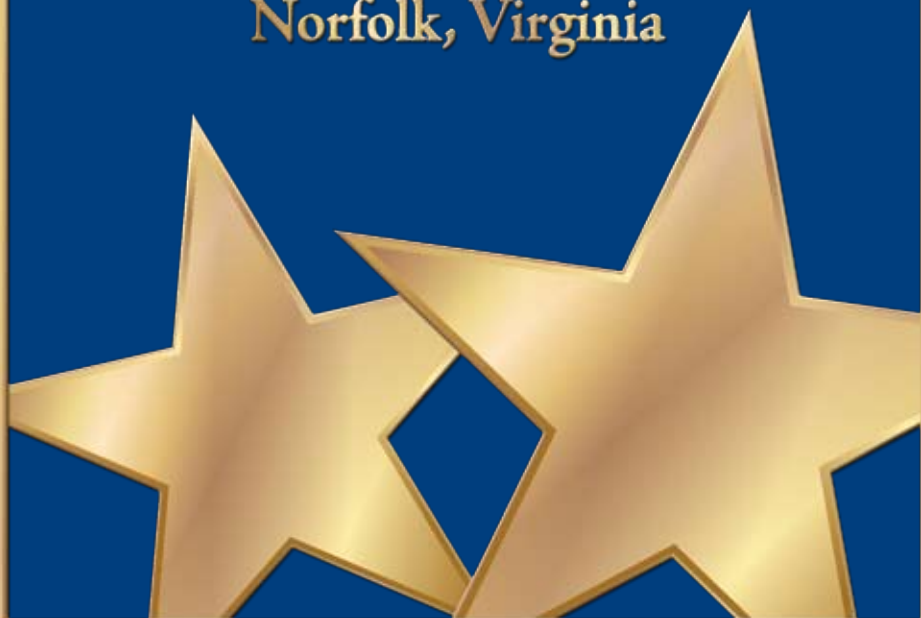




2011 VACP/VPCF AWARDS

September 27, 2011
Norfolk, Virginia





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. This year, we will also recognize an Outstanding Legislator from the Virginia General Assembly.

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 the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Chief Douglas L. Davis, Retired
2010-2011 VACP President

Annual VACP/VPCF Awards Banquet

September 27, 2011 • Norfolk, VA

WELCOME

Chief Douglas L. Davis, Retired, VACP President

INVOCATION

DINNER

PLATINUM SPONSOR RECOGNITION:

VERIZON WIRELESS

VACP AWARDS:

Chief Douglas L. Davis, Retired, VACP President

Announcement of President's Award (previously presented)

Outstanding Legislator Award

VACP/VPCF AWARDS PROGRAM:

Chief David Sloggie, VACP Awards Committee Chairman

Chief Douglas L. Davis, Retired, VACP President

Awards for Lifesaving, presented to Agency Chiefs

Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement

Awards for Valor

INSTALLATION OF 2010-2011 VACP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chief M. Douglas Scott, VACP Nominating Committee

PAST PRESIDENT PRESENTATION



The President of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police each year selects an individual for the President's award in recognition of meritorious efforts on behalf of the law enforcement profession and Virginia's criminal justice system.

The 2011 President's Award was presented September 8 to the Honorable Marla Graff Decker, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety, for her many years of service to Virginia law enforcement.

2011 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

HONORABLE MARLA GRAFF DECKER

Virginia Secretary of Public Safety

VACP President, retired Waynesboro Police Chief Doug Davis, presented the 2011 VACP President's Award to Secretary Decker at a reception for Virginia law enforcement officials hosted by Governor Robert McDonnell. "We greatly appreciate Secretary Decker's efforts on behalf of Virginia law enforcement," said VACP President Davis. "She works tirelessly to support the needs and concerns our officers and agencies."

On December 3, 2009, Marla Graff Decker was appointed by then Governor-Elect Bob McDonnell to be Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety. As a member of the Governor's Cabinet, the Secretary advises the Governor, as well as develops and implements public safety initiatives. In addition, Secretary Decker is responsible for twelve state agencies and a number of Boards that make up the Public Safety Secretariat.

Prior to her appointment, Secretary Decker served in the Office of the Attorney General for over 25 years. Most recently (from 2005-2010), she served as the Deputy Attorney General of the Public Safety and Enforcement Division. In that capacity, Ms. Decker supervised and staffed anti-gang, anti-terrorism and crime prevention initiatives, a responsibility she assumed for four Attorneys General.

Secretary Decker serves as an evening adjunct faculty member of the University of Richmond School of Law and the University of Richmond School of Continuing Studies, and is a life member of the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad in Henrico County and provides training to pre-hospital providers on public safety issues. Secretary Decker is married to Chip Decker, Chief Executive Officer of the Richmond Ambulance Authority.





The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police on special occasions honors a Virginia lawmaker who has been an outstanding supporter of the Virginia law enforcement community.

This award is presented in recognition of a legislator's dedicated leadership to improving the state criminal justice system, and commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of Virginia law enforcement.

The 2011 Award for Outstanding Legislator is presented with great pride and gratitude to the Honorable C. Todd Gilbert, Virginia House of Delegates.

2011 OUTSTANDING LEGISLATOR AWARD

HONORABLE C. TODD GILBERT

Virginia House of Delegates

"Delegate Gilbert is a strong and articulate defender of Virginia law enforcement," said VACP President Doug Davis, retired Waynesboro Police Chief. "He is an important voice in the General Assembly on issues and legislation that impact criminal laws and police administration."

"During the 2011 General Assembly session, Delegate Gilbert was instrumental in guiding the debate on the law enforcement authority of campus police departments," said Chief Davis. "His contribution to the legislative debates on law enforcement records and police best practices is critical to the outcome of key pieces of legislation that affect Virginia's criminal justice system."



Prior to his election in 2005 to the House of Delegates, Delegate Gilbert began his career as a full-time prosecutor. His first job was with the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Lynchburg, where he was a member of the Violent Crime Prosecution Team. In 1999, he returned home to work in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Shenandoah County for six years where he was lead prosecutor in a number of major cases. After his election to the House, Gilbert worked for several years as a prosecutor in both the Warren County and Frederick County Commonwealth's Attorneys Offices. He has taught the art of trial advocacy to fellow prosecutors at the Commonwealth's Attorneys' annual trial advocacy school.

Delegate Gilbert represents the 15th district in the Virginia House of Delegates; it includes all of Rappahannock, Page, and Shenandoah Counties and a portion of Rockingham County. Delegate Gilbert is a member of the Courts of Justice Committee, the Militia Police and Public Safety Committee, the General Laws Committee and the Privileges and Elections Committee. He also serves on the Commission of Virginia's Alcohol Safety Action Program, which supervises all DUI offenders in the Commonwealth, and the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission which oversees the discretionary sentencing guidelines used by the courts in all felony criminal cases.



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation are proud to honor nine officers with the 2011 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 burning buildings, vehicle crashes, vicious dogs and other dangerous situations. In some cases, honorees are credited with saving the life of a fellow law enforcement officer.

The Lifesaving Awards will be presented at the officers' agencies by their chiefs on behalf of the VACP.

2011 LIFESAVING AWARDS

Chesterfield County Police Department
Officer First Class Kevin A. Bates

Newport News Police Department
Sergeant Lawrence R. Gleba
Detective Charles A. Howser
Detective Sean P. McGee

Richmond Police Department
Sergeant David Naoroz

Strasburg Police Department
Officer Joey Miller
Officer John Magdinec

Virginia State Police
Trooper Nadir S. Sessoms

Virginia State Police
Trooper Joseph K. Zyra



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation each year selects a recipient for the 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.

The 2011 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement is presented with great pride to Mr. James Larry Howell of the Virginia State Police

2011 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

MR. JAMES LARRY HOWELL

Virginia State Police

Mr. James Larry Howell began working for the Virginia Department of State Police on July 23, 1970 as a dispatcher. On January 1, 1972, the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) came into existence and Mr. Howell has been an integral part of the VCIN team since the implementation of the system. He began teaching VCIN classes to all law enforcement agencies in Virginia in 1975 and currently manages VCIN instruction for all agencies across the state. Not only has he shown leadership and dedication in training, he is also the lead auditor for the VCIN system. He schedules all VCIN audits across the state and is an active participant.



In his role as a programming analyst, Mr. Howell oversees approximately 4,300 VCIN terminals, which are located with more than 700 agencies and reflect 33,000 VCIN operators. Mr. Howell is responsible for updating the VCIN system with the addition or modification of message code keys to ensure the proper handling of information between law enforcement agencies in Virginia and with external entities such as the FBI, NCMEC, or NLETS. He is and has been the resident expert for information concerning VCIN system operations for several decades and is well respected by the FBI's NCIC representatives and all agencies that use the VCIN system.

Mr. Howell's insight, leadership and direction into the system's development is a major reason for the success of the system in place today. As a result of his tireless efforts, all Virginia law enforcement agencies have greater access to critical information needed to successfully perform their duties. Mr. Howell has been a driving force for the system that we have in place today and is recognized for his unselfish dedication and professionalism contribution to law enforcement in Virginia. He has dedicated more than 40 years to public safety and shows no signs of slowing down. The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police honors Mr. James Larry Howell for his unique leadership in the development of the VCIN system that Virginia agencies rely on today.



Tonight, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation honor nine 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.

2011 VALOR AWARDS

Chesterfield County Police Department

Sergeant Jason A. Seamster
Officer First Class David E. Ickes, Jr.
Officer Collin Griffiths
Auxiliary Officer George M. Laffoon
Auxiliary Officer Kenneth T. Roeber

Danville Police Department

Officer Berry H. Sossoman, Jr.

Martinsville Police Department

Officer Doug Graham
Officer Ryan Martin
Officer Anita Sowers

Chesterfield County Police Department

SERGEANT JASON A. SEAMSTER
OFFICER FIRST CLASS DAVID E. ICKES, JR.
OFFICER COLLIN GRIFFITHS
AUX. OFFICER GEORGE M. LAFFOON
AUX. OFFICER KENNETH T. ROEBER



On January 15, 2011 at 4:45 pm, Officer Griffiths, Ickes and Laffoon and Sgt. Seamster responded to 12340 River Road in Chesterfield County on an attempted suicide call. David Valleau was located inside the residence, unresponsive on the dining room floor, with two 30-gallon propane tanks spewing propane gas into the residence. Mrs. Valleau could not be located and it could not be determined if she was in the residence.

Sgt. Seamster decided to enter the residence and formed a rescue plan with his officers. As Officer Ickes opened the front door to ventilate the residence, David Valleau was observed getting off of the floor and into a chair. As Officer Laffoon, Officer Griffiths, and Sgt. Seamster entered the residence to retrieve Mr. Valleau, he grabbed a fully-loaded pistol that was sitting on the table in front of him. Sgt. Seamster removed the gun from Mr. Valleau's hand while Officers Laffoon and Griffiths restrained David and removed him to the front yard. Officers Ickes and Roeber also entered the residence and assisted in removing Mr. Valleau, who had lost consciousness again.

As firefighters entered the residence to neutralize the propane tanks, the propane gas ignited and started a gas fire inside the residence.



Sergeant Jason A. Seamster



*Officer First Class
David E. Ickes, Jr.*



Officer Collin Griffiths



*Auxiliary Officer
George M. Laffoon*



*Auxiliary Officer
Kenneth T. Roeber*

Danville Police Department

OFFICER BERRY H. SOSSOMAN, JR.



At approximately 6:00 pm on September 7, 2010, Officer Berry H. Sossoman of the Danville Police Department had just finished refueling his patrol vehicle and had driven less than a city block when a woman flagged him down. The woman advised him that two men were fighting in a nearby home.

Officer Sossoman reported this information to dispatch and he and another officer approached the front door. A young man came out of the house onto the front porch and said that he had been involved in an altercation with an older man inside the house. The older man dated the younger man's mother and had wrecked her vehicle earlier that day.

The older man then came onto the porch and Officer Sossoman attempted to mediate a solution between the two men. While Officer Sossoman tried to calm the older man, the younger man produced a utility knife, reached over Officer Sossoman's shoulder, and severely cut the older man's face. Officer Sossoman turned and knocked the knife from the younger man's hand and pushed him off the porch and into the arms of the second officer. When Officer Sossoman turned back to the older man to provide emergency care for his wound, he discovered the man had produced a handgun and had begun shooting.

One bullet struck the younger man in the arm and another bullet struck Officer Sossoman in the left hand. Fearing for his own life, the life of his partner and the life of the younger man, Officer Sossoman sought cover, drew his service weapon and fired two quick shots into the chest of the older man, killing him instantly.

Officer Sossoman was able to stumble from the porch and take cover until backup officers arrived. Both Officer Sossoman and the younger man recovered from their gunshot wounds.



Officer Berry H. Sossoman, Jr.

Martinsville Police Department

**OFFICER DOUG GRAHAM
OFFICER RYAN MARTIN
OFFICER ANITA SOWERS**



On April 29, 2010 at approximately 12:00 pm, officers from the Martinsville Police Department received a report of a robbery at the Kroger's Grocery Store by a subject who brandished a large hunting knife at a clerk. Officers Anita Sowers, Ryan Martin, and Shane Clifton responded to the call, along with Officer Doug Graham, who was leaving court when he heard the call given out.

As Officer Martin pulled into the parking lot, the store manager, who was standing at a distance from the suspect, pointed him out to the officer who then positioned his patrol car a short distance from the rear of the suspect's vehicle. At the time, the suspect was loading his groceries from the grocery cart into the trunk of his car. In-car video from Officer Martin's car indicates that immediately upon pulling in behind the suspect's vehicle, the suspect dropped the groceries



Officer Doug Graham

in his hand, quickly reached into a shoulder bag, grabbed a large hunting knife and then charged towards the driver's side of Officer Martin's patrol car. Upon reaching the driver's door of the patrol car, the suspect began violently striking the door glass with the knife in a stabbing motion from over his head. The force from the blows was enough to scratch the glass and shook the in-car video camera.

Fortunately for Officer Martin, he had enough time to open his car door a few inches when the suspect hit it with such force that it was slammed shut. Officer Martin immediately drew his weapon and leaned away from the window and began ordering the suspect to drop the knife and move away from his car.

At this point, Officer Doug Graham arrived on the scene and quickly exited his patrol car and ordered the suspect to drop the knife. The suspect immediately ran back to his car and attempted to shut his door. Officer Graham grabbed and held the door open while deploying his Taser, which had no effect on the suspect. The suspect was then able to shut and lock his door at which time Officers Graham and Martin broke out the glass and re-deployed the Taser. Once again it had no effect on the suspect.

At this time, the suspect cranked up his car and sped out of the parking lot, striking two other parked vehicles. Officers Graham and Martin returned to their vehicles and gave chase as the suspect led them on a nearly three mile, high-speed pursuit out of the city and into Henry County. Officer Anita Akers also joined in the pursuit, along with Officer Shane Clifton, who moments earlier had attempted to use his vehicle to block the suspect vehicle in at the Kroger Parking Lot.

Shortly after entering Henry County, the suspect lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a chain link fence surrounding a local bowling alley. At that point, all four officers used their patrol vehicles to pin the suspect vehicle against the fence, which prevented him from moving his car. Officers gave numerous commands for the suspect to drop his knife as he hurriedly exited out of the passenger side window and began running away around the backside of the bowling alley building.

All four officers pursed the suspect on foot until he finally reached a point where he was blocked in. Officer Sowers then deployed her Taser on the suspect, which once again had no effect. At that point, the suspect immediately turned and charged at Officer Sowers with the hunting knife raised over his head. Realizing that the suspect was within an arm's length from Officer Sowers and less than seconds from stabbing her, Officer Doug Graham fired one round into the suspect's chest.

Despite receiving what was a fatal gunshot wound, officers still had to forcefully remove the knife from the suspect's hand, at which time they immediately began administering first aid and CPR.

It was later determined through an investigation that the suspect, Mr. Donnie Minter, was a paranoid schizophrenic who had been off of his medication for at least two years.



Officer Ryan Martin



Officer Anita Sowers

2011 Annual VACP/VPCF Awards Banquet
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NOTES

Award Recipients & Executive Board:

- ♦ Please remain at the end of the banquet for additional group photographs. Gather near the stage at the front of the room.
- ♦ 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://photos.vachiefs.org> — 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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Williamsburg Police Department

Chief Thierry Dupuis
Chesterfield County Police Department

ASAC James R. "Jay" Gregorius
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