

MSP Official Bulletin: May 8, 2017

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

Trooper Art McNew (Jackson Post) is receiving the Bravery Award for his heroic actions during a domestic disturbance. On October 8, 2016, Trooper McNew was dispatched to a residence for a domestic disturbance, along with deputies from the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department. Dispatch reported that a woman was chasing her husband with a shotgun and that shots were being fired from within the residence. Not knowing if additional parties were in danger, Trooper McNew made the decision to approach the residence and take a position of cover. Trooper McNew attempted to make contact with the female suspect, advising her to exit the residence with her hands up. The female eventually exited, but was armed with the shotgun. She looked at Trooper McNew and raised the shotgun into a firing position towards him. Knowing the suspect had already fired shots, Trooper McNew believed that she was going to fire at him and other officers on the scene. Fearing for their safety, Trooper McNew fired his weapon at the female suspect to help neutralize the threat. The suspect was arrested and treated for her wounds. She has since pled guilty to charges involving this incident and has been sentenced. Trooper McNew exposed himself to a potentially dangerous situation and resolved the incident. The courage and heroic actions demonstrated by Trooper McNew undoubtedly prevented further injury.

Distinguished Service Award

F/Lt. Kevin Rod, **Sgt. Kandyce Herr** (Lansing Post), **Sgt. Theodore Therrien** (Training Division), **Tpr. Rose Ford** (Training Division), **Tpr. Keel Stine** (Lansing Post), and **Mr. Larry Klusack** are receiving the Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding efforts in the development and implementation of the department's transition to the Glock weapons systems. They conducted extensive testing and evaluation of handguns, equipment, and ammunition in order to identify the best sidearm and back-up weapon. As a result of their thorough work, the transition to the Glock weapons systems began in June 2015 and was successfully completed department-wide in December 2015. This was an extremely complex and challenging project, which involved developing and coordinating training, weapon turn in, issuing new weapons, and handling approximately 8,000 weapons throughout the transition. Their extraordinary efforts were a significant contribution to ensuring department members have the best equipment to fulfill their duties.

Meritorious Service Awards

D/Sergeant Stephen Porter (Houghton Lake Post) is receiving the Meritorious Service Award for his diligence and perseverance in the re-investigation of the 1996 murder case of Ms. Geraldine Montgomery. In October 1996, Ms. Montgomery was raped, beaten, and locked in the trunk of her own car, where she later died due to asphyxiation. The case went to trial and Mr. Jamie Lee Peterson was charged with the murder of Ms. Montgomery. Although Mr. Peterson confessed to the crimes, he was convicted without the corroboration of DNA evidence that had been collected. In 2013, there was a renewed effort to have the DNA evidence tested. The DNA evidence was run in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database in 2013, and it matched the DNA profile of Mr. Jason Anthony Ryan, a 35-year-old Flint resident.

In September 2013, D/Sergeant Porter led the re-investigation of the murder case, which was turned over to the MSP by the local police department. D/Sergeant Porter coordinated the efforts of countless MSP detectives, who laboriously reviewed every report, statement, document, lab report, photograph, and piece of evidence collected during the 1996 investigation. D/Sergeant Porter re-interviewed all of the original witnesses from 1996 and traveled

around the state to interview dozens of new witnesses who had an association with Mr. Ryan. D/Sergeant Porter oversaw the collection of new evidence and worked with personnel from the MSP forensic science laboratories to coordinate and clarify the links between the evidence collected in 1996 and the new evidence. Through this, D/Sergeant Porter was able to establish that Mr. Ryan, then an 18-year-old, was a short-term Kalkaska resident, living less than two blocks away from Ms. Montgomery's residence at the time of her murder.

D/Sergeant Porter's compassion and skills were para-mount during the investigation, as family members and local residents did not want to consider anything other than the original conviction. At trial, D/Sergeant Porter helped guide a newly-elected prosecutor to manage a difficult and complex presentation of facts. The new trial focused not only on the new DNA evidence, but also why the initial DNA testing nearly 20 years prior allowed Mr. Ryan to slip past the original investigators. D/Sergeant Porter organized a comprehensive panel of witnesses, forensic scientists, and evidentiary exhibits required for a successful outcome. On October 21, 2015, a jury found Mr. Ryan guilty of first degree murder, felony murder, and criminal sexual conduct in the first degree. Mr. Ryan was sentenced to life in prison without parole. The previously convicted Mr. Peterson was released from prison. If not for the initiative shown by D/Sergeant Porter in the re-investigation of the Montgomery murder case, a wrongfully convicted individual would have spent the majority of his life in prison for a crime he did not commit and a murderer would have walked free.

Lifesaving Awards

Tpr. Kyle DePeel and **Tpr. William Dobberstein** (Metro North Post) are re-ceiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On November 22, 2016, Troopers DePeel and Dobberstein were dis-patched to the residence of a 73-year-old female choking victim who was found unresponsive by her son. When the troopers arrived on scene, they checked the victim's vital signs and determined she wasn't breathing and had no pulse. Troopers DePeel and Dobberstein immediately began performing two-person CPR, continuing until emergency medical personnel arrived. Prior to the victim being transported to the hospital, she had regained a pulse and was later reported to be in stable condition. If not for the quick actions of Troopers DePeel and Dobberstein, the subject would not have survived.

Tpr. Micah Keller (Metro South Post) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On September 30, 2016, Trooper Keller was dispatched to a car crash injury. Upon arriving on scene, Trooper Keller found the driver unconscious, not breathing, with a faint heartbeat, and pin-point pupils. Trooper Keller suspected the individual was suffering from a drug overdose based on their appearance and vital signs. After Trooper Keller pulled the driver from the vehicle, he administered a dose of Narcan spray to help reverse the effects of the drugs. The individual regained consciousness before being transported to the hospital. Thanks to the quick actions of Trooper Keller, the individual survived.

Tpr. Jon-a-than Henry, **Tpr. David Jeffries**, and **Tpr. Matthew Unterbrink** (Metro South Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On October 26, 2016, while on patrol, Troopers Henry and Jeffries came across a subject, who was slumped over a bicycle in the street. Upon contact with the subject, it was discovered that he was having a medical emergency, which appeared to be a heroin overdose. Immediately, Trooper Jeffries administered two doses of Narcan spray, while Trooper Henry conducted sternum rubs and spoke loudly to the subject in an attempt to rouse him. The subject gasped for air after each Narcan dose; however, he continued to return to shallow breathing, with his eyes rolled back into his head. Trooper Unterbrink arrived on scene and administered a third dose of Narcan, at which time the subject stopped breathing. The troopers began performing CPR, and after four minutes, a pulse was detected. The troopers then moved to rescue breathing. The subject eventually regained consciousness and was able to sit up and respond to questions. If not for the quick actions of Troopers Henry, Jeffries, and Unterbrink, the subject would not have survived.

Tpr. Tyler Kolomyski and **Tpr. Christopher Tuckey** (Lapeer Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On November 4, 2016, Troopers Kolomyski and Tuckey were dispatched to a residence for a possible suicide in progress. Upon arrival, Trooper Tuckey could hear gagging and coughing coming from inside the home's locked garage. An officer with the Port Huron Police Department looked through a hole in the garage and could see the subject hanging from the rafters. Troopers Kolomyski and Tuckey forced open a door and found the subject hanging from the rafters by a power cord. Trooper Tuckey lifted the subject to relieve the tension of the power cord

from the subject's neck, while Trooper Kolomyski cut the cord with a knife. The subject was in and out of consciousness and unable to speak, before being transported to the hospital. Thanks to the quick actions of Trooper Kolomyski and Trooper Tuckey, the subject survived.

Tpr. Evan Neilson (Flint Post) is receiving the Life-saving Award for saving the life of another. On July 1, 2016, Trooper Neilson was on patrol when he was dispatched to a local gas station where a subject was in full cardiac arrest. Trooper Neilson arrived on scene and located a male subject lying on the floor. The subject was unresponsive and not breathing. Trooper Neilson administered CPR for several minutes until emergency medical personnel arrived. An automated external defibrillator (AED) was used to administer a shock to the subject and a pulse was detected. The subject was revived and began speaking, before being transported to the hospital for additional medical attention. If not for the actions of Trooper Neilson, the subject may not have survived.

Tpr. James Janes (Niles Post) and **MC Officer Brian Michelin** are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On July 4, 2016, MC Officer Michelin was on patrol when he came across two vehicles parked on the shoulder of the road, with a male subject lying face down on the ground behind the vehicles. MC Officer Michelin checked the subject and found no vital signs and began performing CPR. Trooper Janes arrived on scene and attached an AED to the subject. The AED advised two shocks should be administered and to continue CPR. MC Officer Michelin and Trooper Janes continued two-person CPR, until emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the subject to the hospital. If not for the quick actions of MC Officer Michelin and Trooper Janes, the subject would not have survived.

Tpr. Elizabeth Wickersham (Rockford Post) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another and Ms. Audrey Kremers, Chief Dan Roesler, and Lt. Steven Schrader are receiving the Distinguished Citizen Award for assisting Trooper Wickersham. On January 20, 2017, Trooper Wickersham and her civilian ride-along, Ms. Kremers, were dispatched to a 911 call for a male subject yelling for help near the White River. Upon arrival, Trooper Wickersham was met by Chief Dan Roesler of the Montague Fire Department and Lt. Steven Schrader with the White Lake Fire Department. They could hear a female yelling back and forth with a male subject. Trooper Wickersham, Ms. Kremers, and Chief Roesler ran through the woods trying to locate the subject, who was found in the middle of the river near his overturned kayak. The subject's body was fully submerged in the freezing river and he stated he could not feel anything and he was being pulled under due to the current. Trooper Wickersham walked halfway onto the frozen river to talk to the subject in an effort to keep him calm. Trooper Wickersham successfully threw the water rescue disk to the subject, who was able to wrap the disk and string around his arm. Trooper Wickersham began pulling the subject to shore, when Lieutenant Schrader arrived in a water rescue suit and entered the open water to make direct contact with the subject. Lieutenant Schrader held on to the subject, while Trooper Wickersham, Ms. Kremers, and Chief Roesler pulled them to shore. The subject stated he had been in the water nearly 30 minutes prior to his rescue. He was placed on a backboard and transported to the hospital by ambulance. Thanks to the quick actions of everyone involved, the subject survived.

Tpr. Laurence Andres (Hart Post) is receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On November 6, 2016, Trooper Andres responded to the scene of a domestic assault where a male subject assaulted and choked his girlfriend. Trooper Andres was notified that the male subject was on parole and was in a suicidal state-of-mind. After assaulting and choking his girlfriend, the subject ran into a corn field and behind a nearby barn. After confirming the victim was okay, Trooper Andres set off to locate the male subject. Trooper Andres found the subject hanging from the barn rafters. Trooper Andres ran to the subject and lifted him by his legs to relieve the pressure to his neck. Trooper Andres asked an assisting officer to cut the rope, while he continued to relieve the pressure to the subject's neck. Once the rope was removed, the subject was able to breathe again. At this time, the subject became non-compliant and was placed in handcuffs. If not for the quick actions of Trooper Andres, the subject would not have survived.

Tpr. Trevor Beck and **Tpr. Joshua Greeno** (Hart Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On December 15, 2016, Troopers Beck and Greeno became aware of a structure fire. While en-route, dispatch notified the troopers the fully engulfed building was an apartment complex with at least two victims inside. Troopers Beck and Greeno arrived on scene and located both of the victims at the rear side of the building. The first victim was found on the second floor of the building with his head hanging out of the window. He advised the troopers

that he was trapped and could not get out of the building. After checking several doors and windows, the troopers located the second victim who was also trapped on the second floor. Trooper Greeno entered a first-story apartment in an attempt to find a stairwell, but was unable to continue due to thick, black smoke on the other side of the main door. At this time, a firetruck arrived with an extension ladder that Troopers Beck and Greeno used to set up underneath the first victim's window. Trooper Beck and a firefighter climbed the ladder and were able to extract the victim from the window and bring him safely to the ground. Trooper Greeno helped the second victim escape by climbing onto an air conditioner unit and instructing the female victim to hang out of her window and drop down to him. With assistance from Ofcr. Aaron Cavner with the Hart Police Department and Ofcr. Joshua Karafa with the Shelby Police Department, the female victim was able to drop out of her window and be safely caught without injury. After both subjects were safely on the ground, they were assessed by emergency medical personnel. If not for the quick actions of Troopers Beck and Greeno, the victims would not have survived.

Sgt. Jason Nemecek, Tpr. Jacob Gillis, and Tpr. Ronald Nadeau (Gaylord Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On October 14, 2016, Sergeant Nemecek and Troopers Gillis and Nadeau responded to a medical call for a male subject who had collapsed and stopped breathing. Emergency medical personnel arrived on scene at the same time and administered an AED shock unsuccessfully. Trooper Nadeau began administering CPR, while Trooper Gillis started performing chest compressions. The AED advised not to shock again and CPR was continued. Sergeant Nemecek and Trooper Nadeau rotated rescue breathing, while Trooper Gillis continued performing chest compressions. After approximately 30 minutes, the subject regained limited breathing on his own. Sergeant Nemecek and Trooper Nadeau continued to assist the subject with breathing, until he was transported to the hospital. If not for the actions of Sergeant Nemecek, Trooper Gillis, and Trooper Nadeau, the subject would not have survived.

Tpr. Anthony Utt (Alpena Post) is receiving the Life-saving Award for saving the life of another. On June 26, 2016, Trooper Utt was dispatched after a mother called 911 because her son threatened suicide. Trooper Utt arrived on scene, along with Troopers Mitchell and Jackson, and they observed through a window that the subject was hanging in the garage. Trooper Utt was unable to open the garage door, so he went to the back and found an entry door that he was able to force open. All three troopers went to the subject and found him unresponsive. Trooper Utt used his knife to cut the rope the subject was hanging from. Trooper Mitchell assisted in getting the subject to the ground and then removed the noose from around the subject's neck. Trooper Utt checked the subject's vital signs and was unable to locate a pulse and the subject was not breathing. Trooper Utt immediately started CPR, and after a few rescue breaths and chest compressions, the subject gasped for air. Emergency medical personnel arrived on scene and transported the subject to the hospital. Thanks to the efforts of the troopers, including Trooper Utt's first aid techniques, the subject survived.

Tpr. Patrick Madden and Tpr. James Polley (Gladstone Post) are receiving the Lifesaving Award for saving the life of another. On September 15, 2016, Troopers Madden and Polley were dispatched to a call to assist emergency medical personnel with an unresponsive male victim. Upon arriving on scene, Troopers Madden and Polley, along with a deputy from the Delta County Sheriff's Department, assisted with performing chest compressions until the subject was loaded into the ambulance. Trooper Polley drove the ambulance to the hospital, while Trooper Madden continued performing chest compressions. While being transported, the subject was revived and started showing signs of life. The subject survived 38 hours before succumbing to his injuries. While the subject passed away, the actions of Troopers Madden and Polley provided the subject's family with an opportunity to say goodbye and donate his organs to save the life of another. ■