

DATE: April 24, 2013

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.

Bravery Award:

Tpr. DuWayne Robinson and **Tpr. Stephen Vrablic** are receiving the Bravery Award for diligence and perseverance under uncommon circumstances and for going beyond what is typically expected of most law enforcement officers. On November 24, 2012, Troopers Robinson and Vrablic were dispatched to investigate a domestic disturbance in which it was reported the suspect had assaulted his estranged wife and threatened to kill her. Armed with a rifle, the suspect was holding his estranged wife, their two children, and a female friend hostage in the residence.

When the troopers arrived, they observed the front door of the residence open and a female, later identified as the wife, being thrown out of the home, landing on her face in the yard. Troopers Robinson and Vrablic moved the wife to safety and took position outside the residence. The troopers then observed the suspect holding a rifle, moving back and forth within the residence, very near the two small children. Suddenly, the suspect turned the lights off and moved the children to the back of the home. Fearing the subject was preparing for a gunfight, Troopers Robinson and Vrablic prepared to assemble the Emergency Support Team. However, the suspect was next seen entering the living room, where he set the rifle down on the back of the couch.

The troopers seized this opportunity to attempt verbal contact with the suspect. Trooper Robinson maintained visual sight of the suspect through the window while Trooper Vrablic moved to the front door. As Trooper Robinson relayed to Trooper Vrablic that the suspect was still separated from his rifle, Trooper Vrablic made verbal commands to the suspect while banging on the front door. Trooper Robinson conveyed the suspect's movements to Trooper Vrablic as the suspect began to approach the door. The suspect quickly pushed open the door, stuck his head out, and yelled "leave me alone." Without hesitation, Trooper Vrablic grabbed the suspect and tried to pull him out of the house as the suspect attempted to retreat inside the house. A fight ensued during which time Trooper Robinson ran to the front of the home, tackling the suspect and Trooper Vrablic, causing all three to land off the front porch and onto the ground. As they continued to struggle on the ground, suspicion that the suspect may be armed with subsequent firearms arose, so he was tasered and immediately subdued.

The brave and decisive actions of these troopers brought this situation to a peaceful end. If it had not been for the troopers' quick actions, it is likely the children may have been harmed.

Lifesaving Award:

Tpr. Seth Swanson is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On January 31, 2013, Trooper Swanson was dispatched to a 42-vehicle crash on I-75 in the City of Detroit. In checking on the occupants of one of the most seriously damaged vehicles, Trooper Swanson observed that two of three children in the backseat were already deceased. Witnesses reported the third child was also deceased; however, Trooper Swanson checked for signs of life and detected a pulse and very slight breathing. Trooper Swanson cleared the child's airway and started rescue breathing while awaiting the arrival of emergency medical personnel. When they arrived, the child was transported to the hospital in critical condition, but recovered. Thanks to Trooper Swanson's quick actions and knowledge of first aid techniques, the young victim survived.

Tpr. Andrew Merryweather and **Tpr. Christopher Shoemaker** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On July 31, 2012, Troopers Merryweather and Shoemaker were dispatched to a suicidal subject who had wrapped a homemade pipe bomb around his neck and detonated it just moments before the troopers arrived. Upon arrival, the troopers found the subject lying face down in the front yard. Troopers Merryweather and Shoemaker rolled the subject over and found him to be on fire. The troopers quickly put out the flames by removing the subject's shirt and patting out the flames. The troopers then performed first aid by applying bandages and pressure to the wounds in the subject's neck and shoulders to control the bleeding until emergency medical personnel arrived. If not for the quick actions of Troopers Merryweather and Shoemaker, the subject may not have survived.

Tpr. Gerald Yott is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On January 1, 2013, Trooper Yott was dispatched to a subject who had fallen through the ice, approximately 100 feet from shore. The subject was unable to pull himself from the water and had already lost some grip and dexterity due to the frigid water. Bravely, Trooper Yott ventured onto the ice to throw the subject a rescue device and with the help of several citizens, Trooper Yott was able to quickly and safely pull the man from the water.

Tpr. Robert Metivier is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On December 25, 2012, Trooper Metivier was on US-127 when he observed debris flying down the roadway. Realizing there had just been a crash, Trooper Metivier reported to the scene of the accident where he observed a vehicle on its top in the median. Trooper Metivier could hear a female passenger in the backseat screaming that she couldn't hear her mother, who was the driver. The front seat male passenger was alert, conscious, and yelling for Trooper Metivier to get him out of the vehicle. The female driver was unresponsive. Because the car was on its top and crushed, Trooper Metivier could not open the door. Instead, he used his baton to break the window. He then laid down on his back in the snow to see into the car, finding the female driver to be unresponsive and gurgling. Trooper Metivier pushed up on the driver's shoulders to remove pressure from the seatbelt, which straightened the driver's head. At that time, she took a gasp of air and vomited on Trooper Metivier. Medical personnel arrived on scene and took over the care of the driver while Trooper Metivier assisted the vehicle's passengers in exiting the vehicle. Thanks to Trooper Metivier's quick response and knowledge of first aid techniques, the victims all survived.

Tpr. Michael Jermeay is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On October 27, 2012, Trooper Jermeay responded to assist a young mentally challenged, blind, and mute woman who was choking to death. With the assistance of two other officers and a registered nurse, Trooper Jermeay performed back blows and abdominal thrusts. While doing so, a large chunk of chicken sandwich was expelled and the victim began to breathe again. If not for the quick actions of Trooper Jermeay, the victim may not have survived.

Rec. Jared Grigg is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On November 29, 2012, Recruit Grigg observed a fellow recruit having difficulty breathing. Based on the techniques learned in recruit school, Recruit Grigg administered the Heimlich maneuver and was successful in dislodging an object from his fellow recruit's throat. Due to Recruit Grigg's quick and effective use of first aid, Recruit Hayden began breathing again.

Professional Excellence:

Sgt. Jerry King

Sgt. Matthew Rogers

Tpr. Eric Byerly

D/Sgt. Joseph White
Tpr. Kyle Gorham
Tpr. Danny Cook
D/Sgt. Terry Klotz
Sgt. Phillip Vannette
Tpr. Randy Gariglio
D/Sgt. Michael Morey
Tpr. Brian Siemen
Tpr. Roger Hunt
Tpr. Richard Carlson
Tpr. John Janicki
Tpr. Kyle Kelley
Tpr. James Leonard
Tpr. Jonah Bonovetz
D/Tpr/Spl. Roberto Anaya
Spl/Sgt. Andy Carriveau
Spl/Sgt. Erin Cohoe
Spl/Sgt. Cynthia Edwards
Tpr. Charles Kemp
D/Sgt. Edward Price
Sgt. John Shields
D/Sgt. Robert Tomassi

Unit Citation:

D/Tpr/Spl. Brenda Casperson
Tpr. Thomas Fick
Tpr. Nathan Groya
D/Tpr/Spl. James Lass
Tpr. Matt Noblinski
Sgt. Karl Schmitz
D/Sgt. Joseph Young
Tpr. Scott Ziesman

The next Board of Awards Committee meeting is July 17, 2013.