

February 26, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Police Officer Heroes to Receive Commendations

The Springfield Police Department will hold an Awards Ceremony for 13 officers, 3:30 p.m., Feb. 27 at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center. These officers will be commended for their bravery and extraordinary actions. Many of these acts of bravery occurred during life-threatening situations.

Springfield Police Department Meritorious Service Award

One Meritorious Service award is presented in recognition of acts by department personnel who, in the protection of life or furtherance of justice, exhibit conduct, which is exceptional.

July 16, 2012: **Officer Jason Shuck** was responsible for disarming a subject who was attempting to commit suicide with a shotgun in his mouth. Officer Shuck was able to disarm the subject without putting himself or other officers at risk.

Springfield Police Department Life Saving Award

Twelve Life-Saving Awards will be issued to department personnel who personally save a life. The life-saving effort normally involves one of the learned life-supporting processes. Actions meriting this award are significant actions by department personnel and not routine measures, unless such efforts are performed under difficult or dangerous conditions.

Oct. 18, 2011: **Officer John Matthews, Officer Andrew Bolin, Officer Dale Sokolik, Officer Chris Welsh, and Officer Robert Reeves** responded to an injury accident on I-44. When they arrived on scene, an RV involved in the crash erupted in flames with the driver and passenger trapped inside. While trying to extinguish the fire of the vehicle, these officers were able to free the driver and control the fire until fire crews could free the passenger.

March 14, 2012: **Officer Scott Hill and Officer Clinton Collier** responded to an unconscious female who was not breathing. Once on scene they began performing CPR until EMS arrived. The female was able to regain consciousness while in route to the hospital.

April 10, 2012: **Lt. Scott Umbarger and Cpl. Heather Anderson** had contact with a male subject on the north lot of the police department. The man collapsed and was not breathing. Lt. Umbarger quickly grabbed an Ambu-bag from a patrol car and Cpl. Anderson gave the subject two rescue breaths. The man began breathing on his own. Assistant Fire Chief David Pennington explained, "without the actions of your personnel, this condition may not have been recoverable."

May 24, 2012: **Officer Anthony Gomez** responded to check the well-being of a female who was being given CPR on the porch by her sister when he arrived. Officer Gomez took over chest compressions until EMS arrived. After EMS took over CPR the female was resuscitated.

Aug. 1, 2012: **Officer Jason Carter and Officer Daniel Rowles** responded to a non-responsive male who was not breathing. Officer Carter arrived first and began chest compressions on the male. Once Officer Rowles arrived he took over chest compressions while Officer Carter began breathing for the victim with an Ambu-bag until EMS arrived.

A few of the citizens who whose lives were saved, will be in attendance at the awards ceremony.

For more information, contact: Cora Scott at 417-380-3352