

Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation
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2012 VACP/VPCF AWARDS

August 14, 2012
Roanoke, 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.

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 Richard C. Clark, Jr.
2011-2012 VACP President



Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chief David C. Sloggie, Chairman
Williamsburg Police Department

Colonel Thierry G. Dupuis
Chesterfield County Police Department

SAC James R. "Jay" Gregorius
Drug Enforcement Administration

Chief (Ret.) Douglas L. Davis
Wayneboro Police Department

Chief Anthony J. Panebianco
Middleburg Police Department

Chief James E. Williams
Staunton Police Department

2012 Annual VACP/VPCF Awards Banquet
sponsored by:



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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.

Annual VACP/VPCF Awards Banquet
August 14, 2012 • Roanoke, VA

WELCOME

Chief Richard C. Clark, Jr., VACP President

INVOCATION

DINNER

PLATINUM SPONSOR RECOGNITION:

VERIZON WIRELESS

VACP/VPCF AWARDS PROGRAM:

Chief David Sloggie, VACP Awards Committee Chairman

Awards for Lifesaving, presented to Agency Chiefs

Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement

Awards for Valor

VACP PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Chief Richard C. Clark, Jr., VACP President

INSTALLATION OF 2012-2013 VACP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chief Charlie T. Deane, Chair, VACP Nominating Committee

PAST PRESIDENT PRESENTATION



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation are proud to honor fifteen officers with the 2012 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 and vehicles, vehicle crashes, drownings, falls and other dangerous situations. The honorees from Prince William 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.

to comply and put his weapon down, Agee persisted to lower the barrel of the assault rifle, aim at Sergeant Curl and Trooper Hypes, and, within seconds, begin shooting at them.

Sergeant Curl and Trooper Hypes were left with no other option than to return fire and subsequently shot Agee multiple times. As soon as it was safe to approach the deputy, Sergeant Curl rendered first aid to prevent him from bleeding to death. Meanwhile, Trooper Hypes secured the deputy's weapon and called for rescue. Agee's life was clearly saved by Sergeant Curl's and Trooper Hypes' swift response and treatment to his injuries.

What played out in the middle of the afternoon on a heavily-traveled interstate on a busy holiday travel day put countless lives at stake, including Sergeant Curl's and Trooper Hypes'. Yet, these two courageous State Police personnel accepted the imminent risk to their lives in order to protect others. They were forced into the difficult and unusual position of having to potentially take the life of a fellow public safety professional.

Sergeant Curl's and Trooper Hypes' commitment to the Virginia State Police values of valor and service was exemplified that day by their quick, adroit, responsible actions. The Virginia State Police is proud to nominate Sergeant Curl and Trooper Hypes for the prestigious recognition bestowed by the VACP/VPCF Award of Valor.



Sergeant Jason R. Hypes

Virginia State Police

**SERGEANT BECKY G. CURL
SERGEANT JASON R. HYPES**



May 30, 2011, was a difficult and dangerous day for the law enforcement community of Virginia. A Virginia State Police Sergeant and Trooper found themselves in a position of having to valiantly confront and shoot a heavily-armed, highly-trained fellow law-enforcement officer. A Franklin County Deputy Sheriff who had just murdered his ex-wife led State Police on a high-speed pursuit on Interstate 81, and then shot and injured a State Police sergeant.

It was Memorial Day when Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Agee shot and killed his ex-wife at a gas station in the City of Salem. He fled the scene in his marked patrol car, which was later spotted by a Virginia State Police sergeant. A pursuit was initiated that led the two vehicles west on Route 460 and onto Interstate 81. When Agee finally pulled over on I-81, he shot at and struck the State Police sergeant. Agee then fled again in his patrol car and had just pulled off onto an exit ramp when Virginia State Police Sergeant Becky G. Curl and Virginia State Police Trooper Jason R. Hypes pulled up behind him. Armed with a high-powered assault rifle, Agee instantly exited his vehicle and began walking towards the two State Police personnel.

Trooper Hypes and Sergeant Curl, in unison, made the selfless decision to risk their lives in order to safeguard others by confronting Agee, who was a skilled marksman and had already proven his willful disregard for human life. Trooper Hypes and Sergeant Curl did not have the time or luxury to seek the benefit of suitable cover, thus leaving them exposed to potential gunfire. They each knew they had to act quickly to eliminate the threat Agee posed to them and the motoring public moving through the area. With Agee just 20 yards away, Sergeant Curl's only protection was her Kevlar vest.

Sergeant Curl and Trooper Hypes, armed only with their issued service pistols, first verbally challenged Agee to surrender his assault rifle so that an arrest could be made without further incident. Despite the repeated commands



Sergeant Becky G. Curl

2012 LIFESAVING AWARDS

Alexandria Police Department

**Officer Anthony Gorham
Officer Joshua Leach
Officer Frank McGrigg**

Arlington County Police Department

Corporal Stephen Taphorn

Chesterfield County Police Department

**Corporal Robert Balducci
Master Officer Kenneth M. Pope
Officer 1st Class Lewis J. Hagen, III**

Newport News Police Department

**Sergeant John V. Polak
Officer Wilbur J. O'Berry**

Portsmouth Police Department

Officer Adrien T. Henderson

Prince William County Police Department

**Lt. William M. Cox
1st Sergeant Michael H. Hustwayte
Officer Matthew L. West
Officer William Dalton**

Virginia State Police

Senior Trooper Charles Campbell, Jr.



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 2012 VACP/VPCF Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Enforcement is presented with great pride to Mrs. Jessica B. Sears.

suspect was forced to come to a stop when his vehicle succumbed to its deteriorated tires and other damage.

Once stopped, the suspect turned off his vehicle's lights, making it difficult for the officers to see the suspect's movements. The suspect again opened fire from inside the car and then suddenly flung the driver side door open and began to exit the vehicle.

Officer Visconti could see the gun in the suspect's right hand. Feeling the suspect would again begin to shoot at the officers, Officer Visconti fired three rifle rounds at the suspect as he stood up outside of the car. Apparently injured, the suspect fell back into his car and yelled that he needed medical attention.

Officer Visconti was able to see that the suspect was no longer holding the gun and that the suspect was bleeding. Officer Visconti and Officer Andersen repositioned themselves for better cover.

Two additional officers arrived and the team held its position while Officer Clair continued to command the suspect to exit the vehicle. After approximately 10 minutes, the suspect finally exited the vehicle and lay on the ground as he was ordered to do. Officer Clair continued to issue more commands to the suspect, but the suspect was unresponsive.

Given that the suspect was 50 yards from the nearest officers, lying in a dimly lit area, and had access to a weapon he was not afraid to use, the decision was made to assemble an arrest team guarded by a ballistic shield. All units maintained their positions behind cover and continued to issue commands to the suspect. An armored personnel carrier (APC) was brought in so the arrest team could visually inspect the suspect. When it was confirmed that the suspect no longer possessed the gun, the team exited through the rear of the APC to make the arrest. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident.

Officers Richard Visconti, Matthew Andersen and John Clair, with now-retired Lieutenant John Twomey, and Charles Kincheloe (former officer) performed bravely, professionally, and with valor. They acted without hesitation when they engaged a violent and extremely dangerous adversary. With great risk to their own safety, they performed heroically, allowing for this incident to be successfully and safely resolved.



Officer Matthew D. Andersen



*Charles D. Kincheloe
(former Officer)*



Lt. John T. Twomey (Ret.)

Prince William County Police Department

LT. JOHN J. TWOMEY (RET.)
OFFICER RICHARD D. VISCONTI
OFFICER JOHN P. CLAIR
OFFICER MATTHEW D. ANDERSEN
CHARLES D. KINCHELOE (FORMER OFFICER)



On January 2, 2011, around 1 a.m., officers were dispatched to a reported violent domestic altercation in Haymarket. Information was dispatched that the suspect had shot his wife with a 9mm handgun and was still in the home. The wife reported that she was able to leave the residence and saw her husband drive off in his car.

Officers Richard D. Visconti and John P. Clair responded and deployed a tire-deflation device across the roadway when car was observed approaching at a high rate of speed. The officers saw the vehicle recklessly strike the left curb of the roadway but it did not stop. As the suspect approached Route 15, he slowly proceeded to the northbound lanes of Route 15 and came to a stop. Officer Visconti took up a cover position by his cruiser as Officers Clair, Charles D. Kincheloe and Matthew D. Andersen (riding with Kincheloe) arrived.

Officers Clair, Kincheloe and Andersen exited their cars and took cover. Officer Clair began to yell at the suspect to drop his weapon and get out of the car. The suspect instead exited his vehicle, began to pace and yelled belligerently at the officers. The suspect began firing multiple shots towards the officers. All officers returned fire in defense of themselves and nearby motorists.

Lieutenant John J. Twomey arrived on the scene and observed several uninvolved motorists approaching the intersection where the gunfire was occurring. Lieutenant Twomey pulled past all of the cruisers further into the intersection to block the oncoming motorists from entering the field of gunfire. Officer Visconti yelled for a cease fire, but the suspect reappeared, jumped back into the driver's seat of his vehicle, and began to proceed north on Route 15.

The officers immediately jumped back in their vehicles to pursue the suspect. The suspect vehicle continued at speeds approaching 80 mph for almost two miles. The



Officer Richard D. Visconti



Officer John P. Clair

2012 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

MRS. JESSICA B. SEARS

Mrs. Jessica B. Sears is the widow of Colonial Heights Police Lieutenant James "Jamie" Hurst Sears, a 17-year veteran of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Jamie, Jessica's husband of 17 years and father of their three children, was tragically killed on Aug. 12, 2006. He was on his way home from Colonial Heights Police Headquarters when a high-speed police pursuit from another jurisdiction came through Colonial Heights. As Jamie was driving, the lead officer in the pursuit lost control of his vehicle and struck the front of Jamie's vehicle. Jamie was killed instantly.

Jessica has turned a tragedy into a learning experience for law enforcement officers by volunteering her efforts and energy to teaching police officers to drive safely in emergency situations.

Working alongside police driving instructors, Jessica recounts the life she had with her husband and describes the events leading up to and following her husband's death. Jessica introduces Jamie to police officers through a personal narrative and a Power-Point presentation showing various aspects of Jamie's life and death. This helps police officers feel a personal and professional bond with Jamie, and puts into perspective the potential consequences of failing to conduct a police pursuit properly.

Several Department of Criminal Justice Service objectives are accomplished during this training. High-speed pursuits change from second to second; the officers involved have to constantly reevaluate the situation, adjusting their thinking and actions accordingly. They cannot get tunnel vision, and they need to know when to back down and call off a pursuit.

Jessica has partnered with the Association of Law Enforcement Emergency Response Trainers (ALERT), an international organization devoted to the development and implementation of ongoing training relative to law enforcement emergency vehicle operation. In August 2010, ALERT invited Jessica to Indiana to produce a video version of her presentation. The video is available to all ALERT members and is currently being used in numerous law enforcement agencies across the United States and Canada.

During her presentations, Jessica uses rhetorical questions to create an atmosphere that helps police officers place themselves in different positions of accountability during pursuits. They view exciting audio/video clips of high-speed pursuits, in which proper and improper behavior from law enforcement officers and suspects can be observed. This allows the police officers to experience the adrenaline rush that can occur during a pursuit. In 2011 alone, Jessica conducted 55 presentations for approximately 1,176 officers who serve more than 200 departments across the state of Virginia, a total of 293 hours of volunteer service.



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

2012 VALOR AWARDS

Prince William County Police Department

Lt. John J. Twomey (Ret.)

Officer Richard D. Visconti

Officer Matthew D. Andersen

Officer John P. Clair

Charles D. Kincheloe (former Officer)

Virginia State Police

Sergeant Becky G. Curl

Sergeant Jason R. Hypes