

MILWAUKEE

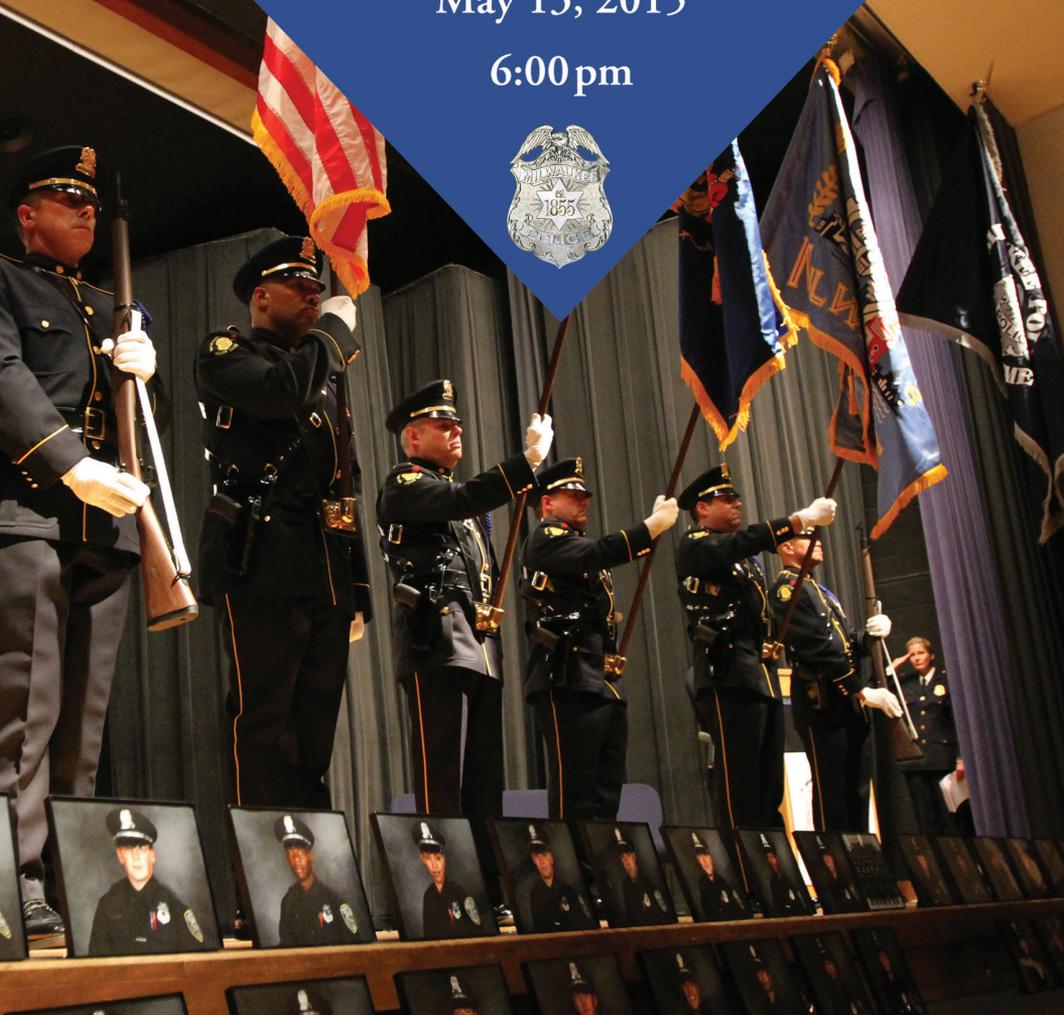
Police Department

Presents the

Merit Awards Ceremony

Wednesday
May 13, 2015

6:00 pm



Mission & Vision Statements

Mission

In partnership with the community,
we will create and maintain
neighborhoods capable
of sustaining civic life.
We commit to reducing
the levels of crime, fear and disorder
through community-based,
problem-oriented
and data-driven policing.

Vision

A Milwaukee where all can
live safely and without fear,
protected by a police department
with the highest ethical and
professional standards.



BE A FORCE

Milwaukee Police Department
749 West State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
www.milwaukee.gov/police

Edward A. Flynn
Chief of Police

May 13, 2015

Dear Family and Friends:

Welcome to the Merit Awards Ceremony.

Tonight we are honored to recognize those members who have demonstrated their dedication and commitment to the Milwaukee Police Department and the community they serve. We will also recognize individuals in our community who have courageously and unselfishly performed extraordinary acts to ensure the safety of others.

Thank you for joining us this evening as we continue the tradition of recognizing those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Please help us celebrate and congratulate these remarkable individuals whose actions contribute to our vision of a Milwaukee where all can live safely and without fear, protected by a police department with the highest ethical and professional standards.

To our award recipients, I commend you on a job well done.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Flynn
Chief of Police

Invited Guests

City of Milwaukee

Tom Barrett

Mayor

The Milwaukee Common Council

Michael J. Murphy

Common Council President

Ashanti Hamilton
1st District

Joe Davis, Sr.
2nd District

Nik Kovac
3rd District

Robert J. Bauman
4th District

James A. Bohl Jr.
5th District

Milele A. Coggs
6th District

Willie C. Wade
7th District

Robert G. Donovan
8th District

Robert W. Puente
9th District

Michael J. Murphy
10th District

Joseph A. Dudzik
11th District

Jose G. Perez
12th District

Terry L. Witkowski
13th District

Tony Zielinski
14th District

Russell W. Stamper II
15th District

Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission

Kathryn Hein
Commissioner

Sarah Morgan
Commissioner

Michael M. O'Hear
Commissioner

Ann Wilson
Commissioner

Marisabel Cabrera
Commissioner

Steven M. DeVougas
Commissioner

Other Invited Guests

Command Staff
Milwaukee Police Department

Milwaukee Police
Supervisors' Organization

John T. Chisholm
Milwaukee County
District Attorney

Milwaukee Police
Association

Family and
Friends

Merit Awards Program

Musical Prelude

Milwaukee Police Band
Police Lieutenant Karen M. Dubis
Director

Welcome

Deputy Inspector Terrence T. Gordon
Police Academy

Honor Guard and Presentation of Colors

Sergeant Gregg R. Duran
Sergeant Gregory D. Holley
Police Officer Peter A. Pfau
Police Officer Joel R. Rossmann
Police Officer Clifton L. Stephens
Police Officer Scott F. Thorne

National Anthem

Milwaukee Police Band

Remarks

Mayor Tom Barrett
City of Milwaukee

Remarks and Presentation

Police Chief Edward A. Flynn
Milwaukee Police Department

Master of Ceremonies

Kim Murphy
FOX 6 News

Award Classifications

Medal of Honor



The Medal of Honor is the highest award granted by the Milwaukee Police Department. It is awarded to a member for exceptional bravery at the imminent risk of life or serious bodily injury. The recipient has demonstrated exceptional courage by performing a voluntary action in an extremely dangerous situation. The act may involve situations where deadly force is used against an officer and the officer prevails or a rescue situation in which the risk of death or injury was substantial.

The Medal of Valor



Combat



Rescue

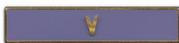
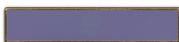
The Medal of Valor is presented to a member who has performed a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish himself/herself for gallantry and intrepidity. The act goes beyond normal demands and is of such a nature that the member was fully aware of the threat to his/her safety and acted above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of his/her own life.

Lifesaving



The Lifesaving Award is presented to a member who is directly responsible for saving a human life. A member is eligible to receive this award if his/her actions led to the prolonging of the life of a victim to the extent that the victim was released to professional medical care.

Purple Valor/Star



The Purple Valor/Purple Star Award is presented to a member who, in the line of duty, sustains any serious bodily injury or permanent disfigurement or permanent or protracted impairment of the function of any body member or organ or permanent or protracted impairment of health. A “V” device will signify combat-related serious bodily injury.

Award Classifications

Chief's Superior Leadership



The Chief's Superior Leadership Award is presented to a member at the discretion of the Chief of Police for leadership excellence in the performance of duty and/or honorable conduct and professionalism in pursuit of the Department's mission.

Distinguished Service



The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a member who has continuously distinguished himself/herself by exceptional service in the performance of his/her duties or great or unusual responsibility wherein he/she has displayed unusual responsibility and initiative, marked ability, keen observation and exceptional energy.

Excellence in Police Service



The Excellence in Police Service Award is presented to a member who makes a significant contribution, above and beyond the call of duty, to the community-service component of the Department's mission. The award recognizes those instances over a period of time wherein the member's diligence, teamwork, perseverance and problem-solving ability exemplifies the highest standards of community policing.

Meritorious Service



The Meritorious Service Award is presented to a member who makes a significant contribution to the mission of the Milwaukee Police Department above and beyond the normal call of duty. It recognizes those instances wherein a member's courage, resourcefulness, tenacity, diligence and/or perseverance in the line of duty goes beyond that which is normally expected of members in the protection of life or property, the prevention of a major crime or the apprehension of an armed and/or dangerous criminal.

Unit Service



The Unit Service Award is presented to a Departmental Unit whose actions through a combination of teamwork, diligence and perseverance is performed in an exemplary manner.

Award Recipients

District 1

Mr. David W. McLay Meritorious Conduct Award
Mr. O'Neal Stamps Meritorious Conduct Award

District 2

Police Officer Joseph M. Bauer Lifesaving
Police Officer Michael D. Kuykendall Lifesaving
Police Officer Douglas J. Lemke Lifesaving
Police Officer David L. Meyer Lifesaving
Police Officer John R. Tietjen Lifesaving
Sergeant Rebecca L. Carpenter Meritorious Service
Police Officer Ruben Cordova, Jr. Meritorious Service
Police Officer Kenneth J. Justus Meritorious Service
Police Officer Carlos M. Marquez-Santiago Meritorious Service
Police Officer Radivoje Pupovac Meritorious Service
Mr. Larry A. Horst Valorous Conduct Award
Mr. Armando Lopez-Perez Valorous Conduct Award
Ms. Francisca S. Rodriguez Valorous Conduct Award
Mr. Chad E. Shields Valorous Conduct Award
Mr. Robert G. Weiss Meritorious Conduct Award

District 3

Sergeant Raymond M. Hewitt Lifesaving
Police Officer Kyle L. Baus Lifesaving
Police Officer Stephen L. Dombrowski Lifesaving
Police Officer Troy L. Hopgood Purple Valor/Star
Police Officer Larry L. Leibsle Distinguished Service
Police Officer Stephanie C. Ramskugler Distinguished Service
Lieutenant M'Johno R. Foster Meritorious Service
Police Officer Tom D. Bognar Meritorious Service
Police Officer Jason A. DeWitt Meritorious Service
Police Officer Lafayette J. Emmons Meritorious Service
Police Officer Shirley F. Lewis Meritorious Service
Police Officer Joel P. Susler Meritorious Service
Mr. Demetrius L. Butler Meritorious Conduct Award
Mr. Christopher D. Gray Meritorious Conduct Award
Mr. Ankit Patel Meritorious Conduct Award
Mr. Natvarlal Patel Meritorious Conduct Award

Award Recipients

District 4

Police Officer Jason A. Chadwick Lifesaving
Police Officer Aja A. Chirpke Lifesaving
Police Officer James R. Klusmann Meritorious Service
Police Officer Zachary L. Sowin Meritorious Service
Ms. Antoinette S. McMillian Meritorious Conduct Award

District 5

Police Officer Michael L. Gasser Lifesaving
Police Officer George C. Simonson Lifesaving
Police Officer Richard R. Gordy Meritorious Service
Police Officer Brian D. Matte Meritorious Service
Police Officer Sarah A. Polka Meritorious Service
Police Officer Suzanne L. Szweda Meritorious Service

District 6

Police Officer Danilo Cardenas Meritorious Service
Mr. Joseph D. Brown Valorous Conduct Award
Mr. Paul A. Zientek Meritorious Conduct Award

District 7

Police Officer Matthew K. Dresen Lifesaving
Police Officer Brian C. Laroque Lifesaving

Central Booking and Court Administration

Police Officer Milford Adams Lifesaving
Police Officer David L. Claas Lifesaving
Police Officer Scott Davis Lifesaving

Central Investigations Division

Detective James A. Henner Medal of Valor - Combat
Detective Mitchell G. Ward Medal of Valor - Combat

Facilities Services Section

Custodial Worker II Joseph H. Smith Distinguished Service

Inspections Division

Police Officer Gregorie McKay Distinguished Service

Intelligence Fusion Center

Police Officer Brian P. Maciejewski Medal of Valor - Combat

Award Recipients

Neighborhood Task Force

Sergeant Andrew P. Tischer Meritorious Service

Office of Community Outreach and Education

Police Officer Ron C. Fohr Excellence In Police Service

Police Officer Nicole M. Miller Meritorious Service

Police Academy

Police Officer Eugene J. Reyes Distinguished Service

Police Officer Staci D. Steen Distinguished Service

Sensitive Crimes Division

Lieutenant Justin K. Carloni..... Excellence In Police Service

Detective Timothy S. Behning Excellence In Police Service

Detective Sarah C. Blomme Excellence In Police Service

Detective Tammy Tramel-McClain..... Excellence In Police Service

Police Officer Louise S. Bray Excellence In Police Service

Police Officer Trisha J. Klauser..... Excellence In Police Service

Police Officer Kevin D. Matte..... Excellence In Police Service

Police Officer Jolene A. Reyes Excellence In Police Service

Technical Communications

Telecommunicator Elisa M. Marquez Meritorious Service

Unit Service Award Recipients

City Wide Robbery Task Force

Police Lieutenants

William R. Beauchene Aaron G. Berken

Detectives

Shawn G. Halverson Shaun R. Lesniewski
Vanessa M. Harms Barbara J. O’Leary
John H. Ivy Anne M. Portnoy

Police Officers

Melissa A. Takacs Elgerrith Tucker

Crime Analyst Kyle D. McFatrige

FBI / MPD District Five Gang Task Force

Detectives

James A. Henner Mitchell G. Ward
Chad D. Vartanian

Police Officers

William R. Feely Gregory M. Kuspa
Daniel J. Keller Paul D. Martinez
Lori M. Kowalefski

FBI Special Agents

Jonathan Adkins Jill Drang
Richard Bilson Jason Soule
Robert Botsch

Intelligence Analyst Milwaukee District Attorney’s Office
Nicole Smith

Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney
Megan Williamson

Please join us in Room 182 for refreshments immediately following the program.

District One

Captain Leslie M. Thiele

Mr. David W. McLay and

Mr. O’Neal Stamps Meritorious Conduct Award

On November 3, 2014, a strong armed robbery occurred in the 500 block of West Michigan Street. Two women attacked the victim as she walked to her vehicle; one grabbed her around the neck and threw her to the ground and her accomplice tore away the woman’s purse. Both actors ran to a lower level of the parking structure. The victim ran after the suspects screaming for help.

Mr. McLay parked in the structure and heard a woman yelling for help as he exited his car. He immediately ran toward the cry for help and saw two women running with a purse. He also saw Mr. Stamps, who is a security guard for a nearby health insurance company, attempting to stop the women. The victim was not far behind calling out, “They hit me!” Working together, Mr. McLay and Mr. Stamps cornered and detained the suspects until police officers arrived.

While they were facing danger, Mr. McLay and Mr. Stamps ignored the risk to their own personal safety to come to the aid of a victim. For their bravery, determination and heroic actions in the face of these suspects, the Milwaukee Police Department recognizes both men with a Meritorious Conduct Award.

District Two

Captain Alfonso Morales

Police Sergeant Raymond M. Hewitt, Police Officers

Michael D. Kuykendall, Douglas J. Lemke, John R. Tietjen,

and David L. Meyer, Lifesaving Award

Ms. Francisca Rodriguez

and Mr. Chad Shields Valorous Conduct Award

On November 28, 2014, District Two squads responded to a subject threatening to jump from the 35th Street bridge. Officers arrived to find a woman standing on the outer railing of the bridge telling everyone that she was going to end her life. Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Shields saw the despondent woman, called the police, and attempted to talk her off of the ledge. The chaos of the scene was complicated by the buildup of ice along the bridge and the arrival of the woman’s family. Emotions were spiraling out of control until officers arrived to restore order.

Officers removed family members from the scene then blocked traffic to create a safe area. Mindful of the four-story drop to the ground, officers used de-escalation techniques to both calm and engage the suicidal woman. Then, Ms. Rodriguez who originally called, took the woman’s hand as they spoke. The officers, in a coordinated effort with each other, moved in quickly, pulled the woman to safety and worked to get her the mental health treatment she needed.

Due to their quick thinking, heroic actions, and determination, these officers and citizens prevented loss of life. Therefore, the citizens will receive a Valorous Conduct Award and the officers will receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Police Officer Joseph M. Bauer Lifesaving Award

On September 20, 2014, the wife of off-duty Police Officer Joseph Bauer called District Six with instructions from her husband; send the Milwaukee Fire Department to the 6200 block of South 3rd Street immediately. Officer Bauer was checking the welfare of an elderly neighbor whom he had not seen for several days. Mail had been piling up, and no one answered the door. Officer Bauer, who had been looking after the neighbor for some time, heard a faint cry for help from inside.

Just then, firefighters arrived and forced entry. Officer Bauer and the MFD located the elderly neighbor at the bottom of the stairs in a near lifeless state. There were definite signs that he was in the same position for several days. Paramedics stabilized the man’s breathing and transported him immediately to a nearby hospital. Medical first responders said that if they had not treated the subject at that moment, he would have likely died.

Officer Bauer, a known steward of his neighborhood and an officer who highly values human life, prevented the death of an elderly member of the community. Therefore, Officer Bauer shall receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

**Police Sergeant Rebecca Carpenter
Police Officers Carlos M. Marquez-Santiago and
Radivoje Pupovac Meritorious Service Award**

On March 7, 2015, Sergeant Carpenter, Police Officers Marquez-Santiago and Pupovac responded to a house fire in the 2200 block of West Forest Home Avenue. The officers were greeted by a horrifying sight; flames engulfed the entire front porch, blocking all access to the front door. It was after 3 a.m., and no one had exited from the locked residence. The rapidly spreading fire climbed to the second floor and would soon overwhelm the house. Officers pounded on windows and shouted to alert anyone inside the house, but there was no response. They ran to the rear of the building to force open the door.

Fearful for the safety of the occupants of the building, these officers entered the structure and split up to find and evacuate residents. While the fire raged at the front of the building, all of the officers worked together in the thick, choking smoke to locate and move eight citizens to safety. Once the two families were outside, officers placed them in warm squad cars. The Milwaukee Fire Department arrived, successfully battled the blaze, and thankfully no one was injured.

Without regard for their own personal safety, Sergeant Carpenter, Police Officers Marquez-Santiago and Pupovac demonstrated great courage, tenacity, and perseverance when confronted with a dangerous and life-threatening situation.

Police Officers Ruben Cordova, Jr. and Kenneth J. Justus Meritorious Service Award

On November 23, 2014, a pedestrian was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver at the 900 block of South Cesar Chavez Drive. Officers Cordova and Justus immediately responded to the scene to gather information on the suspect vehicle and driver. Mindful that the driver was likely still in the area, the officers interviewed witnesses to gather a brief description of the striking vehicle and operator, then immediately began to search for the car and driver.

In less than 16 minutes after the pedestrian was struck, and a few blocks from the scene, Officers Cordova and Justus located and arrested the driver in the striking vehicle. The suspect was subsequently charged by the District Attorney’s Office with homicide by use of a vehicle with prohibited blood alcohol concentration.

Officers Cordova and Justus’ resourcefulness, diligence, keen observations, and dedication to the community serve as an example of excellence for the Milwaukee Police Department.

Mr. Larry A. Horst and Mr. Armando Lopez-Perez Valorous Conduct Award

On December 20, 2014, Mr. Larry Horst was inside his residence when he noticed smoke coming from the house behind his in the 1600 block of South 22nd Street. He immediately called 911 to report the fire, and then ran outside to render aid to the family.

Mr. Horst saw Mr. Armando Lopez-Perez exit the rear of the home carrying a crying seven-year-old child, covered with dark soot. He could hear another child crying inside and rushed into the burning home to locate the victim. The heavy smoke drove him back outside, where he took a deep breath and re-entered the home on his hands and knees. Mr. Horst crawled into the residence from the back entrance, but was unable to hear the child any longer.

Since he wasn’t familiar with the layout of the home, he didn’t have a clue where the child might be. Mr. Horst left to get another breath of fresh air. The Milwaukee Fire Department arrived and immediately took action.

Mr. Horst and Mr. Armando Lopez-Perez used quick thinking by notifying the Fire Department before rendering aid and an incredible amount of bravery by entering a burning home. Mr. Larry A. Horst and Mr. Armando Lopez-Perez are, therefore, presented with Valorous Conduct Awards.

District Two

Captain Alfonso Morales

Mr. Robert G. Weiss Meritorious Conduct Award

On December 3, 2014, Robert G. Weiss was robbed in his place of business by a subject who said he had a gun. As the subject attempted to leave with money taken from the register, Mr. Weiss grabbed him. The suspect struck Mr. Weiss in the head several times while employees called 911. The suspect fled in a vehicle with two other accomplices. Mr. Weiss, though injured and in pain, followed and obtained the vehicle description and license plate. Thanks to this information, Milwaukee Police were able to apprehend all three suspects, who were linked to at least four other robberies throughout Milwaukee and West Milwaukee. For his quick thinking and reaction, despite being injured, the Milwaukee Police Department recognizes Robert G. Weiss with a Meritorious Conduct Award.

District Three

Captain Jason A. Smith

Police Officers Kyle L. Baus and Stephen L. Dombrowski Lifesaving Award

On December 3, 2014, Officers Baus and Dombrowski responded to the 1900 block of West Wells Street in search of a man who called 911 to report he was suicidal. The mentally ill caller said that he had stopped taking his medication and had lost all hope, but hung up before he gave his specific address. The officers met with Milwaukee Fire Department personnel in the area. They, too, had received a call, but after searching for several minutes, could not find the subject and stopped their search.

Officers Baus and Dombrowski decided to carefully re-check the area for the suicidal man. In a somewhat secluded corner of the 1900 block of West Wells Street, the officers found the subject hanging from a tree. The caller had fashioned a noose and was suspended from a branch, his toes barely touching the ground. As he gasped for air, the officers sprang into action. While Officer Dombrowski lifted the man’s near-lifeless body, Officer Baus cut the rope; together they lowered the subject to the ground, summoned medical transport, and ensured the victim received the medical and mental health treatment he needed.

Officers Baus and Dombrowski’s perseverance, quick thinking, and determination prevented loss of life. Therefore, they shall receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Police Officer Troy L. Hopgood Purple Valor/Star

On Monday, June 16, 2014, Police Officer Troy L. Hopgood responded to a call in the 2600 block of North 40th Street to assist officers with a violent and emotionally disturbed subject. The subject was safely taken into custody and needed transport to Milwaukee County Mental Health for evaluation. Due to the subject’s emotional state at the time, PO Hopgood selflessly volunteered to accompany the subject in the back of the patrol wagon during transport to Milwaukee County Mental Health to ensure the subjects’ safety and well-being.

However, the trip was brutally interrupted by a speeding stolen auto that slammed into the patrol wagon. Officer Hopgood's head was thrown into the steel surfaces of the passenger compartment. His injuries are a horrific and painful list; he sustained twelve fractures to the bones of his face, neck, and upper torso, his jaw was dislocated, and his nose was broken. Officer Hopgood has undergone numerous surgeries to rebuild his face, but still suffers from headaches, bouts of dizziness, blurred vision, and fatigue.

Police Officer Hopgood's attitude and determination to return to full duty status is a reflection of his professionalism as a Milwaukee Police officer and his dedication to the City of Milwaukee. For extensive injuries suffered in the line of duty, Police Officer Troy L. Hopgood is recognized with this Purple Valor Award.

**Police Officers Larry L. Leibsle
and Stephanie C. Ramskugler Distinguished Service Award**

In April of 2011, Officers Leibsle and Ramskugler were at the Eagles Club, a live music venue on Wisconsin Avenue, for a complaint of a \$228 ticket order purchased with a bogus credit card. Coincidentally, the fraudster showed up while the officers were at the scene. That first arrest led to the discovery of a nationwide criminal network using more than 3,800 stolen credit cards. In one of many schemes, conspirators used stolen information to buy tickets to sporting events and concerts throughout the country, then "scalped" the tickets.

Officers Leibsle and Ramskugler participated in all aspects of the case in cooperation with the United States Secret Service. They submitted approximately 100 subpoenas and search warrants, obtained reports from jurisdictions across the United States, and participated in weekly conference calls with major companies to discuss recent fraud cases. Multiple suspects were identified through surveillance, undercover operations, and other methods of investigation.

Thanks to the efforts of these officers, a federal grand jury returned a 33-count indictment charging 10 defendants, which included a conspiracy to make more than \$1.7 million in fraudulent transactions. In conjunction with the Secret Service, Officers Leibsle and Ramskugler performed an extraordinarily focused and productive long-term investigation.

They made a significant contribution to public safety and to the community they serve, through their extraordinary diligence, creativity, and teamwork. Police Officers Larry L. Leibsle and Stephanie C. Ramskugler, therefore, are awarded Distinguished Service Awards.

Police Lieutenant M’Johno R. Foster ... Meritorious Service Award

On February 23, 2015, Lieutenant Foster was inside his residence preparing to leave for his late shift tour of duty. He was speaking on the phone with his wife, Monique, who is a police officer in the Technical Communications Division. The two regularly talk on the phone as he is leaving. He pulls out of the garage and watches her pull in and close the door, which assures the lieutenant that his wife is safe.

Lieutenant Foster’s wife told him she was just getting home. He watched her pull to the curb and talked to her about her day when he heard two voices yell, “Get out, Get out! Let’s Go! GET OUT!” She yelled a reply that she “had to get her seatbelt off.” Lieutenant Foster immediately knew his wife was being carjacked. He also realized she was being compliant, which caused him to believe the suspects may be armed.

Lieutenant Foster retrieved his off-duty weapon from the center console of his vehicle, but remained concealed until he was sure his wife was safe. Her car door opened and he saw his wife run free. Lieutenant Foster identified himself as he moved towards the suspects. One suspect had entered his wife’s car but quickly exited. The suspect had what appeared to be a firearm in his right hand. Fearing for his life, Lieutenant Foster discharged his weapon twice at the suspect, causing him to flee. The second suspect fled in a nearby car. Both suspects were later apprehended.

Lieutenant Foster exhibited courage, restraint, as well as patient determination in confronting two armed robbery suspects. Lieutenant M’Johno R. Foster is, therefore, awarded a Meritorious Service Award.

Police Officers Tom D. Bogнар, Lafayette J. Emmons and Shirley F. Lewis Meritorious Service Award

On January 23, 2015, Officer Bogнар, Emmons and Lewis responded to a battery cutting in progress in the 400 block of North 39th Street. The dispatcher informed officers that the caller’s boyfriend - and father of her children - was suicidal and had just stabbed several people in the home.

When they arrived, officers heard screams for help. Placing the lives of the potential victims inside of the home before their own, the officers forced the door to the residence, tactically entered, and found two homicide victims on a blood-soaked floor. The caller was still alive but injured, and the suspect was barricaded inside of the bathroom.

Showing great restraint and bravery, Officers Bogнар, Emmons and Lewis used professional communication skills and tactics to take the barricaded suspect into custody. The officers also attended to the injuries sustained to the caller.

Due to their quick, deliberate, and heroic actions, they saved the life of a domestic violence victim. Their commitment to place the lives of the citizens of Milwaukee before their own in the performance of their duties is exemplary of all members of the Milwaukee Police Department. Police Officers Bognar, Emmons and Lewis are, therefore, recognized with this Meritorious Service Award.

Police Officers Jason A. Dewitt and Joel P. Susler Meritorious Service Award

On December 29, 2014, a suspect armed with a handgun robbed a local credit union located in the 1000 block of North Water Street. Information on the suspect was very limited and the case remained unsolved.

Police Officers Dewitt and Susler, through meticulous investigation, were able to develop a suspect after receiving a nickname from a confidential informant. Their investigation revealed this suspect was involved in numerous violent armed robbery offenses throughout southeastern Wisconsin; one of the robberies resulted in the homicide of a store clerk in Waukesha County. A search warrant was drafted.

On January 14, 2015, Officers Dewitt and Susler, along with other law enforcement agencies, conducted a search warrant in the 5800 block of West Washington Street. The suspect was located in the residence with evidence from seven armed robberies and the pistol used in the homicide.

Officers Dewitt and Susler displayed diligence, extended effort and extraordinary commitment to capturing a dangerous felon, exemplifying the professionalism of Milwaukee Police Department members. They are, therefore, being given a Meritorious Service award.

Mr. Demetrius L. Butler Meritorious Conduct Award

On March 12, 2014, Mr. Butler was working at a grocery store on North 27th Street. He observed a man and a woman enter an apartment building next door, followed shortly thereafter by a maintenance man. Mr. Butler heard a loud argument from the apartment building. Instantly, he ran into the building and saw the maintenance man being held from behind by the male subject while the female beat his head, face, arms and legs with a stick.

Mr. Butler recorded the event with his cell phone while shouting for the attackers to stop. The victim was eventually able to break free from his attackers, but did sustain injuries. Mr. Butler called 911 immediately and remained with the victim until police and detectives arrived.

Due to his quick response and intervention to protect a fellow citizen during a violent attack, Mr. Butler is being given a Meritorious Conduct Award.

Mr. Christopher D. Gray Meritorious Conduct Award

On December 18, 2014, Mr. Gray observed four male subjects carrying a 55-inch television set and a DVD player down an alley. He immediately took pictures with his cell phone and watched the subjects walk into a residence with the items. Mr. Gray immediately went to the Third District and reported the suspected burglary, which enabled officers to send squads directly to the suspected burglars. As a result of Mr. Gray’s quick actions and detailed information provided to law enforcement, all five suspects confessed to their crime and stolen property was recovered.

Mr. Gray is receiving a Meritorious Conduct Award for his courage in obtaining photo images of a burglary in progress. In addition, the information he readily provided enabled the police to remove these criminals from the community and hold them accountable for their crime.

Mr. Ankit Patel

and Mr. Natvarlal Patel Meritorious Conduct Award

On January 5, 2015, a suspect entered a restaurant on North 35th Street and West North Avenue to commit an armed robbery. The suspect displayed a handgun, jumped over the counter, and announced the robbery. Natvarlal Patel and his father, Ankit, were both working the breakfast shift. They feared for the safety of the customers, the other employees, and themselves. Natvarlal and his father immediately attacked the suspect, who was armed with a pistol. A second suspect entered and attempted to free the first, but Natvarlal and Ankit were resolute and would not give up the fight. The second suspect quickly fled the scene. Father and son continued to resist for several minutes until police officers arrived and arrested the suspect.

For intrepid bravery and tenacious determination to stop an armed robbery, the Milwaukee Police Department honors Mr. Ankit Patel and his son, Mr. Natvarlal Patel, with Meritorious Conduct Awards.

Police Officers Jason A. Chadwick

and Aja A. Chirpke Lifesaving Award

On October 9, 2014, the call came over the radio for a shooting in the 8900 block of North 95th Street. As is the case with most shootings, there were very few facts for responding officers; someone had fired a gun multiple times, there was screaming, and now a woman was lying on the ground bleeding.

District Four squads rushed to the area, but it was Officers Chadwick and Chirpke who found the victim face down and bleeding very badly from a serious gunshot wound to her pelvis.

Using his first responder skills, Officer Chadwick rolled the victim over to assess her condition and determined she was barely conscious and losing blood at an alarming rate. Officers Chirpke and Chadwick applied direct pressure to slow the victim's bleeding while providing reassurance to the victim as she struggled to stay conscious. Officer Chadwick's interview established that an armed robber had shot her. Both officers monitored her vital signs and continued lifesaving measures until paramedics took over treatment and transported the victim to surgery at Froedtert Hospital.

Officer Chadwick and Chirpke's quick thinking, heroic actions, and determination prevented loss of life. They are recognized with a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Police Officer James R. Klusmann..... Meritorious Service Award

On January 10, 2015, Officer Klusmann and his partner, with another two-officer squad, checked for a wanted subject in the 6300 block of N. 91st Street. When officers entered the second floor hallway of the apartment building, they saw two subjects, but only briefly; the two men ran through the building when they saw police. As Officer Klusmann raced outside to the rear of the building, he saw the dangerous felon whom he was seeking, but now the suspect had a gun in his hand.

Officer Klusmann quickly found cover and yelled commands for the armed man to surrender. The suspect locked eyes with Officer Klusmann then concealed himself behind a car and out of sight. Officer Klusmann braced for a possible gunfight.

Moments later, the subject fled from behind the auto and Officer Klusmann gave chase, eventually taking him into custody and placing him in handcuffs. The officer quickly determined the suspect was no longer in possession of the firearm. Fearing for the safety of the children that live and play in the area, a search ensued and eventually the loaded and still warm .38 special revolver was found in the snow. A serial number check revealed the handgun was stolen.

Officer Klusmann demonstrated courage, diligence and extraordinary restraint in his efforts to apprehend a dangerous wanted subject armed with a handgun. Police Officer James R. Klusmann is, therefore, recognized with this Meritorious Service Award.

Police Officer Zachary L. Sowin..... Meritorious Service Award

Ms. Antoinette S. McMillian Meritorious Conduct Award

On January 1, 2015, a suicidal woman scaled a fence to jump from the bridge at North 107th Street and West Silver Spring Drive. Ms. McMillian ran to the bridge and grabbed her. Off-duty Officer Sowin was in the area and got out of his car to help. During the negotiations, the distraught woman let go of the railing and started to fall.

District Four

Captain Victor E. Beecher

Ms. McMillian strengthened her grip on the woman and convinced her to hold on to the fencing. Once off the bridge, the subject fled on foot and Officer Sowin chased after her for six blocks before taking her into custody. With disregard for her own safety, Ms. McMillian showed great courage in preventing a suicide and Officer Sowin showed courage and quick thinking to get assistance for a suicidal subject. Therefore, Ms. McMillian will receive a Meritorious Conduct Award and Officer Sowin will receive a Meritorious Service Award.

District Five

Captain Thomas G. Stigler

Police Officers Michael L. Gasser and George C. Simonson Lifesaving Award

On August 13, 2014, Officers Gasser and Simonson responded to a shooting, locating a victim on the front porch of a residence in the 3000 block of North 22nd Street. Not yet sure the scene was safe and potentially in the line of fire, officers immediately began to administer medical assistance. The gunshot wound on the victim’s thigh was bleeding profusely, and officers realized that the bullet had damaged a blood vessel. Time was crucial, as the serious wound meant the victim would soon bleed out and die.

Using the training they received, the officers applied a department-issued tourniquet to the victim’s upper right thigh to staunch the bleeding. By the time Milwaukee Fire Department personnel arrived, the officers had stabilized the victim. MFD provided further treatment and then transported the victim to Froedtert Hospital.

Officers Gasser and Simonson’s quick thinking, heroic actions, and determination saved the life of a gunshot victim. They shall, therefore, receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Police Officers Richard R. Gordy and Suzanne L. Szweda Meritorious Service Award

On Monday, December 1, 2014, Police Officers Richard Gordy and Suzanne L. Szweda responded to the 3200 block of North Richards Street to check the welfare of the residents in the home. As the officers approached the rear of the residence, they found the doors open and heard loud music coming from the interior. As they walked closer to the open doorway, a rapidly approaching and unusual sound alerted them to the presence of a potential threat, causing them to back away and down the steps into the yard.

As they disengaged, a man in an obvious state of mental distress approached them rapidly with a raised butcher knife. Taking the man’s apparent mental state into account, the officers continued to disengage, creating distance between themselves and the armed and agitated man.

District Five

Captain Thomas G. Stigler

At this point, Officers Gordy and Szweda, realized that the use of deadly force would have been appropriate to stop the actions of the man, who was still armed with a butcher knife raised in a threatening manner and yelling for them to kill him. With guns drawn as the man continued to approach, the officers continued to disengage, creating distance, time, and options other than deadly force to resolve the situation. Officers Gordy and Szweda understood that it was the man’s state of mental distress rather than a rational intent to harm them, and used professional communication skills and demonstrated tremendous restraint, eventually convincing him to drop the knife. The man was arrested without further incident, and the subsequent investigation revealed two homicide victims inside the residence from which he had emerged.

Officers Gordy and Szweda’s quick actions and professionalism, demonstrated the highest level of restraint. These officers shall, therefore, receive a Meritorious Service Award.

Police Officers Brian D. Matte and Sarah H. Polka Meritorious Service Award

On July 5, 2013, Milwaukee police investigated a battery-domestic violence. Before police could locate the suspect and take him into custody, he returned to the victim’s residence with his sister to confront the victim and her family. The suspect’s sister was armed with a pistol and attempted to shoot at the house while the victim’s family was standing outside. Fortunately, the weapon jammed, which allowed the family time to seek cover inside of the house. Once the weapon malfunction was cleared, the female suspect fired six rounds into the home, which was occupied by children and a baby. Thankfully, no one was injured in this violent incident.

While the male suspect in this offense was quickly taken into custody, Officers Matte and Polk worked diligently to identify the female suspect and take her into custody as well. The officers ensured evidence was processed, interviewed witnesses and showed photos until the female suspect was identified and in custody. The suspect pled guilty to several felonies and is currently incarcerated.

The fortitude and determination of Officers Matte and Polka not only ensured the successful prosecution of this dangerous criminal, but also makes the streets of Milwaukee safer for all who live, visit, and work here. Police Officers Brian D. Matte and Sarah H. Polka are, therefore, presented with a Meritorious Service Award.

District Six

Captain Diana Rowe

Police Officer Danilo Cardenas Meritorious Service Award

On October 14, 2014, while assigned to the Sensitive Crimes Division, Officer Cardenas was off-duty, in plain clothes and driving his personal vehicle in the 200 block of West Holt Avenue in District Six. He observed several citizens chasing a subject on a bicycle west bound on West Holt Avenue.

As Officer Cardenas passed the scene, he noted that the subject was masked, causing him to believe the subject may have recently committed a crime. The citizens were quickly falling behind and Officer Cardenas was compelled to take action.

Officer Cardenas followed the suspect, called dispatch and directed responding squads directly to the suspect. He assisted officers in the apprehension of the suspect, who had discarded the bike and was attempting to flee on foot.

Subsequent investigation revealed that the suspect had committed a bank robbery. The suspect was found with the proceeds of the robbery when he was arrested. He was later charged with two counts of robbery.

Due to Officer Cardenas' keen observation, prompt reaction, and clear communication with the Technical Communications Division, officers apprehended a robbery suspect. Officer Cardenas demonstrated determination, perseverance, and quick thinking in the presence of a fleeing felon and is, therefore, recognized with a Meritorious Service Award.

Mr. Joseph D. Brown Valorous Conduct Award

On September 17, 2014, Mr. Brown, a student at Ronald Reagan High School, saw a nine-year-old child get off of a school bus and cross the 5100 block of South 14th Street. A motorist failed to stop at the intersection despite a stop sign, struck the child, and dragged him underneath the car. Mr. Brown ran to the vehicle and told the driver to stop because a child was underneath the car. Although the child sustained serious injuries, he is alive thanks to the quick reaction of Mr. Brown.

For his quick thinking and reaction to an unfolding emergency, the Milwaukee Police Department recognizes Joseph D. Brown with a Valorous Conduct Award.

Mr. Paul A. Zientek Meritorious Conduct Award

On November 10, 2014, retired Milwaukee Police Officer Mr. Paul A. Zientek was driving in the 3400 block of South 35th Street. He saw two subjects running across the street directly in front of his vehicle, chased by a distressed female. Mr. Zientek immediately stopped his car and questioned the woman, who told him she caught the subjects breaking into her home, and when she confronted them, they ran. Without delay, Mr. Zientek pursued the subjects on foot for several blocks, caught one suspect and detained him until police arrived. Investigating officers verified the suspects burglarized the woman's home. The second suspect was identified and later arrested.

Mr. Zientek put aside his own safety in pursuit of two burglary suspects. As a result, two suspects were apprehended and held accountable for their actions. Mr. Zientek is receiving a Meritorious Conduct Award by the Milwaukee Police Department for his courageous acts in his pursuit of a criminal.

Police Officer Matthew K. Dresen Lifesaving Award

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, Officer Matthew K. Dresen and his partners witnessed a vehicle accident in the 6400 block of West Congress Street. Officer Dresen immediately positioned his squad in the intersection to block oncoming traffic, then he and his partner assessed the accident victims.

Officer Dresen’s partner recognized that a two-year old child in the back seat of one of the cars had stopped breathing and was in distress. Officer Dresen ordered MFD personnel to “step up” their response. With the assistance of his partner, Officer Dresen removed the child from the car and provided approximately two cycles of CPR before MFD personnel arrived and continued life-saving measures, transporting the victim to Children’s Hospital for medical care.

Officer Dresen’s quick thinking, heroic actions, and determination prevented immediate loss of life. Officer Matthew K. Dresen shall, therefore, receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Police Officer Brian C. Laroque Lifesaving Award

On December 18, 2014, Officer Laroque responded to a shooting in the 4000 block of West Fond du Lac Avenue. Upon arrival, Officer Laroque observed a 22-year-old male victim lying on the parking lot near the entrance of a tavern. Officer Laroque recognized that the victim was in need of immediate medical attention. Blood was pouring from the gun shot wounds in the victim’s abdomen and thighs, and the officer realized the injuries would be fatal if he did not receive immediate treatment.

Medical personnel had yet to arrive, so Officer Laroque applied tourniquets to both of the victim’s legs to stop the heavy bleeding. He elevated the victim’s legs to control blood loss and prevent the victim from going into shock. Milwaukee Fire Department personnel arrived, assumed medical care of the victim, and conveyed him to Froedtert Hospital. Surgeons repaired the serious femoral artery damage that would have been fatal without Officer Laroque’s intervention.

Under high stress, Officer Laroque remained calm and focused when he applied tourniquets to potentially life-threatening wounds. These acts reveal a commitment by Officer Laroque to the highest principles of law enforcement in service to the community. Police Officer Brian C. Laroque shall, therefore, receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Central Booking and Court Administration Section

Lieutenant Phillip Henschel

Police Officer Milford Adams Lifesaving Award

On October 25, 2014, Officer Adams was off duty and having dinner at a restaurant in the Chicago area. A nearby woman fell unconscious, striking her head as she collapsed. Panicked bystanders tried to wake her, but she was unresponsive. Officer Adams ran to the commotion and found an off-duty nurse performing a medical assessment on the unconscious woman.

Officer Adams and the nurse discovered the woman had no pulse. Bystanders called for emergency medical service as Officer Adams and the nurse began two-person CPR. After two cycles of chest compressions and breaths, they reassessed for signs of life. However, the woman’s heart had not restarted, so Officer Adams and the nurse attached an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. The AED analyzed the woman’s cardiovascular rhythm and delivered a series of shocks to restart her heart.

Officer Adams and the nurse continued CPR until paramedics arrived and took over. The victim was transported to a hospital where she was treated and made a full recovery.

Officer Adams acted quickly and heroically, applying a trained technique to save a woman’s life. Officer Milford Adams shall, therefore, receive a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Police Officers David L. Claas and Scott R. Davis Lifesaving Award

On October 8, 2014, a Milwaukee Police Department employee was eating lunch at work and began to choke on food that had lodged in his throat. Police Officer David Claas, noticed the “universal choking” sign when his coworker stood up and put his hands to his throat. Officer Claas took control and administered several Heimlich maneuver thrusts, however, the food remained stubbornly lodged in his coworker’s throat.

Officer Davis was nearby watching as Officer Claas worked to save the life of his coworker. As the food continued to remain lodged, Officer Davis immediately stepped in, wrapped his arms around the choking man, and delivered multiple abdominal thrusts to dislodge the food. The man started breathing again, paramedics took him for medical treatment, and he made a full recovery, thanks to both officers.

Officers Claas and Davis’ relentless application of the Heimlich maneuver prevented a loss of life. Police Officer David L. Claas and Scott R. Davis are, therefore, recognized with a Lifesaving Award and one merit day off to be taken in 2015.

Detectives James A. Henner

and Mitchell G. Ward Medal Of Valor

Detectives Henner and Ward were investigating the criminal activities of the “29 Taliban” street gang in the summer of 2014. Several non-fatal shootings and at least five homicides involved known “29 Taliban” members or associates. A confidential source gave the detectives the name of one of the founders of the street gang, telling detectives that he was involved in a recent shooting.

On June 19, 2014, Detectives Henner and Ward spotted a car with a criminal associate of their suspect. The detectives followed, hoping to be led to the gang leader. Before they could perform a formal traffic stop, the driver pulled over, stepped out and fired round after round at the detectives. A volley of shots struck the car before Detectives Henner and Ward could react. Later examination of their auto revealed that one bullet passed through the driver’s door and ricocheted off Detective Henner’s right shoe heel.

The detectives exchanged gunfire with the suspect, then chased him on foot. When they lost sight of the suspect, they returned to the crime scene. The shooter, however, knew his fate; rather than risk another gun battle, he turned himself in to police. Detective Ward recovered the suspect’s gun in a nearby yard.

Detectives Henner and Ward demonstrated extraordinary calm and courage under fire, acting above and beyond the call of duty by putting themselves in peril as they pursued and ultimately helped capture a violent and homicidal associate of the “29 Taliban” street gang. Detectives James A. Henner and Mitchell G. Ward are, therefore, awarded a Medal of Valor Combat Award and three merit days off to be taken in 2015.

Custodial Worker II Joseph H. Smith Distinguished Service Award

On July 24, 2014, members of the Inspections Division conducted an on-site inspection of District Six. The Inspections Standards for appearance, maintenance and cleanliness at every work location in the Milwaukee Police Department is very high. District Six exceeded the standard set forth for each category due to the effort and leadership put forward by Custodial Worker II Joseph Smith.

Custodial Worker II Joseph Smith has gone beyond the duties of his job and created a higher standard for job performance. Joseph Smith, is therefore, awarded a Distinguished Service Award.

Police Officer Gregorie McKay Distinguished Service Award

Anyone who has spent time with Officer McKay will tell you stories of his warmth, humor, passion, and dedication. He is someone who was born to teach.

Inspections Division

Captain Paul Felician

From 2006 to 2014, Officer McKay helped create hundreds of new police officers with an uncompromising mission: to transform the bodies and minds of individuals into Milwaukee's Finest.

As an instructor, he made it a priority to connect with all of his students and instill the core values of the department. To form their intellectual and moral character, Officer McKay fed the minds of recruits as a lead instructor of Professional Communication Skills, Community Resources, Problem-Based Learning, Ethics, Crisis Management, Fitness and Wellness, Defense and Arrest Tactics, and Emergency Vehicle Operation.

To strengthen their bodies and keep them safe on the street, Officer McKay transformed the Milwaukee Police Academy physical fitness regimen into a model for all officers in the state. Even though he has moved on to a position in the Inspection Division, the Officer McKay- designed "nice light workouts" continue to push recruits to build muscle and stamina.

Officer McKay has always understood that well-trained officers make neighborhoods and communities safer. His daily contributions, his sound leadership, and extraordinary dedication exemplify the very best of what it means to be a Milwaukee police instructor. Police Officer Gregorie McKay is, therefore, recognized with a Distinguished Service Award.

Intelligence Fusion Center

Captain David Salazar

Police Officer Brian P. Maciejewski Medal Of Valor Combat

On January, 29, 2014, Officer Maciejewski and his partner responded to an armed robbery and observed a man matching the suspect's description in the area. Without hesitation, Officer Maciejewski exited the squad car and pursued the subject, who he presumed to have been armed with a firearm. During the foot pursuit, Officer Maciejewski observed the subject grasp at his waistband several times, which is a common behavior of armed offenders. Undeterred, the officer courageously continued the foot pursuit and caught up to the suspect in a back yard.

Upon confronting the potentially armed offender, Officer Maciejewski issued verbal commands for the subject to surrender, which the man refused. As the officer attempted to take him into custody, the subject physically resisted and actively fought. During the struggle on the ground, the subject again grasped at an object in his waistband. Officer Maciejewski grabbed the suspect's hand and the object, realizing with certainty that it was a handgun. At this point, Officer Maciejewski disengaged and drew his service weapon. At the same time, the suspect, still reaching for the .45 caliber handgun at his waist, turned toward the officer. In close proximity, with no option to further disengage or seek cover, Officer Maciejewski fired three rounds from his weapon to stop the subject's actions. The suspect's loaded .45 caliber handgun, which was stolen from another state, was recovered at the scene.

Intelligence Fusion Center

Captain David Salazar

Officer Maciejewski's extraordinary courage, determination and decisive actions saved his life and the lives of other officers. Officer Brian Maciejewski shall, therefore, receive a Medal of Valor Combat Award and three merit days off to be taken in 2015.

Neighborhood Task Force

Captain Gary J. Gacek

Police Sergeant Andrew P. Tischer Meritorious Service Award

On January 13, 2015, Sergeant Tischer was in the area of North 91st Street and West Carmen. He observed a late 90's Saturn speeding north on North 91st Street with its lights off, a strong sign that the car was involved in criminal activity. Moments later, dispatchers broadcast a shooting near North 91st Street, near where Sergeant Tischer last saw the vehicle. Sergeant Tischer provided the vehicle information to the detectives investigating what soon became a homicide. Detectives arrested one suspect, but they weren't sure if they had the actual shooter or an accomplice.

Less than 30 hours later, Sergeant Tischer came upon a four-door 1997 Saturn in the 4400 block of North 64th Street, which matched the car he had seen shortly after the shooting. Sergeant Tischer patiently watched the suspect walk to the car and back to the house multiple times. When the suspect left the house again and saw Sergeant Tischer, he immediately ran back inside.

The suspect's mother, untruthful at first, eventually told officers that her son – the suspect – was inside. She consented to a search, surrendering her son. Officers performed a consent search of the home and found several firearms, including the .25 caliber pistol used in the January 13, 2015 homicide, as well as an illegal firearm and more than half a pound of marijuana. The suspect confessed to the homicide and was charged with multiple felonies.

Sergeant Tischer's initiative, observation skills, and experience coupled with prompt and proper collaboration between different department divisions helped solve a homicide within 30 hours. Sergeant Andrew P. Tischer is, therefore, presented with a Meritorious Service Award.

Office of Community Outreach and Education

Captain Peter Pierce

Police Officer Ronald C. Fohr ... Excellence In Police Service Award

In September of 1991, Officer Fohr - with the assistance of two other officers - arrested an armed robbery suspect moments after he held up a gas station. Supervisors recognized his activity levels and leadership in 1995 with a Superior Achievement Award.

One year later in 1996, Officer Fohr gave chase on foot and captured an armed robbery suspect with his partner, earning another Merit Award. Two more Merit Awards followed in 1997 and 1998, with major arrests for burglary and attempted auto theft suspects, respectively. In 2003, he was recognized with yet another Superior Achievement award when he located and helped prevent the death of a suicidal woman.

Office of Community Outreach and Education

Captain Peter Pierce

In his latest accomplishment, Officer Fohr and his partner assisted in the apprehension of an armed robbery suspect on October 1, 2014, all while ensuring the safety of four juveniles whom he and his partner were conveying to a detention facility. As Officer Fohr looked after the juveniles and coordinated responding squads, his partner followed the suspect on foot. Soon, Officer Fohr's partner located the suspect and directed responding squads to tactically contain the suspect to prevent his escape. Thankfully, no one was injured when officers moved in and made the arrest. Bank employees identified the suspect, who confessed to the crime. He was sentenced to eight years.

For a career marked by bravery, high regard for human life, and exemplary police work, Police Officer Ronald C. Fohr is recognized with this Excellence in Police Service Award.

Police Officer Nicole M. Miller Meritorious Service Award

On October 1, 2014, Officer Miller and her partner were conveying four juveniles to a detention center. When they approached West Fond du Lac Avenue, Officer Miller and her partner observed what appeared to be a security guard in a foot pursuit. Both officers were aware that there had been a spate of bank robberies. They chased down the security guard, who told them he was chasing a subject who had attempted to rob the bank in the 8300 block of West Silver Spring Drive.

Mindful of the children in their trust, Officer Miller and her partner formulated a plan; as her partner looked after the juveniles and coordinated responding squads, Officer Miller would follow the path of the suspect on foot. Soon, Officer Miller located the suspect and directed responding squads to tactically contain the suspect to prevent his escape. Thankfully, no one was injured when officers moved in and made the arrest. Bank employees identified the suspect, who confessed to the crime. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Officer Miller's keen observations, quick thinking, and decisive actions resulted in the apprehension of a bank robber, all while maintaining the safety of juveniles in her care. Police Officer Nicole M. Miller is, therefore, recognized with this Meritorious Service Award.

Police Academy Deputy Inspector Terrence Gordon

Police Officer Eugene J. Reyes Distinguished Service Award

Officer Reyes has been assigned to the Police Academy since 2011. Peers and supervisors alike know they can turn to Officer Reyes as an information resource. Officer Reyes has been a lead instructor for Constitutional Law, Juvenile Law, Report Writing, Physical Training, and Vehicle Contacts.

Police Academy

Deputy Inspector Terrence Gordon

He is a Master Instructor of Defense and Arrest Tactics and Emergency Vehicle Operations. Officer Reyes has also improved statewide instruction by serving on the Law Enforcement Standards Board curriculum development group for Report Writing, Scenario Development, and Defense and Arrest Tactics.

Officer Reyes brings 24 years of experience and credibility to the Police Academy and each day demonstrates the leadership to maintain a constructive learning environment. Officer Reyes gives tirelessly of himself, conducting remedial instruction so that recruit officers can realize their full potential.

Officer Reyes has made a significant contribution to the department, public safety, and the community that he serves through his diligence, teamwork, and dedication to training. Police Officer Eugene J. Reyes is, therefore, recognized with a Distinguished Service Award.

Police Officer Staci D. Steen Distinguished Service Award

A 23-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department, Officer Steen has translated her street experience into a professional example for her colleagues and her recruit officer students. Since 2011, she has worked as a trainer through a variety of projects and created new police officers as a full-time recruit officer instructor. Colleagues recognize her as an authority on Constitutional Law, Crimes, Municipal Ordinances, Fair and Impartial Policing, Juvenile Law, Defense and Arrest Tactics, and Emergency Vehicle Operations. Recruits tested in the fire of Officer Steen's classes graduate from the Police Academy with the tools to provide fair and impartial policing to Milwaukee's citizens.

Officer Steen's career has been marked by exemplary service to fellow officers. She is a Master Instructor for the Instructor Development Course of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board. As the informal coordinator for the Milwaukee Police Department's Regional Training Center, Officer Steen schedules and manages the logistics of training events for jurisdictions of all sizes. She was also instrumental in bringing the "Wills for Heroes" program to the Milwaukee Police Department, which gives officers access to a complimentary attorney for a living will.

Officer Steen makes a steadfast and extraordinary contribution to the department, public safety, and the law enforcement community she serves through her dedication, teamwork, and professionalism. Police Officer Staci Steen is, therefore, recognized with this Distinguished Service Award.

Sensitive Crimes Division

Captain James Shepard

Police Lieutenant Justin K. Carloni, Detectives Timothy S. Behning, Sarah C. Blomme, Tammy Tramel-McClain, Police Officers Louise S. Bray, Trisha J. Klauser, Kevin D. Matte and, Jolene A. Reyes

Excellence In Police Service

The officers and detectives of the Sensitive Crimes Division investigate crimes against the most vulnerable members of society; children, the elderly, and victims of sexual assault. One of the most complex assignments in law enforcement requires a specialized set of skills; an officer or detective must perform a thoughtful, professional and thorough interview with victims. Law enforcement must also maintain their professionalism while interviewing suspects as they investigate these particularly heinous offenses.

Members of the Sensitive Crimes Division investigated multiple assaults throughout 2014, including two shocking crimes that made headlines. In two separate incidents, a 10-year-old girl was assaulted in an alleyway, and a 101-year-old woman was assaulted in her home.

Sensitive Crimes worked quickly to address the outrage in the community. Detectives and officers scoured neighborhoods for evidence and witnesses, used DNA databases to identify suspects, and skillfully gathered confessions from both suspects, leading to successful prosecutions.

Throughout 2014, these members of the Milwaukee Police Department collaborated to identify, arrest, and successfully prosecute dangerous sexual assault suspects. They have demonstrated remarkable professionalism and diligence in the pursuit of justice and are presented with an Excellence in Police Service Award.

Technical Communications

Captain Andra Williams

Telecommunicator **Elisa M. Marquez .. Meritorious Service Award**

On January 23, 2015, Telecommunicator Marquez answered a 911 emergency call. The woman on the other end of the line was panicked, but the nature of the crisis was unclear. Through the caller’s frantic words, Ms. Marquez was able to understand that the caller’s boyfriend had stabbed several people in the house and was still armed with a knife.

Good telecommunicators are able to gather information and calm a caller. On that terrible day, Ms. Marquez exemplified the highest standards of her profession; she was able to determine that several subjects at the house were gravely injured and that emergency responders were needed at the scene. While she dispatched both police officers and emergency medical services to the house with tactical updates, Ms. Marquez also kept the caller alert and engaged. It soon became clear that the woman was also seriously wounded and fighting off an assailant. With the guided dispatches of Ms. Marquez, police officers quickly responded to the scene and took control.

Technical Communications

Captain Andra Williams

Ms. Marquez’s extraordinary ability to multi-task, her calm demeanor, and her professionalism saved the lives of several crime victims, and protected the safety of police officers and paramedics responding to an active crime scene. Telecommunicator Elisa M. Marquez shall, therefore, receive this Meritorious Service Award.

Unit Service Award Recipients

City Wide Robbery Task Force

Police Lieutenants

William R. Beauchene

Aaron G. Berken

Detectives

Shawn G. Halverson

Shaun R. Lesniewski

Vanessa M. Harms

Barbara J. O’Leary

John H. Ivy

Anne M. Portnoy

Police Officers

Melissa A. Takacs

Elgerrith Tucker

Crime Analyst Kyle D. McFatridge

Unit Service Award

In June of 2014, the city of Milwaukee was hit with multiple armed robberies connected to a sudden and steady rise in auto thefts. In one spree, a victim was shot in the face during a robbery attempt by a suspect who – two days later – would himself be shot by a would-be victim.

Members of the same crew committed an armed robbery in Wauwatosa, which lead to the eventual arrest of eleven subjects. Interviews and investigation of the subjects revealed the robbery crews plaguing the city were actually a complex network of interconnected groups.

Over Labor Day weekend, one of these groups committed more than 25 armed robberies and carjackings culminating in the shooting death of one of the suspects. Just over a week later, another armed gang robbed 16 different victims.

A summer of patient and thorough police work, including extensive analysis, countless interviews with both victims and suspects, the execution of dozens of search warrants, and the compilation of overwhelming physical evidence had identified eight separate robbery crews. By the end of September, the task force had made almost 40 arrests, resulting in nearly 200 criminal charges. More importantly, the number of auto thefts and armed robberies in Milwaukee dropped almost immediately.

Unit Service Award Recipients

FBI / MPD District Five Gang Task Force

Detectives

James A. Henner
Chad D. Vartanian

Mitchell G. Ward

Police Officers

William R. Feely
Daniel J. Keller
Lori M. Kowalefski

Gregory M. Kuspa
Paul D. Martinez

FBI Special Agents

Jonathan Adkins
Richard Bilson
Robert Botsch

Jill Drang
Jason Soule

Intelligence Analyst Milwaukee District Attorney's Office

Nicole Smith

Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney

Megan Williamson

Unit Service Award

In October of 2013, the Milwaukee Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation created a task force in District Five to identify and prosecute violent criminal gang members. The task force balances long-term conspiracy investigations with short-term violent crime investigations. The members of the task force have a sustained focus on informant development, intelligence gathering, and highly visible warrant service and arrest operations.

Much of the task force's effort has been in combating the "29 Taliban" street gang, which deals heroin, cocaine and marijuana in District Five. The work of this task force significantly disrupted the operations of the "29 Taliban" street gang, and three armed robbery crews, and restored relative peace to this neighborhood.

In the first year of operation, the task force made 107 arrests, with 58 of those arrests for weapons or violence-related offenses. Almost 80 firearms have been taken off the streets, with three ballistic vests also recovered, and nearly \$18,000 in assets seized. Officers and detectives have developed information that led to the clearance of 3 homicides, 11 armed robberies and 6 non-fatal shootings. These efforts played a major role in reducing homicides by 100% and non-fatal shootings by 35% in the target area.

In Memory of those who gave their lives in the line of duty



Frank Pidczek	6/22/1884	Raymond A. Nencki	0/05/1959
John Kossow	9/30/1899	Robert Kraemer	2/7/1963
Ernest Johnson	9/15/1904	James J. Rivers	3/21/1966
Otto H. Flieth	12/17/1908	Ronald T. Hogan	5/2/1967
Peter Gauer	7/3/1909	Bryan Moschea	7/31/1967
Charles W. Gudgell	8/22/1916	George Fish	9/23/1970
Frank Caswin	11/24/1917	Alan Sroczynski	11/8/1970
Henry Deckert	11/24/1917	Paul DuPlanty	11/9/1971
Frederick Kaiser	11/24/1917	Gerald Hempe	1/31/1973
David O'Brien	11/24/1917	Charles T. Smith	1/31/1973
Charles Seehawer	11/24/1917	Ronald Reagan	12/13/1973
Edward Spindler	11/24/1917	Thomas G. Matulis	7/10/1974
Stephen Stecker	11/24/1917	Robert D. Riley	7/10/1974
Albert Templin	11/24/1917	Michael Draeger	12/28/1974
Paul Weiler	11/24/1917	Dennis Obradovich	8/17/1975
William Kaemmerling	1/26/1922	Albert Kohn	10/29/1975
Joseph Kubacki	5/24/1924	Thomas Kiefer	11/25/1977
Walter Luedtke	12/18/1924	John Machajewski	12/23/1981
Harold W. Schmidt	4/4/1925	Charles S. Mehlberg	12/23/1981
Hilbert Thurow	8/22/1930	Sydney C. Snow	1/20/1982
Robert Bahlke	2/23/1932	Rosario J. Collura	3/19/1985
Richard R. Zingler	2/8/1933	Leonard R. Lesnieski	3/19/1985
Harry Pieske	6/27/1935	Dennis J. Gorlewski	2/25/1987
Charles George	6/8/1936	Roger A. Sterling	5/11/1987
Nelson Goodman	8/10/1937	Steve J. Hasenstab	8/19/1989
George Raabe	11/2/1937	Richard E. Wagner	10/25/1990
Joseph Lecher	3/21/1943	Michael R. Tourmo	11/18/1990
Arnold Werner	7/10/1943	William A. Robertson	9/7/1994
Valentine Adam	3/6/1948	Michael A. Niehoff	12/1/1994
Elmer W. Bates	8/23/1948	Wendolynn O. Tanner	9/7/1996
Vernon White	11/10/1951		

Be sure to visit the Fallen Officers' Memorial Wall located just outside the Main Office

Core Values

Competence

We are prudent stewards of the public's grant of authority and resources. We are accountable for the quality of our performance and the standards of our conduct. We are exemplary leaders and exemplary followers.

Courage

We place the safety of others before our own and accept our moral responsibility to take action against injustice and wrongdoing. Police members are expected to take prudent risks on behalf of the public.

Integrity

We recognize the complexity of police work and exercise discretion in ways that are beyond reproach and worthy of public trust. Honesty and truthfulness are fundamental elements of integrity. It is our duty to earn public trust through consistent words and actions. We are honest in word and deed.

Leadership

We seek to influence human behavior to achieve organizational goals that serve the public while developing individuals, teams and the organization for future service. We accept our responsibility to be leaders, both within the community and among our peers, and for the actions of our colleagues and ourselves. We are all responsible for the performance, reputation and morale of the Department.

Respect

We hold life in the highest regard. We treat all citizens and colleagues with dignity and respect, and are fair and impartial as we perform our duties.

Restraint

We use the minimum force and authority necessary to accomplish a proper police purpose. We demonstrate self-discipline, even when no one is listening or watching.

*When you do nothing
you become powerless.
But when you get involved,
you feel the sense of hope
and accomplishment
that comes from knowing
you are working
to make things better for everyone.*

-Author Unknown



BE A FORCE

*Special thanks to the City of Milwaukee residents
for their continued support and cooperation
in helping to keep our city safe.*