



2015 STATE OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Valor

Sergeant Jacqueline Moore

Dallas Police Department

On April, 4, 2014, Sergeant Moore was walking to an off-duty extra job when she heard screams. The officer turned to see a victim, who had already been stabbed several times, on his back and the suspect standing over him with a large hunting knife. Sergeant Moore ordered the suspect to drop the knife; however, he continued the attack. Just before the suspect attempted a final fatal stab, Sergeant Moore drew and fired her weapon, striking the suspect multiple times, killing him instantly. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital and survived the attack thanks to Sergeant Moore's quick reaction.

Officer Carlos Lopez

Austin Police Department

On July 5, 2015, Officer Lopez was working downtown Austin, when a 911 call was received. The caller stated that a gunman was in the lobby at the Omni Hotel. Three minutes into the call, the caller stated that the gunman had just shot someone. As officers arrived, a gun battle ensued with the suspect. Officer Lopez, knowing other civilians were still in the area and that the hotel was full of guests, entered the hotel, attempting to locate the gunman. The gunman had taken cover and began firing at Officer Lopez, who returned fire, fatally wounding the gunman. The gunman had earlier killed a local cab driver who had confronted him. Officer Lopez's rapid assessment of the situation undoubtedly saved lives of hotel staff and guests, and possibly other officers.

Sergeant Mike Naylor**Midland County SO**

On October 9, 2014, deputies received information that a suspect wanted for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child was currently at his home and armed. Deputies enlisted the aid of the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Midland County Sheriff's Office in order to arrest the suspect. Once on the scene, contact with the suspect was made, and he responded that he would not come out and surrender. A window was broken out and Sergeant Naylor made visual and verbal contact with the suspect in order to resolve the situation. Sergeant Naylor attempted to get the suspect to voluntarily surrender and end the standoff peacefully. Suddenly, the suspect fired a shot, striking Sergeant Naylor and killing him. The suspect later surrendered and has been charged with Capital Murder.

**Deputy Joshua Dwayne Summers
Deputy Matthew Alan Mireles****Matagorda County Sheriff's Office**

On May 11, 2015, a wreck occurred about two miles southeast of Bay City. A vehicle had flipped and a couple and their infant child were trapped inside. Multiple people had tried to rescue them; however, when the car flipped, it had ruptured a large bee hive and the swarm had repelled rescuers. Deputy Mireles and Deputy Summers ran together into the swarm to rescue the family and retrieve the infant. Both deputies were stung multiple times over their entire bodies during the rescue as was the child. The infant had stings over its face and body and was fortunate to survive due to the intervention of the two deputies.

Senior Police Officer Paul Steffenauer**Houston Police Department**

On June 3, 2015, Senior Police Officer Paul Steffenauer and Officer Jeffery Anderson overheard a unit in an adjacent district involved in a vehicle pursuit. The two officers monitored the pursuit and drove to the area in case they were needed.

Once on the scene, Officer Anderson retrieved his shotgun and advised he would watch the street, acting as cover. Officer Steffenauer moved to an adjacent parking lot to get a better view of the suspect. Officer Steffenauer sought cover behind another vehicle and trained his weapon on the suspect. Officers pleaded with the suspect to surrender. Officer Steffenauer observed a K-9 unit had responded and the dog was engaged with the suspect's lower front extremity. The dog's handler, Officer Schmidt, was also engaged with the suspect. Officer Steffenauer observed the suspect with a large knife and yelled to warn Officer Schmidt that the suspect had a knife. As the suspect was about to stab Officer Schmidt, Officer Steffenauer fired his duty weapon, stopping the threat to the other officer.

Investigator Dustin Shrell

**Office of Inspector General
Texas Department of Criminal Justice**

Investigator Dustin Shrell and his U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) partner were engaged in a fugitive investigation in an attempt to locate a suspect wanted for Aggravated Robbery with a Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. During the investigation, the officers initiated surveillance on a known associate. The officers followed the associate's vehicle to a convenience store and a decision was made to make contact with her. As Investigator Shrell approached the driver's door making contact with the driver, his partner detected movement in the back seat. He opened the right rear passenger door and it was pulled closed. He opened it again and observed the fugitive with a handgun. He identified himself and ordered the subject to drop the weapon. Shrell opened the left rear passenger door, and observed a small child secured in a car seat while the offender was chambering a round into the semi-automatic pistol. Investigator Shrell shielded the child with his body and engaged the fugitive, discharging his firearm. The fugitive began to exit the vehicle and was then engaged by the deputy U.S. Marshal. The suspect fell to the ground and was secured. The actions of Shrell and his USMS partner enhanced public safety by apprehending a violent fugitive.

**Lieutenant Jimmy Bo Lake
Sergeant Houston Gass
Sergeant Tobie Bias**

Pampa Police Department

On January 6, 2015, the three officers entered a residence in Pampa, Texas in response to a domestic violence report where a gunshot was reported. While searching for the suspect, a single gunshot was fired by the suspect that struck Sergeant Gass in the face. Sergeant Bias then returned fire at the suspect, giving Lieutenant Lake and another Detective an opportunity to remove Sergeant Gass from the room and lead him to safety. Sergeant Bias again returned fire and was able to exit the room and help get medical aid for Sergeant Gass.

Deputy Kris Hoban

Midland County Sheriff's Office

On October 3, 2015, Midland County Sheriff Deputy Kris Hoban was on his way home after his shift when he assisted DPS Trooper Dina Ortiz by checking on two male passengers that

had fled a traffic stop and gone into a nearby store. The store attendant advised that the two males fled on foot. Sergeant Hoban pursued and gave verbal orders to stop. One of the two males jumped a fence, and continued fleeing. Sergeant Hoban continued to search the area and found the initial suspect, the driver of the vehicle, running in a field. Sergeant Hoban pulled his patrol vehicle near where the suspect was hiding. Sergeant Hoban stepped out of his vehicle, and the suspect stood up and began shooting at Sergeant Hoban. Sergeant Hoban returned fire and was successful in stopping the fleeing armed suspect and provided security and assistance to the suspect until EMS arrived.

Officer Dustin Failla

Navasota Police Department

On August 28, 2015, Officer Dustin Failla was dispatched to a one-vehicle accident on State Highway 6. When Officer Failla arrived, he found the vehicle was engulfed in flames, had left the roadway, and had stopped on top of nearby railroad tracks. Officer Failla ran to the car and found the driver trapped inside. Officer Failla attempted to suppress the flames with a fire extinguisher, but was unable to. Officer Failla coaxed the driver to the sunroof, where he was pulled to safety before the passenger compartment became fully engulfed. The driver was able to be freed from the vehicle without receiving any serious injuries as a direct result of Officer Failla's actions.

Officer Carlos Gonzalez

South Padre Island Police Department

On August 8, 2015, Officer Gonzalez responded to a motorist assist call on the Queen Isabella Causeway. Officer Gonzalez found the vehicle parked on the right shoulder of the highest point on the bridge. He saw a male subject standing between the vehicle and guardrail. Officer Gonzales made verbal contact with the subject and noticed that the man was beginning to climb over the guard rail and was speaking to someone on his cell phone. Officer Gonzalez asked the man if there was something wrong, and the male responded "I'll see you later, sir." As he set his phone down, Officer Gonzalez rushed to grab him and was able to grab his shirt and left wrist. Officer Gonzalez continued to struggle with the subject, attempting to pull him back over the guardrail, both nearly falling off the Causeway. Constable Martin Cantu, who was driving by, witnessed the incident and assisted Officer Gonzalez in subduing the man.

Public Service

Deputy Michelle Walter

Williamson County Constable Pct. 1

Deputy Walter's volunteer service with the Constable outreach program has touched the lives of numerous citizens in the Williamson County area. Some of Deputy Walter's notable voluntary works are as follows:

- National Night out
- Special Olympics
- Arrive Alive campaign (MADD)
- Trunk or Treat participant in support of area of Law Enforcement in Kids Trick or Treat safety.
- Christmas toy drives for needy children such as Brown Santa and Blue Santa programs.
- School Resource education programs

Officer Stacie Brown

Arlington Police Department

Officer Brown takes her responsibility as a DWI Officer to the highest level. Officer Brown goes to local schools and works with area youth to reach students before it's too late. In 2015 alone she completed approximately 95 presentations. She also commits her personal time through the Santa Cop program. She has made it a yearly tradition to of baking treats on Halloween and taking them to Medical Center Arlington ER. This year she also baked treats for the inmates in the city jail.

She has attended and represented the Arlington Police Department since 2008 in the Tarrant County Candle Light vigil and the Tarrant County MADD walk to help with awareness of drinking and driving.