee is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 28, 2012, Trooper Chaffee was dispatched to investigate a car/motorcycle crash. Upon arrival, Trooper Chaffee located the motorcyclist, whose left leg had been amputated as a result of being struck by the car. Using his prior experience as a medic, Trooper Chaffee applied a tourniquet to the motorcyclist's leg. When emergency medical personnel arrived at the scene, they were so impressed by the tourniquet that they continued to use it until they arrived at the hospital. Given the severe nature of the victim's injuries, had Trooper Chaffee not applied the tourniquet to the victim's leg, the victim would like have not survived.

Tpr. Rene Gonzales is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On July 26, 2012, Trooper Gonzales was observing the recruits during their afternoon meal and noticed Recruit Michael O'Donnell was having difficulty breathing. Trooper Gonzales saw Recruit O'Donnell stand from his chair and grasp his throat with both hands leading him to determine the recruit was choking. Trooper Gonzales then rushed over to Recruit O'Donnell and gave him five abdominal thrusts to attempt to dislodge the object. When that didn't work, Trooper Gonzales gave him three back blows, which dislodged the object. Due to Trooper Gonzales' quick and effective use of first aid, Recruit O'Donnell began breathing again.

Rec. Ryan Kirkpatrick is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 10, 2012, Recruit Kirkpatrick observed a fellow recruit having difficulty breathing. Recruit Kirkpatrick asked him if he was okay but Recruit Dhooghe did not answer. Based on the techniques learned in recruit school, Recruit Kirkpatrick administered back blows and was successful in dislodging an object from Recruit Dhooghe's throat. Due to Recruit Kirkpatrick's quick and effective use of first aid, Recruit Dhooghe began breathing again.

Tpr. William McMullen is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On February 21, 2012, Trooper McMullen came upon an accident on westbound I-94, in which a car had lost control and slid under a semi-truck. The driver of the car was initially conscious and complaining of pain. While attempting to get further information from the driver, Trooper McMullen observed her eyes roll back in her head before she fell backward into the vehicle, unconscious. Trooper McMullen crawled into the vehicle to check her vital signs and discovered she had a pulse, but was not breathing. Trooper McMullen gave her neck support by holding a C-spine and attempting to support her upper body. Once her neck and head were supported, the woman began breathing again. When Trooper McMullen attempted to lay the driver seat down flat to get a stable surface to perform first aid, the woman once again stopped breathing. Trooper McMullen then continued holding the C-spine to keep her airway open until paramedics arrived. Due to Trooper McMullen's quick action and knowledge of first aid techniques, the woman survived.

Tpr. Paul Plangger is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On June 8, 2012, Trooper Plangger and a deputy from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department responded to a possible suicidal subject at a residence in Hartford. When the officers entered the residence, they found the subject hanging by a rope inside the garage. The officers cut the rope and lowered the subject to the ground. Trooper Plangger then checked for a pulse. Finding none, he immediately started chest compressions. CPR was continued for several minutes during which time a faint pulse was restored. Emergency medical personnel arrived and transferred the man to the hospital. Due to Trooper Plangger's quick actions, the man survived.

Tpr. Karen Roy is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On June 24, 2012, Trooper Roy was dispatched to a shooting in which a 14-year-old girl was shot multiple times. Trooper Roy was first to arrive and upon entering the front door, Trooper Roy found the young victim had been shot at least three times from a 45-caliber handgun. Trooper Roy immediately assessed the victim's condition, which included at least one gunshot wound in the chest, and then contacted emergency medical personnel to update them on her condition. Trooper Roy, who is a first aid instructor, recognized the serious nature of the girl's injuries and called for emergency life support as she treated and comforted the young, conscious victim. As the victim began drifting out of consciousness, Trooper Roy treated the wound to the chest by applying direct pressure to control bleeding until the girl could be airlifted to DeVos Children's Hospital. Trooper Roy's administration of first aid made a difference in the outcome of the victim's survival.

Tpr. Frederick Strich is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On July 11, 2012, Trooper Strich was camping when he observed another camper attempt to get into a boat. The man lost his balance and fell into the water, landing between the boat and the dock. Trooper Strich saw that the man was unable to keep his head above water,

so he grabbed him under both arms, lifting him and his head out of the water. Trooper Strich then instructed the man to put his feet down and stand up, as the water was just over waist deep. The man was then able to stand on his left leg; his right femur was shattered. Trooper Strich then called 911 and helped the man stabilize his leg until paramedics arrived. If not for the actions of Trooper Strich, the victim would have drowned.

January 2013

Lifesaving Award:

Tpr. James McGaffigan is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 2, 2012, Trooper McGaffigan, within three minutes of receiving the call, responded to assist a 63-year-old woman who was in full cardiac arrest. With the assistance of a responding paramedic who was performing CPR on the woman, Trooper McGaffigan prepared an AED. After several minutes of chest compressions and utilization of the AED, the woman began to show a weak pulse. She was transported to the hospital and eventually recovered. If not for the quick actions of Trooper McGaffigan, the woman may not have survived.

Tpr. Charles Bartley is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On April 7, 2012, Trooper Bartley responded to the home of a suicidal subject. Upon arrival he was informed the subject was sitting in a vehicle parked in the garage. Trooper Bartley noted the vehicle's engine was running and the garage was filling with exhaust fumes. Trooper Bartley entered the exhaust-filled garage and found the subject to be unconscious and unresponsive in the driver's seat. Feeling the effects of carbon monoxide exposure; difficulty breathing, dizziness, and a headache, Trooper Bartley left the garage to get a breath of fresh air. He then re-entered the garage along with some family members and successfully removed the man from the garage. Once out of the garage, Trooper Bartley administered first aid until paramedics arrived to transport the suspect to the hospital. Thanks to Trooper Bartley's quick actions and knowledge of first aid techniques, the victim survived.

Professional Excellence:

D/Sgt. Christopher Corriveau
Tpr. Scott Ernstes
Tpr. Rene Gonzalez
Tpr. Troy Johnston
Tpr. Marco Jones
Tpr. Brent Matsumoto
Tpr. Dana McKee
D/Sgt. Lisa Gee-Cram
D/Sgt. Cynthia Gochanour
D/Sgt. Marco Hernandez
Tpr. Thomas Hurst
Tpr. Art McNew
Tpr. Jereme Miller
Tpr. Britt Owen
Tpr. Tony Weldy
D/Sgt. Grel Rousseau
Tpr. Joseph Allen
Tpr. Shelley Izzard
(Ret.) D/Sgt. George Pratt
D/Tpr/Spl. Jason Davenport
D/Tpr/Spl. Don Desnyder
D/Tpr/Spl. Neil Donahue
D/Sgt. John Glass
D/Sgt. Rene Tincher
Tpr. Joseph Allen
Sgt. Al Avery
Tpr. Jay Barkley
Tpr. Russell Bawks

Tpr. Chris Boven
Tpr. Dennis Brazaski
Sgt. Richard Casanova
Tpr. Joseph Cook
Sgt. Richard Dragomer
Tpr. Thomas Fick
Tpr. Tom George
Tpr. James Gillespie
Tpr. James Gochanour
Tpr. Darren Green
Tpr. Grant Guzikowski
Tpr. Michael Jermeay
Tpr. Mark Kassuba
Tpr. Andrew Knapp
Tpr. Jeffrey Miazga
Tpr. James Moots
Tpr. Joel Niedzwiecki
Tpr. Annette Poehlman
Tpr. Trevor Radke
Tpr. Edward Ricklefs
Tpr. Michael Sites
Tpr. Michael Sura
Tpr. Michael Sysko
Tpr. Willie Thompson
Tpr. Keith Toms
Tpr. Gary Tropf
Tpr. Brett Vogt
Tpr. Alex Zamarron

The next Board of Awards Committee meeting is March 27, 2013.