

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.

MSP Official Bulletin: December 3, 2015

Meritorious Service Award

D/Sgt. John Forner, (6th District Detective Unit), **D/Sgt. Scott Rios**, (Hart Post), and **D/Sgt. Michael Stephens**, (6th District Detective Unit), are receiving the Meritorious Service Award for their diligence during a very complex cold case investigation. After failing to return home on July 18, 1989, Shannon Siders was reported missing to the MSP Newaygo Post by her father on July 20, 1989. Initial tips indicated Shannon may have been hiding from her father. In early September 1989, identification and other items belonging to Shannon were found in the national forest and brought to the Newaygo Post. The area was searched where the items were found, but no evidence was located. On October 15, 1989, human remains were found in the national forest and dental records confirmed the remains belonged to Shannon Siders. The cause of death was ruled a homicide.

Investigators established a timeline and learned that Shannon was last seen alive in the company of brothers, Paul and Matthew Jones. The initial investigation focused on these individuals, but a Grand Jury in 1993 convened without indictments being issued. Alternate information surfaced through tips with multiple suspects and theories being explored, but tips became sparse over time and the investigation grew cold.

In 2011, a cold case task force was formed to reexamine the murder. The task force examined all available evidence, collected missing documents, and compiled a list of suspect theories. Twelve viable theories were developed that included 17 possible suspects. The task force conducted over 500 interviews and ultimately determined the original suspects, Paul and Matthew Jones, were responsible for the murder of Shannon Siders. The task force worked diligently with the Newaygo County Prosecutor and Assistant Attorney General Bill Rollstin to prepare for potential charges.

In June 2014, homicide warrants were obtained and Paul and Matthew Jones were arrested. Work intensified as the task force began preparing for the preliminary hearing and trial. The task force spent several months interviewing witnesses with prosecutors during trial preparation, including countless hours of unpaid time. The case went to trial in April 2015 with over 75 witnesses called and 100 hours of testimony given to two separate juries. On May 8, 2015, Paul and Matthew Jones were found guilty of first degree murder. If it were not for the dedication and expert investigative skills of D/Sergeants Forner, Rios, and Stephens, justice may never have been obtained for Shannon Siders.

Lifesaving Awards

Tpr. Donald Pasternak (Brighton Post) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 26, 2015, Trooper Pasternak responded to a call of an unresponsive male at a construction site. Upon arrival, Trooper Pasternak found the unresponsive male in full cardiac arrest inside the cab of a large vehicle. Trooper Pasternak assisted the Manchester Fire Department in lowering the victim to the ground, at which time he began CPR. After several minutes of performing CPR, the victim's pulse was restored and he was transported to the hospital. Thanks to Trooper Pasternak's prompt response, the man survived.

Tpr. Benjamin Bordner (Rockford Post) is receiving the Life-saving Award for saving the life of another. On June 10, 2015, Trooper Bordner was taking his canine partner to a veterinary appointment, when he came across an occupied vehicle in the median. Trooper Bordner stopped to check on the driver and found him unresponsive. Trooper Bordner removed the driver from the vehicle and after being unable to detect a pulse or breathing, he performed the head

tilt/chin lift, but the driver did not respond. Trooper Bordner began CPR and after a short period of time, the subject began to breathe, but breathing was labored and sporadic. Trooper Bordner continued performing CPR until emergency medical personnel arrived to transport the subject to the hospital. If not for the actions of Trooper Bordner, the subject would not have survived.

Tpr. DuWayne Robinson (Niles Post) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On May 31, 2015, Trooper Robinson was attending a high school graduation when he was alerted to a medical emergency nearby. Trooper Robinson assessed the scene and located a subject unconscious and not breathing with by-standers performing CPR. Trooper Robinson retrieved his automated external defibrillator (AED) and affixed the pads to the victim's chest. The AED advised to shock the victim and continue CPR. Trooper Robinson, along with the assistance of bystanders, continued CPR until emergency medical personnel arrived and the subject was transported to the hospital. Thanks to Trooper Robinson's quick thinking and response, the subject survived.

Tpr. Joshua Tinkle (Coldwater Post) is re-ceiving the Life-saving Award for saving the life of another. On September 11, 2015, Trooper Tinkle was on his way to work when he came upon a crash on I-94 involving a semi-truck that crossed the median and flipped onto the driver's side. Trooper Tinkle noticed the semi-truck was on fire and burning fuel was flowing down the roadway. Trooper Tinkle approached the burning vehicle and found the driver was still inside the cab and in a lower state of consciousness, unaware that the vehicle was on fire. Trooper Tinkle attempted to get the driver to exit the vehicle, but the driver was unresponsive. Trooper Tinkle physically pulled the driver from the burning vehicle, at which point the driver tried to pull away and advised his dog was still inside. Trooper Tinkle moved the driver to a safe location, and then returned to the vehicle to rescue the dog. Approximately two minutes after rescuing the driver and his dog, the semi-truck became fully engulfed in flames. Trooper Tinkle's quick actions played a vital role in saving the lives of this man and his dog.

Tpr. Kyle Sherwood and **Tpr. Michael Thyng** (Coldwater Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On September 15, 2015, Troopers Sherwood and Thyng were dispatched to a serious injury accident involving a pickup truck and a motorcycle. Trooper Sherwood arrived on scene first, where he found the motorcyclist had sustained a partial amputation to his left leg. Despite the motorcycle being on fire nearby and the victim's clothes saturated in gasoline, Trooper Sherwood held C-spine while waiting for Trooper Thyng to arrive. Upon arrival, Trooper Thyng brought a tourniquet to the scene and applied it to the victim's left leg. Trooper Sherwood continued to hold C-spine until emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the victim to the hospital. The victim lost his lower left leg, but without the actions of Troopers Sherwood and Thyng, he may not have survived.

Tpr. Kyle Bowers (Coldwater Post) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On September 20, 2015, Trooper Bowers was dispatched to a head-on collision involving two motorcycles. Upon arrival, Trooper Bowers discovered two deceased male subjects and one female subject in critical condition. The female subject had a compound fracture to her left leg and was severely bleeding. Trooper Bowers applied the tourniquet from his first aid kit to the female's injured leg, with the assistance from two bystanders. Several minutes later, emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the female to the hospital for additional treatment. Thanks to Trooper Bowers' quick use of first aid equipment, the female survived.

Tpr. Josh Filz and **Tpr. Andrew Tower** (Wakefield Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 10, 2015, Troopers Filz and Tower were dispatched to a medical assist call for a male who collapsed to the ground and was unresponsive. Upon arrival, Troopers Filz and Tower found the male subject was not breathing and did

not have a pulse. Trooper Filz and Tower administered two-person CPR, with Trooper Filz administering rescue breaths and Trooper Tower administering chest compressions. Trooper Filz readied the AED and two shocks were administered. The subject began gasping for air, but remained unconscious. Emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the subject to the hospital. While the subject passed away three days later, the actions of Troopers Filz and Tower saved the patient that day providing the family with an opportunity to say goodbye.

D/Tpr/Spl. Joshua May (BAYANET) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On July 17, 2015, D/Tpr/Specialist May was eating at a restaurant when a young child began choking. The child's grandfather attempted to clear the blockage, but was unsuccessful. Without hesitation, D/Tpr/Specialist May grabbed the child and successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver. D/Tpr/Specialist May's quick actions likely saved the child's life.

Professional Excellence

- Tpr. Donald DeSnyder Metro Post
- D/Tpr/Spl. Jason Sleeter.....UPSET
- D/Tpr/Spl. Scott Vandercook 2nd District Narcotics
- D/Sgt. Rene Welch 2nd District Narcotics

Unit Citation

- Tpr. Martin Miller.....Rockford Post

The next Board of Awards Committee meeting is March 16, 2016.