





### A WARM WELCOME

To the 38th Annual Prince William Valor Awards Ceremony!



#### Today we recognize the men and women who go above and beyond to protect and serve our communities.

These brave individuals vow to ensure safety for our families, their selfless commitment and sacrifices to serve others is truly remarkable. Each year, I look forward to this event where our local heroes are awarded for their dedication and bravery. I am honored to recognize the individuals who put their lives at risk every day.

On behalf of the Prince William Chamber Foundation, we are grateful to be putting on this event and we hope you enjoy this year's program in your honor.

#### **Bob Sweeney** President & CEO

Prince William Chamber Foundation





Sentara Healthcare has had the honor of being the presenting sponsor of the Prince William Chamber Valor Awards for many years.

It is our privilege to recognize and honor the 2024 Valor Award recipients.

We salute all the first responders and support teams who bravely serve Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park every day. Your commitment, dedication, and collaboration contribute immeasurably to making ours a community of choice where individuals, families, and businesses choose to live, work and play.

#### Jeff Joyner

President

Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center Sentara



### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**JULIANA VALENCIA** is an Emmy winning journalist in two languages. She is a morning reporter and regular fill-in anchor at NBC Washington. You can also see Valencia's stories on Telemundo 44. During her 5 years in DC, she's had the opportunity to report on historic moments such as the morning of and after the January 6th insurrection. She's covered Supreme Court rulings, appointments, and the death of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as well as Sandra Day O'Connor. Working early mornings, she was of the first journalists on scene of the Key Bridge collapse providing coverage the entire week.

Before DC, Valencia was a weekday anchor in Louisville where she launched the only weekday Spanish webcast in the region. Valencia also worked as a reporter and anchor in Paducah, K.Y. as well as had her share of one-man-band experience in New Bern, N.C. Her career began as an intern at CNN in Atlanta. She is proud graduate of the University of Florida where she swam on the club swim and dive team. Valencia lives in Northwest DC with her husband Nate and Wilson, her little dog from college.



VALTR AWARDS

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**TONY PERKINS** is a veteran Washington, D.C., journalist and host. He joined NBC4 in 2023 to anchor News4 Today. For more than 30 years, Perkins has been part of the D.C. media scene as a weatherman, reporter, host and news anchor on both television and radio.

He spent nine years performing at clubs, colleges and theaters across the country and opened for headliners such as Smokey Robinson, Aretha Franklin and Sinbad. His comedy led to a job with Donnie Simpson's #1-rated morning radio show on KYS-FM, which was then broadcast from NBC4 studios. From there, he hosted a show called "DC20 Breakaway," for which he won an Emmy Award, and then joined WTTG-TV as the morning weatherman and feature reporter.

In 1998, Perkins joined Good Morning America, bringing viewers weather reports and feature stories throughout the early hours of the day. He covered dozens of hurricanes and weather events and interviewed many celebrities during his six years there. Perkins returned to WTTG in 2006, eventually anchoring the evening newscasts with Shawn Yancy and earning his second Emmy award.In 2018, Perkins reunited with Donnie Simpson, this time on an afternoon show on MAJIC 102.3 and 92/7. He continues to co-host the show to date.



VALTR AWARDS

#### VAL RAWARDS

### **ORDER OF EVENTS**

#### PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Prince William County Public Safety Honor Guard

Eamonn Radburn, Pipe Major

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

MSG Caleb B. Green III, United States Army Ret.

#### **WELCOME**

Prince William Chamber of Commerce

#### **REMARKS FROM SPONSORS**

Transurban Compass Datacenters Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center

## PRINCE WILLIAM VALOR AWARDS PRESENTATION

Juliana Valencia & Tony Perkins, NBC4

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

VALZR AWARDS

### VALOR AWARDS CRITERIA

# HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD Recognition of an individual or group for integrity in investigative work, or the outstanding overall supervision of a particularly unusual case that is brought to a successful conclusion.

- Collaborative work to solve an exceptionally difficult case that requires a large amount of investigative and forensic work.
- May include solving a cold case or clearing an exceptionally difficult active case.
- This award can be awarded to a group or to an individual.

## GOLD AWARD Recognition of acts involving supreme sacrifice or extreme personal risk and heroism which is clearly above and beyond the call of duty.

• The highest award for bravery and heroism. Nominee lost his/her life or endured seriously life-threatening injuries. Awarded in situations where a public safety official knowingly places his/her life in peril while saving or attempting to save the lives of others who are clearly at risk.

## SILVER AWARD Recognition of acts involving significant personal risk and bravery beyond what is expected during the normal performance of duty.

• The second highest award for bravery and heroism. No life-threatening injuries occurred. Awarded in situations where a public safety official knowingly exposes himself/herself to great personal risk or they faced a near-death experience.

## BRONZE AWARD Recognition of acts involving significant personal risk and bravery beyond what is expected during the normal performance of duty.

• May include the saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons, but no near-death experiences occurred.

## MERIT AWARD Awarded to a public safety official for demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity above what is normally expected.

- May include a cumulative body of investigative work contributing to the successful closure of a major case or series of cases.
- May include saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons or performing a lifesaving act in unusual circumstances.
- Awarded to a public safety official for demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity above what
  is normally expected. May include saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons
  or performing a lifesaving act in unusual circumstances.
- May include coordinating and implementing public safety operations during a catastrophic event, or collection and delivery of important first response information that leads to successful completion of an emergency call.

# UNIT AWARD Awarded for bravery and heroism of an entire unit who demonstrates extraordinary judgment or ingenuity in a cooperative fashion.

- Unit works together and exemplifies above average teamwork, may include saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons.
- Multiple members of the team may have exposed themselves to great personal risk in the performance of an official act or gone above what is normally expected in the performance of their duties.
- May include coordinating and implementing public safety operations during a catastrophic event, or collection and delivery of important first response information that leads to successful completion of an emergency call.

Prince William County Adult Detention Center

#### **AWARDEES**

Sergeant Chelsea James Sergeant Christopher Timmons

#### On December 9th, 2023, at 23:05,

while off duty and returning from an event in Washington DC, Sergeant Timmons, and Sergeant James both witnessed the driver of a white pickup truck crash into a red car at the intersection of Liberia and Route 28 and then the driver of the pickup truck flees the scene continuing down Liberia Ave.

Sergeant James ensured 911 was called while Sergeant Timmons pursued the driver of the pickup truck. When they were following the pickup truck down Liberia Ave, the driver made a right turn onto Euclid Ave, then making another right turn down an alleyway (Euclid Court) and parking in a spot with other cars and other box trucks appearing to attempt to blend in with other vehicles.

Sergeant Timmons positioned their vehicle behind the pickup truck to prevent the driver from driving away from his parking spot. The driver of the pickup truck then exited his vehicle. Sergeant Timmons and Sergeant James then made contact with the driver, and while doing so he tried to push past them. After this, he was restrained and placed on his stomach on the ground and held until Manassas City Police arrived. Once Sergeant Jordan from MCPD arrived, he took custody of the driver who was subsequently charged with felony hit a run, driving while intoxicated, and driving without a license.

Sergeant James and Sergeant Timmons took it upon themselves to follow the driver of the pickup truck, and then once the driver tried to flee the scene when they made contact with him, used their skills to detain the driver until Manassas City Police arrived to take him into custody. Their efforts potentially saved another accident with potential injuries from happening, all while doing this without regard for their own safety.

#### VALZR AWARDS

Prince William County Adult Detention Center

#### **AWARDEE**

Sergeant Hannah Baker

On August 12, 2023, a former inmate escaped from DOC custody while on transport to Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital in Henrico County. Sergeant Baker heard about the incident the day it occurred and took it upon herself to immediately begin monitoring the inmate's contacts that were still in custody within our facility.

Over the course of weeks and months, until his eventual capture on October 25, 2023, Sergeant Baker meticulously monitored tablet messages and listened to countless phone calls. She took the information she gathered and forwarded it to both the Department of Corrections and the United States Marshals. She did this, all while continuing to carry out her normal daily responsibilities that her position here entails.

On the morning of October 25, 2023, prior to it being released publicly, Sergeant Baker received a phone call from her point of contact with the US Marshals informing her that the inmate had been captured and that the information she had been providing over the weeks was instrumental in his successful apprehension. For Sergeant Baker's initiative and persistence above and beyond her normal duties, in providing the US Marshals a constant, reliable source of information that enabled them to successfully capture this inmate, a known violent felon.

Prince William County Adult Detention Center

#### **AWARDEES**

Officer Edwin Bermejo

Officer Christopher Moss

#### On November 14, 2023, ADC Officers Edwin Bermejo and Christopher Moss were on I-81 transporting 2 inmates to the Western State Mental Hospital. While enroute, Ofc. Moss noticed that 1 inmate had moved the camera in the inmate section of the transport van so that

only part of the inmates' body was visible.

After being told to reposition the camera, Officer Moss observed the inmate wrapping his torn T-shirt around his neck and trying to pull it tight. Officer Moss informed Officer Bermejo of what the inmate was trying to do, and Officer Bermejo began speaking with the inmate in Spanish trying to distract and calm him. Officer Bermejo contacted his supervisor, 1st Sgt. Hitt, and the Virginia State Police to tell them that they were going to run code (lights and sirens) due to an inmate in the vehicle actively trying to commit suicide.

All of this was happening while there was another inmate in the vehicle that needed to be watched as well. Western State Mental Hospital was notified of the situation and told that they were approximately 30 minutes away. When they arrived, the inmate was seen and cleared by Western State Hospitals medical department. Both of these officers displayed good judgement during a very stressful, life-threatening incident. They stayed focused and relied on their training to ensure a positive outcome for both of the inmates in the vehicle as well as the officers.

Prince William County Adult Detention Center

#### **AWARDEES**

Master Jail Officer Catina Sterling Master Jail Officer Matthew Goldsborough Sergeant Ann Callahan

On January 25, 2023, in receiving at 0717 hours, Officer Sterling found an inmate, not breathing. Officer Sterling called for medical via radio for an unresponsive inmate in Receiving. Officer Sterling then adjusted the inmate, so he was lying flat on the floor, checked for a pulse, and looked for signs of life. Officer Sterling then immediately started chest compressions.

MJO Goldsborough removed all other inmates from the group holding cell and secured them in a single holding cell. After finishing the complete round of chest compression, Sergeant Callahan handed Officer Sterling a face barrier so rescue breaths could be performed. After rescue breaths, Sergeant Callahan started another round of chest compressions. During this time the inmate attempted to grasp for air.

Sergeant Callahan and Officer Sterling completed three rounds of CPR while MJO Goldsborough set up the AED. The AED analyzed the inmate, no shock was advised, and CPR was continued. MJO Goldsborough, Sergeant Callahan and Officer Sterling completed approximately eight additional rounds of CPR with two additional AED analyzations. Both AED analyzations advised no shock and to continue CPR. While CPR was still in progress, Nurse Allen administered Narcan in the right nostril with no reaction from the inmate. Nurse Allen administered a second dose of Narcan in the left nostril with no reaction from the inmate.

At approximately 0727 hours, Manassas City EMS arrived at GH 5 and took over CPR. At this point the inmate's hands had turned purple in color with the last knuckles to his fingertips being extremely pale with no color. At 0730 the inmate was hooked up to fire and rescue mechanical chest compression machine. At 0739 EMS said they had found a pulse. The inmate was transported to a local hospital where he made a full recovery.

#### VALTR AWARDS

Prince William County Adult Detention Center

#### **AWARDEES**

Master Jail Officer Robert Taylor

1st Sergeant Amanda Rourke

On November 11, 2023, at approximately 2305 hours Master Jail Officer Robert Taylor was conducting Lock Down on Unit 13, 3H Block. He saw inmates standing at 3H4 cell yelling about an inmate that was under his bunk trying to harm himself. MJO R. Taylor noticed that an inmate had tied ripped sheets around his neck and around his bunk so if you were to pull him from under the bunk it would strangle him.

At 2309 hours the Red Team was called to respond to Unit 13 3H Block for an attempted suicide. MJO R. Taylor climbed under the bunk and began to try and free the inmate, however the inmate was struggling to stop him by continuing to push his hands away from the sheets that were tied around his neck. MJO R. Taylor then removed the sheet from around the leg of the bunk so he could pull him from under the bunk and he then started removing the knotted sheet from around the inmate's neck. At 2311 hours the Red Team arrived on Unit, 1st Sergeant A. Rourke assisted with the inmate. Once the sheet was removed from around the inmate's neck, he was checked to ensure that he was breathing normally. The inmate was taken into the Day Room and checked by Medical Staff at 2315 hours.



### SILVER AWARD

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department

#### AWARDEE

#### **EMT Casey Thomas**

On August 19, 2023, Casey and his crew were dropping a patient off at Sentara Medical Center when a psych patient began to chase a Sentara security guard around the ER floor.

At the time, Casey was speaking with the charge nurse for the shift. When the patient who had a propensity to target women noticed the charge nurse, he began to charge. Casey acted quickly and stepped between the two to protect the unsuspecting nurse. This resulted in Casey being struck extremely hard in the back of the head and the nurse sustaining a rotator cuff injury. After the first attempt to target the charge nurse, the patient then turned his attention to a female patient in one of the nearby rooms.

Realizing this, Casey again without regard for his safety, attempted to stop the patient by tackling and restraining the patient with the assistance of hospital staff. This provided enough time for additional hospital staff to chemically restrain the patient. Casey's actions go above and beyond what is expected of an endorsed provider and volunteer member of this county. His actions prevented injury to multiple hospital staff as well as other patients.



### **SILVER AWARD**

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department

#### **AWARDEES**

## Captain David Thompson Officer Carrick Robertson

On January 4th, 2023, Captain Thompson and Officer Robertson responded to the area of Milroy Drive for an active shooter call. Captain Thompson and Officer Robertson were the first two units on scene. Upon arrival officers located one victim outside and four other victims inside the residence.

Officer Robertson observed several gunshot wounds on the juvenile victim (17). One gunshot wound on her left shoulder and another on her right leg and another gunshot wound on her back as well as her abdomen. Officer Robertson applied a tourniquet to the victims leg and used kling to apply pressure to the victims shoulder. Due to Officer Robertson persistant questioning while applying life saving measures he was able to obtain suspects descriptors.

Captain Thompson entered the residence and immediately cleared the residence on his own and quickly attempted life saving measures on the child (age 3) as well as securing the scene. Carrying one shot victim from basement to the ambulance. Child age 3 was pronounced dead on scene. Captain Thompson as well as other arriving officers began treating other gunshot wound victims.

Due to Officer Robertsons ability to obatain suspect description and having establishing a perimeter in a timely manner, the suspect was taken into custody in a short period of time. Captain Thompson and Officer Robertson have demonstrated outstanding police performance, in the saving of human lives, and the display of conspicuous initiative, capability and attention to duty.

### SILVER AWARD

Virginia State Police

#### **AWARDEE**

#### **Senior Trooper Dave Rogers**

**On December 7, 2023,** Senior Trooper Dave Rogers was on duty in Prince William County. He was scheduled to meet with a retired colleague for pancakes at the IHOP on RT 234 near I-95. Upon pulling into the parking lot Trooper Rogers was frenziedly approached by workers yelling for help. They explained there was a big fire in the kitchen, and they needed help. Trooper Rogers sprang into action running to the rear of his cruiser to collect his issued fire extinguisher.

As he ran into the building, he could see the giant flames coming from the wall in the kitchen. He closed in on the fire and prepared his fire extinguisher. The flames were coming from behind the fryer. He put out the flames in quick order. He quickly realized that the gas pipe to the fryer was ruptured. He could smell the gas in the air. He instantly gave the order to clear the building. All the employees and the countless patrons ran out of the IHOP, saving the lives of 5 workers and 20 customers. Trooper Rogers stayed behind to shut off all the gas sources and equipment, then exited the building after it was made safe. The fire department arrived soon after.

### **UNIT AWARD**

City of Manassas Fire Department & Manassas Volunteer Fire Company

#### **AWARDEES**

Engine 501B

Captain Karl Sampson Technician Micah Gnau Firefighter Curt Huntington **Tower 501** 

Captain Justin Jenkins Master Technician Kevin Shafer

Medic 501C

Firefighter Lindsey Blasius Firefighter Michael Mundis

On January 18, 2023 at approximately 2123 hours, Engine 501B, Tower 501, and Medic 501C were dispatched for a fire alarm sounding, and smell of smoke, in an apartment on Jayhawk Terrace (Battery Heights Apartments). Upon arrival crews found nothing showing from the A and D side; they established a water supply and stretched a 1 hose line. Tower 501 arrived and positioned on side A. Together, members of both crews conducted a 360 view of the building with negative results; however, upon further investigation they noticed the smell of smoke and a haze in the stairwell.

Immediately after noticing the smell of smoke and a haze in the stairwell, in an effort to secure the safety of other residents, crews activated the fire alarm and evacuated the building. The apartment with active fire was found and the handline advanced into the apartment. Fire was found to be on the stove with extension to the cabinets. A primary search rendered one victim who was unresponsive and showed evidence of smoke inhalation due to exposure. Soot and residue were found around the victim's nose and mouth. Out of concern for the health and wellbeing of the victim, and in an effort to provide the highest level of care possible, the decision was made to airlift the patient to MedStar.

The actions and care provided by these crews undoubtedly led to the successful rescue of the victim and quick extinguishment of the fire. The continued teamwork and coordination of the responding units highlighted the ability of multiple units and agencies coming together and producing a successful outcome.

VAL RAWARDS

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

MPO Shaun Barrett SPO Andrew Koncen Officer Edgar Diaz Officer Sean Rios

On July 26, 2023, at 0021 hrs, officers responded to the report of a suicidal subject on the top of the parking garage. Officers located the person in crisis (PIC) and he was seated against the wall twirling a razor blade. MPO Barrett immediately started to speak with the person in crisis from a reasonable and safe distance while Officers Diaz, Rios, and Koncen provided cover. During the twenty minutes that MPO Barrett attempted to establish a rapport, it was evident that PIC would not engage officers. He would not speak to officers or respond in any way. He would only stare at the razor blade and twirl it in his fingers. A tactical plan was devised in the event it became necessary to forcibly subdue the PIC to initiate an Emergency Custody Order.

While MPO Barrett was speaking to the PIC the PIC looked up at the officers and started to cut his right wrist. SPO Koncen, who already had his Taser concealed and at the ready, was able to quickly shoot the PIC with Taser probes incapacitating him allowing MPO Barrett and Officers Diaz and Rios to remove the razor and handcuff the PIC. When the subject began to harm himself with the razor officers risked their own safety to save his life.

VALTR AWARDS

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

MPO Shaun Barrett Officer Luis Labrada

On July 16, 2023, at approximately 2300 hours, MPO Barrett and Officer Labrada were conducting an extra patrol in the Brentwood Apartment complex due to a recent uptick in criminal activity. While patrolling, they observed an individual lying on the ground, motionless, with what appeared to be a metallic object, like a firearm, next to him. The officers approached the individual to check his well-being. He got up and started to stumble into a nearby vehicle. When checking the ground, the officers did not observe the metallic anymore and could not confirm if it was a firearm.

Fearing the individual was intoxicated and about to drive away, officers quickly approached to detain him. As MPO Barrett grabbed the individual's left arm, Officer Labrada observed that in the subject's right hand was a firearm and immediately started to control that arm. The subject managed to throw the gun away as officers detained him.

As the investigation unfolded, it was determined that the individual was a convicted felon. To further their investigation, officers obtained a search warrant for the vehicle in which they found ammo, a holster, and other firearms related items. Due to the officers' proactive behavior a gun is out of the hands of a convicted felon.



City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

SPO Kimberly Vallejos MPO Faisal Stanikzai

On August 20, 2023, SPO Vallejos observed a group of juveniles seemingly casing a closed business off Centreville Rd. As SPO Vallejos approached, the juveniles attempted to flee the area in a vehicle. SPO Vallejos was able to initiate a traffic stop on the group for their behavior, as well as traffic charges. Upon initial questioning of the driver, SPO Vallejos began seeing evidence of alcohol and drug possession within the vehicle. MPO Stanikzai arrived and was able to spot a firearm in the vehicle. The group of juveniles were ultimately detained, searched, and a probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted. After interviews and searches were completed, SPO Vallejos seized an AR-15 rifle, two handguns, ammunition, over 350 fentanyl-laced pills, marijuana, and over \$2,000 in US currency. Detention Orders were obtained and a litany of charges were placed against the group.

Afterward, SPO Vallejos began the meticulous work of completing Requests for Laboratory Analysis, as well as five search warrants on the vehicle and seized cell phones. Since that night she has kept immaculate records of her efforts through timely detailed supplements and follow-ups. In all, SPO Vallejos's case is a testament to her attention to detail, diligence, and ability to make a positive impact in the community.

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Master Detective Alisa Dranko Master Detective Andrew Speights

On October 29, 2023, at approximately 0203 hours, patrol officers responded to Easton Court located in the City of Manassas for the report of a large fight involving over 20 individuals at a large party. Officers arrived and spoke to several witnesses who advised a suspect had stabbed an unknown victim. The victim and suspect were not immediately located. The victim was later found to be at the Mary Washington Hospital ER in Fredericksburg, Virginia suffering from stab wounds. Master Detectives Dranko and Speights responded and spoke with the victim who stated that they were in a verbal argument with the suspect who then produced a knife and stabbed him.

The Victim had fled the area on foot after being stabbed to get away from the suspect and was later driven to the hospital for treatment. The suspect was unknown to the victim, however he was able to give a thorough physical description. Detectives then began an extensive canvass of residents and gathered numerous statements from witnesses. After a review of video footage and witness statements, detectives were able to identify the suspect. The suspect did not have an established residence and was known to move around regularly. Through surveillance of known addresses and the assistance of the probation and parole office, Detectives were finally able to locate the suspect and create a ruse that allowed them to safely take the suspect into custody. The detectives later obtained a full confession which led to additional residential search warrants and recovery of evidence. Through the diligent work of the detectives, a violent criminal was safely taken off the streets of the community.

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Master Detective Jonathan Agule
Master Detective Timothy Urey
MPO Shaun Barrett
MPO Christopher Daniels
Officer Luis Labrada
Officer Jorge Flores

On September 17, 2023, at 1629 hours, Master Detective Agule responded to the area of Lane Scott Court in the City of Manassas for the report of a shooting that had occurred one hour prior with a confirmed victim. Officers on the scene had located several spent bullet casings and witnesses observed a vehicle fleeing the area. Officers Labrada, Flores, and Daniels, canvassed the neighborhood and were able to obtain video footage of a potential suspect. MPO Barrett made contact with an individual that matched the description of the shooting suspect and detained him. After speaking with MPO Barrett, Detective Agule worked to secure a search warrant for their residence. Detective Agule consulted with the Commonwealth Attorney's office and obtained authorization of the search warrant by a Prince William County judge. The search warrant was executed at the suspect's residence just after 2030 hours. The search yielded several pieces of evidence and contraband, including the clothing the suspect wore at the time of the shooting, and several ghost guns that the suspect was manufacturing illegally and intended to sell. The suspect was charged with numerous felonies.

On September 19, Detective Urey was driving and noticed a vehicle that matched the vehicle involved in the shooting. Detective Urey confirmed it was the same vehicle and seized it in preparation for a search warrant. A search warrant was obtained and additional in-car dash camera was obtained that provided crucial evidence to include interior audio and video inside the car, which is where the shooting occurred. Thanks to the diligent work of all involved, a violent criminal was taken off the streets and illegal weapon manufacturing was stopped.

VALTR AWARDS



City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

SPO Juan Alvarado MPO Shaun Barrett MPO Christopher Daniels SPO Andrew Koncen Sergeant Jonathan Casteline

On February 26, 2023, at approximately 0142 hours, patrol officers responded to the Park'N'Space self-storage facility located on Technology Drive in the City of Manassas for the report of suspicious activity by a concerned citizen. Upon arrival, Officers Barrett, Alvarado, Koncen, and Sergeant Casteline located a subject acting erratically and under the influence of narcotics. The suspect was taken into custody and found to be in possession of multiple firearms, edged weapons, lockpicking tools, and narcotics. While the suspect was being taken into custody, a second suspect was observed in the fenced-in area of the storage facility, who retreated away from officers upon becoming aware of their presence. Officers Barrett, Daniels, and Alvarado formulated an arrest team and located the second suspect and were able to safely detain them. After detaining the second suspect, officers conducted a search of the area for any additional subjects and located several storage units that appeared to have been tampered with.

Detectives responded to the scene to assist and determined that the two suspects were known to each other and were operating out of a storage unit in the facility. SPO Koncen obtained a search warrant that was executed on the subjects' storage unit and led to the seizure of several illegally modified ghost guns, narcotics paraphernalia, and counterfeit currency totaling over \$12,000. The subjects were charged with numerous state charges, with officers and detectives working in conjunction with federal partners to obtain additional federal criminal charges. With the help of a concerned citizen and the collaboration of patrol and investigative units, two dangerous criminals were taken off the streets of the community.

VAL RAWARDS

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

MPO Stephanie Curry MPO Shaun Barrett MPO Faisal Stanikzai SPO Khalia Bowden Officer Nicholas G Officer Sean Rios

#### Sergeant Jonathan Casteline

On August 1, 2023, at 1900 hours officers responded to the report of a shooting in progress near Taney Rd and Hood Rd. Sergeant Casteline was one of the first on the scene and immediately started directing incoming officers. Officers located a sizeable crime scene that spanned Taney Rd. from Hood Rd to Hampton Rd. The preliminary investigation revealed that over twenty rounds had been fired between multiple suspects. Multiple cars had been struck and one residence. At 2206 hrs officers were once again dispatched to 9370 Taney Rd for a shooting in progress. Sergeant Casteline and Officers Barrett, Stanikzai, Curry, Bowden, G, and Rios were first on the scene. One officer secured the main level while the other officers located the victim, a 19-yearold male, who had an apparent gunshot wound in the neck. The officers did not know where the shooter was but recognized the severity of the injury and they immediately started rendering aid using their Tactical Emergency Casualty Care kit. MPO Curry grabbed a towel to apply pressure and stanch the bleeding. MPO Barrett utilized the TECC kit and provided MPO Curry with a medical bandage to further stop the bleeding because the towel was insufficient, while SPO Stanikzai elevated the victim's legs in a passive leg raise to keep the blood flowing to the victim's heart and prevent shock. SPO Bowden, Ofc G, and Sergeant Casteline set up a protective corridor allowing for rescue to take over medical treatment. Outside the residence officers and supervisors worked together to protect the crime scene and manage unruly spectators and involved parties. The victim sustained a serious injury that required multiple surgeries and but survived.

### **BRONZE AWARD**

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Master Detective Patrick Crossey
Master Detective Brittany Alexander
MPO Faisal Stanikzai
Sergeant Luis Armas
Sergeant Gregory Daisey

While conducting independent investigations into the distribution of fentanyl pills, VICE Narcotics and Special Problem Unit supervisors began to notice commonalities between their suspects and problem areas. This prompted supervisors Sergeant Daisey and Sergeant Armas to organize a joint interdiction operation in the Georgetown South area. While conducting surveillance in the area, Detectives Crossey and Alexander observed a vehicle they had seen on other occasions involved in narcotics distribution. After witnessing a hand-to-hand transaction, they radioed to MPO Stanikzai to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle upon it leaving the area. MPO Stanikzai stopped the vehicle nearby and VICE Narcotics Detectives immediately arrived to assist. It was revealed that the driver was a contracted driver and the only adult with multiple juveniles in the vehicle.

As the investigation progressed, one of the juveniles returned with a warrant from an outside agency. As interviews and subsequent searches were conducted, numerous evidentiary items were seized from the vehicle and its occupants including 350 fentanyl pills, 3.5 ounces of marijuana, one AR-15 pistol, two 9mm ghost guns, as well as over \$11,000 in US currency. Several charges were obtained on the vehicle occupants as the result of the investigation.

VALŽR AWARDS

### **BRONZE AWARD**

City of Manassas Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

MPO Brian Mangione SPO Kentalle Gaines SPO Kimberly Vallejos Officer Jorge Flores Lieutenant Marcus Hyde

On December 3, 2023, at 0612 hours officers responded to the area of Dumfries Road and Hastings Drive in response to a report of shots fired. Officers circulated the area but were unable to locate any victims, damaged property, evidence, or any witnesses.

At 0621 hours, officers responded to the area of Wellington Road and Fairview Avenue in response to a single-vehicle accident. The reporting party advised that the driver exited the involved vehicle with a black firearm in one hand and fled.

When officers arrived on scene they observed a silver Kia Sorento abandoned in the middle of Wellington Road. MPO Mangione inspected the inside of the vehicle and advised that there was an odor of gunpower emanating from inside the vehicle. In the vehicle was a receipt from the McDonald's off Dumfries Rd. Officer Flores, SPO Gaines, and SPO Vallejos followed up on this evidence leading to acquiring video surveillance of the suspect.

At 0842 hours, Prince William County PD provided a BOLO in reference to an armed robbery just occurred at the LIDL located off of Liberia Avenue. The description of the offender closely resembled the MCPD suspect. SPO Gaines and Lieutenant Hyde joined up with a Prince William County PD K9 unit and provided them with protection as the K9 began to track the suspect. SPO Gaines observed the subject run into a clearing and notified the K9 handler. The K9 was deployed and the suspect was taken into custody. A black handgun was recovered from the suspect's right pant leg. The suspect was ultimately identified and linked to numerous vehicle theft cases and crimes in both Manassas and Woodbridge in the past several months.



## We are proud to support the 38th Annual Valor Awards



Thank you to our First Responders for answering the call of duty and proudly serving our communities.

### 703-795-0027

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### **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County
Department of Public Safety Communications

#### **AWARDEES**

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Afnan Abdelhafez Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Jenna Chappell Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Colleen Colgan Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Kyeisha Johnson Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Jeanette Watson (Ret.)

Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Altheia Adusei Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) James Bruning Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Telma Imaca Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Sarah Moore Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Kristine Nixon

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Bridget Dormstetter Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Stephanie Drumm Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Laura Finnerin Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Nicole MacDonald Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Andrea Watt

Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Jennifer Sims Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Kesha Beckley

Public Safety Communications Manager (TCV) Nita Lapihuska

**On July 29, 2023,** the Department of Public Safety Communications received notifications of a severe thunderstorm warning starting at 1600 hours. Around 1700 hours, the severe storms began in Manassas, heading southeast through Prince William County. During the beginning stages, Storm Mode, a Computer Aided Dispatch (C.A.D.) application, and procedure, was applied just in time for the plethora of hazards and weather-related calls that began stacking.

Each telecommunicator assisted where needed without being assigned tasks. Calls were placed to VDOT, as well as local electric and gas companies in the area to assist units on scene.

VALZR AWARDS

### **UNIT AWARD**

...continued

Prince William County
Department of Public Safety Communications

Calls from motorists and residents were triaged to include any flash flooding, trees down, building collapses and simple power outages. About an hour into the storm, power was lost at the primary worksite. Briefly there were concerns regarding a move to the backup site, but thankfully the backup systems worked as they should. Technology and the ability to work continued without interruption. Here is a breakdown of the number of calls that were handled that afternoon:

1500-1600: 34 1601-1700: 74 1701-1800: 206 1801-1900: 84

The sheer call volume that impacted calltaking, police dispatching, and fire dispatching was overwhelming, but the team continued with the utmost professionalism and quality of service to the community. The outstanding teamwork and work ethic displayed by all was purely symphonic.

### Thank you to all of the brave first responders in Prince William County.

Compass honors you today and always.





Prince William County
Department of Public Safety Communications,

#### **AWARDEE**

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII)

Mary "Maggie" Bolen

### SILVER AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Officer Nathaniel J. Mazzini

First Sergeant Ashley M. Gwinn

Police Officer Robert T. Griffin

On June 22, 2023, at approximately 10:00 p.m., TCIII Bolen was operating Central Radio when Officer Griffin started following a reported stolen vehicle in the area of Dale Blvd and Nottingdale Dr. TCIII Bolen continued to prioritize Officer Griffin's radio traffic and with understanding and foresight, she limited radio traffic, notified the floor supervisor, and started a K-9 officer.

This vehicle was later located by Officer Robert Griffin on Oust Court. When Officer Griffin attempted to apprehend the suspect, the operator of the vehicle fled the scene, striking the officer with the vehicle, seriously injuring him. During this time, TCIII Bolen also received a shooting in progress in the same area and shortly after getting that call, 1st Sgt Ashley Gwinn arrived on scene and reported "officer down".

When First Sergeant Gwinn arrived, Officer Griffin was lying on the ground with an injury to the back of his head, the location of the suspect was unknown, and several members of the community were near the scene. First Sergeant Gwinn hurried to the downed officer and completed a quick assessment of the situation. Additional police units and Rescue were requested. Officer Mazzini was the next officer to arrive. He immediately rushed to the aid of his fellow officer, not only holding his head immobile to prevent further injury. Officer Mazzini actions allowed for First Sergeant Gwinn to divert some of her attention to the ever-evolving scene around her.

This was a very complex scene with several concerns which needed to be addressed simultaneously. First Sergeant Gwinn's and Officer Mazzini's ability to work seamlessly together to keep Officer Griffin calm minimized any additional injury.

### **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County

Department of Public Safety Communications,

#### **AWARDEES**

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Jenna Chappell

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Adrian "AJ" Jansen

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Maria Martinez

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Jeanette Watson (Ret.)

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Hazel Wyche (Ret.)

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Jennifer Jeffrey (Ret.)

Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Leman Jessel

Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Telma Imaca

Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Katrina Clay

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Laura Finnerin

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Stephanie Drumm

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Bridget Dormstetter

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Karen Cardwell

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Aisha Sees

Public Safety Telecommunicator Specialist (TCIII) Nicole MacDonald

Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Jennifer Sims

Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Kesha Beckley

Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Shannon Manrio

Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Nita Lapihuska

### **UNIT AWARD**

Quantico Fire and Rescue

#### **AWARDEES**

Medic 531

Firefighter Jay LaLond

Firefighter Josh Williams

VALZR AWARDS

Engine 531

**Captain Scott Bordner** 

**Sergeant Henry Larrick** 

Firefighter John Gulatsi

...continued

### **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County Fire Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Engine 503

Captain Matthew Greenfield Technician II Sean Trainum Technician II Noah Domarasky Technician I Oscar Delgado

Engine 523

Captain Kyle Cirillo Technician II Nate Eppley Technician I Ashford Bembry

Truck 523

Lieutenant Dan Jackson Technician II Greg Klate Technician II James McCue Technician I Michael Woods Medic 503

Lieutenant Kevin Richards Technician I Brayden Cole Technician II Kyle Cetar

Medic 523

Lieutenant Alex Thomson Technician II Neftali Mena

Medic 512

Lieutenant Werter Willis Technician I Moises Ramierz

Medic 517

Technician II Kate Boaz Technician I Nathan Johnson

BC 503

Battalion Chief Bryan Ross Technician II Scott Coloe

### MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Sergeant Fontenot

Sergeant Pope

First Sergeant Szalach

Officer Eldredge

Officer Husar

Officer Kopfensteiner

First Sergeant Rollinger

Officer Cathcart

VALŽR AWARDS

...continued

...continued

On January 4, 2023, During the early hours of January 4, 2023, TCI Martinez received a call on 911 from a female stating someone had shot them on Milroy Dr. An influx of calls began coming in the Center's 911 calltakers, to include TCI Chappell and TCI Jeffrey. TCIII Dormstetter handled the East channel with impeccable documentation, professional radio transmission, and notifications. This included some high-stress traffic from first arriving units rendering aide. The surrounding police dispatch team consisted of TCIII Drumm training TCII Imaca, TCII Clay, and TCIII Cardwell.

Engine and Medic 503 along with Battalion 503 were dispatched to 17938 Milroy Drive, for the shooting with the reports of multiple people patients. As soon as county police secured the scene, units from company 3 started triage, and determined that there were 5 patients total (4 being critical, and 1 pronounced deceased at the scene). Prior to medics making it inside, Officers Cathcart and Husar arrived on-scene and assisted Officers Eldredge and Kopfensteiner in providing lifesaving medical aid to two additional gunshot victims.

TCIII Dormstetter handled the East channel with impeccable documentation, professional radio transmission, and notifications. This included some high-stress traffic from first arriving units rendering aide. The surrounding police dispatch team consisted of TCIII Drumm training TCII Imaca, TCII Clay, and TCIII Cardwell. All of these played a role in helping to take on additional calls and notifications during this time as it related and unrelated to the shooting incident.

Sergeant Pope established a security perimeter around the scene while locating and preserving vital evidence. Sergeant Fontenot and Officer Hume located and questioned witnesses making it possible to quickly identify the shooter and direction he fled on foot. The suspect fled on foot while they pursued and provided updates. Deputy Lavallee positioned himself to surprise and intercept the suspect and once the suspect was close, Deputy Lavallee challenged the suspect resulting in his surrender.

Through everyone's effort this dynamic scene resulted in four lives being saved, the suspect being apprehended, and the murder weapon being located.

VALŽR AWARDS

Prince William County Fire Department

#### AWARDEE

#### **Technician II Randall Charlwood**

**On Wednesday, October 18, 2023,** at 1401 hours, Police Officer Randall T. Charlwood responded to a report of an assault in progress at Potomac Mills Mall, the call was upgraded to a stabbing prior to his arrival. The victim, a local community member, was attempting to exchange a purchased item at one of the stores inside the mall.

After arguing with the store employee over the return, the employee stabbed the community member using a pocketknife. The victim suffered a single stab wound to the side of his neck. The community member continued to bleed, creating a life-threatening situation as he waited for units to arrive.

Officer Charlwood quickly made his way to the victim with his trauma kit through the mall, which was full of shoppers at the time. Once with the victim, Officer Charlwood immediately applied medical gauze from his trauma kit to the victim's neck, which was bleeding significantly at the time. Fire and Rescue personnel had not yet arrived, so Officer Charlwood was critical in controlling the bleeding, giving the victim a better chance of survival. Thanks to Officer Charlwood's quick response and the medical aide he provided, the victim did survive the life-threatening injury.

### **MERIT AWARD**

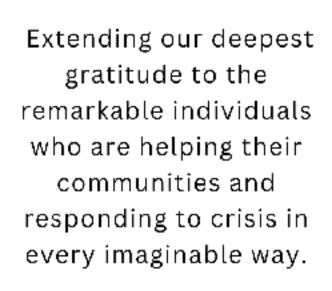
Prince William County Fire Department

#### **AWARDEE**

#### Technician II Ricardo Santiago

On the evening of March 4, 2023, while off duty, technician II Santiago was having dinner at the Bungalow Ale House located in Woodbridge. While enjoying dinner, Technician II Santiago noticed another patron pass out. With the assistance of the wait staff, the patron was lowered to the floor, where they were assessed by Santiago.

Assessments revealed that the patron was breathless and pulseless, at which point Santiago began CPR. Upon the arrival of fire and rescue units, the patient had regained a pulse but was still not breathing adequately, requiring ventilations via a bag valve mask. While en route to the hospital the patient regained consciousness and was admitted for observation. Thanks to the swift reaction from Technician II Santiago, the patient was able to make a recovery.



Google

### **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County Fire Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Engine 503

Lieutenant Austin Wing Technician II James Walker Technician I Grace Dipre Santana Technician II Jajuan Reed Technician I Brett Sumrall

### MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

#### AWARDEE

**Technician I Andres Paz** 

In the early hours of April 10th, 2023, units from Company 503 were dispatched to a home in Triangle for an unresponsive patient with CPR in progress. Upon arrival, units found a young, adult female on the floor with her husband performing high quality CPR. Lieutenant Wing separated the husband from his wife and instructed crews to begin checking for a pulse and continue CPR while he gathered information. While in the process of providing care, it was realized that the husband who had been performing CPR was Technician I Andres Paz, who had just graduated recruit school a few days prior and only had his first shift at Station 526 the day before.

Company 503 units continued providing quality care realizing that this was the spouse of one of their own fellow firefighters, while Technician I Paz continued to assist by passing the crews equipment needed to provide care. During CPR, the patient was defibrillated multiple times and regained a pulse at the scene. Units quickly transferred the patient to M503's unit and rushed to the hospital where more lifesaving efforts were taken, allowing her to still be alive and with us today. Thanks to the quick thinking and training that Technician I Paz received from the academy and the hard work from Company 3 units, his wife is still able to be here today to live their lives together with their son.

VALTR AWARDS

## **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County Fire Department

#### **AWARDEES**

**Unit T523 Unit T520** 

Lieutenant Josh Dempsey Lieutenant Andrew Hale

Technician II Brian Anderson Technician I Matt Truslow

Technician I Chase Walton Technician II Robert McBurney

Technician I Trevor Krohn Technician I Ben Werkema

**Unit R522** 

Lieutenant Tom Rish
Technician II Todd Laws
Technician II Dustin Kim

On the evening of July 9, 2023, Prince William County was hit with rather severe storms that had emergency services responding to a variety of call types all throughout the county. One call, however, stands out for the extraordinary performance and professionalism exhibited by crews during a hectic and complex call for help.

At around 4:00 pm, Medic 513, accompanied by Engine 523 arrived at a single-family home, to find one male patient trapped in a bathroom, underneath a large tree that had fallen through the residence. Engine 506 arrived and notified command that additional resources would be needed to access the patient, and safely shore the home. Once on scene, Lieutenants Dempsey, Hale, and Rish devised a plan to begin an efficient and safe recovery operation of the patient. Engine and Truck 23, Truck 20, and Rescue 22's crews were able to tunnel through debris, access and ultimately recover the patient.

The dedication shown by all crews to preserving the dignity of the victim, as well as the consideration shown in every step just goes to show the level of professionalism and respect that is shared by all. Overall, the responding crew's emergency and technical performance during this challenging incident were exemplary. They displayed unwavering commitment to their duty, leveraging their skills, experience, and teamwork to manage a complex and emotionally demanding situation.

## **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County Fire Department, Prince William County Sheriff

#### **AWARDEES**

Off-Duty

Deputy Chief Kim Stewart
Battalion Chief Bruce Tucker
Technician II Joe Mirabile
Technician II Dan Williams

On April 18th, 2023, during citizens time at the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) meeting, a citizen became unresponsive while they were speaking. Present at the meeting while off duty were Technician II's Joe Mirabile, Dan Williams, Jeremiah Kerlin, and Josh Jones. They immediately started to assess the citizen and determined the patient no longer had a pulse. The Technicians started performing CPR while Deputy Chief Kim Stewart and Battalion Chief Bruce Tucker retrieved an AED and an airway kit while also calling for additional resources.

Additional units were called, and once units arrived, they met with the personnel on the scene, who had already revived the patient. Crews then moved the patient inside of M526, where the patient was re-assessed, and medical interventions were performed to stabilize the patient.

The patient was then transported to a local hospital for additional care. Less than a month later, the patient had the opportunity to meet the crews who revived them during EMS Week at the BOCS meeting. The quick actions and patient care provided by the team members present are the reasons the patient's life was saved.

## Congratulations!

## AND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL FIRST RESPONDERS





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## **UNIT AWARD**

Prince William County Fire Department

#### **AWARDEES**

R510M/SW510 M510

Lieutenant Christopher Clark Captain Christopher Eddy

Technician II Joe Gallagher BC503

Technician II Connor Plocharczyk
Technician II Joel Bernardo

Battalion Chief Craig Beavers
Technician II Patrick McKinnon

On 09/30/2023 units were dispatched for a river rescue on the Potomac River. R510M launched SW510's blue boat with four personnel on board (Lieutenant Christopher Clark, Technician II Joe Gallagher, Technician I Joel Bernardo, Technician I Connor Plocharczyk). Due to the amount of thick hydrilla that was present in the water, gas powered boats were unable to make it to the patient. Members on SW510 paddled across the creek, navigating through the currents to reach the victim that was in the water.

As SW510 approached the victim, he began to go underwater and struggled to keep himself afloat (he had been treading water for about 50 minutes at this point). Technician II Joe Gallagher threw a floating rescue ring to the patient that was struggling to keep his head above the water. The patient was able to reach the rescue ring and hold onto it while SW510 moved into position to rescue him from the water. The victim was lifted into the boat by Technician I Joel Bernardo & Technician I Connor Plocharczyk.

Once on the boat a quick assessment was done of the patient, the patient advised that he was okay but very tired from treading water for so long. A PFD was placed on to the patient and SW510 returned to shore. Once on shore, patient care was transferred to M510 and R510's medic (Captain Christopher Eddy, Technician II Jessica Taylor, Technician II Joshua Labuhn). The patient was evaluated and treated by M510, where a full recovery was made.

### **UNIT AWARD**

Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division, Prince William County Department of Public Safety Communications, Prince William County Fire and Rescue System, Prince William County Park Ranger, Prince William County Police Department

#### Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division

Chief Pilot Andrew Edgerton Master Police Officer Paul DeHaven Police Officer First Class Travis Jenkins

**Prince William County** 

**Department of Public Safety Communications** 

Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCI) Shannon McGrail Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Brianna Paine Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator (TCII) Exavier Febus Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Jennifer Berensen Public Safety Communications Supervisor (TCIV) Sarah Rosario Public Safety Communications Supervisor Scott Karhan

#### Prince William County Fire and Rescue System

Lieutenant Harry Wood
Technician I Jeremy Bane
Lieutenant Robert L Kieb Jr
Technician II William Norman
Technician II Ewan Baird
Technician II Nathan Smith
Technician II Matthew Harris
Technician II April Spicer
Technician I Eric DiBucci
Technician I Alphonso Smith
Battalion Chief Ronald J Reingruber

#### Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division

Chief Pilot Andrew Edgerton Master Police Officer Paul DeHaven Police Officer First Class Travis Jenkins

Prince William County Park Ranger

Park Ranger Andrew Wilk

#### Prince William County Police Department

...continued

Officer John D Manning Officer Nicholas J Brown Officer Jarred P Houck Officer Kyle T. Woolf Officer James S. Brent Officer Jaden C Nix

Officer Carmen A. Quinteros

Officer Konnor E Grenke

Master Police Officer Marc A. Grayson Master Police Officer Robert T. Gudaitis Master Police Officer Shawn H. Tama

On the evening of August 29, 2023, TCI McGrail received a call from a 33-year-old female who was lost in the Manassas National Battlefield Park. She had been lost for several hours with no food or water. The caller was inadequately clothed, hadn't eaten for over 10 hours, and had hurt her ankle while attempting to find her way out of the park. She had a pre-paid 911 cell that did not have service other than to call 911.

TCI McGrail remained on the line for one (1) hour and twenty-four (24) minutes with the lost hiker as joint efforts by Prince William County (PWC) Police Department (PD), a PWC Park Ranger, and PWC Fire and Rescue System (FRS) all who deployed various resources including a K9, Helicopter Fairfax1, a drone operator, bicycle resources, and a gator to find her. TCII Febus operated fire radio channel 5C and TCII Paine operated the primary PD radio. Supervisor Rosario maintained contact with outside jurisdictions and notifications. Both dispatchers meticulously relayed information back and forth with field units to the calltaker, TCI McGrail, who then gave instructions to the female.

Supervisor Berensen supported TCI McGrail by providing direction and relaying vital field unit requests from both PD & FD dispatch to be obtained from the caller. TCI McGrail, TCII Paine, and TCII Febus displayed grace and professionalism while handling this call. TCI McGrail maintained a calm demeanor and reassured the caller that we would find her and help her. All radio dispatchers remained vigilant with finding the female and attempted to think outside the box and through exhaustive efforts by the field providers, the lost park enthusiast was successfully located.

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEE**

#### Officer Alan M. Brown

On November 24, 2023, at 1:59 p.m., officers were dispatched to a report of a suspicious subject, reported to be standing at the edge of the bridge that crosses over Interstate 95 on Opitz Boulevard. The initial arriving officers determined the subject to be in a mental health crisis as he stood extremely close to the bridge's edge on the westbound side of the four-lane highway. At the time, traffic was congested on Interstate 95 below for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The initial officers were not able to create a rapport with the individual. It was not until Police Officer Alan M. Brown arrived that a rapport was built. It was through Officer Brown's patience and natural speaking abilities as an experienced police officer, but also due to his prior correctional officer experience. Officer Brown was very caring and thoughtful in his responses to Mr. Shaw's verbal outburst of emotions and threats to jump off the bridge.

Officer Brown learned the individual was depressed as he had recently lost his grandmother and was not handling it well. As Officer Brown continued to speak with him, another officer moved into a position with the intent of restraining him and taking him into custody, when he suddenly turned towards Officer Brown and hugged him. Afterward, the individual agreed to see a mental health therapist, and this was undoubtedly due to Officer Brown's involvement.



Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Officer Michael A. Carrick

Officer Joseph M. Duplessis

On March 4, 2023, at 2317 hours, officers responded to the Crafty Crab Restaurant on Potomac Mills Circle for a shooting in progress call for service. Dispatch received multiple calls advising that employees were robbed by two masked individuals and an employee was shot inside the restaurant.

Police Officer Michael A. Carrick was the first officer to arrive on the scene and established that the scene was secure. He quickly located an injured employee. He noticed the individual was bleeding heavily from the right side of his abdomen from a gunshot wound. He instructed other employees to assist in applying pressure to the wounded area, and Officer Carrick then proceeded to run to his vehicle and grab his issued Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) kit and responded to the injured employee.

At this time, Police Officer Joseph M. Duplessis arrived on the scene and assisted Officer Carrick when they responded to the injured employee. The officers immediately began life-saving measures using their issued chest seals and applying pressure to the wounded area until Rescue arrived on the scene.

The employee was ground transported to Fairfax Hospital with possible life-threatening injuries. Due to the actions of Officers Carrick and Duplessis, the victim survived.

Prince William County Police Department

#### AWARDEES

Officer Melissa N. Wilson

On June 27, 2023, Police Officers Melissa N. Wilson and Randall T. Charlwood responded to a citizen's residence to serve a protective order. Once the officers made **Officer Randall T. Charlwood** contact and served the protective order, the citizen became distraught.

While in the presence of the officers he suddenly cut his wrist with a pair of scissors causing a significant and life-threatening laceration. The subject then attempted to cut his own throat with the scissors. Without regard for their own safety, the officers quickly intervened restraining the subject and preventing the him from cutting his throat. While restraining him they utilized a trauma kit to control the bleeding until additional officers and medics arrived. Due to the quick thinking and actions of the officers, they were able to save the man's life.

# Honoring those who put others first

UVA Health salutes the first responders of our community who put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of others. We are proud to partner with the Prince William Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the Valor Awards, because collaborations like this honor all who make our communities safer and stronger.



Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Officer Michael A. Carrick

Officer Robert M. Theimer

Officer Zachary T. Brittigan

On October 6, 2023, at 0109 hours, officers responded to an apartment on Wrangler Lane for a 911 hang-up call for service. and an employee was shot inside the restaurant.

#### Officer Fernando R. Martinez Cruz

Dispatch advised that the caller stated someone was hurt and needed an ambulance before hanging up. With no further updates, Officers Carrick, Theimer and Brittigan quickly arrived on the scene and attempted to contact the caller. Upon knocking on the door of the apartment, the door swung open and the officers observed a victim unconscious in the middle of the living room. The officers conducted a protective sweep of the apartment, secured the scene, and attempted life-saving efforts on the victim.

The officers were able to communicate over the radio and advised the scene was secure for Fire and Rescue to enter, where they later confirmed the victim was deceased. Sergeant Lyon quickly responded and established scene security and command.

Officers were able to identify the victim through his driver's license as well as the potential caller who was also possibly the victim's girlfriend. Officers Paradis and Robinson responded to the scene to assist with scene security and a canvass of the area. While canvassing the area, officers were able to identify that the suspect's vehicle was missing from the scene. With the assistance of Communications, Officer Carrick was able to put out a Bolo for the suspect's vehicle.

While on pro-active patrol, shortly after the Bolo was given, Officer Martinez Cruz located the vehicle at Wawa, on Minnieville Road. Officers Martinez Cruz, Hodges and Tirrell were able to conduct a high-risk vehicle stop on the parked vehicle and take the suspect into custody without incident.

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Police Officer Casey A. Fines
Police Officer Mario A. Centeno
Police Officer Nicole T. Camacho
Daza

Police Officer Matthew T. Surdam Police Officer Kyle J. Kramer Police Officer Josephine C. Lyon Police Officer Calvin K. Borges-McCarter

Police Officer Scott B. Sparry
Police Officer Luke A. Henderson
Police Officer Jacob S. Simrell
Police Officer Percy G. Finch
Police Officer Gillian L. Downs
Police Officer Thomas A. Norton
Police Officer Liam J. Spina
Police Officer Brittney Goude

**On October 17, 2023,** Officers Casey Fines, Mario Centeno, Nicole Camacho Daza, Matthew Surdam, Kyle Kramer, Josephine Lyon, Calvin Borges-McCarter, Scott Sparry, Luke Henderson, Jacob Simrell, Percy Finch, Gillian Down, Thomas Norton, Liam Spina, John Franklin, and Richard Bordenet were among the officers who responded to an armed burglary in progress in the area of Fern Place.

A community member called 911 to report that there was an armed individual that was actively breaking into their home. The suspect was known by the homeowner. Officers responding to the scene were able to immediately identify the suspect based on prior contact with him and converged on the area, attempting to take the suspect into custody for burglary. The officers also knew he was currently wanted on several outstanding warrants. This individual was reported to be armed with a handgun and has a history of being armed during his previous encounters with police.

When officers arrived on-scene, they spotted the suspect at the back of the residence and were able to see him holding a firearm. The suspect was then given commands to give himself up, however the suspect ignored the commands. Not only did the suspect ignore the commands the police were giving to him, but he then actively began to evade detention by scaling the fences to the neighboring residences in an attempt to escape from the police.

When the suspect began to actively evade the officers, Officer Surdam got on the radio to ensure incoming officers were positioning themselves in a way that would lead them to intercept the suspect as he fled. The suspect's actions put officers in a compromised situation where they needed to pursue the fleeing suspect, putting themselves in great danger. The suspect scaled a total of four fences while officers were tracing his movements and when he crossed over the last fence the officers pursued the suspect on foot. The chase went from Fern Place to the area of Wetherburn Court which is approximately 350 yards. Officers caught up to the suspect at this location where he appeared to be fatigued. The officers continued to give commands to the suspect, but he continued to ignore the directions given by the officers.

The officers knew that they needed to bring this incident to a swift conclusion for the safety of the community, the officers, and the suspect involved in the incident. Officer Fines saw an opportunity to end the altercation when the suspect turned his back to him. At that moment Officer Fines, placing himself in potential danger, sprang into action and tackled the suspect to the ground. The other officers that were there at the time then immediately closed in to assist Officer Fines with taking the suspect into custody.

The actions by all officers involved in this apprehension was done at great risk to the officers as the suspect was believed to still be in possession of a firearm at the time of this encounter, and the suspect was reaching in the area of his waistband while the officers were working on taking him into custody.

Following the apprehension of the suspect, the firearm was not immediately recovered. It was known that the suspect had a firearm in his position at the onset of the incident, so a search was conducted to recover the firearm and protect the community. K9 officers John Franklin, Richard Bordenet, and their police K9 partners conducted a track in the area where the suspect had fled through the community, and they were able to successfully recover the firearm that was discarded by the suspect.

At the conclusion of the incident the suspect was charged with multiple violent felony criminal offenses and several outstanding felony warrants were served. Due to the quick thinking and teamwork displayed by all officers involved in this incident a violent armed felon was taken into custody and the firearm was recovered, preventing community members from being put into harm's way.

#### **AWARDEES**

**Detective Edwin Romero** 

**Detective Alfonso Dorado** 

Senior Crime Analyst Gretchen E. Gebhardt

**Detective Brandon J. Craft** 

On May 10, 2022, patrol officers responded to the area of Graham Park Middle School in reference to a report of an aggravated sexual battery and attempted abduction involving two middle school-aged female children. While walking to school, two separate female children were approached by an unknown suspect who sexually assaulted them and, in the case of the one child, attempted to abduct her. Video of the suspect was obtained and released, but despite all investigative efforts, the suspect was unable to be identified.

**On July 7, 2023,** Detective Dorado observed a news release from the Fairfax County Police Department in which a suspect was arrested in their jurisdiction for aggravated sexual battery. Detective Dorado furthered the investigation and learned that this suspect had a previous conviction in Henrico County, VA for a similar offense. Additionally, the suspect's description and modus operandi from the previous two cases was similar to the case in Prince William County.

With the above information, Senior Crime Analyst Gretchen Gebhardt utilized investigative tools to link the suspect to the case in Prince William through the use of electronic evidence. With this information, the case was reactivated, and Detectives Romero and Craft coordinated with several other jurisdictions in order to locate and retain evidence related to this case. Detective Romero charged the suspect with abduction with intent to defile and two counts of aggravated sexual battery.



## Thank You

TO THE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS
WHO LIVE A LIFE OF VALOR



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Prince William County Police Department

#### AWARDEES

Officer Taylor L. Craddock Officer Marjorie J. Vergara On January 18, 2023, at approximately 0748 hours, Police Officers Taylor L. Craddock and Marjorie J. Vergara were flagged down for a disturbance in the 13000 block of Richmond Highway.

Both Officers responded immediately and observed a person lying in the parking lot within one minute of the initial report.

A community member was the victim of a stabbing and had lost a significant amount of blood. The officers quickly applied pressure to the wounds with their department-issued trauma kit to slow the blood loss. They also continued verbal interaction with the victim to keep him from losing consciousness.

The officers further inspected the victim's entire body and conducted a rapid trauma assessment. Once this assessment was complete, the officers applied a chest seal to the stab wound, all while maintaining situational awareness of potentially hostile surroundings. The patient was flown via helicopter to Fairfax Hospital with life threatening injuries. It was later determined that the victim was likely to have died had the wound not been treated immediately.

## BRONZE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

#### AWARDEES

Officer Victor A. Grimaldos

Officer Kevin H. Yi

On July 3, 2023, at 0310 hours, officers responded to a Manassas hotel for a shooting. Officer Victor Grimaldos and Officer Kevin Yi were immediately confronted with a Officer Carmen A. Quinteros woman who was believed to be the shooter.

The Officers detained the shooter; however the firearm was not initially located and it was unclear if there was another armed shooter in the area.

Officer Grimaldos ran into the hotel where the shooting just occurred and found the victim bleeding on the floor with a gunshot wound. Officer Grimaldos and Officer Quinteros immediately began life-saving medical aid using a trauma kit. The victim would occasionally gain consciousness and say, "I'm dying."

Since the firearm was still missing, it was initially unclear if there was a second armed person involved. The officers made the scene safe for responding medical personnel while also providing medical aid and calming a group of panicked friends. Officer Yi continued to talk with the shooter, and the firearm was eventually located. The victim was flown to Fairfax Hospital with potentially life-threatening injuries, but the victim survived his injuries after emergency surgery.

## SILVER AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEE**

Lieutenant Shawn M. Peak

On September 24, 2023, at 10:12 a.m., Prince William County officers responded to Park Valley Church in Haymarket to investigate a possible threat of violence.

The investigation revealed that Prince William County police had been contacted by Fairfax County and Anne Arundel police after they received information regarding suspicious and concerning online postings on Instagram. In the postings, vague threats of violence were made, some of which included images of a location later determined to be Park Valley Church. Additional information regarding a vehicle was also obtained and contact was made with Prince William County Police to check the church property.

Lieutenant Shawn M. Peak was working an off-duty, uniformed detail assignment at the church at the time, and located the unoccupied vehicle belonging to the subject in the parking lot. At around the same time, staff at the church were monitoring a suspicious person on the premises who was determined to be the subject.

Lieutenant Peak and church staff coordinated and then detained the subject near the entrance without incident. He was subsequently arrested and charged with Making Threats of Bodily Harm and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon in a Place of Worship. An additional charge of Attempted Aggravated Murder of Multiple Persons was later filed.

The subject apparently entered the building through a separate door and had been inside the location prior to being stopped. Church services were taking place at the time. Upon his arrest, the subject was found to be in possession of a loaded handgun along with an additional magazine, folding knife, and a folding credit card style knife. A search warrant conducted at the subject's residence revealed a manifesto letter detailing his plans to kill people and there was other evidence located that suggested he was planning to commit mass murder at the church.

## SILVER AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEE**

Sergeant Heath C. Oyler

On February 23, 2023, at 0031 hours, units were dispatched to a crash in the parking lot of a Manassas business. Upon arrival, Sergeant Heath C. Oyler located a vehicle

The vehicle appeared to be on fire, and smoke was billowing from the front of the car. Sergeant Oyler quickly approached the vehicle to see if it was occupied. There was one person in the driver's seat of the vehicle. The driver was not responsive.

Sergeant Oyler attempted to remove the driver from the vehicle, but the vehicle was locked so he utilized his issued window hammer to break the rear window of the vehicle. Even after the window was broken, the driver remained unresponsive with his head rolled back against the shoulder rest of the seat. Sergeant Oyler was able to wake the driver and move him away from the vehicle before it was fully engulfed. The Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire. The witness who called to report the crash stated he saw the crash but was scared to approach due to the fire.

The driver was removed from the vehicle unharmed, thanks to Sergeant Oyler's quick actions. Although other community members were apprehensive about approaching the vehicle due to the danger of the fire, Sergeant Oyler did not hesitate to run to the fire and pull the driver from the vehicle. The driver later stated that he hit the wall and passed out. The next thing the driver remembered was the vehicle filled with white smoke and the officer pulling him from the vehicle. Sergeant Oyler took personal risk and approached a potentially dangerous situation, likely saving the driver of the vehicle.

Prince William County Police Department

#### AWARDEES

**Detective Pinedo** 

**Detective Sanz-Guerrero** 

On December 21, 2022, officers took a report of a missing adult which was considered voluntary. Family members advised their family member left his residence to meet someone and would be back shortly, he did not return. On December 23, 2022, a family member located Guerrero's vehicle parked in Woodbridge. Officers responded and observed a significant amount of blood on the rear passenger seat and other locations within the vehicle. Additional items with evidence were found in the woods adjacent to the vehicle. The vehicle was towed and the scene was processed. The case was upgraded to Missing Endangered and assigned to Detectives Pinedo and Sanz-Guerrero.

The detectives utilized phone data to trace the victim's cell phone which had been turned off in the hours after his disappearance. Detectives later learned Jose Guerrero's family withheld information consisting of a text message chat between Guerrero with the person he was originally supposed to meet. The messages indicated that Guerrero had arranged a drug transaction. The family also revealed that Guerrero departed from his girlfriend's home and not the address originally indicated.

Following extensive investigative work including review of cell phone records, body-worn camera footage, and video footage, as well as secondary neighborhood canvasses, a search warrant was obtained and executed on January 19, 2023, for a residence on Matthews Drive. Suspect interviews were conducted, and one provided a full confession and revealed they arranged to conduct a narcotics transaction with the victim and subsequently robbed and killed him.

This homicide seems rather straightforward. The reality of the case was anything but simple. A true who-done-it missing person turned homicide with primary witnesses intentionally concealing critical information, complicated family dynamics, media pressure, and concerningly few leads. All of this transpired over a four-week timeframe which included the Christmas holidays.

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Detective Sean H. Weddel

Detective Jason A. O'Sullivan

Detectives Sean H. Weddel and Jason A. O'Sullivan were each individually assigned cases involving juvenile females who were addicted to drugs and in search of the next high. Through communication, the detectives realized their cases were related and that the suspect was the same. Initial victim interviews provided details of lies, drugs and sexual assault. The suspect would provide the drugs and wait for the victim to get high. The victim would pass out and awaken to the suspect sexually assaulting them. Interviews with the victims also yielded information on additional victims. These cases were very intertwined and involved and required extensive follow-up. Both detectives worked tirelessly to identify and interview all eight of the involved victims. Search warrants were executed on social media accounts and phones to obtain information. Detectives spent hours reviewing all the data received from the search warrants.

This case resulted in 43 charges ranging from Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Aggravated Sexual Battery, Object Sexual Penetration, Abduction with the Intent to Defile, Brandishing of a Firearm, Using a Firearm in Commission of a Felony, Possession, Production and Reproducing Child Pornography, and Distributing Schedule I/II Drugs to Minors. This case is set to be heard over the next few months in six separate jury trials, but on January 17, 2024, the defendant entered into a plea agreement and agreed to plead guilty to three counts of Object Penetration, three counts of Rape, one count of Possession of Child Pornography, and seven counts of Distributing Schedule I/II Drugs to Minors.

Together these detectives have kept a child predator and drug dealer incarcerated and away from vulnerable individuals.

VAL RAWARDS

Prince William County Police Department

#### AWARDEES

Detective Giannina M. Pinedo

**Detective Colleen E. Grantham** 

**On December 19, 1987,** at 11:55 PM, officers responded to a former service station located at 13452 Jefferson Davis Highway in Woodbridge to investigate a rape. The investigation revealed a 50-year-old female store clerk was bound and sexually assaulted at knifepoint after being followed to an outside restroom. The suspect fled and was never located.

Detectives Giannina M. Pinedo and Colleen E. Grantham began an intensive case review in 2021 and were able to develop an investigative lead using newly discovered advances in genealogical testing and research. A private lab was contracted and identified a possible male contributor to the DNA recovered from the scene. This individual identified did not fit the description of the suspect, however his twin sons did. Both sons currently reside in Florida.

In June 2023, Detective Pinedo coordinated with local police to obtain abandoned DNA from the twins which identified one of them as the contributor. Both detectives traveled to Florida to interview the suspect, but he made no admissions. They collected buccal swabs which confirmed he was the male profile initially developed. The investigation corroborated the identification of the suspect who also lived near the offense location at the time it occurred.

The suspect was arrested in June 2023 and awaits trial. The victim, now 85 years old, was notified of the arrest in person and was very grateful her case was not forgotten. Detectives Pinedo and Grantham worked diligently with Crime Scene Investigator Andrea M. Feldman to review previous casework and evidence collected over 30 years ago. Combining advanced genealogical testing with traditional investigative methods is no easy task, and they did an excellent job bringing this case to a successful conclusion and providing closure to the victim.

Prince William County Police Department

#### **AWARDEES**

Detective Giannina M. Pinedo

**Detective Sanz-Guerrero** 

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Your dedication to our community is deeply appreciated.

