



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Wheat Ridge Police Department Presents Annual Awards

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. June 14, 2018 -- The Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) held its annual awards event recently and presented medals of valor and commendation as well as letters. Some highlights included a special presentation to School Resource Officers Krista Cuney and Barry Malloy by Dr. Christopher Lee, Mountain View Youth Services Center Principal for their support of students and staff.

Division Chief James Lorentz also received the first ever Alzheimer's Hero award presented by the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado. For a number of years, Lorentz has trained thousands of first responders across the state increasing their understanding and awareness of those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia as well as autism.

Chief Dan Brennan presented a Medal of Valor to Officer Frank Gonzales for his "bravery and courageous action, even putting his own life in danger", as he intervened in an attempted suicide on the bridge over I-70 at Ward Road. He used critical thinking skills to develop a plan to move close to the suicidal man and utilized his Critical Incident Training communication skills to deescalate the situation. "When it looked as though the man was leaning forward to jump, he made the courageous decision to go hands on and pull the man to safety from the edge of the bridge," said Chief Brennan quoting from the award documentation.

The Chief's Award as well as Medals/Letters of Commendation were presented to members of the Wheat Ridge Police Department who worked to implement two significant regionalization projects: the Jefferson County Communications Center Authority (JEFFCOM) and the Regional Records Management Consortium (RMSC) NICHE projects. Both of these initiatives took years to complete and involved the contributions of many employees.

Chief's Award:

IT Manager Mike Steinke
IT Staff Kent Kudebeh
IT Staff Chad Baker

Medals of Commendation:

Division Chief Dave Pickett
Sergeant Mark Moellenberg
Sergeant Scott Bellomy
Police Technician Tara Smith

(more)

WRPD Awards Page 2/2/2/2

Letters of Commendation:

I/T Staff Wil Smith
I/T Staff James Schwengler
Records Supervisor Angel Lepire

Interim Records Supervisor Wade
Hammond

NICHE:

Sergeant Bobbi Dawkins
Sergeant Brian Wilkinson
Sergeant Scott Jungclaus
Sergeant Talon Darling
Detective Justin Paugh
Detective Kyle Eversole
Detective Nellie Gisonda
Crime Analyst Beth Daniel
Records Specialist Peggy Johnson

SRO Barry Malloy
Officer Brian Gross
Officer Zach Pauga
Officer Zahra Al-Arahawi
CSO Victoria Burton

Records Specialist Stephanie Wellington

TriTech:

Corporal Mark Olexa
Corporal Dwayne Baker
Officer Tyler Fashempour
Records Specialist Teresa Valdez

Records Specialist Hannah Tippit
Records Specialist Amanda Schweda

A Medal of Recognition and Letters of Recognition were presented to the following individuals for the investigation of a shooting and robbery on W. 38th Ave. The initial witness statements identified the shooter; however, after a thorough and extensive investigation, that person was found to be the victim, and charges were filed against the other three persons.

Medal of Recognition

Detective Brad With

Letters of Recognition

Sergeant Chris Krieger,
Detective Kyle Eversole
Police Technician Tara Smith

Medals of Commendation were presented to the following individuals who responded and investigated the report of a 10-year-old found not breathing in the bottom of a bathtub. Lifesaving measures were unsuccessful and Angel Goodwin died. The grandmother was arrested and charged with child abuse resulting in death.

Medals of Commendation:

Sergeant Jamie Watson
Detective Cheri Ells
Detective Reyna Johnson
Detective Tyson Shaul
Detective Brad With
Detective Mark Slavsky

Officer Brent Brandner
Police Technician Tara Smith
ESS Francine Martinez
ESS Maria Vigil

Letters of Commendation:

Sergeant Mark Moellenberg
Detective Kyle Eversole
Detective Keith Weimer
Detective Heather Kendall
Officer Brian Gross

Officer Allan Fischer
Officer Cory Chauncey
Lakewood PD Crime Analyst Amy Laabs

WRPD AWARDS Page 3/3/3

Medals of Commendation and Letters of Recognition were presented to WRPD officers, Police Technician and Lakewood PD Crime Analysts for a case involving the report of a stabbing at the Howard Johnson Hotel. As officers and detectives investigated, it was determined that the case may have originated in Westminster with two individuals, one of whom was discovered deceased at the Westminster location. A stolen vehicle investigated simultaneously by WRPD resulted in connecting the two crimes and the location of the second suspect in the stabbing. The stolen car was reported found by the Laramie County Sheriff's Office and a regional fugitive team located the suspect. The suspect shot at responding deputies, barricaded himself in a hotel room, and eventually committed suicide after releasing a hostage.

Medals of Commendation:

Detective Brad With
Police Technician Nicole Houglan

Letters of Recognition:

Corporal Todd Payne
Officer Allan Fischer
Officer Frank Gonzales

Laabs
Lakewood PD Crime Analyst Julia
Rossi

Lakewood PD Crime Analyst Amy

Medals of Commendation and Letters of Commendation were presented to WRPD officers, a Lakewood PD Crime Analyst, and members of the West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF) for their response to the death of a teenager attempting to cross against the light on Wadsworth and 3 Acre Lane during rush hour. WMDTF was working on a case at the time but responded to render aid to the young man risking their safety with exposure to known criminals in the area. The scene was especially difficult given the age of the victim, the volume of traffic and the number of witnesses at the scene. Although off duty, School Resource Officer Malloy inquired about the identity of the teen and once it was determined he was a WR student, the Officer worked with school administrators to provide grief counseling the following Monday.

Medals of Commendation:

Sergeant Jon Pickett
Corporal Steven Brooks
Detective Kyle Eversole
Detective Nathan Lovan

Officer Larry Taggart
Officer Briann McCarthy

Letters of Commendation:

Corporal Dwayne Baker
Officer Matt McKewen
Officer John Parsons

Lakewood PD Crime Analyst Victoria
Parker

Letter of Commendation and Initiative Coin:

SRO Barry Malloy

Letters of Commendation were presented to the following officers and detectives for their response to an unknown injury accident at 38th and Wadsworth involving a Toyota 4-Runner, an RTD bus and a Jeep. The Toyota had run into the bus at a high-rate of speed pushing it into the Jeep. Alcohol and drugs were found in the Toyota. The family of the driver of the Jeep reported their appreciation for how the investigation was handled and how they were kept informed.

Letters of Commendation:

Sergeant Jon Pickett
Sergeant Scott Jungclaus
Detective Nate Lovan
Detective Tyson Shaul
Detective Reyna Johnson
Detective Mark Slavsky
Corporal Steven Brooks
Officer Matt Carley

Officer Bri McCarthy
Officer John Parsons
Officer Zach Pauga
Officer Ken Rezac
Officer Larry Taggart
Officer Shelby Wright

A Letter of Recognition was presented to the following individual for his response to a shooting at the Beset Interstate Inn. Upon arrival, Officer Carmen applied a tourniquet to the leg of a victim before being relieved by medically trained members of the Arvada Fire Protection District. AFD Captain and paramedics were impressed with the lifesaving medical care provided by Officer Carmen.

Letter of Recognition:

Officer Andrew Carmen

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