

**DATE: May 31, 2016**

*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 and Lifesaving Awards:**

**Tpr. Robert Lee** is receiving the Bravery and Lifesaving awards for his heroic actions in saving the life of a woman. On January 29, 2016, Trooper Lee responded to a burning residence after overhearing radio traffic dispatching deputies from the Gladwin County Sheriff's Office to the residence. Before emergency personnel arrived, a civilian attempted to enter the residence but was pushed back by the heat and smoke. Trooper Lee and Sgt. Chad Smith from the Gladwin County Sheriff's Office were the first emergency personnel to arrive. Unable to determine if anyone was inside the residence, Trooper Lee and Sergeant Smith utilized their flashlights to illuminate inside the home. Trooper Lee faintly observed something resembling hair and began to crawl into the residence to determine if it was an unconscious person. Upon closer inspection, the object was determined to be a deceased cat. Shortly past the cat, an oxygen tank was observed tipped over on its side; however, Trooper Lee was quickly overcome by the heat and smoke and was forced to back out of the residence.

Trooper Lee and Ofcr. Rodney Foster from the Gladwin Police Department searched the outside of the residence for another entry point and located a large sliding door leading to the living room. Unable to open the door, Trooper Lee used his baton to shatter the glass causing the smoke to clear enough to observe an elderly female unconscious on the couch. Trooper Lee and Officer Foster entered the residence and removed the unresponsive female from the residence, just as oxygen tanks began to ignite inside.

Trooper Lee performed rescue breathing on the woman until she was breathing on her own. She was transported to a local hospital and then later transported by MedFlight to Flint Hurley Hospital for further treatment. She survived for five days before succumbing to injuries sustained in the fire. In awarding both of the department's Bravery and Lifesaving awards to Trooper Lee, the Board of Awards recognizes that the incredible courage and heroic actions he demonstrated saved the woman's life that day providing the family with an opportunity to say goodbye.

**Bravery Award:**

**Tpr. Jared Grigg** and **Tpr. John Sholtz** are receiving the Bravery Award for their heroic actions in saving the life of a child. On January 4, 2016, Troopers Grigg and Sholtz responded to a residential fire in the city of Lapeer. Upon arrival, troopers observed the home was fully engulfed in flames and the front door was unapproachable due to flames. A bystander told the troopers they had heard children screaming from inside the home. Troopers Grigg and Sholtz ran to the back door of the home and were able to gain entry. They searched the first floor of the home, which was already engulfed in fire and full of thick smoke. Trooper Sholtz located an unresponsive six-year-old boy lying on the floor of the garage that is attached to the home and carried him out to Trooper Grigg. Trooper Sholtz went back into the home to search for additional children. After a short period of time, dispatch informed Trooper Sholtz that there were no other children inside the home. The young boy was treated by emergency medical personnel and later released. In awarding the department's Bravery Award to Troopers Grigg and Sholtz, the Board of Awards recognizes the courage and heroic actions demonstrated by these troopers undoubtedly saved the boy's life.

**Lifesaving Award:**

**Tpr. Stephen Kingsley** and **Tpr. Kyle Michael** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On January 26, 2016, Troopers Kingsley and Michael were dispatched to a report of a subject attempting to commit suicide. Upon arrival to the scene, troopers discovered an unresponsive male hanging from a tree by a cord tied around his neck and two individuals struggling to hold him up. Trooper Michael replaced the two individuals and held the victim up while Trooper Kingsley climbed the tree and cut the cord. The subject was lowered to the ground where first aid was administered until the subject regained consciousness. Thanks to Troopers Kingsley and Michael's prompt response, the subject survived.

**Tpr. Casey Allison** is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On December 28, 2015, Trooper Allison responded to a call of a subject suffering from heavy blood loss. Upon arrival to the scene, Trooper Allison found a man on the bathroom floor bleeding profusely with blood covering the walls and puddled on the floor and in the tub. The man was able to show Trooper Allison a wound on his arm where he had inadvertently removed his catheter. After retrieving his first aid kit, Trooper Allison applied a tourniquet to the man's arm to stop the bleeding. Once the bleeding ceased, Trooper Allison applied a blood-stopper bandage over the wound. Emergency medical personnel arrived on scene and transported the man to the hospital for further treatment. Thanks to Trooper Allison's quick use of first aid equipment, the man survived.

**Tpr. Shane Noble** and **Tpr. Jacquelyn Sasse** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On November 9, 2015, Troopers Noble and Sasse were dispatched to a report of a suicidal subject who locked himself inside his garage by screwing the steel door shut and had his truck and ATV running inside. Troopers Noble and Sasse utilized a fire axe to cut into the door until they could see inside. They called out to the subject, but received no response. They continued to cut into the door until the fire axe broke and then used a long metal pole to pry and kick the bottom half of the door open enough to gain entry. Troopers Noble and Sasse crawled into the dark, smoke-filled garage where the subject was found unconscious inside the truck. They pulled the subject from the garage and outside to fresh air. Troopers Noble and Sasse checked the subject's vital signs and began attempts to wake him. The subject took several gasps of air and regained consciousness. Emergency medical personnel arrived on scene and transported the subject to the hospital. Thanks to the determination and quick response shown by Troopers Noble and Sasse, the subject survived.

**Tpr. Thomas Pinkerton** is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On December 30, 2015, Trooper Pinkerton responded to the scene of a critical shooting. Trooper Pinkerton observed a male victim on the ground with a gunshot wound to his left side. The victim was not breathing and was unresponsive. Trooper Pinkerton repositioned the victim and worked to establish an airway by performing the head tilt/chin lift, at which time the victim began heavily labored breathing. Trooper Pinkerton advised his partner to retrieve an emergency blanket, which was utilized to maintain the victim's core temperature in the frigid weather. Emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the critically injured victim to the hospital. If not for the actions of Trooper Pinkerton, the victim would not have survived.

**Tpr. Elizabeth Bourgeois** is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 9, 2015, Trooper Bourgeois responded to the scene of a subject in full cardiac arrest. Trooper Bourgeois checked the subject for a pulse and breathing, but was unable to detect either. Trooper Bourgeois administered CPR until relieved by emergency medical personnel. The subject was transported to the hospital, where he later went into a coma and passed away. The actions of Trooper Bourgeois extended the subject's life, providing the family with an opportunity to say goodbye.

**Tpr. Ryan Giroux** and **Tpr. Joshua Nasser** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On November 3, 2015, a "be on the lookout" was aired for a 17-year-old suicidal subject. After locating the teen's bicycle, Troopers Giroux and Nasser began searching a wooded area adjacent to the bike path. Troopers Giroux and Nasser found the teen hanging from a tree with a rope around his neck and a plastic bag over his head. Trooper Nasser cut the rope while Trooper Giroux lowered the teen's lifeless body to the ground where he checked for vital signs and called for emergency medical services. Unable to find a pulse or breathing, the troopers attached an automated external defibrillator (AED), which advised to begin CPR. Troopers Giroux and Nasser began two-person CPR, and after multiple sets of chest compressions and rescue breaths, a pulse was obtained. Trooper Nasser continued rescue breathing until the teen took a gasp of air. Emergency medical personnel arrived on scene and transported the teen to the hospital. If not for the actions of Troopers Giroux and Nasser, the victim would not have survived.

**Tpr. Jeffrey Rogers** and **Tpr. Anthony Vanluchene** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On October 7, 2015, Troopers Rogers and Vanluchene observed a vehicle make a turn without signaling and then turn around in the roadway. A traffic stop was initiated and the male driver exited the vehicle and approached the troopers. The subject then stumbled backwards, collapsed to the ground, and gasped for breath. Troopers Rogers and Vanluchene quickly surveyed the subject and found he was not breathing and did not have a pulse. They applied the AED which indicated "no

shock," so they began CPR. Trooper Vanluchene delivered several chest compressions and the subject began breathing, but then stopped and started breathing again several times. Troopers Rogers and Vanluchene monitored the subject until medical personnel arrived and transported the subject to the hospital. Thanks to the quick thinking and response of Troopers Rogers and Vanluchene, the subject survived.

**Tpr. Tyler Vargo** is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On August 10, 2015, Trooper Vargo was eating dinner with his family, when he observed his step-brother choking. Trooper Vargo immediately performed multiple abdominal thrusts to clear his airway, at which time he began breathing again. Trooper Vargo's expert actions saved his step-brother's life.

**Professional Excellence:**

Tpr. Steven Moore  
Tpr. Brett Brice  
Tpr. Brian Kinaschuk  
Tpr. Steven Kingsley  
Tpr. Brian Russell  
Tpr. Vincent Couveau  
D/Sgt. Bradley Cox  
D/Sgt. Neil Donahue  
D/Sgt. Lil Drew  
D/Sgt. Kenneth Ducker  
D/Tpr/Spl. Phillip Duplessis  
D/Sgt. Robert Engler  
D/Tpr/Spl. Gina Gettel  
Sgt. Chad Gruenwald  
D/Sgt. Larissa LaMay  
D/Tpr/Spl. Mark Lambert  
D/Tpr/Spl. Jacob Liss  
D/Sgt. Rebecca MacArthur  
D/Tpr/Spl. Craig MacDonald  
D/Sgt. Kevin Nance  
D/Sgt. Alfred Neal  
D/Sgt. Gary Nesbitt  
Tpr. Gideon Paetz  
D/Sgt. Raymond Pechman  
D/Tpr/Spl. Christopher Pena  
D/Sgt. Sunshine Ponzetti  
D/Tpr/Spl. Todd Poppema  
D/Sgt. Twana Powell  
D/Sgt. Edward Price  
D/Sgt. William Prince  
D/Sgt. Richard Sanchez  
Tpr. Victoria Smith  
D/Tpr/Spl. Tracey Walton  
D/Sgt. Joseph White  
Tpr. Jeffrey Hoyt  
Tpr. Tara LaMilza  
Tpr. Travis Pohl  
Tpr. Zachary Tebedo  
Tpr. Thomas Pinkerton  
D/Tpr/Spl. Hilary House  
D/Sgt. Christian Clute  
D/Sgt. Jacquelyn Stasiak (2)  
Tpr. Cimmeron McRae

Tpr. Patrick Baldwin (2)  
Sgt. Brian Carlson  
Tpr. Kelsey Case  
Tpr. Douglas Cole  
Tpr. Larry Rossler

**Unit Citation:**

Tpr. John Belonga  
Tpr. Daniel Devowe  
Tpr. Joshua Henry  
Tpr. Kirk Seaman  
D/Sgt. Paul Calleja  
D/Tpr/Spl. Benjamin Garrison  
D/Sgt. Andrew Osborne  
D/Tpr/Spl. Robert Tournaud

*The next Board of Awards Committee meeting is November 4, 2015.*