

April 21, 2014

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Police heroes and volunteers recognized today**

The Springfield Police Department hosted an awards ceremony for 18 officers, one citizen and 10 volunteers at 3 p.m. today at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center, 2620 W. Battlefield. These officers and citizens were commended for their service, and in some cases, their bravery and extraordinary actions.



Purple Heart Award:

This is awarded to department personnel who are seriously injured in the line of duty.

On Feb. 22, 2013, **Sergeant Travis Wilson** responded to 2506 W. Grand to assist patrol officers with a search warrant. As members of the Special Response Team (SRT) were clearing a building on the property of the target location, he and another investigator were fired upon by a suspect hiding in the building. While under fire, he engaged the suspect in an effort to stop his aggressive and potentially deadly assault. During the gun battle, he received a non-life threatening flesh wound from a bullet fired by the suspect. After being struck, he continued to engage the suspect. Wilson's actions resulted in no serious injury to officers on scene or nearby innocent community members. He placed the protection of the community and other officers on scene as a top priority.

Medal of Valor – Silver:

This is awarded to department personnel who distinguish themselves by performing courageous acts of bravery or heroism above and beyond the call of duty in the protection of life or furtherance of justice, in doing so place their own safety in imminent danger.

The following patrol officers, SRT members and investigators were also fired upon by a suspect during the search warrant execution at 2506 W. Grand:

- Officer Dawn Davis
- Sergeant Chad Eutsler
- Officer Jason Friend
- Officer Michael Karnes
- Officer John Loe
- Officer Tyler Mallow
- Officer Don Mitchell
- Officer John Stowe
- Officer Jason Trusler
- Sergeant Travis Wilson

#### Meritorious Service Award:

This is awarded to department personnel who, in the protection of life or furtherance of justice, exhibit conduct which is exceptional.

**Officer Jason Carter** has engaged in many acts of proactive police work that resulted in several felony arrests. On Dec. 2, 2013, he arrested the primary suspect in a convenience store robbery that just occurred. On Dec. 17, 2013, while at the Greene County Courthouse during a court appearance, he saw a suspect (unrelated to the case he was subpoenaed for) who was wanted for questioning in a variety of felony investigations. He confirmed the probable cause item for the person's arrest and then made the arrest despite being there on an unrelated matter. On Dec. 31, 2013, he observed suspicious activity at a convenience store, conducted an investigation, recovered a stolen vehicle on the parking lot and arrested the suspect. Then, on Jan. 12, 2014, he was dispatched to an armed robbery call and his detailed preliminary investigation led to the arrest of the suspects.

#### Command Commendations:

This award shall be presented to department personnel who distinguish themselves by a single act or series of actions that impact the community in a positive manner, or significantly improve the ability of this department to fulfill its mission.

**Officer Mark Foos** assisted with the security of the scene in the 2506 W. Grand stand-off as a member of the SRT. Due to members of his unit being on mandatory leave, he took the initiative to perform several additional tasks usually divided among all of the members of the team, including planning and supervising the successful execution of numerous search warrants and providing a week of instruction to SRT members.

**Officer Chris Snipes** assisted with the security of the scene in the 2506 W. Grand stand-off. While the SRT was removing suspects from a building on the property of the target location, officers were fired upon by another suspect who had been hiding in the building. Snipes observed investigators backing away from the building while they were exchanging gunfire with

the suspect. He realized one of the investigators had been struck by a bullet fired by the suspect, so he took cover and directed the investigators to pull back while providing them with lethal cover.

**Officer David Hatch** and Corporal Rod Noble investigated a series of home invasion robberies in which the suspects targeted elderly members of the community. During the course of the investigation, they developed leads based upon the collection of physical evidence not recovered in the preliminary investigation. They were able to determine four prime suspects were responsible for the crimes. As a result of their investigation, more than 30 criminal charges have been presented to the Greene County Prosecutor's Office. Also, they were able to recover some of the property taken from the victims as well as connect the suspects to a series of unsolved commercial burglaries previously unsolved.

**Corporal Rob Schroeder** volunteered to take on the role as the department's historian in 2012, and he has spent over 200 hours of his personal time preserving and organizing over 150 years of SPD's history. He created a tourist attraction out of the Calaboose. Last year, over 2,000 citizens visited the museum. He also started a "Springfield Police Museum" Facebook page. Schroeder has located and coordinated the restoration and preservation of photos, films and newspaper articles, and he identified and obtained information on over 40 officers employed prior to 1930. He also completed a thorough list of past constables, marshals and chiefs and organized displays at the Calaboose and Headquarters which tell stories about Springfield citizens, individual officers and policing events.

On Nov. 19, 2013, while assigned to Uniform Operations, **Officer Aaron Pearson** developed information concerning a suspected drug house within his assigned patrol beat. During the course of his shift, he conducted surveillance on the target location and developed information that led to a traffic stop of a vehicle leaving the location. Assisted by Officer Nick Masterson, the traffic stop resulted in the recovery of 26 grams of methamphetamine and a seizure of \$3,391 in suspected drug-related money. A secondary search of the vehicle, with the assistance of a police service dog and officers assigned to the Narcotic Enforcement Team, resulted in the recovery of an additional 153 grams of methamphetamine, powder cocaine, crack cocaine, LSD and marijuana. Their efforts resulted in a large cache of narcotics being removed from the streets of Springfield.

On April 28, 2013, **Jacob Adamson**, who was 12 years old at the time, displayed bravery and courage during a domestic assault as he summoned Springfield police officers to assist his sister who was being assaulted. The original call for assistance gave an incorrect address. As officers arrived in the general area, Adamson ran outside to direct them to the correct address and advised them his sister was being physically assaulted by a male. After an arrest was made, he gave the on-scene officers a detailed and accurate account as to what had occurred. He followed up his brave action on scene by agreeing to testify in court against the suspect despite the fear of retaliation. His brave actions to assist his sister and police officers as well as his willingness to testify in court are great examples of how citizens can help combat crime.

President's Volunteer Service Award:

- John Howards – Gold – 502 hours served
- Cadet Captain Zachary Sawyer – Gold – 461.75 hours served
- Cadet Lieutenant James Velier – Silver – 225 hours served
- Chaplain Randy Hedlun – Bronze – 119.45 hours served
- Bethany Kosovich – Bronze – 175.25 hours served
- Dennis Nowels – Bronze – 209 hours served
- David Rendall – Bronze – 160.75 hours served
- Cadet Sergeant Trevor Sayre – Bronze – 116 hours served
- Recruit Josiah Thompson – Bronze – 126.75 hours served
- Bill Polk – Bronze – 224 hours served

Howards also received the SPD's Volunteer of the Year award.

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