



2005
VACP / VPCF
Valor Awards

August 9, 2005
Portsmouth, Virginia

Presented by:
Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
& Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation



Welcome to the 2005 Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation Annual Valor Awards Banquet, where tonight we honor eleven Virginia law enforcement officers with our highest award. The VACP/VPCF Valor Award recognizes a law enforcement officer who, in the line of duty, performs an act of extraordinary heroism while engaged with an adversary at imminent personal risk.

It is with great pride that we recognize the exceptional efforts of these fine officers who are a credit to their agencies and true public servants to the citizens of their communities. They are an example of the best of the best in law enforcement in Virginia, and it is with great pleasure that we honor them here tonight.

Sincerely,

Chief Philip A. Broadfoot
President
Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

2005 AWARDS FOR VALOR

Officer Eric Bartoletti
Corporal Thomas Rakowski

Arlington Co. Police Department

Corporal Stephen Clark
Corporal Albert Kim
Officer Crystal Nosal

Arlington Co. Police Department

Officer George P. Stevenson, II

Danville Police Department

Officer Christopher E. Miner

Newport News Police Department

Officer Jemal S. Davis
Officer Windsor L. Brabson

Norfolk Police Department

Officer Barry J. Keller
Officer William D. Wood

Roanoke Police Department

OFFICER ERIC BARTOLETTI

CORPORAL THOMAS RAKOWSKI

Officer Eric Bartoletti and Corporal Thomas Rakowski are members of the Arlington County Police Department's 4th District (Crystal City and Pentagon City areas) Patrol Team (a community policing team). They have been members of the Team since its creation on May 2, 2004.

On December 1, 2004, a suspect stole items from the Linens N Things store (1201 S. Hayes Street) and when confronted, he produced a large lock-back knife and threatened the employee.

On January 2, 2005, the same suspect entered the same Linens N Things store and stole more merchandise. The suspect was temporarily detained by mall security and identified, but escaped prior to the arrival of responding officers.

On January 19, 2005, a suspect stole items from the Sephora Store (1100 S. Hayes Street) and when he was confronted, he forcibly pushed an employee to the ground.

On February 14, 2005, a suspect entered the Linens N Things store and stole a vacuum cleaner. Again, when he was confronted by store employees, the suspect produced a large lock-back knife and attempted to stab an employee.

The 4th District Patrol Team, working with information from Detectives in the Criminal Investigation Division, established an Operational Plan to locate and apprehend the suspect. Team officers conducted surveillance at the suspect's last known residence in Washington, DC, various other possible locations in the region, and at the multiple retail establishments that it was believed the suspect could target in the future.

On February 24, 2005, Corporal Rakowski and Officer Bartoletti were conducting plain clothes patrols in and around the area where the suspect was plaguing retail establishments. At approximately 1800 hrs, the two officers located the suspect and began conducting surveillance. While under surveillance, the suspect attempted to commit another grand larceny from the Macy's (1100 S. Hayes Street). As the suspect left the store and entered into the Fashion Centre Mall at Pentagon City, Corporal Rakowski and Officer Bartoletti moved in quickly to apprehend the suspect.

The suspect dropped his stolen merchandise and began to run through the crowded mall. As the officers engaged the suspect, he removed the large lock-back knife from his pocket and attempted to stab the officers. A violent struggle ensued. The suspect was disarmed and taken into custody without the use of deadly force.

The officers' quick thinking and sound police tactics proved invaluable in the apprehension of a dangerous criminal. Corporal Rakowski and Officer Bartoletti were able to avoid injuring any patrons of the mall, the suspect, and themselves during a violent incident that could have easily taken a turn for the worse.



Officer Eric Bartoletti & Corporal Thomas Rakowski

The suspect currently awaits trial on multiple charges including two counts of attempted malicious wounding of a police officer, robbery, attempted malicious wounding, and three counts of grand larceny. Since the initial arrest, another robbery charge has been obtained in connection with another outstanding case. Finally, four additional grand larcenies, from four additional retail stores, which had gone undetected between December and February, have been associated and charged against the suspect.

CORPORAL STEPHEN CLARK
CORPORAL ALBERT KIM
OFFICER CRYSTAL NOSAL



On Oct. 24, 2004, Corporal Stephen Clark observed a vehicle being driven in a reckless manner on North Glebe Road in Arlington, Virginia. Corporal Clark stopped the vehicle in the 1600 block of North Woodstock Street, which was later discovered to be the driver's residence. Upon initial contact with the driver, Corporal Clark detected



Officer Crystal Nosal, Corporal Stephen Clark & Corporal Albert Kim

an angry and agitated demeanor. As the encounter continued, the driver's hostile demeanor escalated. Corporal Clark requested a back-up unit and used verbal commands in an attempt to calm the driver so he would comply with his request and produce his license and registration. During this time, Corporal Albert Kim and Officer Crystal Nosal arrived on scene to assist Corporal Clark. By the time they arrived, the driver had become very hostile and refused to comply with any of Corporal Clark's requests. When ordered out of his vehicle, the driver cursed at the officers and began running towards his residence. The officers gave chase and the suspect ran into his home.

The officers followed the suspect into his house, but lost sight of him once inside. Within a few seconds, the suspect came out from behind a closed door armed with a shotgun which was pointed directly at Corporal Kim. Due to the fact that the officers were now in grave danger, Corporal Clark and Officer Nosal drew their weapons and fired at the suspect, striking him two times. Once the threat was neutralized, the officers secured the scene and radioed for additional assistance.

Follow up investigation discovered that the suspect had a history of mental illness, as well as confrontations with authority figures. In addition, officers recovered a large arsenal of weapons from the suspect's residence.

Corporal Clark, Corporal Kim and Officer Nosal were challenged by a heavily armed, combative and aggressive subject, who seemed intent on killing a police officer. After using available means of verbal commands, physical presence and a Taser, the officers were still unable to control the hostile suspect. When the suspect armed himself and became a deadly threat, the officers were compelled to use deadly force to save their lives. Their quick thinking and bravery during an extremely difficult situation saved all of their lives and the life of the suspect.

OFFICER GEORGE P. STEVENSON, II



During the early morning hours of November 24, 2004, Officer Stevenson parked his cruiser outside the door of the local Sheetz store and went inside to make a purchase. While standing at the cooler, he felt something hit his leg — a candy bar thrown by a citizen who was sprawled on the floor. The citizen quietly informed him that an armed man was robbing the clerk at the front of the store.

Without hesitation or deliberation, Officer Stevenson followed procedure by calling for help on his radio, drawing his pistol, and confronting the robber. The robber, who was wearing a pantyhose mask and gloves and was armed with a pistol, turned and ran from the store, carrying a plastic bag full of money from the cash register.

Again, without hesitation or deliberation, Officer Stevenson gave chase, repeatedly ordering the robber to drop his weapon and freeze. When the plastic bag broke and the stolen money spilled on the ground, the robber slowed momentarily and this allowed Officer Stevenson to get close enough to grab him. At great personal risk, Officer Stevenson made a very courageous decision to re-holster his service weapon and tackle the robber while he was still armed. Both of them went to the ground where Officer Stevenson promptly grabbed the robber's arm, wrestled the pistol from his grasp, and threw it out of reach. The robber, who was also armed with a six-inch hunting knife in a sheath on his belt, was a large and powerful man. He broke free of the officer's grasp, attacked him, and tried to remove his holstered weapon. The only way Officer Stevenson could effectively defend himself was to wrap his legs around the robber and hold onto his ankles because he was unable to overpower and handcuff him. At this point, Officer Stevenson called for help and a citizen, Mark Lee Tarn, assisted him in subduing this very dangerous and violent man.

All of the choices Officer Stevenson faced that morning were dangerous — he could have continued to follow the robber on foot. If he had, he faced the likely potential of having to fire his weapon and cause serious injury or death to the robber. Officer Stevenson's decision to willingly and knowingly place himself in extreme danger by holstering his service weapon and tackling, partially disarming, and then physically controlling a dangerous felon, demonstrated his exceptional courage and tenacity in a very intense and frightening situation.



Officer George P. Stevenson, II

OFFICER CHRISTOPHER E. MINER



On July 25, 2004 at 3:36 p.m., Officer Miner attempted to stop a green Ford Explorer for reckless driving in the area of Jefferson Avenue and Village Drive, Newport News, Virginia. The vehicle sped away and collided with an Isuzu Rodeo at the intersection of Lee Road and Jefferson Avenue. The driver then fled the accident on foot. Officer Miner exited his police vehicle and pursued the suspect on foot.



Officer Christopher E. Miner

The suspect, later identified as Justin Carlos Sanchez, was located at 4 North Magruder Road hiding in a carport. Officer Miner shouted out verbal commands for Sanchez to come out with his hands up. In reply, Sanchez began yelling back at Officer Miner. Then without warning, Sanchez began firing at Officer Miner. After Sanchez fired six shots in rapid succession at him, Officer Miner returned fire, striking Sanchez in the right thigh. Officer Miner then moved to cover as Sanchez fled on foot. Officer Miner called for assistance and waited for back up.

A perimeter was set up by the officers and the Tactical Team was called out. Sanchez was located by TACT members directly behind 4 Magruder Road in a canal. It appeared that the suspect had a self-inflicted gun shot to the head. A 9mm semi-automatic pistol was removed from the suspect's right hand. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

Officer Miner is to be commended for his courageous actions for maintaining his composure during a life-threatening situation and performing as he was trained. Officer Miner prevented a dangerous suspect from harming the community or other officers. His actions are a credit to himself, his department, and the community he serves.

OFFICER JEMAL S. DAVIS

OFFICER WINDSOR L. BRABSON



On July 11, 2004, members of the Norfolk Police Vice and Narcotics made arrangements through a confidential informant to have a quantity of crack cocaine delivered and sold to an undercover police officer. With the confidential informant acting as a middle man, the delivery was set up to take place in room 216 of the Doubletree Hotel located within the Military Circle Mall complex. The suspected drug dealer was to meet the confidential informant along with the undercover police officer at the hotel and bring an eighth of an ounce of crack cocaine. The time was set for approximately 8:00 p.m. A briefing was held and two teams were set up — an inside arrest/body wire monitoring team and an outside surveillance team. The plan was to have the suspected drug dealer place a phone call to the confidential informant once he arrived at Military Circle Mall and the confidential informant would give him the room number.



Officer Jemal S. Davis

At approximately 8:00 p.m., a silver Lincoln pulled into the parking lot occupied by four black males. The vehicle stopped in front of the Doubletree Hotel and a black male exited the back seat. The outside surveillance team could see the subject was talking on a cell phone and the inside arrest team confirmed that the target was on his way up to room 216. The silver Lincoln, still occupied by three subjects, was parked in one of the parking spaces adjacent to the hotel. The inside team supervisor advised he would inform the outside team when the deal was made and the suspect was in custody. At approximately 9:00 p.m., the inside team gave the okay to move in and arrest the three suspects in the silver Lincoln. The outside team consisted of Investigators Rivera and Klein in an unmarked surveillance vehicle and Investigators Davis and Brabson in another vehicle. The outside team supervisor, Corporal Ballard, was driving an unmarked police unit equipped with emergency lights and siren. Corporal Ballard directed Investigators Rivera and Klein to move in and block the suspects' vehicle from pulling out of the parking space while Investigators Davis and Brabson parked to the rear of the suspects' vehicle and approached from behind. As Investigators Davis and Brabson approached the suspects' vehicle from the rear on foot, gunfire erupted from within the suspects' vehicle. Investigator Brabson was immediately hit by the suspects' gunfire. Investigator Brabson called out to his partner (Davis) that he had been hit. Investigator Davis immediately began to return fire at the suspects as they were still seated inside the vehicle. Investigator



Officer Windsor L. Brabson

Brabson was able to get off two shots towards the suspect before he was shot a second time. Investigator Brabson again called out to Investigator Davis that he was hit. At that point, Investigator Davis left the cover of his vehicle and started to advance towards the suspects' vehicle, firing as he moved. As Investigator Davis advanced, he was shot in the abdomen. Investigator Davis continued to advance when he observed the driver of the vehicle exit the driver's door. Investigator Davis fired two shots, striking the suspect in the center mass of his chest and dropping him to the pavement. Investigator Davis maneuvered around the suspect, attempting to locate his fallen partner. As Investigator Davis approached the rear of the driver's side of the suspects' vehicle, the suspect he had previously engaged was able to rise up and fire a shot that struck Investigator Davis a second time in the abdomen. He immediately re-engaged in a gun battle with the driver, and the front seat passenger (who had also been firing out of the vehicle at Davis and Brabson) exited the passenger's side door and immediately began firing at Investigators Klein and Rivera. Investigator Klein, who was in the passenger's seat and closest to the suspect's vehicle, attempted to exit her vehicle but was driven back twice by gunfire. Investigator Klein was able to seek cover inside her vehicle and immediately made an emergency call for help. Corporal Ballard also was making a frontal approach and had pulled up to engage the front seat passenger as he attempted to flee on foot. As this suspect ran towards the front of his vehicle, it was clear he was armed with a handgun. Corporal Ballard prepared to fire on the suspect when Investigator Rivera (who was closer to the suspect) stepped from behind the vehicle and began to fire at the suspect as he fled. The suspect was apprehended a short distance away by Corporal Ballard and other officers. When this suspect was apprehended, it was discovered he had been hit four times by Investigator Rivera's gunfire. After the gunfire had subsided, Investigator Davis realized there was a third suspect crouched down in the rear of the suspects' vehicle. It appeared the third suspect had not been firing, but was ducking for cover during the gun battle. Investigator Davis, who had been shot twice, removed the third suspect from the vehicle and placed him in custody. Investigator Davis then went back over to render aid to his fallen partner, Investigator Brabson, who had two gunshot wounds to the leg, not realizing the severity of his own injuries. When other officers arrived to assist, Investigator Davis still had the presence of mind to keep the fallen suspect covered until he was placed into custody.

Investigator Davis' action during this intense gun battle was nothing short of heroic. His concern for his partner's welfare and the decision made in that brief instance to advance into the barrage of the suspects' gunfire without concern for his own safety was extraordinary. With two serious gunshot wounds to the abdomen Investigator Davis' courage, valor, and determination to save his partner and secure the suspects was purely an act of heroism.

Investigator Brabson risked his life to rid Norfolk's streets of dangerous criminals. His actions during this incident were in itself an act of courage, valor, and heroism. After being wounded twice by the suspects' bullets, Investigator Brabson had presence of mind to seek cover and return fire.

All of the officers involved in this gun battle acted with discipline, professionalism, and courage in a moment of total chaos. The discipline and control of their gunfire were only directed at clear targets, which led to no accidental injury to innocent citizens.

It is for these courageous acts that Officers Jemal S. Davis and Windsor L. Brabson were nominated the Award for Valor.

OFFICER BARRY J. KELLER OFFICER WILLIAM D. WOOD



Officer Barry J. Keller has been employed with the Roanoke Police Department since July 1, 2003. Officer William D. Wood II has been employed with the Roanoke Police Department since February 5, 2002.

In the early morning hours of July 30, 2004, Officers Keller and Wood received a call in reference to loud music at a gas station/convenience store. As Officer Keller and Officer Wood arrived on the scene, they saw a man backing away from a group of people firing multiple shots from a handgun. The officers immediately pursued the suspect, who fled behind the business. Officer Wood and Officer Keller ordered the suspect to drop his weapon and get on the ground. The suspect refused and continued to run, while pointing his gun at the officers several times. Despite the obvious risk to their safety, Officer Keller and Officer Wood continued to pursue the suspect. The suspect, realizing the officers were refusing to end their pursuit, eventually surrendered and was arrested.

Immediately after the suspect was taken into custody, Officer Keller ran back to the front of the business to control a crowd of approximately 100 people who had gathered there during the shooting.

It was later determined that the suspect had shot three victims, one fatally.

Officer Wood and Officer Keller risked their lives to apprehend this dangerous suspect, while protecting approximately 100 people from harm. Officer Keller and Officer Wood are commended for their brave and courageous actions that night, putting aside their personal safety to apprehend a dangerous felon and protect innocent bystanders.



Officer Barry J. Keller



Officer William D. Wood



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation also presents two other awards — the **Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement** and the **Lifesaving Award**.

The **Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement** is presented in recognition of an individual's conspicuous act or achievement in the performance of some duty that results in an exceptional and responsible contribution to law enforcement. The act or achievement must clearly distinguish the individual from others in the same or like circumstances. This award may be presented to a civilian employee or volunteer whose efforts benefited law enforcement statewide, regionally, or locally; or a law enforcement officer whose efforts extended beyond his agency or locality and had a regional or statewide impact. This award is presented at the Opening Ceremonies of the VACP Annual Conference.

The **VACP/VPCF Lifesaving Award** is presented in recognition of a law enforcement officer's actions that put that officer in harm's way in an attempt to save the life of another. These awards are presented at the officers' agencies by their chief or other supervising officer.

2005 AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Miss Jessica Story

Since 2002, Miss Story, an 11-year-old from Frederick County, has raised more than \$13,000 to purchase bulletproof and stab-resistant vests and temperature-control systems for law enforcement canines. She has obtained 19 vests and 6 temperature-control systems for the Virginia State Police; the Blackstone, Chesterfield County, Emporia, La Crosse, South Hill, and Washington, D.C. police departments; the Fluvanna and Frederick County Sheriff's Offices; and the Maryland State Police.

Miss Story began her efforts to provide agencies with canine vests through the national organization "Pennies to Protect Police Dogs", but when she also wanted to provide the temperature-control systems, she hit a roadblock with the organization's bylaws. So in July, 2004, just before her tenth birthday, Jessica formed her own non-profit organization, "Mission: K-9" to be able to supply the vests, as well as the temperature safety controller for law enforcement canine vehicles. For more information about Jessica's efforts, visit her website, <http://www.missionk9.org>.

Miss Story is the youngest recipient of the VACP/VPCF Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement Award. She was nominated by the Virginia State Police.

2005 LIFESAVING AWARDS

Sergeant David A. Stone

Chesterfield Co. Police Department

Captain Barry O'Rourke

Christiansburg Police Department

Sergeant Andy Schack

Officer Kevin Tucker

Officer Brian Queen

and

Sergeant Lewis Heslip

Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office

Corporal John Eaton

Officer Gilda Klein

Norfolk Police Department

Detective Carl Sequeira

Portsmouth Police Department



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Drug Enforcement Administration, Richmond Office

PHOTOGRAPHY:

- ♦ Photographs of the award presentations will be available on the VACP website — <http://www.vachiefs.org> — following the conference. Image files will be suitable for the purpose of having prints made.

VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- ♦ Please remain at the end of the banquet for a group photograph with all of the award recipients.
- ♦ Protective sleeves for your awards are available at the front of the room after the banquet.

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