



2008 VACP/VPCF VALOR AWARDS

August 19, 2008
Hot Springs, VA





The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation each year recognize individuals in three award categories: Lifesaving, Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement and Valor. At tonight's banquet, we honor the eight recipients of our highest award, the Award for Valor and one recipient of the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement.

We also will honor two local law enforcement agencies — the Virginia Tech Police Department and the Blacksburg Police Department — with Special Commendations for Heroism in recognition of the unique circumstances faced on April 16, 2007 at Virginia Tech.

It is with great pride that we recognize the exceptional efforts of these fine officers and individuals who are a credit to their agencies and true public servants to the citizens of their communities.

Sincerely,

Chief James R. Lavinder
2007-2008 VACP President

Annual VACP/VPCF Valor Awards Banquet

August 19, 2008 • Hot Springs, VA

Welcome

Chief James R. Lavinder, VACP President

Invocation

Dinner

Awards for Valor

Chief James R. Lavinder, VACP President

The Honorable John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety

Commendations for Heroism

Chief James R. Lavinder, VACP President

The Honorable John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety

Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement

Chief James R. Lavinder, VACP President

VACP President's Award

Chief James R. Lavinder, VACP President

Election & Installation of 2008-2009 VACP Executive Board

Chief Charlie T. Deane, Chairman, VACP Nominating Committee

Past President Presentation



Tonight, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation honor eight Virginia law enforcement officers with our highest award.

The VACP/VPCF Award for Valor 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.

These awards recognize the bravery, professionalism and commitment to public service of these fine officers.

2008 VALOR AWARDS

Bluefield Police Department
Officer Joshua Wright

Chesapeake Police Department
Police Officer Specialist Raymond Kerr

Chesapeake Police Department
Police Officer Specialist Norwood "Trea" King
(with special recognition to K-9 "Axel")

Chilhowie Police Department
Lieutenant Kevin J. Testerman

Roanoke County Police Department
Officer Shaun P. Chuyka
Officer Spencer D. Lewis

Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Brad M. Campbell
Deputy Richard B. Garland

Bluefield Police Department

OFFICER JOSHUA WRIGHT



On the early morning of October 19, 2007, the Bluefield Police Department received a call to assist a Tazewell County deputy on a felony vehicle stop. Tazewell County Sheriff's Office suspected the occupants of the vehicle as being involved in two armed robberies in Tazewell County earlier that morning.

Deputy Eric Mullis of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office stopped the vehicle on Rt. 460 East inside the town limits of Bluefield at around 6:57 a.m. Officer Joshua Wright was assisting Deputy Mullins. As Deputy Mullins returned to the driver of the suspect vehicle, the driver fired two shots at Deputy Mullins, striking him in the stomach and his right hand. Officer Wright immediately withdrew his weapon and started firing at the vehicle. He fired 13 times, striking the vehicle 9 times, which resulted in the driver taking off to avoid being hit by gunfire from Officer Wright.



Officer Joshua Wright

Officer Wright's quick actions avoided more gunfire from the driver of the vehicle, thereby possibly saving the life of Deputy Mullins. Deputy Mullins was treated and released from the hospital that same day and all three suspects were arrested without incident in another locality within 50 hours of the original events.



On September 17, 2007 at 09:47 hours, Chief Stephen Price and Lieutenant Kevin Testerman were dispatched to 161 Tiny Town in reference to a domestic disturbance and possible suicide attempt. At 09:53 hours, they arrived at the location and observed the offender, Billy Joe Parris, holding a shot gun under his own chin. Parris' wife, Charlotte, was struggling with him attempting to take the shot gun away from him. Chief Price and Lt. Testerman drew their weapons and repeatedly ordered Mr. Parris to drop his weapon. Parris stated several times to Chief Price and Lt. Testerman, "Go ahead and shoot me!"



Lieutenant Kevin J. Testerman

Mrs. Parris lost her hold on the shot gun and Mr. Parris ran toward the front door of the trailer. Mrs. Parris followed him shouting that the weapon was not loaded. Chief Price and Lt. Testerman continued to verbally order Parris to drop the weapon. Mr. Parris ran into his residence and Lt. Testerman took a position of cover behind the right front wheel of his vehicle. Chief Price got Mrs. Parris and moved her out of harm's way behind the trailers at 163 Tiny Town. As the chief attempted to keep her in a safe area, Mr. Parris emerged from his residence and stated, "You ***** up, it is loaded now!" Lt. Testerman again ordered Mr. Parris to put the weapon down several times. Upon hearing gun shots and shot gun blasts, Chief Price turned away from Mrs. Parris towards Lt. Testerman, who exclaimed that he'd been hit.

Lt. Testerman was bleeding profusely from his hands as he took cover behind the right rear wheel of his vehicle. Lt. Testerman continued to order Mr. Parris to drop his weapon as Parris advanced on Lt. Testerman's position. As Parris came into Chief Price's line of sight, Lt. Testerman fired his weapon striking the offender in the ankle. Parris reacted and Chief Price ordered him to drop his weapon, as did Lt. Testerman. This time, Parris complied and laid his weapon on the ground. Chief Price then advanced on the offender and placed him against the bed of a pick up truck and cuffed his hands behind his back. Chief Price conducted a search of the offender's person for weapons and then called for EMS units to the scene. Chief Price secured the offender's weapon and locked it inside his patrol vehicle just as several additional units began to arrive.

Lt. Testerman was placed in the ambulance and was transported to Smyth County Community Hospital with buck shot wounds to both hands and arms and the right side of his head. The offender was med-flighted to Bristol Regional Hospital.

Chesapeake Police Department

POLICE OFFICER SPECIALIST RAYMOND KERR



On July 10, 2007, Police Officer Specialist Raymond Kerr observed a vehicle pull into the parking lot of a service station in the Deep Creek area of the city. The lone occupant of the vehicle did not exit and Officer Kerr noticed the vehicle did not display rear or front license plates as required by law.

Prior to his making contact with the subject, the vehicle abruptly sped from the parking lot at a high rate of speed. Officer Kerr activated his emergency equipment in an attempt to conduct a traffic stop and eventually stopped the vehicle at a nearby intersection. Upon his approach to the vehicle, Officer Kerr issued several commands to the driver, including one to remain in the car, which were all ignored. The driver exited the vehicle, turned away from Officer Kerr and refused to show his hands. Upon turning around, the subject displayed a 9mm handgun and began firing at Officer Kerr. Officer Kerr simultaneously sought cover and returned fire. The subject continued to fire and flee from the scene.



Police Officer Specialist Raymond Kerr

Disregarding any thought to his own safety, Officer Kerr pursued the subject, returning fire until the suspect no longer presented a threat. The subject was eventually identified and determined to be wanted by two other jurisdictions. It is believed he removed the license plates from his vehicle and was planning to conduct an armed robbery of the service station.

For his act of extraordinary heroism while engaged in combat with an armed adversary at imminent personal danger to his own life, Officer Raymond Kerr receives the Award for Valor.

Chesapeake Police Department

POLICE OFFICER SPECIALIST (K-9) NORWOOD "TREA" KING & K-9 AXEL



On June 12, 2007, Police Officer Specialist Trea King and his canine partner Axel were dispatched to a location in Deep Creek in reference to a possible burglary in progress. Upon his arrival he was notified the suspect had fled the area. Remaining on scene, Officer King eventually heard over the radio the suspect had been sighted on foot in a nearby field. Responding to that location, he began to follow an unmarked car and noticed the suspect flee into the woods behind several houses.

Exiting their vehicles, Officer King and Detective Keith Bailey began to approach the suspect and Officer King began to give K-9 warnings. The suspect opened fire on the officers and Officer King took a prone position with his body between the still firing suspect and his canine partner. The suspect again fled as Detective Bailey returned fire and Officer King and Axel sprinted to the front of a home for better cover.



Police Officer Specialist Trea King & Axel

While at this location, and after talking a citizen into going back inside his house, Officer King reacquired visual contact with the suspect in front of another home. Officer King deployed Canine Axel and began to follow. Not knowing the canine was closing in on him, the suspect ran behind another building and Axel momentarily lost visual contact. Almost immediately re-establishing the track, Axel also ran behind the building. As Officer King began to round the building's corner, more shots were fired from almost point blank range as the suspect attempted to shoot Axel and Officer King. The shots did not dissuade Canine Axel and he immediately bit the suspect's arm and did not release his grip until instructed to do so. At the same time, Officer King returned fire incapacitating and disarming the suspect.

For his composure under fire, willingness to disregard imminent danger to his own life and proper use of police tactics, Police Officer Specialist Trea King receives the Award for Valor.

Roanoke County Police Department

OFFICER SHAUN P. CHUYKA
OFFICER SPENCER D. LEWIS



Officer Shaun P. Chuyka



Officer Spencer D. Lewis

Shortly before 1:00 a.m. on the morning of February 29, 2008 Officer Chuyka of the Roanoke County Police Department received a radio message that a vehicle was headed in his direction in excess of 90 miles an hour. Officer Chuyka stopped in the median at a crossover on Rt. 220 and waited for the vehicle. A vehicle matching the suspect vehicle came thru his radar at 20 miles an hour over the speed limit and he attempted to stop the vehicle.

The driver of the dark colored pickup truck refused to stop and continued South on 220. Officer Spencer Lewis of the Roanoke County Police Department then joined in the pursuit. When Officer Chuyka realized the pursuit may go into Franklin County, he notified the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Garland joined in the pursuit and became the lead vehicle.

A short distance from the Franklin County line, the driver abruptly stopped in the right traffic lane with Deputy Garland behind him. Officer Chuyka stopped in the left traffic lane parallel to Deputy Garland's vehicle, and Officer Lewis stopped in the right lane behind Deputy Garland. Deputy Campbell arrived as the officers and deputy were getting out of their vehicles. From his position, Officer Chuyka immediately saw the suspect come out of the vehicle firing a military rifle

Franklin County Sheriff's Office

DEPUTY BRAD M. CAMPBELL
DEPUTY RICHARD B. GARLAND



(SKS semi-auto 7.62 30-round magazine) at him.

Deputy Garland, Officer Lewis and Officer Chuyka immediately returned fire, each covering the other as they reloaded. Deputy Campbell attempted to engage the suspect but he did not present a clear target from his position. The exchange of gun fire lasted 15 to 20 seconds and ended when the suspect in the pickup truck was mortally wounded.

The suspect was able to empty a 30-round magazine. One round struck Officer Chuyka's uniform pants cuff and shoe, causing a slight abrasion, and his vehicle was struck 13 times, completely disabling it. Deputy Garland's vehicle was struck 12 times. The suspect had in his vehicle a 12 gauge shotgun, fully loaded with slugs, and a loaded 9mm pistol, as well as numerous boxes of ammunition for each of these weapons.



Deputy Brad M. Campbell



Deputy Richard B. Garland



On the morning of April 16, 2007, a horrific and devastating tragedy occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech. An armed gunman opened fire on students, faculty and staff in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history. However, the losses would have been far worse without the heroic efforts of the responders from the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg Police Departments.

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation hereby confer, for the first time, Special Commendations for Heroism to the men and women of the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg Police Departments. These awards are presented to Virginia Tech Police Chief Wendell Flinchum and Blacksburg Police Chief Kim Crannis on behalf of their agencies.

Accompanying the awards are gifts of \$2,000 each to Chief Flinchum and Chief Crannis for the express purpose of holding special recognition events for the men and women of the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg Police Departments.

SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS FOR HEROISM

The following officers from the Virginia Tech Police Department and the Blacksburg Police Department were the first to respond to the shooting and placed their lives in extreme peril. The officers from these departments were the only officers entering Norris Hall during the on-going shooting rampage. These fifteen officers will receive special letters of commendation from the VACP for their heroic efforts:

Virginia Tech Police Department

Lieutenant Curtis Cook

Sergeant Tom Gallemore

Sergeant Sean Smith

Officer Geoffrey Allen

Officer Daniel Hardy

Officer Dean Lucas

Officer Jaret Reece

Officer Keith Weaver

Officer Larry Wooddell

Blacksburg Police Department

Sergeant Anthony Wilson

Officer Scott Craig

Officer Greg Evans

Officer Jeff Robinson

Officer Brian Roe

Officer Johnnie Self



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation are proud to honor two individuals with the VACP/VPCF Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement. This award 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, to a law enforcement officer whose efforts extended beyond his agency or locality and had a regional or statewide impact.

Tonight, we present the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement With Distinction to The Honorable John L. Brownlee, United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia.

Ms. Amy L. Whitmore, Virginia State Police, was presented the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement during Opening Ceremonies on Monday.

2008 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

THE HONORABLE JOHN L. BROWNLEE

United States Attorney, Western District of Virginia

During Mr. Brownlee's nearly seven years as United States Attorney, he worked closely with law enforcement agencies in the Western District and across Virginia to address violent crime and drug trafficking problems. Since 2004, Brownlee awarded more than \$1.2 million in Project Safe Neighborhoods and Anti-Gang grant funds to police departments, sheriff's offices, Commonwealth's Attorneys, faith based organizations, and youth risk prevention programs to address gang and illegal drug related crimes in numerous communities throughout Virginia.

For more than 20 years, John Brownlee has served America and Virginia as a soldier, local prosecutor, and as the United States Attorney. He has earned a reputation as a tough and dedicated crime fighter who has vigorously fought for justice.

MS. AMY L. WHITMORE

Virginia State Police

In the fall of 2004, Ms. Whitmore was selected to participate with other representatives of the Virginia State Police to organize and put into motion the concept for the Virginia Fusion Center. During this time, Ms. Whitmore was instrumental in formatting and implementing the primary mission of the VFC, standard operational procedures, logistical planning, personnel responsibilities and training requirements, along with equipment and funding. She has secured grant funding that has grown the center's staff tenfold and has allowed the analysts and agents assigned to the VFC to attend valuable training. She also coordinated and offered training to other local, state and federal partners.

Through Ms. Whitmore's direction and dedication, the VFC consistently works to coordinate and integrate information sharing among the seeming endless groups of federal, state and local homeland security partners. The VFC has been transformed into a nationally recognized leader in the intelligence community through her choreographing.

Ms. Whitmore's leadership, commitment, dedication and passion for her job are the driving forces behind the success of the Virginia Fusion Center.



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation are proud to honor thirty-three officers with the 2008 Award for Lifesaving.

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. This year's honorees risked their own lives to save others from armed assailants, burning buildings, deadly falls, vehicle crashes, personal harm and other dangerous situations. In several cases, the honorees are credited with saving the lives of a fellow law enforcement officer.

The Lifesaving Awards are presented at the officers' agencies by their chief on behalf of the VACP.

2008 LIFESAVING AWARDS

Officer Christopher Ashcroft
Officer Thomas Ground
Officer Steven Pagach

Alexandria Police Dept.

Officer Patrick Gittlesohn
Officer Gregory Holden
Officer Thomas Meehan
Officer Michael Nugent
Officer John Saitta

Alexandria Police Dept.

Officer Nick Lion
Animal Control Officer Pete
Fitzgerald

Alexandria Police Dept.

Officer Ernest "Jeff" Jefferies

Chesapeake Police Dept.

Officer Nathan Harder
Officer Rodney Pretko

Chesterfield Co. Police Dept.

Edward J. Leabough, Sr.

Henrico Co. Division of Police

Officer Terrence Dunbar
Officer Scott A. Mounger

Newport News Police Dept.

Sergeant Xavier O. Falero
Officer Terral L. Hollars

Newport News Police Dept.

Officer Christopher C. Bradford

Prince William Co. Police Dept.

Officer Christopher A. Drew
Officer Kenneth Hulsey

Prince William Co. Police Dept.

Officer Todd Jones
Officer Ruddy Zhao

Richmond Police Dept.

2008 LIFESAVING AWARDS

Sergeant Ronnie Armistead
Sergeant Chris Gleason
Sergeant Jason Hudson
Officer Russell Wiegatz (deceased)

Richmond Police Dept.

Sergeant Warren Andorfer
Sergeant Wayne Skinner

Richmond Police Dept.

MPO Mark A. Roulley
MPO Nathan J. Witczak
Officer Bryon L. Nodley

Virginia Beach Police Dept.

Officer David S. Chaulkin

Virginia Capitol Police

NOTES:

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.

Photography:

- ◆ Photographs of the award presentations will be available on the VACP photo website — <http://vachiefs.smugmug.com> — following the conference. Prints may be purchased from the photo gallery directly, or you may download high-resolution images to make your own prints.

Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

AWARDS COMMITTEE



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Harrisonburg Police Department

Chief James E. Williams
Staunton Police Department

ASAC James R. "Jay" Gregorius
Drug Enforcement Administration, Richmond Office

Deputy Chief David C. Sloggie
Williamsburg Police Department

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