

# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Presents the  
**MERIT AWARDS  
CEREMONY**

Tuesday, May 21, 2019  
3:00 pm

# 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.



*Milwaukee Police  
Department  
749 West State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
[www.milwaukee.gov/police](http://www.milwaukee.gov/police)*

*Alfonso Morales  
Chief of Police*

Family and Friends

Welcome to our semi-annual Merit Awards Ceremony.

This evening, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to honor and recognize members of our organization and everyday citizens for the extraordinary acts they performed. These brave and selfless men and women placed their lives on the line for the safety of our community.

We gather to honor our award recipients twice a year but the work of the Milwaukee Police Department takes place every minute of every day. Please join me as we celebrate and congratulate these remarkable individuals who are committed to forwarding the vision and mission of our Department. They are examples that we can all follow in our daily lives.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alfonso Morales'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alfonso Morales  
Chief of Police

## *Invited Guests*

*City of Milwaukee*

**Tom Barrett**

Mayor

*The Milwaukee Common Council*

**Ashanti Hamilton**

Common Council President

*Ashanti Hamilton*

1st District

*Cavalier Johnson*

2nd District

*Nik Kovac*

3rd District

*Robert J. Bauman*

4th District

*Nikiya Dodd*

5th District

*Milele A. Coggs*

6th District

*Khalif J. Rainey*

7th District

*Robert G. Donovan*

8th District

*Chantia Lewis*

9th District

*Michael J. Murphy*

10th District

*Mark A. Borkowski*

11th District

*José G. Pérez*

12th District

*Terry L. Witkowski*

13th District

*Tony Zielinski*

14th District

*Russell W. Stamper II*

15th District

*Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission*

**LaKeisha W. Butler**

Executive Director

*Everett L. Cocroft*

Commissioner

*Fred Crouther*

Commissioner

*Steven M. DeVougas*

Commissioner

*Angela McKenzie*

Commissioner

*Nelson Soler*

Commissioner

*Ann Wilson*

Commissioner

*Other Invited Guests*

Command Staff  
Milwaukee Police Department

Milwaukee Police  
Association

Milwaukee Police  
Supervisors' Organization

Family and  
Friends

John T. Chisholm  
Milwaukee County  
District Attorney

*Merit Awards Program*

*Musical Prelude*

Milwaukee Police Band  
Retired Lieutenant Karen M. Dubis  
Director

*Welcome*

Captain of Police Nicole Waldner  
Milwaukee Police Department

*Presentation of Colors*

Milwaukee Police Honor Guard

*National Anthem*

Milwaukee Police Band

*Invocation*

George Papachristou  
Milwaukee Police Chaplain

*Remarks*

Mayor Tom Barrett  
City of Milwaukee

*Remarks and Presentation*

Police Chief Alfonso Morales  
Milwaukee Police Department

*Master of Ceremonies*

Mr. Shaun Gallagher,  
TMJ-4 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.

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### *The Medal of Valor*



Combat

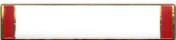


Rescue

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.

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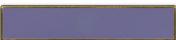
### *Lifesaving*



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.

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### *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.

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### *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.

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### *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.

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### *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.

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### *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 3

Police Sergeant Raymond M. Hewitt ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Sergeant Michael W. Lassanske ..... Meritorious Service  
Mr. Larry Holland ..... Meritorious Conduct

### District 4

Police Officer Charles A. Copeland ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Joseph E. Laspisa ..... Lifesaving  
Police Sergeant Troy P. Johnson ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Jonathan M. Miller ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Conway Nimmer, Jr. .... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Anthony S. Presti ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Charrita L. Townsend ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Ryan D. Webb ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Eian B. West ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Nathan L. Woods ..... Meritorious Service  
Mr. Ryan P. Cronin ..... Meritorious Conduct  
Mr. Christopher Davis ..... Meritorious Conduct  
Mrs. Ladonna M. Davis ..... Valorous Conduct  
Mr. Daniel J. Lang ..... Meritorious Conduct

### District 5

Police Officer Aaron V. Frantal ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Michael T. Valuch, Jr. .... Meritorious Service  
Mr. Ahmed N. Alhamadani ..... Valorous Conduct

### District 6

Police Officer Ethan A. Osmak ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Irving R. Hernandez-Maestre ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Ryan W. Rediske ..... Lifesaving  
Police Officer Mark J. Sheremeta ..... Lifesaving  
Mr. Gerald D. Zarling ..... Meritorious Conduct

### District 7

Police Officer Daniel A. Sturma ..... Meritorious Service

### Specialized Patrol Division

Police Sergeant Bradley J. Buddenhagen ..... Medal of Valor-Combat  
Police Officer Trevor D. DeBoer ..... Medal of Valor-Combat  
Police Officer Alberto Figueroa ..... Purple Valor Star  
Police Officer Lane C. Grady ..... Medal of Honor  
Police Officer Nikhom Lee ..... Medal of Valor-Combat

Award Recipients

Specialized Patrol Division

Police Officer Mark S. Lentz ..... Purple Valor Star  
Police Officer Procopio G. Orlando ..... Medal of Valor-Combat  
Police Officer Erin L. Tischer ..... Medal of Valor-Combat  
Police Officer Kent D. Tuschl ..... Medal of Valor-Combat  
Police Officer Matthew J. Zaworski ..... Medal of Valor-Combat  
Paramedic Firefighter Amber Buschmann ..... Valorous Conduct  
Paramedic Firefighter Josh Long ..... Valorous Conduct  
Mr. Charles A. Page ..... Valorous Conduct

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Detective Matthew P. Bell ..... Meritorious Service  
Detective Craig J. Thimm ..... Meritorious Service

Sensitive Crimes Division

Police Officer Benjamin J. Smith ..... Excellence in Police Service

Special Investigations Division

Police Officer Joseph L. Esqueda ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Daniel J. Keller ..... Meritorious Service  
Detective Paul D. Martinez ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Andrew J. Molina ..... Meritorious Service  
Detective Thomas J. Obregon ..... Meritorious Service  
Detective Richard M. Ticcioni ..... Meritorious Service

Intelligence Fusion Center

Detective Eric J. Draeger ..... Meritorious Service  
Detective David M. Gabbard ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Christopher M. Heidemann ..... Meritorious Service  
Police Officer Fawn M. Schwandt ..... Meritorious Service

Technical Communications Division

Emergency Communications Operator II Tristan J. Brodie . Meritorious Service  
Emergency Communications Operator I Beatriz Ferreira ... Meritorious Service  
Emergency Communications Operator I Yvonne M. Gagliano  
Meritorious Service  
Police Sergeant Donna E. Mohomes ..... Meritorious Service  
Emergency Communications Operator II Anoma Stoiber .. Meritorious Service  
Emergency Communications Operator II Caroline R. Stricklin  
Meritorious Service (2)  
Emergency Communications Operator I Tina M. Torrez Cruz  
Meritorious Service  
Emergency Communications Operator I Jasmine M. Words  
Meritorious Service

*Excellence In Police Service Award Recipients*  
*Milwaukee Police Honor Guard*

Captain Derrick L. Harris  
Lieutenant Charles Berard  
Lieutenant Madrina Dela Cruz  
Police Sergeant Nicole M. Gengler  
Police Sergeant Trent D. Little  
Police Sergeant Matthew P. Palmer  
Police Sergeant Dorian L. Ratliff  
Police Officer Jaime A. Arce  
Police Officer Brian J. Duerst  
Police Officer Billie L. Ellis  
Police Officer Elvis M. Lock  
Police Officer Eric A. Northwood  
Police Officer Peter A. Pfau  
Police Officer Erik F. Smith  
Police Officer Thomas L. Struck

*Excellence In Police Service Award Recipients*

Police Officer Christopher G. Boss  
Police Officer Matthew K. Dresen  
Police Officer Jose E. Flores  
Police Officer Aaron V. Frantal  
Police Officer Andrew R. Gross  
Police Officer Bradley S. Kwiatkowski  
Police Officer Ryan A. Lafond  
Police Officer Dustin L. Langfeldt  
Police Officer Ryan M. Reagan  
Police Officer Nicolas J. Romeo  
Police Officer Gerald W. Winding

*Chief Superior Leadership Award*

Captain Derrick L. Harris  
Police Officer Elvis M. Lock  
Police Officer Thomas E. Kline  
Police Officer Jose A. Acevedo

*Unit Service Award Recipients*

Detective Jon A. Charles  
Detective James R. Hunter  
Detective Kenneth J. Justus  
Detective Jorge O. Suarez  
Detective Reana M. Vrtochnick  
Police Officer Louise S. Bray  
Police Officer Barbara I. Court  
Police Officer Joan M. Mueller  
Crime Analyst Jason M. Ruff

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

## In Loving Memory of A Fallen Officer

**Police Officer Matthew J. Rittner**

**Medal of Honor Award  
Purple Valor Award**

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On February 6, 2019, Police Officer Matthew Rittner and officers from the Tactical Enforcement Unit responded to the 2900 block of South 12th Street to execute a high-risk warrant. The team approached the residence and encountered a locked exterior door. With ease, the team breached the outer door and ascended the stairs to the upper level. At the top of the stairway the team was confronted with another locked door located in a very confined area. Because of the tight space, it was determined a one-man ram was required to access the point of entry. Numerous instructions and announcements were made to alert the occupants of police presence. Officer Rittner, a former U.S. Marine, left the safety of the officers that provided him with ballistic shield protection. With the one-man battering ram, Officer Rittner delivered two strikes. The second strike caused a hole in the door. Upon delivering the second strike, a suspect armed with a rifle, fired several rounds from the opposite side of the door at Officer Rittner and this team. Officer Rittner was severely wounded and subsequently succumbed to his injuries. Officer Rittner exhibited exceptional courage and bravery to accept the sole responsibility to breach the door in order to apprehend a violent criminal and protect Milwaukee and its residents. Officer Rittner paid the ultimate sacrifice. For his courage, bravery and loss, we will honor him in our hearts and in our memories. Thank you Matt.

District Three

Captain Jeffrey Norman

Police Sergeant Raymond M. Hewitt Meritorious Service Award

On November 26, 2018, Sergeant Raymond Hewitt responded to the 2900 block of West Clybourn Street to investigate a suicidal, critical missing subject. Upon his arrival, Sergeant Hewitt observed the suicidal subject running on the rooftop of a building. The Milwaukee Fire Department responded to the location to provide officers with a ladder. Without hesitation, Sergeant Hewitt climbed onto the snow and ice covered roof and began engaging the subject in conversation. The subject continued to climb up the roof and eventually reached the third story of the building. Sergeant Hewitt established a rapport with the subject and subsequently convinced the subject to come down from the roof. Sergeant Hewitt escorted the subject to the ladder and assisted the Milwaukee Fire Department with the safe removal of the subject from the roof. The subject was taken to Milwaukee County Mental Health for further evaluation. The actions of Sergeant Hewitt prevented the subject, who was suffering a mental crisis, from injury or death.

On November 6, 2018, Sergeant Lassanske responded to the 2900 block of West Michigan Street for a subject with a gun complaint. Squads already on scene advised that a subject was standing in front of a building, armed with an AR-15 rifle and several handguns. The subject made threats to fire his weapons and informed officers that he had fired multiple weapons while on the roof of the nearby building an hour prior. Upon Sergeant Lassanske's arrival, he parked a safe distance away, and while on foot, approached the subject from behind. As Sergeant Lassanske approached the subject, he observed the subject had a rifle strapped over his left shoulder; the subject also had both hands in the air. In his right hand was a cell phone that was pointed toward the officers. The subject advised officers that he was "live-tweeting" the entire exchange. The subject's attention was directed toward the officers in front of him, and he was unaware that Sergeant Lassanske was approaching slowly from behind. Sergeant Lassanske ran toward the subject from behind, simultaneously gained control of the subject's arms and decentralized the subject. His actions prevented the subject from accessing his firearms until officers were able to handcuff him. A rifle and three handguns were recovered. Sergeant Lassanske demonstrated extreme bravery that led to the arrest of an armed suspect without injury to the suspect, officers, or citizens.

On December 17, 2018, Mr. Holland was in the area of the 1600 block of North Hawley Road when he observed a vehicle on fire. He further observed a male subject who appeared to be unconscious, slumped over the steering wheel. Mr. Holland approached the burning vehicle, pulled the citizen from the vehicle, and moved him out of harm's way. The Milwaukee Fire Department arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. Mr. Holland remained on scene to further assist authorities and provided information about the events that occurred. It was later learned that the citizen, while driving, suffered a stroke that caused the accident that resulted in the vehicle fire. The citizen was safely transported to a hospital for medical treatment. Mr. Holland called the Milwaukee Police Department to follow up on the condition of the citizen and offered a prayer for him. Mr. Holland's willingness to put his life on the line for a complete stranger is commendatory. His selfless actions were instrumental in saving the life of the citizen.

**Police Officer Irving R. Hernandez-Maestre**

**Police Officer Joseph E. Laspisa**

**Police Officer Jonathan M. Miller**

**Lifesaving Award**

On November 28, 2018, Officer Hernandez-Maestre, Officer Laspisa and Officer Miller responded to the 6300 block of North 91st Street for a shooting. Upon their arrival, they located a shooting victim lying on the ground, suffering a gunshot wound to his upper groin area. In an attempt to stop the bleeding, Officer Miller applied pressure to the wound. Officer Laspisa, a trained combat lifesaver in the United States Marine Corps, knelt on the victim's upper groin area and began to assess the victim's injuries. Officer Laspisa determined that a tourniquet would not be effective as the wound was high and the amount of blood observed on the ground surrounding the victim was excessive. Officer Hernandez-Maestre relieved Officer Laspisa; Officer Miller continued to keep the victim alert, while Officer Laspisa retrieved a medical trauma pack from his squad. As a result of Officer Laspisa's medical training, he applied a combat style roll of gauze to the victim's wound and continued to apply pressure until the Milwaukee Fire Department arrived. The heroic actions of the officers were instrumental in saving the life of the victim.

**Police Officer Charrita L. Townsend**

**Police Officer Ryan D. Webb**

**Police Officer Eian B. West**

**Lifesaving Award**

**Police Sergeant Troy P. Johnson**

**Police Officer Nathan L. Woods**

**Meritorious Service Award**

On April 2, 2019, a City of Milwaukee parking enforcement officer, while on patrol, observed a vehicle illegally parked. After he placed a parking ticket on the vehicle two suspects confronted and engaged in an argument with the enforcement officer. The suspects assaulted the parking enforcement officer and stabbed him multiple times. The parking enforcement officer sustained severe injuries but gathered enough strength to drive to the District Four Police Station. Upon his arrival, he exited his assigned work vehicle and collapsed on the ground. Police Officer Woods peered out of the station office window, observed the victim fall to the ground and notified Sergeant Troy Johnson. Sergeant Johnson immediately ran outside and requested medical attention, additional squads, and a first aid kit. Sergeant Johnson instructed Police Officer Ryan Webb to apply pressure to the wounds. Police Officer Charrita Townsend retrieved the first aid kit. She and Police Officer Eian West applied pressure to the stab wounds. Sergeant Johnson instructed Officer Nathan Woods to respond to the Milwaukee Fire Department fire station, located on an adjacent parking lot, for immediate medical assistance.

## District Four

## Captain Heather Wurth

Although the victim was in severe pain and distress, he provided Sergeant Johnson with a description of the suspects. The description was broadcasted to responding officers. The suspects were located, arrested and conveyed to the Police Administration Building. The suspects provided a full confession. Sergeant Johnson, Officers Townsend, Webb, West and Woods quick and decisive actions saved the life of the parking enforcement officer.

## Police Officer Anthony S. Presti

## Lifesaving Award

## Police Officer Charles A. Copeland

## Police Officer Conway Nimmer, Jr.

## Meritorious Service Award

On January 5, 2019, Officer Copeland, Officer Nimmer and Officer Presti responded to a suicide attempt. It was reported that the subject was bi-polar and violent, took a large amount of pain pills, and locked herself inside a bathroom. Upon their arrival, Officers Copeland and Presti made numerous attempts to contact the subject by knocking on the door and contacting family members. Concerned for the subject's well-being, Officer Copeland kicked in the door and forced entry into the apartment. Upon entering the apartment, Officer Presti observed the subject seated on the window ledge outside the apartment building. Officer Presti methodically approached the subject from behind, grabbed her upper torso and pulled her inside the apartment to safety. The officers intervened in a suicide attempt and succeeded in preventing the loss of a life.

## Mrs. Ladonna M. Davis

## Valorous Conduct Award

On March 8, 2019, Mrs. Davis, a registered nurse, was at the Walgreens located at 9040 West Good Hope Road. As she exited the store, she heard a female scream for help. She approached the female and observed a male subject in the driver's seat of a vehicle. Mrs. Davis pulled the subject from the vehicle and placed him on the ground. She noticed the subject's breathing was extremely shallow. As Mrs. Davis performed CPR on the subject, she was informed the subject just used heroin and overdosed. Mrs. Davis instructed a citizen to go inside Walgreens and request Narcan from the pharmacy. Mrs. Davis continued CPR for several minutes until the pharmacist responded and provided her with the Narcan. Mrs. Davis administered the Narcan and the subject's breathing returned to normal, and he became alert. The Milwaukee Fire Department arrived and provided medical attention. Mrs. Davis' quick thinking and heroic actions saved the life of the citizen.

Mr. Ryan P. Cronin

Mr. Daniel J. Lang Meritorious Conduct Award

On June 7, 2018, Police Officer Charles Irvine Jr. and his partner Officer Matthew Schulze were in pursuit of a vehicle when their squad lost control and was involved in a roll-over crash. As Mr. Ryan Cronin drove home, he approached the intersection and noticed the overturned squad. Mr. Cronin, a trained EMT, pulled over to render aid. Mr. Cronin's co-worker, Mr. Daniel Lang, was on the same road and also immediately stopped to render aid. Mr. Cronin approached the crash site and became aware of Officer Schulze's attempt to free himself. Mr. Cronin asked Mr. Lang to stay with Officer Schulze while he checked the squad for another officer. Mr. Cronin located Officer Irvine and determined he suffered catastrophic injuries and shielded him from the view of the public. In an attempt to provide comfort, Mr. Cronin held Officer Irvine's hand and talked to him. Mr. Cronin assisted the Milwaukee Fire Department and performed CPR. Mr. Lang remained with Officer Schulze to keep him calm and alert. Officer Irvine succumbed to his injuries related to the crash, and Officer Schulze was treated for significant injuries. Mr. Cronin and Mr. Lang's rapid response and actions to render aid exemplified extreme courage and compassion. Their outstanding actions went beyond an ordinary citizen response and will be forever commended by the Milwaukee Police Department.

Mr. Christopher Davis

Meritorious Conduct Award

On April 6, 2019, a subject driving while under the influence of an intoxicant struck an occupied vehicle. A woman in her 20's suffered fatal injuries and died at the scene. Armed Security Officer Christopher Davis was in the area of the crash and observed the intoxicated subject flee on foot. Mr. Davis followed the subject and located him hiding behind a storage shed. Mr. Davis ordered the subject to the ground and placed him into custody without incident. The subject admitted to Mr. Davis that he was the driver of the striking vehicle. The subject also admitted he had two prior OWI's. Mr. Davis conveyed the subject to the original crash scene and turned the subject over to police. Mr. Davis' keen observation, brave actions and dedication to help others led to the arrest of the person responsible for the unnecessary loss of life.

Police Officer Aaron V. Frantal

Police Officer Michael T. Valuch, Jr. Meritorious Service Award

On November 19, 2018, the Milwaukee Police Department responded to the 2700 block of North 13th Street for the report of a shooting. Upon their arrival, officers located a 13 year old child that had been shot and succumbed to her injuries.

## District Five

## Captain Boris Turcinovic

Officer Frantal and Officer Valuch responded to the area to check for subjects possibly involved in the homicide. Upon their arrival, they observed a subject, wearing all black, in the middle of the roadway. The subject was standing next to a parked vehicle and upon the site of police fled on foot. Officers Frantal and Valuch interviewed the witness inside the parked vehicle and obtained a name, address and description of the subject who fled. The interview also revealed that the subject was armed with a large rifle. Officers Frantal and Valuch coordinated with responding squads and the Tactical Enforcement Unit to check for the suspect at the address provided. The suspect was taken into custody, and during the search of the residence, the weapon potentially used during the incident was located. Officer Frantal and Officer Valuch's attention to detail and situational awareness to the gravity of the circumstances resulted in the identification and arrest of the subject wanted for the homicide of the 13 year old child.

## Mr. Ahmed N. Alhamadani

## Valorous Conduct Award

On March 22, 2019, Mr. Alhamadani was traveling south on Teutonia Avenue when he observed a vehicle traveling north. The vehicle left the roadway, crossed the sidewalk, struck a pedestrian, and pinned her against a building. The driver exited the vehicle, pushed it off the pedestrian and fled on foot. Mr. Alhamadani stopped his vehicle and ran to assist the citizen. Mr. Alhamadani assessed the citizen's injuries, noticed her right leg sustained serious injury and was bleeding profusely. Mr. Alhamadani retrieved a cell phone charging cable from his vehicle and applied it as a tourniquet to her leg. He also remained at the scene and provided officers a detailed description of the subject that fled. The citizen was transported to a hospital for medical attention. Due to the severity of the injuries sustained, the citizen's leg was amputated. As a direct result of the heroic and selfless actions of Mr. Alhamadani, the citizen survived her injuries.

## District Six

## Captain Kristin Riestra

## Police Officer Ethan A. Osmak

## Lifesaving Award

On February 27, 2019, Officer Osmak and Officer Graczyk responded to the report of a 24 year old female who overdosed on heroin. Upon arrival, a citizen stated the female was not breathing. Officers observed her lying motionless on the floor; her lips turned blue. Officer Graczyk immediately administered Narcan. Officer Osmak administered chest compressions for almost three minutes when the female began to breathe on her own. The Milwaukee Fire Department arrived on scene, provided medical attention and transported the female to the hospital. Officer Osmak's actions saved the life of the citizen.

District Six

Captain Kristin Riestra

Police Officer Ryan W. Rediske

Police Officer Mark J. Sheremeta

Lifesaving Award

On March 8, 2019, Officer Rediske and Officer Sheremeta were dispatched to a call of an injured/sick person. They were informed a female lost consciousness, turned blue and was unresponsive. Officer Rediske arrived and observed the female lying lifeless on the living room floor. Officer Rediske determined the subject was pulseless and not breathing; he immediately administered CPR. Officer Sheremeta determined the female possibly overdosed and administered Narcan. The female did not respond to the Narcan and Officer Sheremeta took over chest compressions. The female became responsive and started to breathe on her own. Medical attention arrived and the female was transported to a hospital. Officer Rediske and Officer Sheremeta's quick and decisive actions saved the life of the citizen.

Mr. Gerald D. Zarling

Meritorious Conduct Award

On November 30, 2018, a truck driver parked his semi-trailer truck at the loading dock of a business. As the driver worked between the truck and the loading dock, the truck rolled backwards and crushed him between the truck and the dock. Mr. Gerald Zarling, also a truck driver, heard the victim screaming and calling for help. Mr. Zarling responded to the screams for help and located the driver trapped at the loading dock. Mr. Zarling ran to the front of the semi, jumped into the cab, and pulled the truck forward, releasing the truck driver from the dock. Mr. Zarling summoned medical attention, and the truck driver was taken to a hospital and treated for his injuries. Mr. Zarling's selfless and heroic actions were instrumental in saving the life of the truck driver.

District Seven

Captain Willie Murphy

Police Officer Daniel A. Sturma

Meritorious Service Award

On November 21, 2018, Officer Sturma was off duty and in route to work to report for his tour of duty when he observed a vehicle parked on the shoulder at the top of the Daniel Hoan Memorial Bridge. Officer Sturma took the initiative to turn around and return to the top of the bridge to check the welfare of occupants inside the vehicle. Upon his return, Officer Sturma observed and made contact with a subject who was visually upset and crying inside of the vehicle. Officer Sturma engaged the subject in conversation and learned that the subject had driven himself to the location to commit suicide. Officer Sturma contacted emergency response services to request additional assistance for the subject. Officer Sturma remained with the subject and continued to engage him in conversation until resources from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and Milwaukee Police Department arrived on scene. Officer Sturma's off duty actions directly impacted an individual in crisis and aided in the preservation of life.



## Specialized Patrol Division

## Captain Derrick Harris

Buschmann and Long were also liaisons and coordinated the arrival of a medical unit and other MFD resources. Buschmann, Long and MFD personnel bridged the gap from the scene of the incident to the hospital.

As Rittner received medical attention from Buschmann and Long, Sergeant Buddenhagen, Officers Grady, Tischer, Zaworski and Orlando returned to the residence to engage the threat. The suspect and several other individuals were taken into custody without further incident.

For exceptional bravery demonstrated at the risk of losing his own life for the lives of his team, Officer Grady is awarded the highest award granted by the Milwaukee Police Department, the Medal of Honor.

For the demonstration of exceptional courage and performance of their duties in an extremely dangerous situation, Sergeant Buddenhagen, Officers DeBoer, Lee, Orlando, Tischer, Tuschl and Zaworski are awarded the Medal of Valor Combat.

For the response that went well above and beyond the call of duty and at the risk of their own safety, MPD honors MFD Paramedic Firefighter Amber Buschmann and MFD Paramedic Firefighter Josh Long with the Valorous Conduct Award.

## Police Officer Mark S. Lentz

## Purple Valor Star Award

On August 3, 2017, Officer Lentz, assigned to the Motorcycle Unit, conducted traffic enforcement on the 400 block of North 27th Street. Officer Lentz identified a speeding motorist, activated his lights and siren and entered the roadway. As he attempted to stop the speeding motorist, a vehicle struck him from behind. Officer Lentz was ejected from his motorcycle and suffered several injuries. The striking vehicle fled from the scene. The investigation revealed the incident was not an accident. It was, in fact, a coordinated plan between the striking auto and the targeted vehicle of the traffic stop to hurt Officer Lentz. Months after the incident, PO Lentz began to show signs of traumatic brain injury and nerve damage. Officer Lentz lost the ability to speak and suffered substantial memory loss. Officer Lentz sustained serious and permanent impairment. We recognize Officer Lentz today for his sacrifice and that of his family as he protected and served the citizens of the City of Milwaukee and the Police Department.

## Police Officer Alberto Figueroa

## Purple Valor Star Award

On January 21, 2019, Officer Alberto Figueroa conducted traffic enforcement and stopped a vehicle for a broken tail lamp. Officer Figueroa approached the vehicle and began to speak with the occupants. Two vehicles were observed driving recklessly in the direction of the traffic stop.

## Specialized Patrol Division

## Captain Derrick Harris

One vehicle crashed violently into a vehicle parked behind Officer Figueroa's squad. The second reckless vehicle crashed into Officer Figueroa, and trapped him between the two vehicles. As the striking vehicle fled the scene, Officer Figueroa was hurled into the middle of the street where he laid lifeless, unresponsive and not breathing. An occupant from the traffic stop pulled Officer Figueroa to safety. The citizen performed CPR and instructed a friend to call for medical attention. Officer Figueroa was transported to a hospital where he underwent several emergency surgeries.

It has been four months since the incident. Officer Figueroa remains under medical care for the serious injuries sustained that night. We recognize Officer Figueroa for his sacrifice and that of his family as he protected and served the citizens of the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Police Department.

## Mr. Charles A. Page

## Valorous Conduct Award

On January 21, 2019, Police Officer Alberto Figueroa conducted traffic enforcement and stopped a vehicle for a broken tail lamp. Officer Figueroa approached the vehicle and began to speak with the occupants. Two vehicles were observed driving recklessly in the direction of the traffic stop. One vehicle crashed violently into a vehicle parked behind Officer Figueroa's squad. The second reckless vehicle crashed into Officer Figueroa, and trapped him between the two vehicles. As the striking vehicle fled the scene, Officer Figueroa was hurled into the middle of the street. Mr. Charles Page exited the vehicle, grabbed Officer Figueroa and pulled him to the curb to safety. Officer Figueroa was unconscious and not breathing. Mr. Page began to perform CPR on Officer Figueroa until he became responsive and opened his eyes. Mr. Page remained calm in a stressful situation and demonstrated courage and compassion. His heroic and selfless actions directly saved the life of Officer Figueroa.

## Criminal Investigation Bureau

## Captain Thomas Casper

### Detective Matthew P. Bell

### Detective Craig J. Thimm

### Meritorious Service Award

On December 11, 2018, officers responded to an apartment building where a man made threats to shoot people in the building. Upon their arrival, the subject stated he had a rifle and barricaded himself in his apartment. A check of the subject's history revealed that he was a military veteran, who suffered from mental illness and had been involved in a standoff with police in the past. Detective Thimm and Detective Bell of the Crisis Negotiation Unit responded to the location and began negotiating with the subject. Detective Thimm was able to build a rapport with the subject, bonding over their commonality of both being military veterans. Detective Bell acted as a coach and provided intelligence to Detective Thimm. The detectives gained the subjects trust, and after almost three hours of negotiation, convinced him to surrender peacefully. Detective Thimm and Detective Bell showed great poise, empathy, and patience while negotiating with the subject, bringing the situation to a peaceful resolution.

Police Officer Benjamin Smith has been assigned to the Sensitive Crimes Division, Missing Persons Unit since September 2000. Over the years he has investigated numerous juvenile, critical missing and long-term missing person cases. While assigned to the division he developed strong relationships with numerous law enforcement agencies, community partners and Milwaukee residents. He has displayed dedication to the families impacted by mental health crises, cognitive disorders and criminal victimizations.

His service can be exemplified in his work in the following missing person case. On December 13, 2014, Officer Smith was assigned to investigate a complaint of a missing 18 year old female. Over a two year period, Officer Smith conducted search warrants, interviewed numerous witnesses and remained in contact with the family. Unfortunately, in 2016 the missing 18 year old was found deceased. Officer Smith displayed empathy, compassion and generosity to the family as they mourned the loss of their loved one. In 2018, Officer Smith hosted a Christmas event for families impacted by crime. He ensured the family of the 18 year old victim was supported and welcomed during the event. Officer Smith's passion to assist victims and their families truly demonstrates his commitment to serving the citizens of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Police Department.

On November 30, 2018, members of the Special Investigations Division responded to the 3000 block of North 1st Street to check for a subject wanted on several felony warrants. The subject was known to have a history of mental illness and resisting arrest. The subject also made comments to family and friends that he would never go back to jail. Upon arrival, officers located the subject in the second floor of a residence. The subject had closed and locked the door, and refused to surrender. The subject armed himself with a knife, placed it to his throat, and stated he would rather kill himself than go back to jail. Detective Obregon, a trained member of the Crisis Negotiation Team, immediately began a dialogue with the subject. In a calm and reassuring manner, Detective Obregon attempted to convince the subject to drop the knife and peacefully surrender. After five hours of negotiations, he convinced the subject to disarm himself, open the door and surrender. After his surrender, a visibly shaken and distraught subject thanked Detective Obregon for talking with him for so long. The subject refused to leave the residence without giving Detective Obregon a hug first. Detective Obregon's personal and professional skills, as well as his tenacity and perseverance led to a successful and peaceful arrest of a wanted felon.

Detective Paul D. Martinez  
Detective Richard M. Ticcioni  
Police Officer Joseph L. Esqueda  
Police Officer Daniel J. Keller  
Police Officer Andrew J. Molina  
Detective David M. Gabbard  
Police Officer Fawn M. Schwandt  
Police Officer Christopher M. Heidemann

Meritorious Service Award

On June 7, 2018, Police Officer Charles Irvine Jr. and his partner Officer Matthew Schulze were in pursuit of a vehicle used in felony offenses when their squad was involved in a roll-over crash. Officer Irvine succumbed to his injuries. Officer Schulze suffered significant injuries. With no information other than the suspect fled in a black Volkswagen Passat, officers began to search for the suspect. Detective Gabbard, Officer Schwandt, and Officer Heidemann coordinated their efforts and provided real time intelligence to officers on the street. As a team they identified the owner of the vehicle, other vehicles linked to the suspect and other imperative intelligence.

The Intelligence Fusion Center provided Detective Paul Martinez, Detective Richard Ticcioni, Officer Joseph Esqueda, Officer Daniel Keller and Officer Andrew Molina with the intelligence gathered. This information assisted the team in setting up surveillance on the suspect's vehicle. While doing so, they observed the suspect enter a different vehicle with two small children. The team conducted rolling surveillance and eventually attempted to apprehend the suspect. The suspect once again fled from officers. The team continued to gather additional intelligence about the suspect and set up a methodical investigation and surveillance plan. Their diligent efforts resulted in the arrest of the wanted suspect.

The members of the Intelligence Fusion Center and Special Investigations Division acted decisively and without delay. Their actions directly contributed to the swift apprehension of the suspect responsible for the injuries to Officer Matthew Schulze and death of Police Officer Charles Irvine, Jr.

On February 5, 2019, officers responded to investigate the report of a shooting. Upon their arrival, two victims were located. One of the victims was a 38 year old female that succumbed to her injuries.

## Intelligence Fusion Center

## Captain Daniel Thompson

The victim's ex-boyfriend was identified as the suspect in the homicide. The Homicide Division immediately contacted Detective Draeger, assigned to the High Technology Unit, and requested his assistance. Detective Draeger was tasked with locating the suspect using the suspect's trail of digital evidence. Detective Draeger identified a new and unique method in which to digitally track the suspect. His resourcefulness and ingenuity led to the location of the suspect at a residence in Louisville, Kentucky. The United States Marshalls were notified and began an extensive surveillance operation. On February 25, 2019, the suspect was apprehended. Following this incident, Detective Draeger replicated the method used in this incident, and created a streamline template for future use. Detective Draeger's service in this incident went well beyond the call of his ordinary duties, and directly led to the apprehension of a homicide suspect.

## Technical Communications Division

## Captain Jeffrey Point

## Police Sergeant Donna E. Mohomes Meritorious Service Award

On June 1, 2018, a police officer called the Technical Communications Division supervisor's office in an attempt to call in sick. Sergeant Mohomes answered the call; however, the officer began to experience signs of a stroke, could not speak intelligibly and only made incoherent sounds. Sergeant Mohomes keenly observed that the unknown caller continued to call an internal supervisory phone number that is not known to the public. Sergeant Mohomes was fearful that a member of the department was calling, was possibly under distress and requested the phone number to be researched. After learning the phone number listed to a department member, she requested for a squad and a supervisor to be sent to the address. Within eleven minutes of the initial phone call, officers arrived, located the member and summoned the Milwaukee Fire Department to the scene. Per the officer's physician, the officer would have most certainly died without the quick thinking and response of Sergeant Mohomes.

## Emergency Communications Operator I Tina M. Torrez Cruz

## Meritorious Service Award

On June 13, 2018, Operator Torrez Cruz received a 911 call from a citizen reporting she was being held hostage at gun point. The citizen called from a cell phone and the exact location of the citizen was not provided before she disconnected the call. Over a two hour period, several 911 calls were received from the citizen; however, she could not provide the operator with information and disconnected every call. Squads made several attempts to locate the citizen by responding to the coordinates of the cell phone calls. Officers were unable to locate the citizen. An anonymous third party then called 911 to report a citizen was texting him, stating that she was being held hostage. Operator Torrez Cruz asked the third party caller to text the victim and request that she call 911 and leave the line open. The call came in, the line was left open and the address was plotted.

Technical Communications Division                      Captain Jeffrey Point

Responding officers located the victim and arrested the suspect. As a direct result of Operator Torrez Cruz’s skills and quick thinking, the victim was safely removed from harm’s way.

Emergency Communications Operator I Jasmine M. Words  
Meritorious Service Award

On August 29, 2018, Operator Words received a 911 call from a citizen experiencing a mental health crisis. The citizen reported she was bipolar and schizophrenic, and she stated that she felt that she was going to hurt someone. The citizen started crying out hysterically for help, stating she wanted to kill herself. While on the phone with Operator Words, the citizen cut herself with a knife. Operator Words immediately called for medical attention for the citizen and updated responding squads that the citizen reported she was armed with a knife. Operator Words remained on the line with the citizen and built a rapport with her, eventually calming her down. Operator Words also convinced the citizen to disarm herself before officers arrived. Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the citizen until she agreed to voluntarily seek help at a hospital. Officers commended Operator Words for her great work with the citizen, as they firmly believed her actions definitely contributed to the successful interaction and outcome for a citizen in need of help.

Emergency Communications Operator I Yvonne M. Gagliano  
Meritorious Service Award

On May 4, 2018, Operator Gagliano received a call from the Milwaukee County Crisis Hotline reporting that they received a call from a despondent subject who was sobbing uncontrollably. They further reported the subject stated she was inside of a vehicle, parked inside of a garage and that the engine was running. They were able to hear the subject coughing and believed that she was attempting to commit suicide. The subject hung up on the crisis hotline without providing a name or address. The hotline provided Operator Gagliano with the phone number from which the subject called them from. In an attempt to obtain an address for the subject, Operator Gagliano contacted the Intelligence Fusion Center. In addition, she requested Sprint to conduct an exigent circumstance trace of the cell phone. The Intelligence Fusion Center informed Operator Gagliano that the phone number listed to an address located in West Allis. She then contacted the West Allis Police Department and requested a squad to be sent to the address to check for the subject. West Allis responded to the address, located the subject, and rendered medical aid. Operator Gagliano’s resourcefulness and quick thinking saved the life of a distressed suicidal citizen.

Technical Communications Division      Captain Jeffrey Point  
**Emergency Communications Operator II Caroline R. Stricklin**  
**Meritorious Service Award**

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On February 28, 2018, Operator Stricklin received a 911 call from a citizen who stated he suffered from mental health issues, was off his medication and was feeling suicidal. In speaking with the subject, Operator Stricklin learned the subject was walking and requested his location and description. This information was relayed to responding officers. Operator Stricklin engaged in dialogue with the subject and provided reassurance that help was on the way. The subject requested to speak with Operator Stricklin until the officers arrived. Once officers arrived, the subject was transported to a facility where he received the help he requested. Operator Stricklin was effective in displaying empathy and building a rapport with a citizen in need.

**Emergency Communications Operator II Tristan J. Brodie**  
**Emergency Communications Operator II Anoma Stoiber**  
**Emergency Communications Operator II Caroline R. Stricklin**  
**Emergency Communications Operator I Beatriz Ferreira**  
**Meritorious Service Award**

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On April 2, 2018, Operator Brodie received a 911 call from a subject stating he was having suicidal thoughts and requested the phone number to the suicide hotline. Operator Brodie provided the subject with the phone number and requested his name and location in an effort to send a squad to his location. The subject refused to provide the information; however, the subject remained on the line with Operator Brodie. Operator Brodie was able to build a rapport with the subject, who remained on the line for 40 minutes, talking through the reasons for his suicidal thoughts. While Operator Brodie showed empathy and remained on line with the subject, Operators Stoiber, Stricklin and Ferreira worked together as a team and attempted to find the name and location of the caller. With assistance from the Milwaukee County Crisis line, the operators learned the caller may have been the same citizen that called the crisis line earlier in the day. Using this information, Operator Brodie identified the caller, calmed him down, and remained on the line with him until officers arrived. As a result of their professionalism and collaborative efforts, a citizen experiencing a mental health crisis agreed to voluntarily seek help at a hospital.

Captain Derrick L. Harris  
Lieutenant Charles Berard  
Lieutenant Madrina Dela Cruz  
Police Sergeant Nicole M. Gengler  
Police Sergeant Trent D. Little  
Police Sergeant Matthew P. Palmer  
Police Sergeant Dorian L. Ratliff  
Police Officer Jamie A. Arce  
Police Officer Brian J. Duerst  
Police Officer Billie L. Ellis  
Police Officer Elvis M. Lock  
Police Officer Eric A. Northwood  
Police Officer Peter A. Pfau  
Police Officer Erik F. Smith  
Police Officer Thomas L. Struck

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Excellence in Police Service Award

The Milwaukee Police Department was fortunate to have not experienced an in the line of duty death between September 7, 1996 and June 7, 2018, a total of 22 years. During that time period, the activities of the Honor Guard primarily consisted of casket watch at funerals of retired MPD officers and the presentation of colors at various events, ceremonies and memorials.

Between June 7, 2018 and February 6, 2019, the department tragically experienced three in the line-of-duty deaths. The Honor Guard was called to serve in a much different role; to provide honors to our fallen officers. The planning, coordination and their execution of these honor guards were a tremendous undertaking. Members of the Honor Guard rearranged schedules, cancelled vacations, off days and worked tirelessly to provide an Honor Watch for each fallen officer. Their dedication to the mission they were asked to perform cannot be overstated. They endured a physical and emotional toll, as they were required to be at their best for each and every task, not once, but three times. The members of the Honor Guard performed the most solemn and noble task they could be asked to perform. They gave their best to honor the lives lived and lost. The Milwaukee Police Department is fortunate to have an Honor Guard that performed their duties with dedication, honor and respect.

*Excellence in Police Service Award*

Police Officer Christopher G. Boss

Police Officer Matthew K. Dresen

Police Officer Jose E. Flores

Police Officer Aaron V. Frantal

Police Officer Andrew R. Gross

Police Officer Bradley S. Kwiatkowski

Police Officer Ryan A. Lafond

Police Officer Dustin L. Langfeldt

Police Officer Ryan M. Reagan

Police Officer Nicolas J. Romeo

Police Officer Gerald W. Winding

These officers are being recognized for receiving numerous consistent letters of commendation. These letters show the daily outstanding performance of these officers as well as their willingness to go above and beyond the ordinary call of duty. We appreciate the faithful contribution these officers make to the Department's mission.

## Chief's Superior Leadership Award

### Captain of Police Derrick L. Harris

Captain Derrick Harris is the commander of the Specialized Patrol Division. The division is comprised of the Tactical Enforcement Unit and the Motorcycle Unit. In addition, Captain Harris is responsible for the Milwaukee Police Department's Honor Guard. All three units played a vital role in the coordination of events for the in the line-of-duty deaths of Police Officer Charles Irvine Jr. and Police Officer Michael Michalski.

On February 6, 2019, the Milwaukee Police Department once again felt pain and anguish as they learned of the untimely death of Police Officer Matthew Rittner. While the Department became all too familiar with the procedures that take place in the hours, days and weeks following an in the line of duty death, these tasks were different this time for the Specialized Patrol Division. With Matthew Rittner being a member under Captain Harris' command it would prove to be an extremely difficult time.

Members of the Specialized Patrol Division experienced one of the most emotional and challenging times of their careers. Captain Harris cared for the emotional needs of those under his command. He reached out to each unit several times a day to check on their well-being. He met with citizens and dignitaries that visited the Specialized Patrol Division to offer sympathy and comfort. He shielded officers from the media or well-intentioned citizens during their time of vulnerability. Captain Harris was the representative of the Specialized Patrol Division.

Captain Harris spent countless hours away from his own support system, his family. Captain Harris was overheard on the phone as he spoke to his wife and daughters as he assured them that he would be home after they went to bed and promised to wake in the morning to see them off to work and school. We would also like to recognize his family who played a crucial role in supporting and caring for him as he cared for the Specialized Patrol Division.

Captain Derrick Harris acted as a leader in the purest sense of the word. He exemplified the qualities of a true leader. He represented the Milwaukee Police Department and Specialized Patrol Division with dignity, honor and professionalism during the most challenging time in the recent history of the Milwaukee Police Department.

## Chief's Superior Leadership Award

### Police Officer Elvis M. Lock

Police Officer Elvis Lock is assigned to the Specialized Patrol Division and is also a member of the Milwaukee Police Department's Honor Guard. The Honor Guard led the many functions, honors and logistics for the in the line-of-duty deaths of Police Officer Irvine Jr. and Police Officer Michael Michalski. On February 6, 2019, the department learned of the untimely death of Police Officer Matthew Rittner. Captain Derrick Harris, commander of the Specialized Patrol Division, responded to the scene. Officer Lock immediately recognized Captain Harris' need for assistance with the coordination of the required events that followed.

Officer Lock assumed the duties and responsibilities far greater than his rank would imply. Officer Lock coordinated the honor watch for Officer Rittner. He made contact with honor guards from across the state and assembled and led flag and casket teams. Officer Lock coordinated with the Wisconsin Department of Justice to provide security for the funeral. He organized and led practice sessions at each venue in a manner that displayed honor and respect for Officer Rittner's family and our department members. During a difficult time, and as he grieved himself, Officer Lock "led up." Officer Lock's personal dedication and hard work allowed Captain Harris to care for the needs of the members of the Specialized Patrol Division. Officer Lock distinguished himself as a leader as he fulfilled a critical role during a time the department grieved a fallen officer.

*Chief's Superior Leadership Award*

**Police Officer Thomas E. Kline**

Officer Thomas Kline distinguished himself as a leader by volunteering to fulfill the critical role of organizing logistics for the funeral of Officer Michael Michalski, who died in the line of duty. Officer Kline procured staff and resources necessary to accommodate the thousands of family, friends, citizens and law enforcement officers attending services. He worked an additional ninety hours to organize, execute and lead a fluid operation. Officer Kline and Officer Michalski were academy classmates. The Milwaukee Police Department is fortunate to have leaders that demonstrate exceptional leadership, self-sacrifice and courage in what was an extremely difficult situation, physically and emotionally

## Chief's Superior Leadership Award

### Police Officer Jose A. Acevedo

On June 7, 2018, the Milwaukee Police Department experienced the in the line-of-duty death of Police Officer Charles Irvine Jr. Police Officer Acevedo sensed what most members of the Milwaukee Police Department felt; an overwhelming desire to help. Officer Acevedo initiated a memorial shirt fundraiser that donated proceeds to the Irvine family. Officer Acevedo enlisted the help of other department members and formed a fundraiser committee. He provided the startup costs to design, sell and distribute the memorial shirts. Officer Acevedo and the committee never expected the overwhelming response; thousands of orders were received and processed. Community partners and law enforcement agencies across the state reached out to participate in the fundraiser to help the Irvine family. Officer Acevedo dedicated months to complete the tasks required for the enormous undertaking. The majority of the work occurred outside of his regular hours of duty. Officer Acevedo sacrificed countless hours of personal time with his family to ensure the success of the fundraiser.

Once the fundraiser for the Irvine family was completed, the department experienced the in the line-of-duty deaths of Police Officer Michael Michalski and Police Officer Matthew Rittner. Officer Acevedo effectively responded to each incident and led the committee with memorial shirt fundraisers for each family. Officer Acevedo distinguished himself as a leader, and as a result of his personal dedication and hard work, the committee raised a significant amount of money for the families. The Milwaukee Police Department is fortunate to have compassionate and motivated leaders like Police Officer Jose Acevedo that support the families of our fallen heroes.

Unit Service Award Recipients

Sensitive Crimes Division

Detective Jon A. Charles

Police Officer Louise S. Bray

Detective James R. Hunter

Police Officer Barbara I. Court

Detective Kenneth J. Justus

Police Officer Joan M. Mueller

Detective Jorge O. Suarez

Crime Analyst Jason M. Ruff

Detective Reana M. Vrtochnick

In less than a month, between October 21, 2018 and November 13, 2018, five sexual assaults perpetrated by a stranger occurred in the City of Milwaukee. The victims of the sexual assaults were females that ranged from 15 to 20 years of age. The sexual assaults shared similar methods of operation; the victims met the suspect through a social media web site. Eventually, the victims agreed to meet with the suspect. He picked them up in a vehicle, usually near their residences. Once the victims entered the vehicle, a second armed suspect emerged from the rear of the vehicle and placed a blindfold on the victims. The victims were driven to a residence, where additional suspects waited. Multiple suspects forcibly sexually assaulted the victims. When the sexual assaults were over, the suspects drove the victims back to their residences and released them.

During the interview process, Detective Kenneth Justus, Officer Joan Mueller and Officer Barbara Court cared for the victim's physical and emotional needs.

Crime Analyst Jason Ruff researched the department's intelligence databases and developed the name of a possible suspect. Analyst Ruff coordinated his efforts with Detective Jon Charles. Detective Charles compiled a photo array, and several victims positively identified the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody and interrogated by Detective Jorge Suarez. Detective Suarez utilized his skills as an interrogator and obtained a statement from the suspect. The suspect confessed to all five sexual assaults and identified his co-actors.

Officer Mueller sent the victims sexual assault kits to the Wisconsin Regional Crime Lab. DNA standards from three of the suspects matched DNA on the sexual assault kits. Detective James Hunter assisted in the recovery of the vehicle used in these sexual assaults. Detective Vrtochnick drafted and executed search warrants that resulted in the recovery of additional evidence.

The members of the Sensitive Crimes Division worked diligently as a team and brought closure to the victims. The members exemplified the mission the Milwaukee Police Department and showed their determination to apprehend dangerous and violent criminals.

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



Frank Piszczek .....	6/22/1884	Robert Kraemer .....	2/7/1963
John Kossow .....	9/30/1899	James J. Rivers .....	3/21/1966
Ernest Johnson .....	9/15/1904	Ronald T. Hogan .....	5/2/1967
Otto H. Flieth .....	12/17/1908	Bryan Moschea .....	7/31/1967
Peter Gauer .....	7/3/1909	George Fish .....	9/23/1970
Charles W. Gudgell .....	8/22/1916	Alan Sroczyński .....	11/8/1970
Frank Caswin .....	11/24/1917	Paul DuPlanty .....	11/9/1971
Henry Deckert .....	11/24/1917	Gerald Hempe .....	1/31/1973
Frederick Kaiser .....	11/24/1917	Charles T. Smith .....	1/31/1973
David O'Brien .....	11/24/1917	Ronald Reagan .....	12/13/1973
Charles Seehawer .....	11/24/1917	Thomas G. Matulis .....	7/10/1974
Edward Spindler .....	11/24/1917	Robert D. Riley .....	7/10/1974
Stephen Stecker .....	11/24/1917	Michael Draeger .....	12/28/1974
Albert Templin .....	11/24/1917	Dennis Obradovich .....	8/17/1975
Paul Weiler .....	11/24/1917	Albert Kohn .....	10/29/1975
William Kaemmerling .....	1/26/1922	Thomas Kiefer .....	11/25/1977
Joseph Kubacki .....	5/24/1924	John Machajewski .....	12/23/1981
Walter Luedtke .....	12/18/1924	Charles S. Mehlberg .....	12/23/1981
Harold W. Schmidt .....	4/4/1925	Sydney C. Snow .....	1/20/1982
Hilbert Thurow .....	8/22/1930	Rosario J. Collura .....	3/19/1985
Robert Bahlke .....	2/23/1932	Leonard R. Lesnieski .....	3/19/1985
Richard R. Zingler .....	2/8/1933	Dennis J. Gorlewski .....	2/25/1987
Harry Pieske .....	6/27/1935	Roger A. Sterling .....	5/11/1987
Charles George .....	6/8/1936	Steve J. Hasenstab .....	8/19/1989
Nelson Goodman .....	8/10/1937	Richard E. Wagner .....	10/25/1990
George Raabe .....	11/2/1937	Michael R. Tourmo .....	11/18/1990
Joseph Lecher .....	3/21/1943	William A. Robertson .....	9/7/1994
Arnold Werner .....	7/10/1943	Michael A. Niehoff .....	12/1/1994
Valentine Adam .....	3/6/1948	Wendolyn O. Tanner .....	9/7/1996
Elmer W. Bates .....	8/23/1948	Charles G. Irvine, Jr. ....	6/7/2018
Vernon White .....	11/10/1951	Michael J. Michalski .....	7/25/2018
Raymond A. Nencki .....	10/05/1959	Matthew J. Rittner .....	2/6/2019

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



*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*



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