

Sheriff's Lifesaving Awards

Undersheriff:

Each awards ceremony we recognize the achievements of our corrections officers and sheriff's deputies who find themselves rendering emergency first aid or taking specific actions to save the life of someone in peril, at risk or in medical distress.

There have been water rescues, grasping suicidal persons off bridge railings, entering burning houses or cars, along with emergency first aid for a medical crisis or injury.

Not infrequently, the level of individual lifesaving effort rises above the criteria for this award, generally because of the degree of danger facing the deputy or officer for their own personal safety. This may raise the award level to a Medal of Courage or even a Medal of Valor.

This evening we wish to recognize 12 sheriff's personnel who, through their training, rendered appropriate lifesaving measures that resulted in the saving or prolonging of life.

You will notice a pattern here: the treatment of those who have sustained traumatic injury, and the rescue of those undergoing emotional or mental health crisis followed by the application of emergency first aid.

We train for it. It's what's expected of law enforcement professionals as first responders because more and more frequently we arrive prior to medical aid

or

we're dealing with a critical incident scene that's not secure for fire and EMS crews to enter.

We'll present the awards in two sections: patrol first, followed by corrections. As your name is called, please come to the stage and remain up here until your section is completed.

For brevity purposes we have reduced the amount of narrative details. This doesn't detract from the award, as the actions of all recipients reflect great credit upon themselves, their training and division, the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the law enforcement profession.

Undersheriff:

First off, from the Patrol Division:

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Deputy Sheriff Joe Ring

During the evening hours of Monday, Jan. 16th, 2017, Deputy Joe Ring was en route home shortly before the completion of his 10 hr., 40-minute shift.

With a few minutes remaining Joe swung his patrol vehicle into South Kitsap Regional Park for a quick patrol check of the 200 plus acres located at the northwest intersection of Lund and Jackson Avenues.

As Deputy Ring came upon a SUV parked to the north of the baseball batting cage, he observed a large hose attached to the vehicle's muffler and the other end inserted through the driver's side rear passenger door window. The window was rolled up and the interior of the SUV was fogged up.

The engine of the SUV was running. The 38-year-old male driver (and only occupant) was still conscious.

Seeing the patrol vehicle, the man reversed out of the parking stall and headed to the park's exit. Deputy Ring conducted a vehicle traffic stop.

Noting a bottle of alcohol inside the vehicle, coupled with the man's confirmation that he was waiting to die, the driver was taken into protective custody and transported to a hospital emergency room for mental health care.

This proactive patrol action while heading for the barn at end of watch likely saved the life of a person experiencing a mental health and emotional health crisis.

For his commendable proactive action, Sheriff Gary Simpson is pleased to present the Sheriff's Lifesaving Award to Deputy Joe Ring.

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Deputy Sheriff Steve Clarkson

Deputy Sheriff Brandon Myers

Deputy Sheriff Heather Wright

The early morning hours of Sunday, March 5th, 2017 found KCSO north county deputies dispatched to a burglary in progress at a house on State Highway 305 near Clearwater Casino.

While en route, the call was upgraded that gunshots had been fired by a female resident and a male suspect was wounded and down.

Deputies Steve Clarkson, Brandon Myers and Heather Wright arrived to find an unresponsive 28-year-old man on the front porch, having sustained two gunshot wounds.

Deputies assessed the man's injuries and rendered emergency first aid to the man's arm to reduce heavy bleeding by applying a tourniquet and direct pressure.

Continuing their assessment deputies found a bullet entry wound to the man's chest and an exit wound to his back.

The deputies used equipment contained in their Individual First Aid Trauma Kits to treat both wounds with a blood-clot forming compound, pack the wounds with gauze bandages, and maintain direct pressure on the injuries.

The wounded suspect was turned over into the care of North Kitsap Fire & Rescue medics and transported to a Tacoma area hospital. He was in critical condition.

If not for the immediate and appropriate actions rendered by sheriff's patrol deputies to control the bleeding, the suspect would not have survived.

For their meritorious actions in the field, Sheriff Gary Simpson is proud to present the Sheriff's Lifesaving Award to Deputy Steve Clarkson, Deputy Brandon Myers and Deputy Heather Wright.

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Deputy Sheriff Jason Hedstrom

Around dawn on Friday, July 7th, a CPR call was dispatched to the intersection of State Route 308 and Silverdale Way in Poulsbo. The victim was a 31-year-old female inside a vehicle. Deputy Jason Hedstrom was in the immediate vicinity.

Jason located the vehicle in a convenience store parking lot. He grabbed first aid supplies from his patrol vehicle and learned from a witness that the female was discharged recently from a rehabilitation center for heroin addiction.

Deputy Hedstrom also recognized multiple symptoms the woman presented as an overdose of opioids.

Jason administered one 4 mg dose of Narcan nasal spray (Naloxone) and initiated CPR chest compressions.

Deputy Hedstrom noted the presence of a loaded syringe of suspected black tar heroin in the center console of the car. Poulsbo Fire

Department medics arrived and continued emergency care.

The female patient began breathing on her own and regained consciousness. She was transported to an area hospital for further treatment.

This successful administration of Narcan was the first for the sheriff's office, since we underwent training in the use of Narcan and issuance of Narcan nasal sprays during in-service training four months earlier.

This patient is alive because of the quick, decisive actions of Deputy Jason Hedstrom.

For his quick thinking, recognition and appropriate response in providing aid to a person experiencing a lethal narcotic overdose, Sheriff Gary Simpson is pleased to present the Sheriff's Lifesaving Award to Deputy Jason Hedstrom.

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Deputy Sheriff Austin Hewitt

Deputy Sheriff Chris Mano

A vehicle vs. motorcycle collision on State Highway 16 during the late morning of Nov. 20th brought multiple agencies and personnel to the scene.

Among those were Deputies Austin Hewitt and Chris Mano who arrived prior to emergency crews from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue and Pierce County Fire Department.

The motorcyclist had been run over by three vehicles and was critically injured.

I would like to read a portion of an incident report as written by Fire Capt. Chuck Hislop, the South Kitsap Fire & Rescue incident commander:

“I would like to give recognition to a few who stood out of the crowd at this crash scene. When we arrived, the patient was lying on his back being tended by several persons.

“I noticed that the patient had tourniquets applied to both legs’ upper femoral area. His legs below the knees were mutilated. I later found out that this level of trauma care was provided by two Kitsap sheriff’s deputies.

“I strongly feel that if those deputies had not applied tourniquets from their personal trauma kits, the patient would have died right there. With a little research I was able to find the names of the deputies: Austin Hewitt #130 and Chris Mano #131.”

For their meritorious actions in the field, Sheriff Gary Simpson is proud to present the Sheriff’s Lifesaving Award to Deputy Austin Hewitt and Deputy Chris Mano.

Secondly, from the Corrections Division:

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Corrections Officer Greg Chavez

Corrections Sgt. Richard Fitzwater

Officer Greg Chavez was conducting a walk-through of the South A inmate housing unit around 10:35 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 17th.

Stopping at cell A-1 Officer Chavez observed the top of the female inmate's head leaning against the door as she was hanging from her mattress cover. The cover was held by being placed through a small space between the top of the cell door and the door frame.

Calling for back-up, Greg entered the cell which caused the patient to drop to the floor. After the mattress cover was removed, Sgt. Rich Fitzwater performed an assessment, realizing the inmate was unresponsive with no pulse or respirations.

CPR was initiated, and the AED was brought to the housing unit.

Chest compressions were continued until emergency medical crews arrived. The inmate ultimately was revived. She was transported to a local hospital for continued care.

For their quick thinking in the housing unit and rendering the appropriate level of emergency first aid, Sheriff Gary Simpson is pleased to present the Sheriff's Lifesaving Award to Officer Greg Chavez and Sgt. Rich Fitzwater.

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Corrections Officer Justin Nohrenberg

During a welfare check of the South Pod cell block on Monday, Dec. 18th, Officer Justin Nohrenberg peered into the medical holding cell but couldn't see the inmate through the cell door window.

Looking through a side window, he observed a male inmate seated underneath the ADA grab bar handrail with a mesh laundry bag tied around the railing and his neck.

The inmate's face was deep purple in color and there were other indications that the man's life was in extremis.

After calling for medical response, Officer Nohrenberg entered the cell and used his rescue knife to cut and release the mesh bag away from the railing and the inmate's head. After re-positioning the patient, Justin used a sternum rub to elicit a response from the man. There was none.

An assessment for CPR was being conducted when the man suddenly began to breath on his own. Medical aid arrived, provided care and transported the inmate to a local hospital for care.

For his quick response to a life threatening suicidal action, Sheriff Gary Simpson is pleased to present the Sheriff's Lifesaving Award to Officer Justin Nohrenberg.

Sheriff's Lifesaving Award:

Corrections Officer Jakob Cissney

Corrections Officer Jacynda Vallejo

On March 11th, 2018, the quick actions of Officers Jakob Cissney and Jacynda Vallejo saved the life of a jail inmate.

When alerted that the patient was hanging in a cell in the Central A housing unit, they entered and cut down the male who was trying to commit suicide by using his mattress cover attached to air vents.

The man was purple in color and not breathing.

Once the mattress cover was removed the inmate took a deep breath as he was lowered to the floor.

Once he regained consciousness the inmate became assaultive toward the officers. With backup assistance the inmate was brought under control.

For their quick action and ability to adapt from lifesaving efforts to fighting the same person, Sheriff Gary Simpson is pleased to the Sheriff's Lifesaving Award to Officer Jakob Cissney and Officer Jacynda Vallejo.