



21st Annual

Rockville



PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

June 9, 2010

Explanation of Awards

Citation for Bravery

The Citation for Bravery shall be presented to a member who performed an act of bravery which was beyond the call of duty, wherein the member's physical safety was perilously exposed to danger in order to save the life of another or to perform an extraordinary and heroic public safety duty.

Distinguished Service Citation

The Distinguished Service Citation shall be presented to a member who rendered service beyond the ordinary call of duty. It shall recognize those incidents wherein the member's diligence, perseverance and timely judgment in the performance of a difficult task resulted in the protection of life or property, the prevention of a major crime, or the apprehension of an armed and dangerous criminal.

Meritorious Service Citation

When service rendered by a member does not fall within the guidelines of the medal of valor or citation for bravery or distinguished service, yet the board shall be of the opinion that some special acknowledgment should be made thereof, the Meritorious Service Citation may be presented.

Community Service Award

The Rockville Public Safety Community Service Award is given in recognition of exemplary community service and an unwavering commitment to keeping the community safe and making it a better place to live and work.

Sponsored By:

Crime Solvers of Montgomery County, Md., Inc.

Montgomery Masonic Lodge #195

Optimist Club of Rockville

Rockville American Legion Post #86

Rockville Kiwanis Club

Rockville Lions Club

Rockville Rotary Club

Twinbrook Citizens Association

Washington Rockville Elks Lodge #15

In Cooperation With:

City of Rockville

Rockville Chamber of Commerce

The Rockville Gazette

Past Program Chairs:

1990	John Freeland	Rockville Chamber of Commerce
1991	Kay Mitchel	Lioness Club
1992	Stan Sheltra	Rockville Elks Lodge 2296
1993	Dennis Kelly	Rockville Rotary Club
1994	Donald Frear	Montgomery Masonic Lodge # 195
1995	Thelma O'Connell	American Legion Post # 86
1996	Bert Boline	Rockville Optimist Club
1997	John Tyner II	Rockville Kiwanis
1998	John Tyner II	Twinbrook Citizens Association
1999	John Tyner II	Rockville Chamber of Commerce
2000	Linda Warren	Rockville Lions Club
2001	Priscilla Ann Schwab	Washington Rockville Elks Clubs
2002	Charles May	Rockville Rotary Club
2003	Donald Frear	Montgomery Masonic Lodge #195
2004	David Collins	American Legion Post #86
2005	John Tyner II	Kiwanis Club of Rockville
2006	Jim Adams	Rockville Optimist Club
2007	John Tyner II	Twinbrook Citizens Association
2008	Craig S. Cano	Rockville Lions Club
2009	Jeff Cantrell	Rockville Chamber of Commerce

21st Annual Rockville Public Safety Awards

June 9, 2010

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introductions	Arthur Walker Washington-Rockville Elks, Lodge #15 Program Chair
Presentation of the Colors	Lt. Alan Rawlins Captain of the Color Guard, Rockville City Police
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Arthur Walker
“The Star Spangled Banner”	Lt. Zach Grant Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department
Invocation.....	Father “Val” Valentine Keveny Chaplain, RVFD

LUNCHEON

Introduction of Guests.....	Arthur Walker
Greetings	The Honorable Phyllis Marcuccio Mayor, City of Rockville
Awards Program Overview.....	Judy Hruz Editor, The Rockville Gazette
Introduction of Presenter	Judy Hruz
Introduction of 2009 Honorees	Derek McGinty WUSA 9NEWS NOW Team
Presentation of Appreciation to Derek McGinty.....	Arthur Walker
“America the Beautiful”	Lt. Zach Grant Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department
Benediction.....	Father Val Keveny

Conclusion

2010 Awardees

Citation for Bravery

Silver Medal & Service Bar • White, Red and Blue Stripes

..... Citizen

Distinguished Service Citation

Bronze Medal & Service Bar • Light Blue, Red and White Stripes

Cpl. Kyle Dickerson & Rocko..... Rockville City Police
Sgt. J.P. Cowell..... Rockville City Police
Sgt. Michael Kearney..... Rockville City Police
Cpl. Michael Varron..... Rockville City Police
Cpl. Jeff Cramer..... Rockville City Police
Cpl. Kelly Reidy..... Rockville City Police
Cpl. Ali Zeighani..... Rockville City Police
Officer Ryan Street..... Rockville City Police
Officer Javier Baquero..... Rockville City Police
Cpl. Philip Parnell..... Rockville City Police
Officer John Pfaehler..... Rockville City Police
Officer Javier Baquero..... Rockville City Police
Brenda Bean..... Civilians/Rockville City employees
Eric Ferrell..... Civilians/Rockville City employees
Deputy Sheriff III Randy Dolliver..... Montgomery County Sheriff's Department
Deputy Sheriff III Zach Buttrey..... Montgomery County Sheriff's Department
EMT Paloma Eiras-Saunders..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
Firefighter I Alex Phillips..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
EMS Lt. Adam Goldstein..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
Chief Russell Dawson..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department

Meritorious Service Citation

Service Bar • Blue and White Stripes

Public Safety Communications Dispatcher Karl Nadler..... Rockville City Police
Master Firefighter Steven Fay..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
Casey King..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
Daniela Bigott..... Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
Lt. Martin Westby..... Montgomery County Dept. of Correction and Rehab.
Cpl. Janai Davis..... Montgomery County Dept. of Correction and Rehab.
Cpl. Dada Akinlawon..... Montgomery County Dept. of Correction and Rehab.
Cpl. Rose Idehen..... Montgomery County Dept. of Correction and Rehab.
Pfc. Pier Moore..... Montgomery County Dept. of Correction and Rehab.

Community Service Award

Plaque of Recognition

Grace Huff..... Montgomery County Dept. of Correction and Rehab.

Citation for Bravery

Civilian

was driving on Twinbrook Parkway when she saw five men viciously beating someone. She turned her car to assist the victim and as she approached the scene, the attackers got in a waiting vehicle and fled the area, leaving the victim seriously injured and bleeding. She called 911 and followed the attackers' vehicle, giving the 911 operator the vehicle license plate, description and direction of travel. She followed the vehicle for four to five miles until it escaped her view.

The victim was unable to recall most of the details of the attack, so provided the detectives with the only leads for the investigation. As a result, the information she provided led to the arrest of all five assailants and the getaway driver. The six were indicted for robbery, first-degree assault and conspiracy.

Without regard for her own safety, her actions not only prevented the assault from being worse, but also led to the arrest of six dangerous suspects. She is awarded the highest honor, the Citation for Bravery.

Distinguished Service Citation

Cpl. Kyle Dickerson & Rocko

Rockville City Police

On Oct. 12, 2009, Rockville City Police Cpl. Kyle Dickerson was asked to assist Montgomery County Police on a shooting and robbery in Aspen Hill. While en route to the site of the incident, Cpl. Dickerson was redirected to Wheaton, where the assailant bailed out of a vehicle and was last seen by officers. During the search for contraband, Cpl. Dickerson and his canine partner, Rocko, found a Glock 9-milimeter semi-automatic handgun and a black baseball cap, and they began tracking the assailant.

Cpl. Dickerson and Rocko found the man hiding in a backyard. The man jumped a fence and Cpl. Dickerson and Rocko followed him. After working Rocko to exhaustion, Cpl. Dickerson returned to his vehicle, circled the area and spotted a man matching the description of the suspect. Again Cpl. Dickerson and Rocko went after him, but this time the man surrendered. Cpl. Dickerson immediately recalled Rocko and prevented the man from being bitten.

For his diligent and unwavering dedication to the Rockville City Police Department and the people of the county, and for his perseverance in the capture of an armed and dangerous suspect, Cpl. Dickerson and Rocko are awarded the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

Sgt. J.P. Cowell

Sgt. Michael Kearney

Cpl. Michael Varron

Cpl. Jeff Cramer

Cpl. Kelly Reidy

Cpl. Ali Zeighani

Officer Ryan Street

Rockville City Police

During December 2008, a residential burglary occurred in the Montgomery County 1st Police District in which cash, jewelry, small electronics, laptops and checks were stolen. The checks were cashed and a review of Motor Vehicle Administration records of the person's name on the checks gave a local address. Additional burglaries were discovered with stolen checks made payable to the same subject.

Because the burglaries extended into other area jurisdictions, the Montgomery County, Gaithersburg and Rockville investigation units conducted a joint investigation. An arrest warrant was obtained and the Rockville City Street Crimes Unit provided surveillance of the suspect. The unit located the suspect and followed him on foot to the Bank of America, where he attempted to cash a stolen check, which was denied. The suspect was then apprehended and confessed to approximately 30 burglaries from October 2008 through January 2009.

Officer Ryan Street and the Street Crimes Unit drove the suspect around and he pointed out each residence he had burglarized and gave details of what property he stole. At the same time, a consent search of the suspect's storage locker revealed numerous stolen items. In all, more than 30 burglaries around the county and in Rockville were closed. The suspect pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in jail.

The outstanding diligent and cooperative effort by everyone involved earns Sgt. J.P. Cowell, Sgt. Michael Kearney, Cpl. Michael Varron, Cpl. Jeff Cramer, Cpl. Kelly Reidy, Cpl. Ali Zeighani and Officer Ryan Street the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

Officer Javier Baquero

Rockville City Police

On Sept. 21, 2010, at 11 p.m., Officer Javier Baquero responded to the 1200 block of First Street for a stabbing and found the victim stumbling toward him with blood streaming down his neck. Officer Baquero immediately took action, laying the victim down, locating the stab wound and applying his QuikClot sponge. He also saw blood flowing from the victim's ear and applied gauze to stop the bleeding. He remained with the victim, who had several other injuries, until Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel arrived and took the man to the hospital.

Officer Baquero went to the hospital and spoke with the victim, who eventually provided him with critical information on the man he said attacked him. That information led to a warrant and an arrest of the man who was charged with first-degree assault, reckless endangerment and second-degree assault.

Officer Baquero's diligence and timely judgment not only saved the victim's life, but also led to the arrest of a dangerous suspect. He is awarded the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

Cpl. Philip Parnell

Officer John Pfaehler

Officer Javier Baquero

Rockville City Police

On Jan. 8, 2010, at just after 2:30 a.m., Officer John Pfaehler responded to the 200 block of Carr Avenue for a report of men looking into vehicles. Upon arrival, he heard a dog barking and got out of his cruiser to find out why the dog was barking. Officer Pfaehler saw fresh footprints in the newly fallen snow leading into the wooded area.

He requested assistance and Officer Javier Baquero responded. The footprints in the snow led up to the driver's door of several parked vehicles. They followed the footprints into Woodley Gardens Park, then College Parkway, then Princeton Place and then West Gude Drive, which led into the King Farm community. Cpl. Philip Parnell also responded and followed a different set of footprints to Redland Boulevard, also in King Farm. The snow continued to fall and there was approximately a foot of snow on the ground.

Officer Pfaehler approached two men and one ran. Cpl. Parnell and Officer Baquero continued searching across Frederick Road to the Shady Grove Metro Station and back. Officer Pfaehler saw the man running back in his direction and detained him.

The first man had a digital camera and the second had a pink iPod, later found to be stolen from different vehicles. Cpl. Parnell and officers Pfaehler and Baquero obtained warrants and both men were arrested.

For their physical endurance in following the footprints from the city's West End community to King Farm during extreme weather conditions, which demonstrates their dedication to the safety of the residents of Rockville, Cpl. Phil Parnell, Officer John Pfaehler and Officer Javier Baquero are awarded the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

Brenda Bean

Eric Ferrell

Civilians/Rockville City employees

On Sept. 16, 2009, Rockville city employee Brenda Bean saw a vehicle with the motor running irregularly parked at the corner of South Washington and Vinson streets near City Hall. She glanced into the vehicle and saw a woman slumped over in the passenger seat. The windows were rolled up and the doors were locked. Mrs. Bean attempted to get the woman's attention but there was no response and the woman remained motionless.

Mrs. Bean saw Eric Ferrell, also a city employee, driving by and told him about the woman. Mr. Ferrell tried to gain access to the vehicle and get the woman's attention. Realizing that the woman was in distress, Mrs. Bean and Mr. Ferrell called 911 and flagged down the responding officer.

The woman in the vehicle was incoherent, shaking and crying, with mucus covering her face. The officer attempted to remove the woman from the vehicle and saw a pair of shears in her left hand. The handle to the shears was broken, forming a cutting blade. The officer took the shears from the woman and moved her out of the vehicle. As she was about to be taken to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for evaluation, an off-duty officer reported over the radio that a man had just approached him stating his wife was threatening to kill herself, and gave the woman's description. The woman in the vehicle was the man's wife.

Brenda Bean and Eric Ferrell could have passed by the vehicle and never noticed the woman inside. But their awareness, prudent judgment and timely actions resulted in saving the woman's life. They are awarded the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

Deputy Sheriff III Randy Dolliver

Deputy Sheriff III Zach Buttrey

Montgomery County Sheriff's Department

Shortly after 4:30 p.m. on a busy night, Deputy Sheriff III Randy Dolliver and Deputy Sheriff III Zach Buttrey were working their shifts in the Domestic Violence section of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department when Deputy Buttrey saw a man and a woman on the sidewalk along West Diamond Avenue in Gaithersburg. At first, nothing appeared to be wrong, but the deputies had a hunch something was not right.

The woman took off into the center of West Diamond Avenue and the man followed her into the street. Deputy Buttrey turned his vehicle around, driving back toward the woman who had crossed the street. She was yelling and crying into her phone.

When the deputies activated emergency sirens and lights, the man began running through a parking lot across the street. Deputies Dolliver and Buttrey stopped near the female and she yelled to them that she had been raped.

The deputies tracked the man to the back of a parking lot and took him into custody. They administered first aid to the woman and called for fire and rescue services. The man was charged with several crimes, including sexual assault.

The fast actions and good judgment in sensing there was more to the situation meant the woman suffered no more harm. Deputies Randy Dolliver and Zach Buttrey are awarded the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

EMT Paloma Eiras-Saunders

Firefighter I Alex Phillips

EMS Lt. Adam Goldstein

Rockville Volunteer Fire Department

On Dec. 21, 2009, Rockville Volunteer Fire Department EMT Paloma Eiras-Saunders, Firefighter I Alex Phillips and EMS Lt. Adam Goldstein of Ambulance 703 were dispatched to help a pregnant woman in distress. The crew found a 28-year-old woman who was 8 ½ months pregnant. Her water had broken, she was in immense pain and contractions were approximately two to three minutes apart.

In route to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Eiras-Saunders, the officer in charge, examined the patient, determined that the baby was not crowning but prepared for a possible emergency delivery. Phillips took vitals and the driver, Lt. Goldstein, consulted with hospital staff to inform them of the condition of the incoming patient. Eiras-Saunders continuously monitored the patient for any changes and found that the baby was crowning.

Eiras-Saunders delivered the patient's infant son in the back of Ambulance 703 at 6:32 a.m. on West Gude Drive near Gaither Road. She suctioned the infant's mouth and assessed the baby's condition, while directing Phillips to provide care for the mother. She was also communicating information to Goldstein to relay to the hospital and was calming the patient's mother, who was also in the back of the ambulance.

Moments later, the infant stopped breathing. Eiras-Saunders knew that the baby could go into cardiac arrest and die in seconds. She remained professional and calm and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The baby was resuscitated and several minutes later patient care was transferred to the staff at Shady Grove Hospital.

Amid the din of the ambulance's siren, diesel engine, squawking radios, communication between the crew and patient, and the rapid pace of events, the crew performed flawlessly. Had it not been for their actions, especially of Officer-in-Charge Paloma Eiras- Saunders, the outcome would have been tragically different. They are honored with the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation

Chief Russell Dawson

Rockville Volunteer Fire Department

Fighting fires is a dangerous business and the incident commander is always walking the tightrope of success or catastrophe. The greatest fear of an incident commander is the loss or injury of a firefighter/rescuer. A catastrophe was narrowly averted on July 10, 2009, due to the quick thinking and thousands of hours of training and experience of Rockville Volunteer Fire Chief Russell Dawson.

It was approximately 10:45 p.m. when the first arriving unit reported heavy fire through the roof of an office townhouse at 15855 Crabbs Branch Way. The rapid intervention group and a second alarm were requested. Chief Dawson arrived within two minutes of the first engine and within minutes was commanding approximately 70 firefighter/rescuers on 18 pieces of fire apparatus. He immediately made assignments and units began standard operating procedures for an offensive fire attack, which included searches of all floors and interior fire attack. Within 10 minutes of arrival and as crews were attacking the fire from the interior, the fire showing through the roof had progressed so the center support of the roof was sagging into the attic.

Chief Dawson determined that a catastrophic collapse of all or part of the roof and attic was likely. He ordered the crews operating inside the building to withdraw and to set up defensive operations. Some crews were reluctant to withdraw, advising the chief of the progress they were making on the interior. But the chief insisted. Within one minute of personnel getting out of the building, the roof and portions of the second floor collapsed into the first floor. Firefighters, including the entire crew of Rescue Squad 703, were operating in the area of the collapse.

Chief Dawson's order to evacuate saved several firefighters from serious injury or death. In honor of his actions, his 36 years of volunteer service in Montgomery County as a firefighter, paramedic and chief, he is awarded the Distinguished Service Citation.

Meritorious Service Citation

Public Safety Communications Dispatcher Karl Nadler

Rockville City Police

On May 30, 2009, at 5 a.m., Public Safety Communications Dispatcher Karl Nadler received an audible burglary alarm from the Rockville Swim Center. He immediately accessed and viewed the cameras at the Swim Center and saw a female employee at the front desk. He contacted the employee and she verified that an alarm was sounding and that it was probably other employees setting up for the day.

Dispatcher Nadler tracked the city employee, via swim center cameras, and saw her make contact with an individual and then immediately leave the room and begin running. Sensing that something was suspicious, Dispatcher Nadler requested officers to respond. A telephone call from the Swim Center employee confirmed his suspicions that an intruder was inside the Swim Center. He gave officers a description of the intruder and they were able to locate a person matching the description, which the Swim Center employee confirmed was the person.

The suspect was arrested and charged with second-degree burglary, fourth-degree burglary, trespassing and possession of false government identification.

Dispatcher Nadler's quick and appropriate response resulted in the arrest of a fleeing burglary suspect. He is awarded the Meritorious Service Citation.

Meritorious Service Citation

Master Firefighter Steven Fay

Rockville Volunteer Fire Department

Volunteering at the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department is an unpaid commitment that requires each member to spend one night a week away from his or her family. Making a commitment for just a few years is difficult, but some maintain their commitment over many years and find a way to juggle their “real life” with that of a volunteer.

Master Firefighter Steven Fay became a member in January 1987. He went on leave for a couple times for work and family but always returned to serve in many capacities with the fire department. For many years he has been the Friday night shift leader, which also means he is responsible for the training and safety of volunteers who are under 18 years old, who are assigned to Friday nights.

Master Firefighter Fay was elected president of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department in 1999, an administrative task that requires running a multimillion-dollar enterprise without pay. Beyond his volunteer commitment, he is the vice president of corporate finance and business planning for Sirius/XM radio and is married with two sons. His wife Amy and their sons, Dillon and Tyler, can be found at the firehouse most Saturday mornings, as Master Firefighter Fay’s shift is over at 7 a.m., but he stays at the station until there is adequate coverage.

For his dedication and serving as an inspiration to all of the newer members, showing that community service is not a sprint but an endurance run, Master Firefighter Fay is awarded the Meritorious Service Citation.

Meritorious Service Citation

Casey King

Daniela Bigott

Rockville Volunteer Fire Department

The life of a volunteer at the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department is rewarding and demanding. All riding volunteers have a minimum standby or on-duty requirement of 600 hours per year in addition to extensive training. In 2009, department volunteers provided 131,503 hours of staffing.

Firefighter II/EMT Daniela Bigott had the most standby hours in 2009 with 3,510.

Firefighter II/EMT Casey King ran the most emergency calls in 2009 with 701 calls.

For going well beyond the call of duty when serving their community, Firefighter II/EMT Daniela Bigott and Firefighter II/EMT Casey King are awarded the Meritorious Service Citation.

Meritorious Service Award

Lt. Martin Westby

Cpl. Janai Davis

Cpl. Dada Akinlawon

Cpl. Rose Idehen

Pfc. Pier Moore

Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

On Dec. 13, 2009, while working the night shift in the new lock-up unit at the Montgomery County Detention Center in Rockville, which can hold more than 160 inmates, Cpl. Janai Davis was conducting the 2:30 a.m. count and security round when she saw that an inmate in one of the cells was attempting to commit suicide. The inmate had stood a bunk on end, tied one end of a bed sheet around one of the bunk legs and the other end around his neck. Davis immediately called for medical assistance.

Cpl. Dada Akinlawon was the first officer to arrive on the scene to render assistance. Cpl. Akinlawon and Cpl. Davis lifted up the inmate and held him up to relieve the pressure on his neck as Lt. Martin Westby attempted to remove the sheet from around his neck.

The inmate was removed from his cell to an area with more room to administer life-saving measures until medical assistance arrived. Cpl. Arosa Idehen and Pfc. Pier Moore also responded to the scene to help the other officers perform CPR. Pfc. Moore had retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to use if needed.

The inmate was taken by ambulance with police escort to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 3:40 a.m. Regardless of the outcome in the incident, Lt. Martin Westby, Cpl. Janai Davis, Cpl. Dada Akinlawon, Cpl. Arosa Idehen and Pfc. Pier Moore responded quickly to render assistance and worked tirelessly to save a human life.

Community Service Award

Grace Huff

Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

For more than a dozen years Grace Huff of Potomac has made a weekly trek to the Montgomery County Detention Center in Rockville, says Chaplain Russell Isler. She visits a place that most people avoid. She spends time offering a friendly face, prayers and encouragement to people that most others want to forget. She also has organized parenting classes for female inmates so that they have those skills for their return to life outside of jail, and she has made sure that inmates leaving the detention center have a place to go for guidance when they are back in mainstream society. It is her concern for people that often have no one else to care for them that Grace Huff earns the Community Service Award.