



# 2023 VALOR AWARDS



**LOUDOUN**  
CHAMBER  
BE MORE. TOGETHER.



# Honoring our Community's Real-life Heroes

StoneSprings Hospital Center would like to thank our community's real-life heroes, including several heroic citizens, and all first responders who selflessly give of themselves every day by acts of bravery and service. Congratulations to this year's Valor Award winners.

[stonespringshospital.com](https://stonespringshospital.com)

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 **StoneSprings  
Hospital Center**  
*HCA Virginia Health System*



# Order of Events

## WELCOME

*Tony Howard, Loudoun Chamber*

## PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

*Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System*

*Loudoun County Sheriff's Office*

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Deputy Christopher Wechsler, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office*

## INVOCATION

*Rabbi Amy J. Sapowith, Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation*

## SPONSOR & VIP RECOGNITION

## LOUDOUN FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION

*Ed Williams, Board President*

## LUNCH

## SIGNATURE SPONSOR REMARKS

*Inova Loudoun Hospital*

## STU PLITMAN AWARD

*Theresa Emory, Debbie Fallon and Shelley Johnson*

## VALOR AWARDS PRESENTATION

*Robert Burton & Adrianna Hopkins, ABC7 News*

## CLOSING REMARKS

# Congratulations & Thank You to ★ All First Responders

NEVER FORGET WHAT WE WERE MADE  
FOR AND THAT VALOR CAN BE CONTAINED  
IN THE MOST FRAGILE OF VESSELS.  
SERVICE CAN BE RENDERED BY ALL.

-- GUY HALEY



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A LETTER FROM THE

## Loudoun Chamber

Welcome to the 38th Annual Loudoun County Valor Awards! On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Loudoun Chamber, we thank you for joining your Loudoun County friends and neighbors for this proud Loudoun Chamber tradition.



Today, we gather to honor the true heroes in our community, those heroic first responders, whose courageous and often lifesaving actions in the line of duty are worthy of our respect and appreciation. Specifically, we are here to honor those exceptional few whose heroic actions clearly met the test of rising well “above and beyond the call of duty,” and have earned a prestigious Loudoun County Valor Award.

For 38 years, the Loudoun Chamber has been privileged to present these awards, and to express our deep and abiding gratitude for the service of our career and volunteer emergency first responders. The Chamber also is proud to honor our citizens who, when faced with an emergency, stepped in to assist another person in their time of need.

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

We also 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, and our more than 1,000 members, I congratulate our 2023 Valor Award honorees!

*Tony Howard*

Tony Howard, President &  
CEO, Loudoun Chamber

*Carol A. Barbe*

Carol Barbe, Chair of the  
2023 Board of Directors



*Thank you  
and congratulations  
to all Valor Award  
Recipients!*

**Bank of Clarke**



A LETTER FROM THE

## Agency Chiefs

The Loudoun County Public Safety Community is honored to welcome you to the Loudoun County Valor Award's 38th 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.

Each year, we partner with the Loudoun 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.



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, and to be a part of this recognition ceremony.



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 2023 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 responders, and citizens alike.



Thank you to all 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

Sheriff  
Michael L. Chapman  
Loudoun County Office  
of the Sheriff

Interim Chief of Police  
Major Vanessa Grigsby  
Leesburg Police  
Department

Chief of Police  
Cynthia A. McAlister  
Purcellville Police  
Department



A detailed, close-up photograph of an eagle's head, focusing on its eye and beak. The eagle has white feathers on its head and neck, and a large, yellow beak. The background is dark.

"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

**CONGRATULATIONS  
HONOREES!**



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# Valor Awards Classification & Criteria



## CIVILIAN MEDAL OF VALOR

This award honors local citizens, who are not trained first responders, for their extraordinary acts of heroism in an emergency situation, while facing significant personal risk.

## 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.



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Actions Speak Louder



2023 RECIPIENT

## Stu Plitman Award



Ed Williams,  
Chair, Loudoun First  
Responders Foundation

**ED WILLIAMS HAS CHAIRED** the Loudoun First Responders Foundation for the past 10 years, leading with a vision, passion and consistency that has put the Foundation in its strongest position ever. In all, Ed has served on the Board for a total of 13 years.

Under his leadership, the Foundation has rebranded from the original Valor Foundation name, it expanded its mission, grown its fundraising capacity and provided significantly more funds to our first responders and their families.

For example, under Ed's leadership, the Foundation expanded the eligibility criteria for support, to serve more first responders. Over the past six years, the Foundation has granted \$370,000 in financial support to our First Responders and their families.

It was also under Ed's leadership the Foundation began to offer scholarships to the children of personnel from public safety agencies serving Loudoun. In the past eight years, the Foundation has awarded \$117K in scholarships.

To allow that level of giving, Ed and his fellow Directors have created new opportunities for local businesses to express their own support for our public safety heroes through the Foundation's important work.

Ed leads a Board of Directors that is 100% volunteer-driven. And every dollar the Foundation is honored to receive is invested right back into our first responders. In fact, many of the Foundation's Directors are themselves donors, and they lead fundraising, marketing and community outreach efforts.

One of Ed's most important innovations was his commitment to eliminate the red tape and deliver financial support to our public safety personnel as quickly as possible. Very often, that means within a few hours, he is there to deliver a check to a first responder in need.

This speed of delivery is only possible thanks to the outstanding relationships Ed has built with our Partners at Loudoun's public safety agencies. Those agency partners are essential to the Foundation's success, and Ed has done so much to strengthen those relationships.

## INCIDENT ONE

# Unit Citation



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Sgt. David Camp  
Officer Michael Dickson  
Officer Lauren Ritter

**AT THE START OF HIS DAY SHIFT ON A SUNDAY** in October of 2022, Sergeant David Camp was asked to look into a request for a welfare check. Due to the time the initial information was received, at approximately 2:00 a.m., night shift officers could not reach the complainant to obtain information necessary to perform the check.

Sergeant Camp successfully contacted the complainant, an apartment property manager, and learned he received a phone call from a resident's out of town sister, who was concerned because she had not heard from her sister in four days.

At 5:30 a.m. Sergeant Camp contacted the caller directly to obtain more information about the situation. The woman stated she visited with her sister last weekend, and found her sister suffering from chronic depression after losing her husband and three children to cancer.

Since then, the complainant was unable to reach her sister, who normally wakes-up around 8:00 a.m. Upon learning this new information, Sergeant Camp, along with Officer Lauren Ritter and Officer Michael Dickson, attempted to contact the woman at her apartment in Purcellville. There was no answer at the door after repeated attempts to contact the resident.

Officers considered the resident may be sleeping, and while waiting for her to wake-up, they gathered intelligence. Officer Ritter and Officer Dickson contacted five of the woman's neighbors. None of them reported seeing her or speaking to her in four days, and no one possessed a spare key to her apartment. Meanwhile, Sergeant Camp called all five area hospitals and confirmed the woman was not checked into a local hospital. When Officer Ritter canvased the area, she located the woman's vehicle in the parking lot, and confirmed the subject was not inside her vehicle. Officers also found an untouched two-day old newspaper on the woman's doorstep.



At 8:00 a.m., officers once again attempted to contact the woman at her door but found no answer. Taking into consideration all the information and facts they gathered, Sergeant Camp contacted the property manager for a key and gained access to the apartment.

Officer Ritter and Officer Dickson announced their presence, made entry, and conducted a thorough search of the apartment. As they entered the back bedroom, they heard a faint whimper. Officers found the woman face down on the floor, she was cold to the touch, had severe bruising, and lividity started to set in from being face down for several days. Sergeant Camp immediately called for rescue, while Officer Dickson and Officer Ritter tended to the woman.

*“As they entered the back room, they heard a faint whimper.”*

Further investigation revealed the woman’s sister had good reason to be alarmed. Officers found a suicide note and empty pill containers next to the woman’s bedside. While the woman was being treated by Loudoun County Fire and Rescue personnel, Sergeant Camp contacted her family members and advised them of the situation. Officer Dickson stayed with the woman at the hospital until family members arrived.

Had officers not worked quickly and efficiently to conduct a thorough investigation, ensure proper procedures were followed, and subsequently make entry into her apartment, it is clear this woman would not have survived. They knew what needed to be done and ultimately saved her life.

## INCIDENT TWO

# Lifesaving Award



Detective Ryan Schmidt

**IN AUGUST 2022, DETECTIVE RYAN SCHMIDT** was assigned a missing person case to investigate. This involved a missing 21-year-old, who had left the family's residence on August 24th, 2022, and was not reported missing until midnight on August 25th, 2022.

The parents of the subject reported they lived together, and they attended a local college. The subject was scheduled to leave on a trip on August 25th to visit an out-of-town university.

The missing subject was last seen at 0130 hours when a parent saw them while working late. The parents went to bed and when they awoke a few hours later, the subject was missing. The family checked the doorbell camera and found their child had left the residence just after 0200 hours and took the family vehicle.

Checking bank records, it was discovered the missing subject made a purchase of gasoline in Ohio. As the day went on, the family became concerned and reported the incident to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

On the morning of August 25th, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division was made aware of the missing person and Detective Schmidt was assigned to investigate. Detective Schmidt read the report noticed several abnormalities in the missing persons behavior that gave him cause for concern.

Detective Schmidt contacted the missing person's parents by phone and asked to meet at their residence. Detective Schmidt attempted to call and text the missing person several times but received no response. As Detective Schmidt was responding to the parent's residence, he received a call from the father informing him that a new charge appeared on the missing person's credit card statement in Michigan.





Detective Schmidt then met with the family and obtained all the background information on the missing person. Based on the subject leaving the residence on their own, taking the family car, and traveling to Michigan, Detective Schmidt asked the family to check the bank transactions again before he left the residence to start a phone ping on the missing person. The family checked the bank information and a new charge posted at a gun store in Michigan.

Detective Schmidt immediately called the business without hesitation, and his call was answered by the gun shop owner. Detective Schmidt identified himself and asked if the shop had sold a firearm to anyone matching the subject's description. The shop owner confirmed the purchase and advised that the missing person was walking out of the store with the firearm and a box of ammunition. Detective Schmidt advised the shop owner of the situation and asked the shop owner to make up a story about an additional background check and stop the subject until local law enforcement could arrive. The shop owner agreed, stopped the subject, and took the gun away.

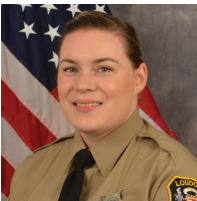
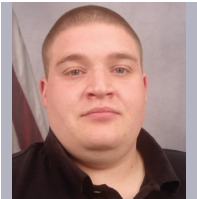
Detective Schmidt identified the local municipality and requested they respond to the gun shop. Detective Schmidt quickly and articulately provided details as why he believed the missing person was a danger to themselves. Livingston County (MI) Sheriff's Office then reconsidered their assessment and decided to hold the missing person for a mental evaluation. This allowed the family to travel to Michigan and were reunited with their family member.

Further investigation revealed that the missing person was planning on committing suicide.

*"The family checked the bank information and a new charge posted at a gun store in Michigan."*

## INCIDENT THREE

# Lifesaving Award



**IN NOVEMBER 2022, LOUDOUN DEPUTIES** responded for an emotionally disturbed person who was in crisis. Information was gathered from two related children that their mother was possibly intoxicated and had left the home highly distressed and in possession of knives. It became apparent that immediate intervention was needed to save the life of this woman.

Deputy Stewart Marcantel arrived at the residence of the mother and was able to comfort the children. While at the residence, Deputy Marcantel began requesting emergency cell phone tracking pings and provided detailed information to other deputies. Deputies began to flood the area in hopes of locating this woman or her vehicle.

Deputy Marissa Altobelli was able to locate the subject's car parked at the Loudoun County Reservoir off Mount Hope Road. Without this rapid discovery this story would have had a very different ending.

Deputy Aaron Waskiewicz and Deputy Altobelli conducted a thorough search of the area surrounding the reservoir, parking area, and nearby church. The car was visually searched locating a cell phone in the car. This meant that further attempts to locate this woman utilizing electronic communication devices would be fruitless. Deputies with various implements responded to the scene (thermal imager, night vision, drone, rescue ambulance).

### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Sr. Trooper Kress Adamson  
Dispatcher Kevin Aliventi  
DFC Marissa Altobelli  
PFC Morgan Blumer  
Trooper Evan Brooke



Several K-9 deputies, Deputies J. Hacay, Mark Sarrichio, Brandon Noland, and their partners responded to assist. Dispatcher Kevin Aliventi maintained the radio channel used by units on-scene and expertly carried out his duties to allow the command post to operate in a cohesive manner.



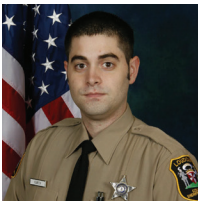
A first attempt at a K9 unit track was conducted in conjunction with the Fairfax Helicopter unit. The reservoir area is large; almost 2 miles in length with wooded areas surrounding. The K-9 units, with Deputy Brady Mullis, and a helicopter were not able to pick up a solid scent or location with forward looking infrared (FLIR).



Understanding the severity of this incident and near freezing weather conditions, a second attempt at a track was conducted with the aid of tracking dog from Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR Officer Mark DiLuigi and his K-9 partner responded from home to assist.

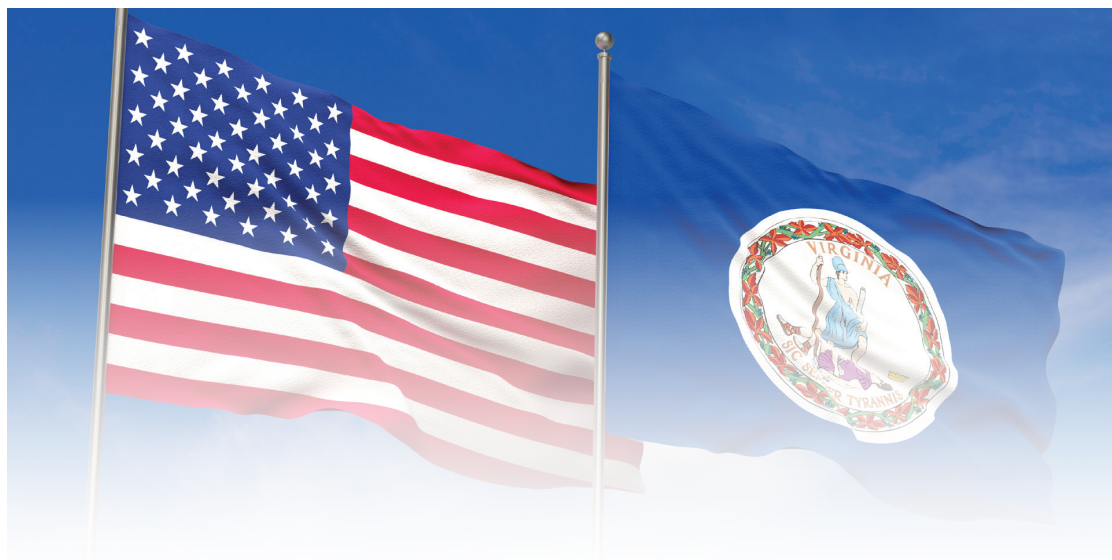


Units once again utilized thermal imaging and night vision as they assisted K-9 deputies in this search. Miraculously, deputies discovered the subject in shallow portion of the reservoir. She was found soaked and unresponsive. Units determined that she was barely alive and clearly hypothermic. Deputies immediately started to provide trauma care. The team that found the subject included Deputies Mullis, Hacay, Sarrichio and DNR Mark DiLuigi who began to provide life saving measures. *(continued on the next page)*



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**

DFC Joshua Colborn  
Master Officer Mark DiLuigi  
Master Deputy J.F. Hacay  
Pilot Matthew Hobbs  
DFC Josiah Kennedy



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Congratulations to this year's award winners  
and thank you for your service!



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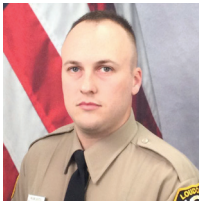


## INCIDENT THREE (CONT'D)

# Lifesaving Award



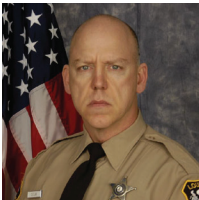
Other deputies and troopers quickly converged to assist. Virginia State Police Trooper Evan Brooke and Senior Trooper Kress Adamson, Deputies Aaron Waskiewicz, Josiah Kennedy, Joshua Colborn, Marissa Altobelli, and Sergeant Tony Outlaw also provided critical aid. They assisted in cutting off cold, frozen clothing and wrapping her in rescue blankets. Senior Trooper Adamson, a former military trained trauma medic, led the rescue efforts and directed deputies in their response.



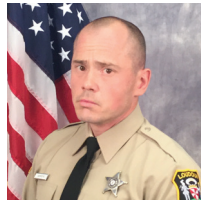
Rescue arrived a short time later to triage the situation and provide advanced life support in stabilizing her core body temperature. After being transported to Inova Loudoun Hospital, the subject was admitted to ICU. Upon her arrival, her temperature was 90 degrees. Although her situation was critical, doctors advised she was minutes from freezing to death. It was the heroic and tenacious teamwork by the responding personnel that saved the life of this individual.



This incident exemplifies that excellent teamwork amongst various state and local agencies to bring critical situations to a positive resolution.



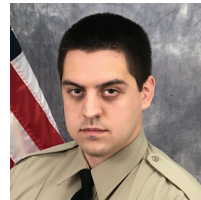
**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
DFC Brady Mullis  
DFC Stewart Marcantel  
DFC Brandon Noland  
Sgt. Tony Outlaw



DFC Mark Sarrichio



MPO Nathan VanHusen



DFC Aaron Waskiewicz



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## INCIDENT FOUR

# Lifesaving Award



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
DFC Evelin Valladares  
DFC Marcus Whitfield

**IN MARCH 2022**, Deputy First Class Evelin Valladares and Deputy First Class Marcus Whitfield responded to a report of an assault involving a possible stabbing victim at a gas station in Sterling.

Deputy Valladares was the first to arrive and observed a male subject laying on the ground near the gas pumps surrounded by several subjects. Deputy Valladares noticed a puncture wound on the upper left quadrant of the subject's torso. She grabbed a white shirt that was nearby and immediately applied pressure to the wound in an attempt to stop the bleeding.

Once Deputy Whitfield arrived, he noticed that Deputy Valladares needed additional assistance, so he grabbed his TECC trauma kit from his cruiser to assist in life-saving measures. Deputy Whitfield utilized a chest seal from his trauma kit and applied it to the subject to help slow the blood loss. They both continued to apply pressure to the wound until they were relieved by Loudoun County Fire and Rescue personnel.

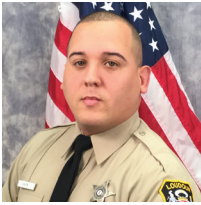
During their response, they worked together to provide life-saving measures that aided in the subject's survival. The subject was transported to the hospital, where he received additional medical assistance and ultimately survived.

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*“...she immediately applied pressure to the wound...”*

## INCIDENT FIVE

# Unit Citation



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
DFC Nelson Colon  
DFC Javon Kirkland

**IN FEBRUARY 2022**, Deputy First Class Javon Kirkland and Deputy First Class Nelson Colon were returning to the Loudoun County Detention Center (ADC) upon completion of a Temporary Detention Order (TDO) transport when they arrived upon an automobile accident on Route 50 in Fairfax County.

The deputies were the first individuals to observe the accident and responded to the scene to assist those impacted by the crash. The deputies activated their emergency equipment in the transport vehicle and stopped the northbound traffic on Rt. 50. The deputies observed a white Jeep upside down with one occupant trapped inside. They also observed a four-door sedan facing south in the northbound lane with heavy front end damage with smoke coming from the vehicle.

DFC Kirkland called 911 and reported the accident to the Fairfax County dispatcher. Deputy Colon immediately responded to the overturned Jeep and contacted the driver. The occupant was responsive however he was unable to move due to being trapped in the vehicle. Deputy Colon was able to safely extract the driver of the Jeep and get him to safety. One of the individuals in the sedan was observed sitting against the guardrail and appeared to have a broken leg. He was conscious and was able to respond to the deputies as they tended to him.

The deputies continued to assess the scene looking for additional individuals in need of assistance. They observed another individual who was in the median crying. Deputy Colon responded to her location and was able to speak with her and learned that she could not move due to possible leg fracture. It was at this time that Fairfax EMS arrived on the scene and the deputies briefed them of the situation.

Deputy Colon was able to translate for Fairfax EMS due to a language barrier as they rendered aid to the injured female. Both deputies demonstrated a high level of professionalism, initiative, and courage in taking command of the situation and providing care to the victims.

## INCIDENT SIX

# Lifesaving Award



DFC Zachary Gardner

**IN DECEMBER 2022**, Deputy First Class Zachary Gardner responded to a suspicious person call on the seventh floor of an apartment building in Ashburn. An adult female was reported to be in the hallway yelling and making references to domestic abuse as well statements about her daughter. Several units responded to the scene, located the female sitting in the hallway and quickly determined that the female was suffering from a mental health break down but did not know if she was also involved in a domestic situation.

While deputies attempted to locate her apartment on another floor of the building, DFC Gardner remained with the female and attempted to gain more information from her. At this time the female was not a suspect in a crime and did not meet criteria for an Emergency Custody Order (ECO) so she was not detained.

The female seemed to be getting upset by the interaction with deputies and a short time later she got to her feet, saying that she wanted to watch the sunrise and exited the hallway into a community room with a lot of exterior windows. DFC Gardner followed her, and she continued through the room and onto the balcony of the building.

Once on the balcony the female stated that DFC Gardner should shoot her and then stated that she would just jump from the seventh story. The female then quickly moved towards the railing, climbed onto a table which elevated her and made her knees parallel to the top edge of the railing then grabbed the top of the railing with both hands. At the same time, she began to lift her right leg to swing it over the railing and it was apparent that it was her intention to jump.

Observing this, DFC Gardner quickly ran to the female, grabbed her, and pulled her from the railing and onto the ground where he and other deputies placed her in custody for an ECO. DFC Gardner placed himself in extreme danger by grabbing the female in an elevated position as she could easily have pulled him over the railing with her momentum. His quick actions undoubtedly saved her life and reflect positively on the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.



## INCIDENT SEVEN

# Certificate of Valor & Bronze Medal of Valor



**CERTIFICATE OF VALOR**

Sgt. Jeff Cichocki

**BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR**

DFC Michael Grant



**IN FEBRUARY 2022**, units on the A-Squad midnight Ashburn squad were dispatched for the report of a structure fire within a retirement community.

Deputy First Class Michael Grant was the first unit on the scene, quickly followed by Sergeant Jeff Cichocki, and reported to the Emergency Communication Center that the attached houses were fully involved. The fire quickly spread from the initial home along the roof line to the attached houses.

DFC Grant contacted a resident of a neighboring house, which was being filled with smoke, and he quickly learned that an elderly female was upstairs and had difficulty evacuating due to an invasive medical device. With no fire units on scene, DFC Grant entered the structure and proceeded to the second floor, disregarding his own safety. With smoke quickly filling the residence and the fire advancing along the roof line, DFC Grant was able to free the female of the medical device and assist her downstairs and safely out of the perilous environment.

Sergeant Cichocki, arriving on the scene immediately after Deputy Grant, began coordinating responding units, and creating an unobstructed response area for fire services. Sergeant Cichocki then responded to an adjacent house and began notifying and assisting the elderly residents in evacuating their house.

DFC Grant's quick actions, placing himself in a perilous situation to aid a citizen in a life-threatening situation, and Sergeant Cichocki's actions of notifying and assisting residents in evacuating their home while coordinating a unified rescue response, surely saved these citizens lives.



## INCIDENT EIGHT

# Bronze Medal of Valor



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
DFC Brady Mullis  
MD Todd Wilson

**IN MARCH 2022**, Deputy First Class Brady Mullis was dispatched to an active house fire located in the 42900 block of Nashua Street. Within minutes the fire consumed the residences at 42988 and 42980 Nashua Street. DFC Mullis was first on scene and contacted the residents of 42984 Nashua Street and then went to 42988 Nashua Street as the residences began to catch fire. He discovered a homeowner was inside the residence of 42988 Nashua looking for his cat. DFC Mullis entered, risking his life to find the homeowner and remove him. DFC Mullis advised the resident to exit the house as the fire was consuming it. Once outside, the male homeowner ran back inside the residence to find the cat. DFC Mullis stopped the female homeowner from following and got her to safety. His actions saved the homeowners life. DFC Mullis then woke the homeowners at 42992 Nashua Street and had them evacuate the house with their two pet dogs. This house sustained heat damage from the fire.

DFC Mullis also provided critical information over the radio enabling responding units from LCSO and LCFR to know that the fire was spreading to multiple houses and being engulfed by flames. DFC Mullis' actions enabled LCFR to quickly assess the situation and deploy incoming fire apparatus, greatly reducing the chance of the fire spreading to other homes.

During the same incident, Master Deputy Todd Wilson attempted to enter 42980 Nashua Street and was beaten back by the flames as the house was engulfed. He was able to locate the residents outside, ensured there was no one else inside the residence, and escorted them to safety.

MD Todd Wilson awoke the residents at 42976 Nashua Street, advised them their house was on fire and got everyone out prior to the fire spreading. MD Wilson prevented the homeowner from running back into his house to retrieve passports as the fire started to consume the house, saving his life.

The actions of both deputies were selfless in the face of grave danger. Both could have been seriously burned or killed as they helped bring the homeowners to safety.



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## INCIDENT NINE

# Unit Citation



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
FF/EMT Destin Baker  
FF/EMT George Black  
EMT Joshua Burns  
FF/AEMT Zhengan Chen  
FF/EMT Christopher Hahs

### STONESPRINGS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STAFF

expresses their gratitude and appreciation for the assistance of M619, AA627, and AA609B in March 2022. The crews were transferring their patient to the hospital bed when they recognized another patient harassing the nursing staff. The patient became aggressive and combative.

The crew courageously assisted the ED staff in restraining the patient until Loudoun County Sheriff Deputies arrived to assist. The ED nurses are very grateful for the multiple EMS crews available because the patient became very intimidating to the nursing staff. The presence of the EMS crews deterred the patient from becoming more aggressive.

The nurses said, "We are glad they were there; it was a huge relief when the Loudoun County deputies showed up to assist." Stone Springs Emergency Department thanks the EMS crews for their actions to protect the staff and assist the nurses in protecting the patient from harming himself and others.



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
FF/ETM Daniel Herdman  
EMT Trent Kurutz



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
PM Wyatt Smith  
FF Graham Wiles

## INCIDENT TEN

# Unit Citation



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
Captain Michael Burrier  
Tech Paul Byer  
Tech Timothy Potts  
FF II Robert Weaver

**IN MARCH 2022**, the crew at Philomont Fire Station was alerted to a structure fire off Snickersville Turnpike with reports of a person trapped inside. Engine 608 responded with Captain Michael Burrier, Technician Timothy Potts and Firefighter Robert Weaver, and Tanker 608 Technician Paul Byer.

The units arrived on scene and found a barn type structure with an intense fire coming from the front and rear of the building. Several family members informed Captain Burrier that their mother was trapped inside the building.

The building was a long single-story barn with the center section converted into a living suite. Access to the building was limited and both entrances were engulfed in flames. The crew advanced into the fire crawling prone on the ground, using copious amounts of water to protect themselves while they searched for the victim.

Technician Potts took over pumping both the engine and tanker while Technician Byer deployed another hose line to help contain the fire spread.

Captain Burrier searched rooms while Firefighter Weaver attempted to extinguish the fire. Repeated call outs to the missing victim went unanswered while Captain Burrier and Firefighter Weaver operated inside the fire for roughly 10 minutes before bringing the fire under control, but no victim was found.

Captain Burrier and Firefighter Weaver exited the building exhausted, removed their gear which was critically damaged from the heat and ultimately required replacement.



Firefighter Weaver had sustained 2nd degree burns to his right arm and was transported to Med Star Burn Center in Washington, D.C. while Captain Burrier was evaluated and released. Firefighter Weaver was treated and released from the burn center and after a two-month recovery, he returned to work.

The missing mother who was thought to be trapped in the fire exited the nearby woods where she had been walking on a trail as the fire unfolded. The crew showed tremendous bravery and professionalism in this incident. They acted without hesitation, crawling through intense heat and fire conditions to save a life.

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# VALOR AWARDS



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## INCIDENT ELEVEN

# Lifesaving Award



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
Fire Chief Christopher  
Krueger  
Fire Chief Scott Maple

**IN NOVEMBER 2022**, Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call for an unconscious patient in cardiac arrest at the Tally Ho Theater on West Market Street in Leesburg.

The caller reported that CPR was in progress. Emergency personnel were dispatched and arrived on-scene, just 72 seconds after the receipt of the 911 call. E620 found Leesburg Fire Company Chief Christopher Krueger and Purcellville Fire Company Chief Scott Maple providing high-quality CPR to a male patient whom they both had witnessed collapsing on stage while performing. E620's crew applied their AED and delivered a shock, then continued providing high-quality CPR.

E620's AED analyzed once more finding that a shock was advised which was promptly delivered. Shortly thereafter, the patient began to respond and was found to have a strong pulse. Advanced on-scene care continued and once stabilized, the patient was placed in the ambulance for emergency transport to Inova Loudoun Hospital. The patient awoke and began talking during the transport. Upon M613B's departure from the ED, the patient was fully awake and alert and in no apparent distress.

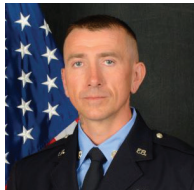
This case clearly exemplifies the life-saving benefits of immediate high-quality bystander CPR and early defibrillation in cardiac arrest.

## INCIDENT TWELVE

# Lifesaving Award



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
FF/EMT Delaunte Allen  
Medic Mike Baker  
Batt. Chief Brenton Harne  
FF/EMT Andrew Gideon  
Lt. Christopher Jenkins



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
FF/EMT Douglas Kisting  
FF/EMT Frederick Plunkert



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
Fire Chief Scott Maple  
Capt. Robert Smith

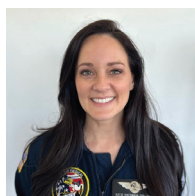
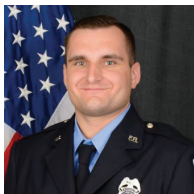


**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
FF/EMT Raymond Snoots  
Capt. Brian Sullivan

**IN FEBRUARY 2022**, units were alerted to the intersection of James Monroe Highway and Lovettsville Road for the reported vehicle accident with reported entrapment. With the incident occurring near the Loudoun County VA / Frederick County MD line, units responded from both jurisdictions.

First arriving units found a one vehicle accident involving a large tree. Upon investigating, two occupants were located inside the vehicle, one adult driver and one child passenger. It was also noted that part of a tree limb from the downed tree had come through the window of the vehicle and had partially impaled the driver.

Command was established by the first arrived officer, and additional units were requested due to the complexity of the incident. Once on the scene, crews from both R620 and R920 worked together to stabilize the vehicle before the start of a full roof removal. After the vehicle was stabilized, EMS crews were able to access the driver after the child was removed and moved to A610.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
FF/EMT Brandon Wallo  
FF/EMT Max Walsh  
EMS Supervisor Capt.  
Todd Wenner  
Katie MacSwain



Bruce Ruggeri



Brian White

While the roof was being removed, special attention was needed due to a large tree branch that had impaled the driver making the removal of the driver challenging. Bleeding was controlled and the victim was removed from the vehicle and transported to awaiting AirCare 3 (Helicopter where additional life-saving care including blood transfusion was performed). The victim was flown to Inova Fairfax Hospital, required emergency surgeries, and was ultimately released home in good condition.

*“...special attention was needed due to a large tree branch that had impaled the driver...”*



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## INCIDENT THIRTEEN

# Certificate of Valor



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
Logue Williams  
Seth Williams

**IN DECEMBER 2022**, while off duty and en-route to an appointment, brothers Logue and Seth Williams came upon a three-car accident on Route 15 with one vehicle in the oncoming lane flipped on its roof with an unconscious driver in it, a second vehicle on its side with the driver entrapped, and the third vehicle upright with most of the driver's side crushed in.

Logue and Seth are LC-CFRS firefighters/EMTs and at the time were both serving at Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department. Logue and Seth arrived prior to LC-CFRS personnel. They pulled their personal vehicle onto the shoulder of the road and assessed the situation. Seth approached the vehicle that was on its roof to discover the driver in it and unconscious. At that time a bystander on the phone with dispatch connected with Seth. Seth was able to analyze the scene and determine ambulance needs for the dispatcher.

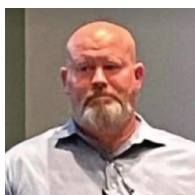
In the meantime, Logue approached the two other cars, assessed that there were no life-threatening injuries, and was able to assist the occupants of the crushed vehicle out of the car at their request. Initially the driver of that vehicle was frantic believing that the vehicle had caught fire. Logue confirmed that the vehicle was not on fire and was able to calm the driver, then assist him out of the vehicle.

Logue also approached the vehicle on its side to find the driver standing inside. While the driver was asking for help to get out, Logue relayed to him that there was no safe means to get him out at that time, but that responders were on their way and would get him out.

Prior to additional responders arriving, the driver of the flipped vehicle lost his pulse. With Logue's assistance they removed him from the upside-down vehicle and the two performed CPR. Since Seth and Logue were off duty in their personnel vehicle, they did not have any equipment with them. CPR was performed until Engine 620 arrived on scene along with multiple other units. Two drivers were transported for further treatment. As LCFR personnel took over, Logue and Seth continued to assist on scene.

## INCIDENT FOURTEEN

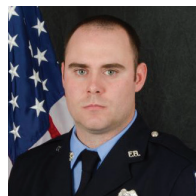
# Meritorious Civilian & Lifesaving Award



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
Jimmy Hill  
Dispatcher Hannah Bayer  
FF/EMT Meaghan Gruber  
Call Taker Christopher  
Horan



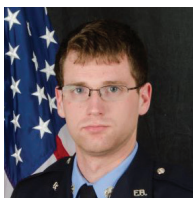
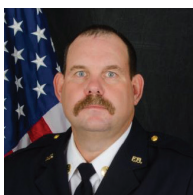
Asst. Dispatch Supervisor  
Michael Hovermale



FF/EMT David Landis

**IN MARCH OF 2022**, the Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center received a call reporting a home on fire with a 14-year-old girl trapped in the house. Dispatchers Hovermale and Horan took the phone call and guided the girl to close the bedroom door, to find the bedroom window, and try to break the glass from the window. While dispatchers provided this direction, Fire and Rescue units were alerted to the fire.

Tower 602 arrived at the scene. Firefighter Landis looked up at the top floor window and saw the caller at the window of her bedroom. Technician Vick deployed a ground ladder to that window while Firefighter Landis raised the aerial ladder and climbed to the window. He motioned the girl to move away from the window and broke the glass. As Firefighter Landis reached inside to grab hold of the girl's hand, she became unconscious and fell backwards. Due to heavy smoke conditions, Firefighter Landis was unable to see her. Technician Vick then climbed the aerial ladder and entered the house through the window to search for the victim.



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**

Lt. Mike Nichols  
FF/EMT Daniel Turner  
Tech. Don Vick

At the same time, Lieutenant Nichols and Firefighter Gruber made entry through the first floor of the townhome. They searched the main level and then made their way to the top floor of the townhome. After searching two rooms, Lieutenant Nichols and Firefighter Gruber came to the final bedroom where they located the victim and Technician Vick. Due to issues with Lieutenant Nichols breathing apparatus and knowing that there were two other firefighters present, Lieutenant Nichols retreated to another room and broke out the window and requested assistance.

Technician Vick and Firefighter Gruber worked together to position the victim for removal. While this was occurring, Firefighter Landis was waiting at the window in the bucket of the ladder when he noticed that the window from the other room was broken, and he saw Lieutenant Nichols in need of assistance. Firefighter Landis moved the aerial ladder to that window and assisted Lieutenant Nichols out of the building and to the ground. Firefighter Landis then moved the aerial ladder back to the window where Technician Vick and Firefighter Gruber removed the patient from the bedroom and lowered her safely to the ground for treatment. The patient was taken to Children's National Hospital where she was treated and released a few days later.

The actions taken by Jimmy Hill, Dispatcher Michael Hovermale, Dispatcher Christopher Horan, Lieutenant. Michael Nichols, Technician Donald Vick, Firefighter David Landis and Firefighter Meaghan Gruber is the reason the young lady survived this fire.

# 2023 VALOR AWARDS



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## INCIDENT FIFTEEN

# Bronze Medal of Valor



Deputy Chief Jamie Cooper

**IN MARCH OF 2022**, Deputy Chief Jamie Cooper, while off duty in his personal vehicle, was driving his children home from school and witnessed, an auto accident in the median of Harry Byrd Highway. The driver exited the vehicle and immediately collapsed on the ground. DC Cooper stopped his vehicle to investigate and render aid if needed.

As he approached, DC Cooper identified himself as a paramedic and asked if he could help. The motorist confessed that they had attempted to cross the median in an effort to enter the oncoming lanes to commit suicide.

DC Cooper reassured the patient and was attempting to call for assistance when the patient became agitated and began to attack DC Cooper with an apparent intent to then run into traffic.

With no regard for his own personal safety, DC Cooper physically subdued the patient while directing a bystander to call for law enforcement and fire and rescue assistance. At great danger to himself, DC Cooper physically restrained the emotionally disturbed individual until relieved by other law enforcement officials. The patient was taken into custody and was brought to the hospital for treatment.

Had DC Cooper failed to act in a rapid and heroic fashion, the outcome of the incident would surely have been tragic.

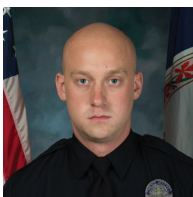
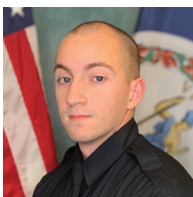
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*“...they had attempted to cross the median in an effort to enter the oncoming lanes...”*



## INCIDENT SIXTEEN

# Lifesaving Award & Unit Citation



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**  
Officer III Michael DaRin  
Officer II Justin Dudley  
Officer II Patrick Kidd  
Officer I Matthew Wolfe

**IN MAY OF 2022**, Officers Michael DaRin, Justin Dudley, Matthew Wolfe and Patrick Kidd responded to the Leesburg Giant grocery store for a report of suicide threats.

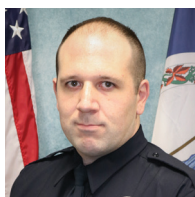
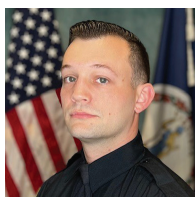
The officers located a 22-year-old male sitting on a bench with a knife depressed to his neck. Prior to the officer's arrival, the subject had been texting his mother saying goodbye.

While the other officers established a perimeter for safety, Officer DaRin began conversing with the subject. His calm and professional demeanor convinced the subject to relinquish the knife, without the need for the deployment of force, and be taken into custody for a mental health evaluation.

A memorandum submitted for this incident stated, "based on the circumstances, the officers conducted themselves in a manner that reflects highly on the agency and on themselves. While it is not often that officers interact with a subject holding a deadly weapon against themselves, their ability to identify and connect with a person experiencing mental crisis and successfully deescalating the situation is certainly deserving of recognition."

## INCIDENT SEVENTEEN

# Unit Citation



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Officer Phillip Braven  
Officer Stephen Meyer  
Officer Kyle Wagner

**IN AUGUST OF 2022**, Officers Stephen Meyer, Phillip Braven and Kyle Wagner responded to a home in Leesburg in reference to an individual destroying items in their own residence and being aggressive towards their family members.

The individual, a 53-year-old male, refused to come to the door and repeatedly showed officers that he was wielding a power drill. While officers were conversing with his family about his mental state, they could hear the individual destroying property inside the house. Officer Braven saw that the subject had lit paper towels off the gas stove and began to spread a fire. Officer Braven recognized this as a danger to the townhouse community and he started to breach the front door, which was barricaded. As Officer Braven began to make entry, the individual opened the door and utilized the drill on Officer Braven in his chest, knocking him backwards. Luckily, the drill only created damage to his body camera.

The three officers proceeded inside and utilized a taser to secure the individual, while the fire was still burning in the kitchen. The officers secured the individual and allowed Loudoun County Fire and Rescue to put out the small fire.

The individual was taken into custody for and charged with several felonies, to include assaults on law enforcement stemming from the altercation.

## INCIDENT EIGHTEEN

# Lifesaving Award



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
Officer Stephen Meyer  
Officer Matthew Wolfe

**IN JULY OF 2022**, Officers Stephen Meyer and Matthew Wolfe responded to a residence in Leesburg to call about an aggravated assault with a weapon. On scene they located a 23-year-old male victim of a machete attack. The victim had severe lacerations on his back, arm, and leg.

Officer Meyer immediately utilized his Tactical Emergency Casualty Care kit (TECC) and applied tourniquets to the victims' arm and leg. Officer Wolfe utilized bandages and QuikClot to treat the wounded areas. Officers Meyer and Wolfe communicated with the subject and tried to keep him calm, while also assessing the scene and keeping themselves and the victim safe.

The actions of both Officer Meyer and Officer Wolfe unequivocally increased the victim's odds of survival by preventing any further loss of blood and preventing the victim from falling into a state of shock that would have further complicated the efforts to save their life.

---

*"The victim had severe lacerations on his back, arm, and leg."*

## INCIDENT NINETEEN

# Bronze Medal of Valor



Master Police Officer  
Stephan Winkler

**IN FEBRUARY OF 2022**, Master Police Officer Stephan Winkler responded to a vehicle crash involving a pedestrian in front of Leesburg Police Department headquarters, that was radioed in by another officer. It was relayed that one of the pedestrians, a 59-year-old woman, was entrapped beneath the vehicle.

MPO Winkler responded and immediately began rendering aid to the victims of the crash. MPO Winkler checked for a pulse from the entrapped victim and could not locate one. MPO Winkler immediately summoned assistance from bystanders to assist him with lifting the vehicle off the victim. Once she was removed, she began to breathe in a labored fashion and her care was assumed by Loudoun County Fire and Rescue.

Due to MPO Winkler's quick thinking and problem-solving skills, a citizen's life was saved.





## INCIDENT TWENTY

# Meritorious Civilian Award

**IN DECEMBER OF 2022**, at 8:00 a.m. Loudoun County Fire Rescue units were dispatched for an unconscious 49-year-old male at North Fork Road in Purcellville.

The call was upgraded to cardiac arrest, prompting additional units to be dispatched. While enroute to the scene, responding units received a notification that CPR was in progress. Within minutes, E608 BLS career and C608 arrived to find the patient's wife, Christina Navarrete, in an upstairs bedroom doing CPR compressions on the patient. Initiating the LCFR High Performance CPR protocol, the C608 immediately took over cardiac compressions on the patient while E608 career staff prepared the Lifepak-15 AED, attaching the AED pads to the patient.

After four minutes of additional CPR and two AED shocks, a check of the patient's vitals indicated that the patient had a pulse, a term known as Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). At this time, LCFR Medics intubated the patient and administered ALS lifesaving cardiac medications. The patient was then placed on oxygen and was transported to Inova Loudoun Hospital. The patient was released from the hospital and permitted to go several days later.

*Not pictured honoree: Christina Navarrete*

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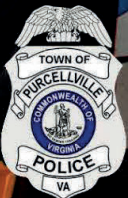
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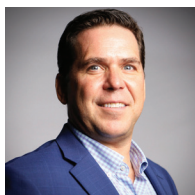
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## INCIDENT TWENTY-ONE

# Meritorious Civilian & Bronze Medal of Valor



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Jeff Cook  
Curt Ehlers  
Andrew Lach  
Dan Parker

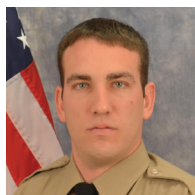
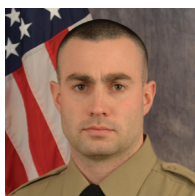
**IN SEPTEMBER OF 2022**, two separate but related water rescues happened on a day with significant rainfall, flooding, and closed roads. Around 1730 hours, fourth-graders OB, AB, and ZG found themselves on the banks of the Lenah Run Creek in a residential neighborhood in Ashburn.

Normally a quietly moving and fordable body of water, the recent storm had swollen the creek to unprecedented depths with deceptively fast currents. OB entered the water in an attempt to cross and was swept away by the raging water, pinning them against a tree limb. Friends AB and ZG shouted encouragement to OB then ran to the roadway in search of help.

The friends flagged-down a vehicle occupied by Mr. Curt Ehlers and his wife. Ehlers ran to the water and recognized the immediate gravity of the situation. Thinking only of saving the child, Ehlers entered the water in an attempt to return him to the shore. The currents proved too strong and soon Ehlers was against the tree branches as well. However, he remained calm and continued to offer encouragement and solace to OB.

Meanwhile, nearby homeowners Andrew Lach, Dan Parker, Brian McGee, Mounsif Tolab, and Jeff Cook were alerted to the commotion by OB's friends. They rushed to the scene and assessed the need to immediately render aid. With Fire and Rescue an unknown distance away, they fashioned a makeshift raft and rope from a pool float and their five trouser belts. Between them and Ehlers, they were able to successfully rescue OB from the water before he could be swept away to uncertain fate.





**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**

Deputy Patrick Brick

Deputy Justin Walsh

Not Pictured Mounisif Tolab

Not Pictured Brian McGee

As this scene was unfolding, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office deputies Patrick Brick and Justin Walsh were just finishing another call, where they were helping stranded motorists on a flooded road. The deputies heard a critical call dispatched, describing a flooded creek with a child in danger of drowning. With the road secured, the two deputies responded directly to the nearby Lenah Run Creek to find the child safely on the shore, however it was obvious Ehlers was still in a life-threatening situation.

DFC Brick is a member of the Dive Team and no stranger to water. He assessed the situation as dire and entered the water within the boundary of its calm outer edge. Using a rope he had included in his duty gear, he and DFC Walsh were able to cast a loop to Ehlers. Using the rope pulled by the deputies as leverage, Ehlers was able to fight against the current as he made his way safely to the shoreline.

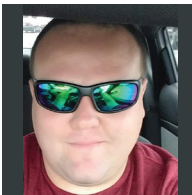
The actions of the civilians and deputies were heroic and ultimately successful in helping rescue two people who could have easily succumbed to the turbulent water.

*"...they fashioned a makeshift raft and rope from a pool float and their five trouser belts."*



## INCIDENT TWENTY-TWO

# Lifesaving Award



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Vincent Carr  
Charles Crawford  
Timothy Schilling  
Kyle Twombly

**IN AUGUST OF 2022**, a driver was traveling southbound on Loudoun County Parkway, when a van pulled out in front of his vehicle. The driver was unable to stop and crashed into the side of the van. The force of the crash caused the driver's left arm to go through the windshield, resulting in a large laceration. It was initially thought that his arm was partially amputated. As a result of the injury, the driver began losing a large amount of blood, causing a life-threatening situation.

Mr. Timothy Schilling, owner and operator of a private medical transport service, was in the area driving an ambulance when he came upon the crash. Mr. Schilling and his two partners, Kyle Twombly and Charles Crawford, began assisting the driver. When they saw how severely he was injured they began life-saving measures and moved the driver away from a large puddle of fuel.

Due to the amount of blood loss, Mr. Schilling asked his co-workers to get a tourniquet from the private ambulance. At this time another passerby, Mr. Vincent Carr had stopped to render assistance as well, grabbed a tourniquet from his vehicle, and gave it to Mr. Schilling to apply to the driver's arm.

Knowing that the driver sustained a life-threatening injury, Mr. Twombly and Mr. Crawford retrieved a stretcher from the back of the private ambulance and were going to transport him to a local area hospital so he could get the much-needed higher level of medical care. It was at that point that the first Loudoun County Fire & Rescue medic arrived on scene and took over patient care. The driver was transported to a local hospital where after multiple surgeries, he is expected to make a full recovery and his arm was able to be saved.

Medical personnel on scene and at the hospital credited the quick lifesaving efforts of those involved with saving the driver's life. Without their intervention, it is very possible that he could have lost his life.

## INCIDENT TWENTY-THREE

# Meritorious Civilian Award



Joel Griffin

**IN AUGUST OF 2022**, Leesburg Police Officers Gabe Ascunce and Travis Lotz were working an overtime detail in downtown Leesburg. At approximately 2106 Officer Ascunce observed an elderly male fall onto the sidewalk as he was exiting a vehicle across the street from Rebellion, 1 North King Street. The male walked with the assistance of his family to the sidewalk and then suddenly collapsed.

Local citizen Joel Griffin immediately began to assess the male, ripped off his shirt and began chest compressions. Officer Lotz activated the emergency response system by calling for an AED and notifying dispatch to have LCFR respond. Officer Ascunce began to act as the second responder for CPR, but the male regained consciousness at compression #28. Griffin and the officers remained with the subject, keeping him conscious and awake, until he was transported by rescue.

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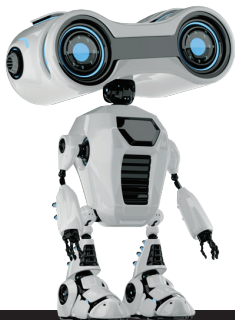
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## INCIDENT TWENTY-FOUR

# Meritorious Civilian Award



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Ashley Kolbas  
Michael Krepinevich  
Alison Stephan  
Michelle Tibbs

**IN SEPTEMBER OF 2022**, at Heritage High School in Leesburg, Felicia Brewer, a Behavior Assistant, collapsed in a workroom. Doreen Cook, Heritage Job Coach, and Karen Slothouber, Heritage Transition Teacher, were with Ms. Brewer in the room and came to her aid. Seeing that she was unresponsive, Ms. Slothouber sought help from other staff, including Michael Krepinevich, Heritage Social Science Teacher, and Michelle Tibbs, Heritage Intensive Program Teacher.

Staff radioed for the School Nurse, Alison Stephan. Nurse Stephan arrived within a minute, and Mr. Krepinevich and other staff helped clear the room to give the Nurse space to work. The teachers then moved to the hallways to help to monitor students and direct the paramedics.

Ms. Slothouber contacted 9-1-1 at the direction of Nurse Stephan. Nurse Stephan checked for Ms. Brewer's pulse and signs of breathing, then called for the AED and started compressions. Kandi Oden, Heritage Behavioral Assistant, brought the AED into the room. Ms. Tibbs took over compressions from Ms. Stephan when the AED arrived, so she could prepare the AED. When Ms. Kolbas the special ed dean arrived, Ms. Stephan called for someone to take over compressions. Following Ms. Stephan's directions, Ms. Kolbas did so, while Ms. Tibbs worked to reach out to Ms. Brewer's family.





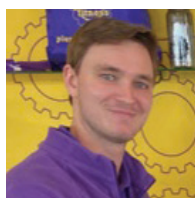
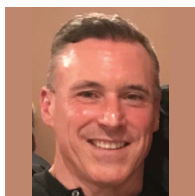
Ms. Stephan attached the pads of the AED and instructed school staff to stand back. The AED activated and shocked Ms. Brewer. Ms. Kolbas resumed compressions with Ms. Stephan checking for pulse and breathing. When appropriate, Ms. Stephan once again asked staff to stand back. The AED activated again, shocking Ms. Brewer a second time. Ms. Kolbas resumed compressions with Ms. Stephan checking for pulse and breathing. Ms. Brewer began to breathe on her own and began to make purposeful sounds.

The paramedics and other emergency personnel arrived soon after. During the entire incident, Ms. Slothouber spoke to 9-1-1, giving them details of what was happening and relaying reports from Ms. Stephan and Ms. Kolbas. The rest of the Heritage staff worked to keep hallways clear, keep students calm, and support each other.

*“...Felicia Brewer, a Behavior Assistant, collapsed in a workroom.”*

## INCIDENT TWENTY-FIVE

# Meritorious Civilian Award



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Dr. John Michie  
Jason Totaro  
Sam Wojcik

**IN APRIL OF 2022**, at approximately 10:30 am, a 56 year-old-man visiting from out of town was exercising on a treadmill at a Planet Fitness gym. The patient was observed to have fallen from a treadmill while walking and was immediately attended to by staff and bystanders.

Initial reports identified the patient's presentation as possible 'seizure' like activity but quickly identified breathing as ineffective and upgraded to cardiac arrest. An AED was applied while CPR was quickly initiated, and the patient was defibrillated. A return of spontaneous circulation was resumed following early recognition, effective CPR and defibrillation.

Community CPR and quick use of PAD was the key to this gentleman's survival. The audio noted that the caller was calm and provided a clear description of events.

Thanks to the lifesaving efforts of Jason Totaro, Dr. John Michie, and Sam Wojcik, this patient was discharged three days later with a good prognosis, and traveled home with their spouse.

## INCIDENT TWENTY-SIX

# Meritorious Civilian Award



### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Blaine Groat  
Aaron Trudel

*Not Pictured:  
Mark Bucko,  
Kevin Bartechko,  
Kevin Sutphen*

**IN JULY OF 2022**, at approximately 9:00 p.m., a 70-year-old-man reportedly collapsed while playing hockey. The patient was witnessed as having seizure like activity and was quickly identified as being in cardiac arrest.

Bystanders who witnessed the event collectively responded providing immediate CPR efforts. While CPR was initiated, the patient's chest was exposed, and a Public Access Defibrillator was retrieved, delivering one shock with immediate return of spontaneous circulation. Upon EMS arrival and as they were providing necessary supportive care, the patient had an altered mental status and went back into cardiac arrest, requiring an additional defibrillation.

The patient was emergently transported to Inova Loudoun Hospital for further evaluation and treatment. The quick citizen response of Mark Bucko, Kevin Bartechko, Blaine Groat, Kevin Sutphen, and Aaron Trudel and the effective administration of CPR and defibrillation was key to this patient's survival. This patient was discharged home in good condition after a three day hospital stay.

## INCIDENT TWENTY-SEVEN

# Meritorious Civilian Award



**IN MAY OF 2022**, a spectator suffered a cardiac arrest during a varsity baseball game at Riverside High School in Lansdowne. Dr. David Johnson, an orthopedic surgeon from National Sports Medicine Institute and team physician for many of the LCPS high schools, as well as Dr. Kimberly Kolb, a local pediatrician, were the first responders and began immediate CPR.



Ed Renehan, the athletic trainer at the high school, was at a different location on campus, tending to another injury at that time. However, after being contacted on his emergency radio, Renehan responded quickly and brought his AED to the scene. Renehan was able to deliver an AED shock within minutes of the incident.



By following the school's Emergency Action Plan, combined with the life-saving efforts of doctors Johnson and Kolb, the victim's breathing and pulse returned. EMS units from Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department and members from LCFR arrived on scene and continued Advanced Life Support care. The patient was shocked additional times while enroute to the hospital.

This call shows how the "chain of survival" program saved the life of the gentleman watching his grandson play baseball. Bystander CPR and early defibrillation and rapid ALS care led to a positive outcome.

### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Dr. Kimberly Kolb  
Dr. David Johnson  
Ed Renehan

## INCIDENT TWENTY-EIGHT

# Civilian Medal of Valor



Samantha Cruz

**ON A SATURDAY IN JUNE OF 2022**, Samantha Cruz left her 12-hour shift as a Pediatric Emergency Room nurse around 3:00 am when she came across a car engulfed in flames, on East Market Street in the area of Battlefield Parkway.

It appeared that the car had just been involved in an accident moments before. A citizen was already on scene and removed the driver out of the car. Samantha, being the first medical personnel on scene, rendered aid to this person on the ground with obvious significant injuries.

Her quick ER nurse instinct kicked in as she held his c-spine and maintained his airway. He was covered in blood, and she was making sure he didn't aspirate or choke. She stated that due to suspected head injury this citizen was combative and coughing up blood. She did not have any protective equipment on her, but that did not stop her from rendering aid in this acute situation.

When EMS showed up, she continued to help render aid. Due to Samantha's quick reaction in assisting the injured, she truly was a hero in saving a life.

---

*“Her quick ER nurse instinct kicked in as she held his c-spine...”*



  
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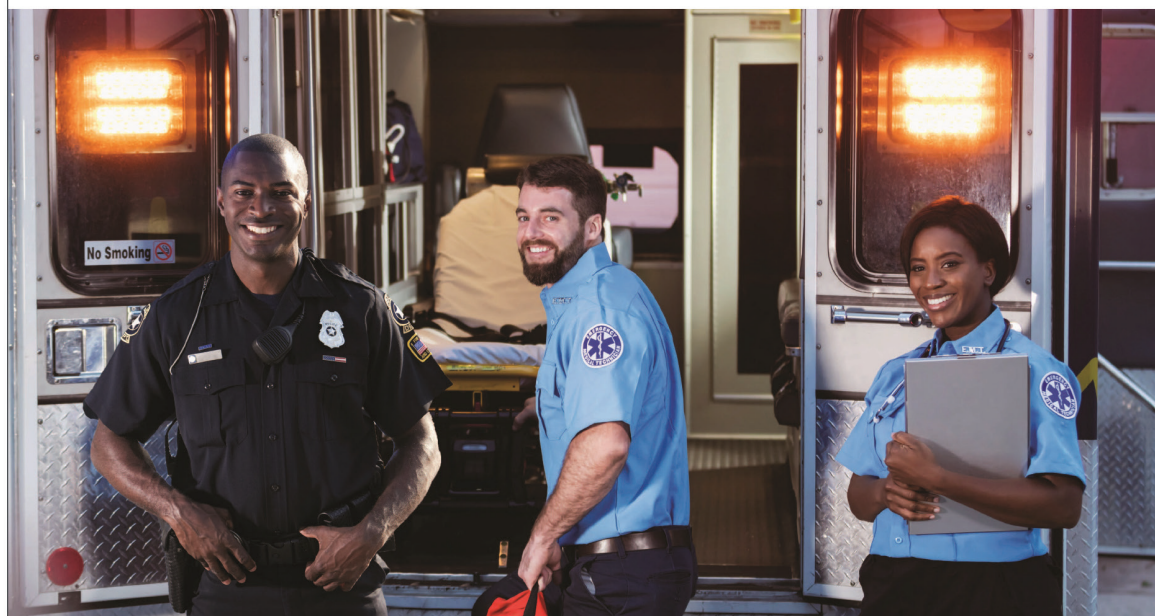
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