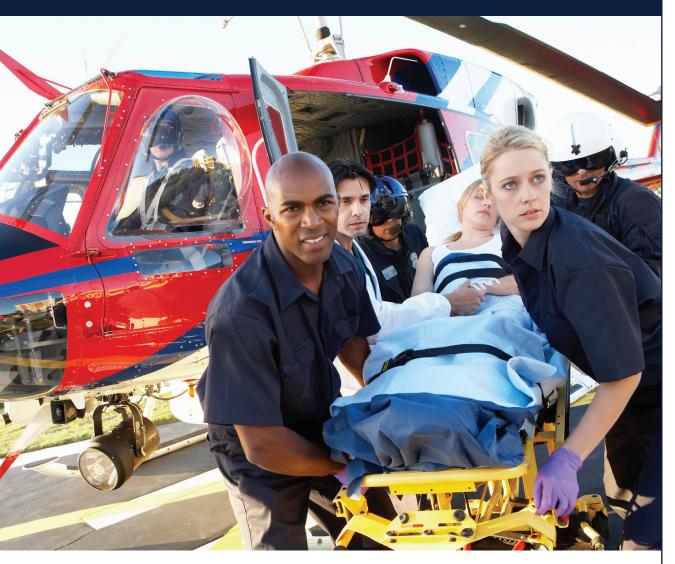
# 2020 VALOR AWARDS

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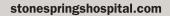
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### Thank you



## strength service sacrifice

Thank you to all the first responders who selflessly give of themselves every day. StoneSprings Hospital Center congratulates this year's Valor Award winners.





### **Order of Events**

#### WELCOME

Tony Howard Loudoun Chamber

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS**

Honor Guard Leesburg Police Department Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Major Chris Sawyer Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

#### **INVOCATION**

Rizwan Jaka Board Chair with the All Dulles Area Muslim Society

#### **SPONSOR & VIP RECOGNITION**

#### LOUDOUN FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION

System Chief Keith H. Johnson Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System

#### LUNCH

SIGNATURE SPONSOR REMARKS

Inova Loudoun Hospital

#### STU PLITMAN AWARD

Tony Howard Loudoun Chamber

Barbara Plitman

#### VALOR AWARDS PRESENTATION

Tony Howard Loudoun Chamber

**CLOSING REMARKS** 



### "Valor is of **stability** not of legs and arms but of **courage** and the **soul.**"

- Michel de Montaigne

**2020 Valor Award Recipients** We Congratulate You A LETTER FROM THE

### **Loudoun Chamber**

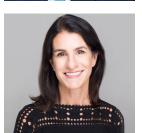
Your participation in today's Valor Awards is a powerful expression of your support for our 2020 Valor Award honorees, whose heroic and often life-saving actions are clearly worth describing as "above and beyond the call of duty."

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Loudoun Chamber, we thank you for attending the 35th Annual Loudoun County Valor Awards.

We hope you enjoy this year's ceremony, which is part of a proud Loudoun Chamber tradition that allows our business community to express its deep and abiding gratitude for the service of our career and volunteer emergency first







responders. The Chamber also is proud to honor those citizens who, when faced with an emergency, stepped up to assist another person in their time of desperate need. Your participation in today's Valor Awards is a powerful expression of your support for our 2020 Valor Award honorees, whose heroic and often life-saving actions are

for our 2020 Valor Award honorees, whose heroic and often life-saving actions are clearly worth describing as "above and beyond the call of duty." Your involvement also shows your strong support for all our first responders, whose contributions to Loudoun County are irreplaceable.

Loudoun County is truly fortunate to have our nation's finest business climate and a vibrant, healthy community. The Loudoun Chamber values the service of Loudoun's uniformed career and volunteer public safety personnel, whose contributions to our community are essential to our prosperity and our quality of life.

We also deeply appreciate the strong partnership the Chamber enjoys with our emergency first responders, from the leadership of the Police, Sheriff and Fire and Rescue agencies in Loudoun to the personnel that serve our community every day.

On behalf of the Loudoun Chamber, we are proud to offer our hearty congratulations to the 2020 Valor Award honorees! We know that you, our Loudoun Chamber members, join us in extending those congratulations.

Anthony J. Howard

**Tony Howard** *President & CEO* 

Storg

**Stacey Metcalfe** 2020 Chair of the Board

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL**

# LIFE'S REAL HEROES. THANK YOU.



# BANK of CLARKE COUNTY

Hember FDIC

13 locations, including: 203 Hirst Road PURCELLVILLE 44810 Saranac St ASHBURN 504 E Market St LEESBURG



### **BANKOFCLARKE.BANK**





A LETTER FROM THE

### **Agency Chiefs**

The Loudoun County Public Safety Community is honored to welcome you to the Loudoun County Valor Award's 35th celebration of our men and women in Fire & EMS. Law Enforcement and citizens who have taken great personal risk or exhibited exceptional judgment in their duty to protect our community.



Heroic and life-saving actions are extraordinary accomplishments and we should recognize these persons with the highest regard.

Today, we honor the Award recipients and their incidents, deeds, acts or accomplishments and are thankful to have them as members of our community. As the leaders of our Loudoun County Public Safety agencies, we are humbled to work daily with these distinguished men and women in Loudoun County,

Each year, we partner with the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce to present the annual Loudoun County Valor Awards. With the support from the Chamber and the community, we have been able to recognize hundreds of public safety personnel in our community and we extend our sincere thanks for these partnerships.

We are appreciative of the Award recipients for their service and contributions both in-and-out of the line-of-duty. We congratulate all of our 2020 Valor Award honorees for their distinguished initiative and personal bravery in providing first aid, professional assistance, protection, or any physical act that contributed to the preservation of a human life. The prestigious awards that will be presented today are to honor our career and volunteer emergency first

Thank you to all of our Loudoun County public safety personnel and award

recipients for your performance of duty and commitment to this community!





System Chief Keith H. Johnson Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System

Michael Agnau

responders, and citizens alike.

of the Sheriff

and to be a part of this recognition ceremony.

Sheriff Michael L. Chapman Loudoun County Office

Ory C. Brown

Chief of Police Gregory C. Brown Leesburg Police Department







Members of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce are eligible to join Northwest Federal! Start enjoying our money-saving member benefits including our low rates on loans, higher dividend rates on savings, and free checking with rewards.

Together, we serve and inspire to transform lives.

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We Salute You!

The residents and staff of Ashby Ponds senior living community extend our gratitude to the heroic first responders and everyday citizens honored here today. Thank you for going above and beyond to protect Loudoun County.





To learn more about Ashby Ponds, call **1-800-823-5821** or visit **AshbyPonds.com** for your free brochure.

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**One Loudoun!** 

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Middleburg today.



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### Valor Award Classification & Criteria

#### MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN AWARD

Recognition of everyday citizens for their extraordinary acts of courage or performance of heroic actions in emergency situations.

#### UNIT CITATION

Recognition of actions not normally involved in the performance of duties, actions of an extraordinary nature, or actions that display outstanding execution of duties by a unit/division/company which demonstrate unusual judgment, zeal, ingenuity and/or bravery.

#### LIFESAVING AWARD

Recognition of actions not normally involved in the performance of duties, actions of an extraordinary nature, or actions that display outstanding execution of duties by an individual which demonstrate unusual judgment, zeal, ingenuity, bravery and/or personal risk and directly result in the saving of a human life.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF VALOR**

Recognition of actions not normally involved in the performance of duties, actions of an extraordinary nature, or actions that display outstanding execution of duties by an individual which demonstrate unusual judgment, zeal, ingenuity, bravery and/or personal risk.

#### **BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR**

Recognition of actions not normally involved in the performance of duties, actions of a heroic nature, or actions that display outstanding execution of duties by an individual which involve personal risk and demonstrate unusual judgment, zeal, bravery and/or ingenuity.

#### SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

Recognition of actions not normally involved in the performance of duties, actions of a heroic nature, or actions that display outstanding execution of duties by an individual which involve significant personal risk and heroism and demonstrate unusual judgment, zeal, bravery and/or ingenuity.

#### GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR

Recognition of actions not normally involved in the performance of duties, actions of a heroic nature, or actions that display outstanding execution of duties by an individual which involve supreme sacrifice or extreme personal risk and heroism and demonstrate unusual judgment, zeal, bravery and/or ingenuity which is clearly above and beyond the call of duty.

#### STU PLITMAN FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This Award is given in honor of Stu Plitman, the founder of the Loudoun First Responders Foundation and a tireless advocate for all career and volunteer emergency first responders, and their families, in Loudoun County. The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce believes that law enforcement and emergency response is most effective when a community's first responders enjoy a positive and proactive relationship with the businesses and citizens they serve.

The Stu Plitman First Responders Community Service Award is granted to those emergency first responders who demonstrate the highest commitment to fostering positive relationships with the Loudoun County community in ways that positively enhance the safety and security of our citizens.

### Sometimes a helping hand comes on two feet.



**Dominion Energy's EnergyShare® program helps those who need it most**. For qualified customers, we offer bill pay assistance along with free weatherization and energy–saving upgrades. From insulating attics and caulking doors and windows to installing energy–efficient lightbulbs, we're not just helping customers, we're helping neighbors. Call 2-1-1 or visit **DominionEnergy.com/EnergyShare-VA** to learn more.



Actions Speak Louder

### **Stu Plitman First Responder Community Service Award**



**THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT** of the Stu Plitman First Responder Community Service Award is Deputy First Class Steven Epple.

As a School Resource Officer (SRO) with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Deputy First Class (DFC) Steven Epple serves as a protector, mentor and teacher to the students at Stone Hill Middle School. His commitment to the Loudoun County community and his schools' students and staff expands beyond the traditional role of an SRO. Through innovative and interactive programs, DFC Epple believes in the mindset of "prevention through education" and has found new ways to foster relationships and positive interactions with his school community, all with public safety and public safety education in mind.

DFC STEVEN EPPLE Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

During the 2018-2019 school year DFC Epple created the Mock Trial program, an interactive full scale trial for civics and government students. The program, endorsed by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice,

consisted of an actual Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge, local defense attorneys and prosecutors, and even a sheriff's office bailiff to provide a full view of the trial experience. The trial was based on a misdemeanor larceny case and students volunteered with their parent's permission as participants and played the roles of victims, witnesses, and defendants. His program is now a model for law enforcement agencies around the commonwealth and is being implemented by school resource officers throughout Virginia.

DFC Epple also manages a traffic safety program through the Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO), a peer-to-peer advocacy program that empowers teenagers to work towards the prevention of their number one killer- motor vehicle crashes. As part of the program DFC Epple taught students the importance of traffic safety and traffic laws, and utilizes community policing and traffic safety deputies to help convey these messages through real-life demonstrations. The program was highlighted for the unique implementation of the school's curriculum into the traffic safety program by the Loudoun County School Board.

He has also helped promote the Arrive Alive campaign within his school. This statewide initiative encourages citizens to always use their seat-belt while driving in a car. With his leadership, Stone Hill Middle School has seen seat belt use rise from 55% to 91%, earning the school second place in the 2019 Arrive Alive Campaign (Middle School Division) from YOVASO.

DFC Epple has worked on many projects to include: "Bike to School Day"- where middle school students in the area bike to school with sheriff deputies, the D.A.R.E. program, and he helps mentor his fellow school resource officers to teach them how to implement programs and projects into their schools.

DFC Epple has dedicated his life to serving and protecting and educating his community. He started his career in public service as a volunteer with the Stafford Volunteer Fire Department as a Fire Officer and as a medic. He was soon hired by the Stafford County Sheriff's Office where he worked as a dispatcher, correctional officer, court security, patrol, criminal investigator, and finally as a school resource officer. In 2016, he was awarded the Virginia School Resource Officer of the Year Award for his outstanding work ethic and dedication to the wellbeing of his students.

DFC Epple truly exemplifies the spirit of the Stu Plitman Community Service Award by fostering positive relationships with the Loudoun school community in ways that enhance the safety and security of our youth.

### **Lifesaving Award**



LAST NOVEMBER, the Leesburg Police Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received a call from the mother of a 23-year old woman who believed her daughter was suicidal. The young lady suffered from bipolar disorder and had previously attempted suicide.

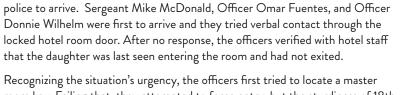
During their last conversation, the daughter suspiciously told her mother "goodbye" and hung-up. Knowing similar behavior preceded her daughter's previous suicide attempt, the mother began tracking her daughter's whereabouts and learned she had rented a hotel room at the Leesburg Colonial Inn.

She went to the motel and called 911, then waited by her daughter's room for





**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM** Officer Omar Fuentes Sgt. Michael McDonald Officer Donnie Wilhelm



room key. Failing that, they attempted to force entry, but the sturdiness of 18th century construction of the solid wooden door and frame foiled their attempts, and the officers quickly became exhausted.

Sergeant McDonald and Officer Fuentes ran to retrieve breaching gear from their police vehicles. They were then able to successfully use the halligan breaching tool to make entry. Upon entry, the team discovered the woman covered in vomit and crying hysterically on the bathroom floor.

While securing the room and providing medical aid, the team learned the woman had ingested a variety of prescription pills and attempted to suffocate herself by placing a plastic bag over her head.

After ensuring the scene was safe, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue personnel entered the hotel and transported the woman for emergency medical treatment.

She was later admitted to the hospital, where she was treated and provided the mental health assistance she needed. As a result of the quick response, recognition of the severity of the emergency, and the immediate actions of this team of officers, this young woman's life was saved.

#### INCIDENT TWO

### **Lifesaving Award**





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Trooper Arthur Patsios Trooper Steven Wallace **ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 17, 2019**, Virginia State Troopers Steven Wallace and Arthur Patsios responded to a Loudoun County Sheriff's Office report of a vehicle being operated in a reckless manner on Route 15 near Montresor Road.

The troopers discovered a silver sedan traveling south on Route 15 matching the description of the vehicle they were looking for. Trooper Wallace initiated a traffic stop. As the vehicle pulled to the shoulder, the driver was seen reaching forward under the passenger's seat, raising the Trooper's suspicion.

The young female driver appeared to be confused and had difficulty handling her vehicle paperwork and her seat belt. Outside of her vehicle, the driver needed to steady herself against her car. Trooper Wallace

*"Trooper Wallace"* 

found needles..."

conducted a search of

her vehicle, where he

her car. Trooper Wallace did not detect any odor of alcohol, but after several field sobriety tests, he suspected the driver was under the influence of some narcotic and placed her under arrest.

Trooper Patsios arrived and watched the driver

while Trooper Wallace conducted a search of her vehicle, where he found needles and suspected narcotics. Through questioning, the Troopers learned the driver had injected illegal drugs just prior to the traffic stop. As the driver's condition worsened, the Troopers requested a rescue squad.

While awaiting the rescue squad's arrival, the driver lost consciousness and she became unresponsive. Trooper Wallace and Patsios began immediate first aid for an overdose of an unknown substance. Trooper Wallace administered one dose of Narcan to the driver, which appeared to reverse the overdose.

The rescue squad arrived several minutes later and administered a second dose. After treatment at the hospital, the driver made a total recovery. Thanks to the Troopers' thorough investigative skills, the driver's impairment from illicit drugs was correctly identified and appropriate first aid care was applied. These were all essential ingredients for a successful outcome.



#### NATIONWIDE RECOVERY SERVICES

Since 1975 Jenkins Restorations has consistently delivered excellent service to those needing disaster recovery and property restoration. Our goal is always to rebuild your property, renew your confidence, and restore your life. Being a leader in our industry we provide 24/7 emergency services, accurate estimates, and expertise in designing and building. Our professional staff will be there to clean up and repair damage to property so you can get back up and running as soon as possible. When the job is finished, we've restored more than property: we've restored faith.





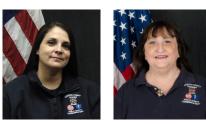
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INCIDENT THREE

### **Unit Citation**







FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Christina Aranibar Gabrielle Duff Stephen Duffitt

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Janet Maurer Jessica Snowden Laura Staiger (not pictured, Judy Snowden)

**ON AUGUST 10, 2019, Emergency Communications** Center Team C received a call reporting a hiker had fallen and fractured her ankle.

The caller was unable to give the hikers exact location, but knew they were somewhere west/southwest of Northstar Blvd and Grassland Grove Drive.

ECC staff asked to have the hiker call 911 directly, so that they could better locate her. Though the call initially routed to Prince William County, they were able to transfer the caller to Loudoun ECC.

Using the coordinates provided by Prince William County, Dispatcher Jessica Snowden was able to pin drop the hiker's location on a map. Jessica then used her cell phone to take a photo of the map and sent that to the Lieutenant.

Meanwhile, other team members using Google Maps were able to determine that the hiker was located on the Green Trail in the Willowsford neighborhood. Emergency personnel arrived to assist.

At 1524 hours, the patient was found. She was stable and brought out on UTV607 and transported to a local hospital.

The ECC Team acted "outside the box" in order to pinpoint a general location of the patient.



### **Unit Citation**







**ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 9TH, rescue units** responded to the report of an injured 37-year-old male at Algonkian Park in Sterling.

The patient, who apparently suffered a fractured ankle, was located approximately one mile down a trail and possibly down an embankment.

As the caller was using his GPS coordinates from his cell phone and relaying the location to 911, other co-workers using Google maps and other internet resources, including the All Trails website, discovered this trail is part of the Potomac Heritage Trail.

Thirty-one minutes after dispatch, M625 made contact with the patient. T611 arrived on scene with stokes and ropes and began hiking towards the patient.

Access to the patient was over a mile from Middle Bluff Place. UTV615 arrived on scene and began moving towards the patient as well.







FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Jessica Snowden Laura Staiger EMT Edward (Dario) Tirado (not pictured, Judy Snowden)

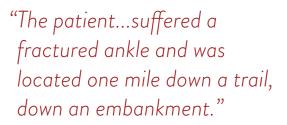
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM EMT Elizabeth Thurman Technician Michael Wallo FF/EMT Richard Wellhouse II

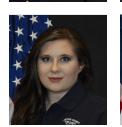
Access was difficult for the UTV as the trail narrowed and many overhanging branches slowed access.

T611, EMS601, M625 and DC615 were able to move the patient up the 10-foot embankment via STOKES and into UTV615.

UTV615 was able to slowly remove the patient from the trail and care was transferred to M439 at one hour and 56 minutes after 911 call. ECC Team C worked effortlessly to pinpoint the victim's exact location.

Working with exemplary ingenuity and teamwork, these various rescue workers effected a difficult rescue operation that ended with the successful recovery of a patient in a difficult to access location.





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Paramedic Alex Apple Christina Aranibar FF/EMT Cody Armstrong Gabrielle Duff

Paramedic Michael Medwedeff

Captain Brian Fluharty Janet Maurer Assistant Chief Stewart McLaren

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Stephen Duffitt

"Even against the greatest of odds, there is something in the human spirit – a magic blend of skill, faith, and valor..."

- Walter Lord, American Author

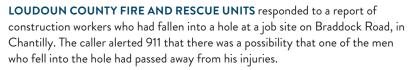
#### INCIDENT FIVE

### **Unit Citation**





Lieutenant Brian McGill



Units from Company 19 and Battalion 603 arrived first and discovered there were two adult males in a 12 foot hole. They confirmed that one of the men was deceased while the other was in very dire condition.

Knowing that they were racing the clock, members of Engine 619 commandeered equipment on the scene to help with removing the victim from the hole. This equipment included a tow strap that crews lowered into the hole and had the man wrap around himself. They also used plywood found on scene to help distribute the weight around the edge of the hole.

Once the first victim was removed and turned over to EMS, this incident transitioned to a recovery mode. Rescue 607, Engine 619, and Tower 619 worked with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Technical Rescue resources to recover the body from the hole.

"They confirmed that one of the men was deceased while the other was in very dire condition."

### CONGRATULATIONS HONOREES!



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Technician Bradley Brown Technician Keith Lee-Diamond

2020 LOUDOUN VALOR AWARDS  $\star$  19

INCIDENT SIX

### Unit Citation & Meritorious Civilian Awards

large tree.

IT WAS JUST BEFORE 7 P.M. on November 22nd, when

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue units were dispatched

found a four-door sedan that was crushed under a very

Hamilton, Leesburg, Round Hill and Lovettsville. Rescue

personnel quickly discovered there were three occupants

away on her own, but the driver and front seat passenger

were pinned by the roof of the car and from the massive

Due to the vehicle's severe damage and the occupants'

unknown condition, medivac helicopters were requested

to free the trapped occupants. Limbs of the tree were

cut away with chainsaws to create clearer access to the

to the scene. The crew of Rescue 617 came up with a plan

in the vehicle. A young girl in the backseat was able to walk

Units responding to this call came from Purcellville,

to Purcellville Road and Mayfair Crown Drive, where they









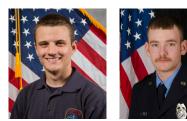
patients.

Deputy Chief Michael Frye

Michael Frye FF/EMT Jeffrey Garvie

tree crushing down on them.

Captain Troy Gittings









FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Asst. Rescue Chief Dylan Haddock EMT Emily Hinkle Paramedic Kevin Kelly Captain Chris Kermode FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Technician Richard Keyser II EMT Charity Klicka Lieutenant Kyle Lewis Fire Chief Scott Maple The driver remained trapped in the front seat, with the roof of the car weighing down on his shoulder and neck.

helicopter and flown to the hospital.

and injuring fire and rescue personnel.

allow rescuers to access the occupants.

They then requested a heavy wrecker with a rotating

boom of the tow truck was used to lift the tree a few

inches, but enough to take the weight off the tree and

The passenger side rear door was then cut away using

hydraulic extrication tools. Crews also worked to remove

the front door. The young female occupant in the front

passenger seat was pulled from the wreckage, taken to a

crane, from Road Runner Wrecker Service. The rotating

After a few more minutes of cutting parts of the car away, crews were able to create enough room for the driver to be freed from the passenger side door.

Facing a dangerous and uncertain situation, rescue crews acted with ingenuity, teamwork and effectiveness to remove these trapped vehicle occupants without any further injury, or to the personnel on scene.







FF/EMT Thomas McGinnes

Captain Anthony Miske III

 FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
 FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

 FF/EMT Matthew Anderson
 Lieutenant Jason Dice

 Technician Adam Bankert
 Chief Jasen Dodson

 Technician Jarrett Boyle
 Captain Timothy Dunlap

 Probationary FF Kyle Coonan
 Captain Kelly Frye





INCIDENT SIX

### **Unit Citation & Meritorious Civilian Awards**









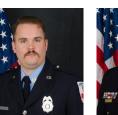
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Lieutenant Jake Sherer

Lieutenant Steve Stalev

**Battalion Chief Kevin Stiles** 

FF Tim Smith



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM FF/EMT William Richards FF/EMT Abigail Savat Probationary Member Raquel Schuchman Technician/ EMT Aaron Schwarzenegger



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM EMT Taylor Stowe Captain David Swartz FF Christopher Tidmore





FF/EMT Sheldon Warner





Charles Mack (not pictured) Kim Blefko

INCIDENT SEVEN

retrieved an AED and secured it to the patient. Both Charles and Kim performed CPR for 7-10 minutes and applied an AED shock to the patient twice during

that time.

working out at the Ashburn Sports Pavilion Gym experienced sudden cardiac arrest. Charles Mack immediately notified Pavilion staff and he began CPR. While Pavilion staff contacted 911,

IT WAS AROUND 6:30 P.M. on June 18, 2019, when a 71-year-old male

"...a 71-year-old male working out... experienced sudden cardiac arrest."

Ultimately, EMS personnel arrived and assumed patient care. This gentleman is alive today thanks to the poised and effective actions taken by Charles Mack and Kim Blefko.

INCIDENT EIGHT

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**

**Meritorious Civilian Award** 

another staff member, Kim Blefko,

MR. RAYMOND WALKER, A LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION EMPLOYEE, was working when he noticed an individual collapse on the ground.

Mr. Walker, using his CPR training, noticed the signs of Cardiac Arrest and began CPR. CPR was performed until the arrival of Fire and Rescue personnel. The patient is alive today with a full recovery expected.

It is believed that due to Mr. Walker's quick action to begin CPR, the patient is still alive today. The patient thanked Mr. Walker for his life saving action and now plans to be an advocate for CPR training awareness.

(not pictured, Raymond Walker)

INCIDENT NINE

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**



**ON THE EVENING OF MAY 16, 2019,** Dr. Kugler and Mr. Waksmunski were playing basketball at a local school gym in Ashburn.

A 62-year-old male suddenly felt weak while playing basketball and was assisted to the ground by teammates.

Dr. Kugler and Mr. Waksmunski had witnessed the patient go into cardiac arrest and Dr. Kugler began bystander CPR and requested that Mr. Waksmunski retrieve the public access AED. The AED was applied and one shock delivered prior to EMS arrival. EMS took over care upon their arrival.

After 8 minutes of high performance CPR by crews the patient had regained a pulse. The patient was transported to Inova Loudoun Hospital where he received care.

**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM** Dr. Gary Kugler Dan Waksmunski

#### INCIDENT TEN

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**



Elaine Bird

**ON MARCH 27, 2019 AT 10:30 A.M.,** Ms. Elaine Bird noticed a vehicle in a parking lot in Ashburn, VA, with 2 child seats in the back that were completely covered with blankets. Ms. Bird finished her errand and returned to the parking lot after 11:00 AM.

Upon returning to her car, she took a second look at the covered seats in the vehicle and called 911 when she saw the blankets move. She was convinced there were children in the seats. After Fire and Rescue and Law Enforcement Officers arrived on scene, it was discovered that there were indeed two very lethargic and dehydrated toddlers inside the vehicle and that they were in desperate need of medical care.

The children had been inside the vehicle, covered with blankets from head to toe, for an unknown amount of time and, because the woman who was responsible for the children was "at work" for the day, there is no telling how long they would have remained in the vehicle.

Ms. Bird deserves to be recognized for saving the lives of these two children because without her taking notice and making that phone call, the outcome of this day could have been very different. The children were rushed to the hospital, treated, ultimately recovered, and in the opinion of everyone, saved by Ms. Elaine Bird.

"...she took a second look at the covered seats in the vehicle and called 911 when she saw the blankets move." INCIDENT ELEVEN

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**



Sean O'Neill

**ON OCTOBER 17, 2019, AT 11:33 A.M.,** Sean O'Neill, while driving on River Creek Parkway and crossing the bridge over East Market Street, observed a fellow citizen on the outside of the fenced area of the bridge, making his way out towards the center of the traveled portion of the roadway below.

Mr. O'Neill pulled his vehicle to the end of the bridge and ran back to make verbal contact with the subject. He spoke with the subject and was able to have him make his way back to the safe side of the bridge. Mr. O'Neill remained with the subject and kept him occupied until officers could respond to the scene and take over.

Mr. O'Neill stated that he had seen several television shows where similar incidences have occurred, and he knew that he must convey compassion towards the subject that he was speaking with.

Based on Mr. O'Neill being able to get this subject back to safety with words alone, it is believed that his actions saved this subject as well as the motoring public below. Neither party was injured during this incident. The dangers that existed were both the motoring traffic on the bridge as well as the busy traffic on Market Street below.

"...he knew that he must convey compassion towards the subject that he was speaking with."

#### INCIDENT TWELVE

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**



Brian Flynn

#### BRIAN FLYNN, A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER IN FAIRFAX at

Greenbriar West Elementary rescued an elderly lady who accidentally drove her car into Bull Run Creek, near Braddock Road, in Aldie on Saturday, January 12, 2019. The woman had left home to go grocery shopping around noon, and Brian found her around 5 p.m. in her car, in the creek. It is unclear how long she had been there.

When Brian came upon the scene, he found the woman sitting in her car, with the icy water streaming around her up to her hips, and covering the car's seats. She was rather disoriented from the accident, and had not attempted to leave the car, even though house lights were visible from the car. She told Brian she was praying and waiting for someone to come and help her. Her phone was in the water. Brian was able to use his truck to get near the woman's car, help her from the water, put her in his truck, and make sure she was stable. He then covered her with a blanket, gave her gloves, and replaced her wet shoes and socks with a pair of wool socks he had in his truck.

The woman was new to the area, and was not sure how to get to her son's house where she now lives. Brian was familiar with the area, and he figured out the neighborhood where she probably lived, drove her there, and, using the house number she remembered, searched from house to house until they found the correct. Brian was able to move her inside the home, and then returned to the scene to help the tow truck retrieve the car from the creek.

Because of the cold weather and the icy water in which she was submerged, it is almost certain that Brian saved this woman's life.

INCIDENT THIRTEEN

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**

**ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019, FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL** from Sterling, Kincora, Ashburn, Fairfax and LCFR command staff were dispatched for a structure fire in Sugarland.

The 911 caller was a neighbor who reported that the air-conditioning from the house next door had a fuse box

that was on fire. The neighbor was taking care of the house while the homeowner was out-of-town.

While fire department personnel were responding, Gabor Nemes, another neighbor, noticed the commotion and smoke. He retrieved a fire extinguisher that he kept readily available. He quickly approached the burning fuse box and activated his fire extinguisher.

Upon the arrival of the fire department, the fire was extinguished. In reviewing the pictures, it is easy to see

how quickly the fire could have progressed based on the scorch marks of the house siding. His quick actions quickly extinguished the fire and prevented the fire from rapidly extending to the siding and attic.

(not pictured, Gabor Nemes)

"He quickly approached the burning fuse box and activated his fire extinguisher."

#### INCIDENT FOURTEEN

### **Meritorious Civilian Award**





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Haley DeBardlabon Izzy Jackson (not pictured Zachary Kaiser) A GROUP OF LUCKETTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS are being hailed as heroes for jumping into action and saving a Loudoun County house from burning to the ground.

Their school bus pulled up in front of Eleonori Viola's home Wednesday afternoon when they spotted flames in Viola's garage.

"I see smoke and a bunch of flames coming through," 10-year old Zachary Kaiser said.

"They were ringing the doorbell and screaming, 'Your house is on fire!' Viola said.

Neighbor Cindy Jackson grabbed a garden hose to put out the flames, while her 11-year old daughter Izzy, who was also on the school bus, called 911.

"Don't completely panic on the [phone] because they are not going to be able to hear you," Izzy said.

The garden hose worked, and the fire, which was accidentally started by a blow torch, was put out before the flames spread.

"It makes me feel good that I know that [I helped] in a situation like that, and I am responsible enough to do the right thing," 10-year old Haley Debardlabon said.

"They are my heroes," Viola said.

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INCIDENT FIFTEEN

### Lifesaving & Meritorious Civilian Award





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Aylie Giblin Deputy Brandon McGhee (not pictured, Mela Coffey)

**ON DECEMBER 27, 2019,** Sheriff Deputy Brandon McGhee responded to a report of a man who was in cardiac arrest at a rock climbing facility.

Two facility employees, Aylie Giblin and Mela Coffey, found the man unconscious near one of the climbing walls. They instantly rushed to lend aid, checking for a pulse but found none.

They immediately began to perform CPR, taking turns delivering chest compressions. After about five minutes, Deputy McGhee arrived. Deputy McGhee moved the man to a harder surface and checked him for a pulse.

Finding no pulse, the Deputy began to deliver CPR himself. After approximately 30 compressions, the subject began gasping for air. Medics then arrived, applied an AED device and administered a shock.

Deputy McGhee then continued compressions. After an additional 30 compressions the patient began breathing normally. He was transported to a nearby hospital, where his pulse and breathing were maintained.

The quick thinking and swift actions of Aylie Giblin, Mela Coffey, and Deputy McGhee were critical in saving this man's life.

INCIDENT SIXTEEN

### **Lifesaving Award**



DFC Christopher Robinson

#### ON AUGUST 28, 2019, DEPUTY FIRST CLASS CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

responded to a report of an attempted suicide. The call indicated that a woman was sitting in a car with a razor blade.

Deputy Robinson was the first to arrive and quickly located the vehicle, where he found the woman bleeding heavily from a deep cut on her left wrist.

After calling in his exact location, DFC Robinson swiftly secured the razor blade and placed direct pressure on the wound until rescue personnel arrived and took over treatment.

The woman was taken to the emergency room where she was stabilized. DFC Robinson's quick response and first aid care saved this woman's life and allowed her to make a full recovery.

"...he found the woman bleeding heavily from a deep cut on her left wrist."

#### INCIDENT SEVENTEEN

### **Lifesaving Award**



ON JULY 13, 2019, SERGEANT NICHOLAS GORDON HEARD a loud noise coming from inside a cell at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center and discovered an unresponsive inmate with what appeared to be a self-inflicted neck injury.

Sergeant Nicholas Gordon, Sergeant Patrick Hannan, Deputy First Class Chad Neff, and Deputy Robert Capella entered the cell and immediately provided first aid care.



DFC Neff applied pressure to the inmate's wound using a towel, while Sergeant Gordon directed Central Control to have medical personnel respond. Nurse Nenita Gonzales soon arrived and began providing medical assistance to the inmate.

Sergeant Gordon and Deputy Capella assisted by securing the inmate's arms. Meanwhile, Deputy McNeely and Deputy First Class Benjamin Pickett ran to retrieve an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and an oxygen tank at the request of Nurse Gonzales.



The team continued to provide treatment to the inmate until rescue personnel arrived and transported the inmate to the hospital, where he was stabilized. The Adult Detention Center deputies and Nurse Gonzales acted quickly and effectively to provide first aid to the inmate. Due to their actions, this inmate was unsuccessful in his attempt to take his own life.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Deputy Robert Capella Nenita Gonzales RN Sgt. Nicholas Gordon Sgt. Patrick Hannan



DFC Chad Neff

#### INCIDENT EIGHTEEN

### **Lifesaving Award**







ON JUNE 7, 2019, Deputy Tyler Nichols and Deputy Alexandra Glover responded to a call of a bicycle rider in a medical emergency. At nearly the same time, off duty U.S. Customs & Border Protection agents, Clinton Maxwell and Salvador Marroquin, saw the cyclist collapsed on the road.

They reacted quickly and checked the man for a pulse and then began performing CPR. When Deputy Nichols arrived on scene, he relieved Agent Maxwell and Agent Marroquin and continued performing CPR.

Deputy Glover positioned her cruiser to protect Deputy Nichols and the cyclist from passing vehicles on the busy roadway. The two deputies then decided to carry the male cyclist onto the sidewalk where they continued to perform CPR until medical personnel arrived.

The man was then transported to a local hospital, where a normal pulse and breathing were established.

"They reacted quickly and checked the man for a pulse and then began performing CPR "



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Deputy Alexandra Glover Agent Salvador Marroquin Agent Clinton Maxwell Deputy Tyler Nichols

# Congratulations to the winners



Thank You to all the men and women

who bravely serve Loudoun!

### Loudoun Times-Mirror

<sup>36</sup> **\* LOUDOUNER** LoudounTimes.com

INCIDENT NINETEEN

### **Lifesaving Award**



SD Lindsey Wilson

**ON DECEMBER 4, 2019, SENIOR DEPUTY LINDSEY WILSON** was off duty and inside a Gold's Gym in Sterling when he witnessed a middle-aged man collapse on the concrete floor next to the swimming pool.

SD Wilson rushed to the man's side and found he was not breathing and had no pulse. He immediately initiated CPR, while a gym employee retrieved the AED.

SD Wilson applied the AED to the man and administered one shock. He then continued performing CPR until medical personnel arrived. It was then determined the man's pulse and breathing had been re-established.

The man was transported to a local hospital where he was stabilized and was able to speak to the investigating deputy. Even though Senior Deputy Wilson was off duty at the time of this incident, he acted in an immediate and heroic fashion that exemplifies the values of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and was able to save the man's life.

INCIDENT TWENTY

### **Lifesaving Award**



**ON APRIL 29, 2019, DEPUTY FIRST CLASS DEREK FREEMAN** responded to Trailside Park in Ashburn to assist fire and rescue crews responding to a report of 66-year-old man who had collapsed while out on a run.

DFC Freeman was first to arrive and located the man lying on the sidewalk. He quickly searched for a pulse, found none and saw the man's face was turning blue.

DFC Derek Freeman

He immediately initiated CPR, and medical personnel arrived a few minutes later and requested DFC Freeman continue performing CPR while they attached an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administered one shock. DFC Freeman then resumed CPR.

DFC Freeman performed CPR on the man for approximately six minutes until the man's pulse was established and he could be transported to a local hospital.

INCIDENT TWENTY-ONE

INCIDENT TWENTY-TWO

### **Lifesaving Award**

his neck.





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Sgt. Rajesh Kumar DFC Adam MacDonald DFC Dustin Woomer

#### ON MARCH 30, 2019, DEPUTY FIRST CLASS ADAM MACDONALD was performing a routine check of a housing unit within the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center, when he discovered an inmate with a bed sheet tied around

"They discovered Seeing the inmate was unconscious, DFC MacDonald that the male was quickly requested medical assistance and entered the cell

unresponsive but was breathing and had a pulse."

DFC MacDonald, Sergeant

to provide aid. Sergeant Rajesh

Kumar arrived next and helped

DFC MacDonald remove the

sheet from the inmate's neck.

Kumar, and DFC Dustin Woomer continued to provide aid until medical staff arrived. They discovered that the male was unresponsive but was breathing and had a pulse.

The quick and decisive actions takenby Sergeant Kumar, DFC MacDonald, and DFC Woomer's saved that inmate's life and allowed him to make a full recovery.

### **Bronze Medal of Valor**





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Officer David Camp FF John Carney

ON JUNE 26, 2019, OFFICER DAVID CAMP RESPONDED TO A REPORTED domestic violence incident. The caller stated there was an adult male armed with a knife, who was extremely angry and threatening to hurt his family and himself.

While in route, Officer Camp received word the subject was now pouring gasoline throughout the residence and on himself. Officer Camp arrived to find the suspect's family in the road, concerned for their safety of their family member.

Quickly realizing that the subject was still inside the home, Officer Camp had the family members retreat to a safe distance and requested support from Fire and Rescue personnel.

After confirming that everyone besides the suspect was out of the residence, Officer Camp approached the open front door. At the front door, Officer Camp could see clearly into the home and saw an empty gas can on the floor of the foyer and observed the overpowering smell of gasoline.

He then saw a shadowy figure in the kitchen and called out the subject's name several times, but received no reply. Seconds later, Officer Camp heard a loud explosion and saw the inside of the home catch fire, watching a trail of flames flash through the first floor, following the path of the gasoline. He then heard screaming coming from the rear of the home, where the subject emerged completely engulfed in flames, ran into the front yard, and collapsed.

Officer Camp immediately called for medical assistance. With little regard for his own safety, Officer Camp then quickly ran towards the subject and began to put out the fire with his own bare hands. Officer Camp then grabbed a shirt from the subject's family member who also rushed to render aid, and quickly continued to extinguish the flames using the shirt.

Meanwhile, off-duty Purcellville Volunteer Firefighter John Carney was only a few blocks away and heard the emergency response call on his home radio. Despite being off-duty, he grabbed his medical first aid bag and headed to the scene to see if he could provide any help. There, he quickly ran to assist when he saw the individual on fire.

Firefighter Carney swiftly grabbed a garden hose and used it to put the flames out. The quick thinking of Firefighter Carney to continuously spray the individual with water even after the fire was out, enabled his airway to remain open and cooled his body which allowed him the chance at survival, despite extensive burns.

The resourcefulness and rapid response by both Officer Camp and Firefighter Carney helped to save the life of this individual, who sustained burns to over 95% of his body. These heroic actions taken by Officer Camp and Firefighter Carney kept the individual's airway open and kept him alive until he could receive proper medical treatment. After spending over five months in the hospital, the individual made a miraculous full recovery.

INCIDENT TWENTY-THREE

### **Certificate of Valor**



ON FEBRUARY 2, 2019, DEPUTY DEVIN MICKENS WAS DISPATCHED to an Aldie home for a report of a man in cardiac arrest. Deputy Mickens arrived at the home before medical personnel and discovered a family member delivering CPR to the man.

Deputy Mickens checked the patient for a pulse, but found none. He immediately took over CPR, until medics arrived. The medics examined the man and discovered he now had a pulse.

The man's pulse and breathing were maintained, and he was transported to a local hospital, where he underwent surgery.

INCIDENT TWENTY-FOUR

### Silver, Bronze Medals & **Certificate of Valor**

place him under arrest.

able to place the man in handcuffs.

DFC Iversen.









FROM TOP TO BOTTOM SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR Deputy Katherine Grimley DFC Timothy Iversen BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR Deputy Justin Nyce CERTIFICATE OF VALOR Deputy Hao Lu

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR DFC Daniel Clarke

rendered aid to the injured deputies. The heroic efforts by Deputies Grimley, Nyce, and Iversen in the face of a deadly threat ensured the suspect was taken into custody without the loss of life. The quick actions by Deputies Nyce, Lu, and Clarke to care for the injuries sustained by Deputies Grimley and Iversen were critical in allowing the two deputies to recover fully from their wounds and return to active duty

within a few months' time.

Once the man and the weapon were secured, Deputy Nyce immediately utilized a tourniquet to slow the bleeding on Deputy Grimley's wound. Deputy Lu and Deputy First Class Clarke were the first backup units to arrive and they quickly

IT WAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE, 2017 when Loudoun County Sheriff's Deputy

When they arrived, they came to the certain conclusion that an adult male in

the home was the aggressor in a domestic assault, so the deputies prepared to

As they approached him, the man dove into a nearby closet and produced a

To prevent the man from firing any additional shots, Deputy Nyce bravely placed himself on top of the man. Then, with assistance from Deputy Grimley and DFC Iversen, who were suffering from gunshot wounds, Deputy Nyce was

handgun. All three deputies advanced towards the man to disarm him, but not before he was able to discharge three rounds, which struck Deputy Grimley and

Katherine Grimley, Deputy Justin Nyce, and Deputy First Class Timothy

lversen responded to a call of a domestic dispute.



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The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them,

glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.

-THUCYDIDES

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