

DATE: August 13, 2015

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:

D/Tpr/Spl. Thomas J. Proffitt is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On April 25, 2015, D/Tpr/Specialist Proffitt responded to a call to locate and assist an injured suicidal subject. Once located, the victim explained he was a paramedic and had cut his wrist to the point of producing a potentially fatal arterial bleed. The victim advised he had lost approximately a liter of blood and was fading in and out. The victim made no attempt to treat himself or drive himself to the hospital. D/Tpr/Specialist Proffitt applied medical gauze and a pressure bandage to the victim's wound and monitored his vital signs until emergency medical personnel arrived to transport the victim to the hospital. D/Tpr/Specialist Proffitt's prompt and expert actions saved this man's life.

Tpr. Roger A. Craig and **Tpr. Matthew T. Unterbrink** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On May 1, 2015, Troopers Craig and Unterbrink were dispatched to the scene of a drive-by shooting, where they discovered a subject on his back in the front yard with multiple gunshot wounds. A bystander and an officer from the Detroit Police Department were applying first aid to the victim's wounds on his arms. Troopers Craig and Unterbrink immediately began assessing the victim to identify additional gunshot wounds and render first aid. The troopers applied pressure and gauze to the subject's wounds on his arms, both legs, and a severe injury to his abdomen. Emergency medical personnel arrived and began cutting the clothes off of the victim, at which time the troopers discovered another gunshot wound to the victim's leg, which they applied gauze and pressure bandages to. During the treatment process, the troopers dealt with a large group of bystanders crowding the victim and at one point had to remove a female subject, who had thrown herself onto the victim. The victim was transported to the hospital where it was discovered the gunshots had shattered the victim's vertebrae resulting in paralysis. If not for the actions of Troopers Craig and Unterbrink, the victim would have succumbed to his injuries.

Tpr. Christine Hoelzer is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On June 5, 2015, Trooper Hoelzer was on patrol when she overheard a call from dispatch for a medical emergency. Upon arrival, Trooper Hoelzer found an unresponsive 67-year-old female in the passenger side of a vehicle outside of a local store. The victim's husband said she was eating food when he went into the store and was unresponsive when he returned. Her husband also informed Trooper Hoelzer that his wife had chest surgery earlier that day. Trooper Hoelzer administered several back blows to the woman until food was expelled. The woman coughed and began to breathe on her own. Thanks to Trooper Hoelzer's prompt response, the woman survived.

Tpr. Evan Mize is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On April 20, 2015, Trooper Mize overheard a Carson City Police Department officer being dispatched to an attempted suicide, at which time Trooper Mize responded to assist. Once on scene, Trooper Mize and the officer discovered a 22-year-old male hanging from the rafters of a garage with a chain wrapped around his neck. The Carson City officer lifted the victim, while Trooper Mize untied the chain. Once the victim was lowered down, Trooper Mize began checking for vital signs and was unable to find a pulse or breathing. Trooper Mize began CPR and instructed the other officer to get a first aid kit. They administered two-person CPR until an ambulance arrived on scene, at which time a pulse was located. Thanks to Trooper Mize's knowledge of first aid, the young man survived.

Tpr. Tyler Harrell is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On March 11, 2015, Trooper Harrell was having dinner with his landlords, when one of them began choking on a piece of steak and indicated she needed assistance. Without hesitation, Trooper Harrell performed the Heimlich maneuver. After determining it was unsuccessful, Trooper Harrell administered back blows until the piece of steak was ejected and the medical situation was resolved. Trooper Harrell's quick and decisive actions likely saved the woman's life.

Professional Excellence:

D/Sgt. Kyle McPhee
D/Tpr/Spl. Todd Parsons

Tpr. Brian Russell
Sgt. Geoffrey Boyer
Tpr. Thomas Pinkerton
Spl/Sgt. James Campbell
Sgt. Richard Dragomer
Sgt. Jose Patino
D/Sgt. Danny Cook

Unit Citation:

Tpr. Russell Bawks
Tpr. Bryon Bierma
Tpr. Michael Daniels
Tpr. Ian Fields
Tpr. James Gillespie
Tpr. James Gochanour
Tpr. John Moore
Tpr. Joel Niedzwiecki
Tpr. Duane Shears
Tpr. Mike Sinke

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