

Presents the

MERIT AWARDS CEREMONY

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Core Values

Competence

We responsibly manage the authority and resources entrusted to us by the public. We hold ourselves accountable for the quality of our performance and the standards of our conduct. We are exemplary leaders and exemplary followers.

Courage

We place the safety of others above our own and embrace our moral responsibility to act against injustice and wrongdoing. Department members are expected to take prudent risks in service to the public.

Integrity

We recognize the complexity of police work and exercise discretion in ways that are beyond reproach and worthy of public trust. Honesty and truthfulness are essential to integrity. It is our duty to earn and maintain public trust through consistent, principled words and actions. We are honest in both word and deed.

Leadership

We strive to influence human behavior in pursuit of organizational goals that serve the public trust, while fostering the growth of individuals, teams, and the organization for future service. We embrace our responsibility to be lead – both within the community and among our peers – and to be accountable for own actions as well as those of our colleagues. We all share the responsibility for the performance, reputation, and morale, of the department.

Respect

We hold the sanctity of life in the highest regard. In all our interactions, we treat citizens and colleagues with dignity and respect, and we carry out our duties with fairness, impartiality, and integrity.

Restraint

We exercise only the minimum force and authority necessary to achieve legitimate law enforcement objectives. We demonstrate the highest standards of self-discipline – even when no one is watching or listening.

Milwaukee Police Department
749 West State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
www.milwaukee.gov/police

Jeffrey B. Norman
Chief of Police

MPD Family and Friends,

It is with great pride and sincere appreciation that I welcome you to the Milwaukee Police Department's annual Merit Awards Ceremony.

This evening, we proudly gather to formally recognize and commend the exceptional individuals-both within our department and throughout our community-whose acts of valor, dedication, and selflessness have distinguished them in service to the City of Milwaukee. These men and women have demonstrated extraordinary courage, often at great personal risk, to protect and serve, embodying the very best of our shared commitment to public safety, justice, and the well-being of others.

While this ceremony occurs but once each year, the dedication of the Milwaukee Police Department is unwavering and constant-every hour of every day. Tonight, we pause to honor those whose actions exemplify the highest ideals of our mission and values. Their conduct serves as a powerful reminder of the integrity, professionalism, and compassion that define our department.

To our award recipients: please accept my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude. Your exemplary service reflects great credit upon yourselves, your families, and the Milwaukee Police Department.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey B. Norman
Chief of Police

Invited Guests

City of Milwaukee

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

The Milwaukee Common Council

José G. Pérez
Common Council President

Andrea Pratt 1st District	*Mark Chambers Jr.* 2nd District	*Alex Brower* 3rd District	*Robert J. Bauman* 4th District
Lamont Westmoreland 5th District	*Milele A. Coggs* 6th District	*DiAndre Jackson* 7th District	*JoCasta Zamarripa* 8th District
Larresa Taylor 9th District	*Sharlen Moore* 10th District	*Peter Burgelis* 11th District	*José G. Pérez* 12th District
Scott Spiker 13th District	*Marina Dimitrijevic* 14th District	*Russell W. Stamper II* 15th District	

Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission

Leon W. Todd
Executive Director

Ruben Burgos Commissioner	*Ramon Evans* Commissioner	*Krissie Fung* Commissioner
Miriam Horowitz Commissioner	*Jordan Morales* Commissioner	*LaNelle Ramey* Commissioner
Christopher Snyder Commissioner	*Jeff Spence* Commissioner	*Dana World-Patterson* Commissioner

Other Invited Guests

Command Staff Milwaukee Police Department	Milwaukee Police Supervisors' Organization	Kent Lovern Milwaukee County District Attorney
Milwaukee Police Association	Denita Ball Milwaukee County Sheriff	Family and Friends

Merit Awards Program

Musical Prelude
Milwaukee Police Band
Retired Lieutenant Karen M. Dubis
Director

Welcome
Captain of Police Timothy Gauerke
Milwaukee Police Department

Presentation of Colors
Milwaukee Police Honor Guard

National Anthem
Milwaukee Police Band

Invocation
George Papachristou
Milwaukee Police Chaplain

Remarks
Mayor Cavalier Johnson
City of Milwaukee

Remarks and Presentation
Police Chief Jeffrey Norman
Milwaukee Police Department

Ceremonies Host
Ms. Stephanie Quirk
FOX6 News Reporter

Award Classifications

Medal of Honor



The Medal of Honor is the highest award granted by the Milwaukee Police Department. It is awarded to a member for exceptional bravery at the imminent risk of life or serious bodily injury. The recipient has demonstrated exceptional courage by performing a voluntary action in an extremely dangerous situation. The act may involve situations where deadly force is used against an officer and the officer prevails or a rescue situation in which the risk of death or injury was substantial.

The Medal of Valor



Combat



Rescue

The Medal of Valor is presented to a member who has performed a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish himself/herself for gallantry and intrepidity. The act goes beyond normal demands and is of such a nature that the member was fully aware of the threat to his/her safety and acted above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of his/her own life.

Lifesaving



The Lifesaving award is presented to a member who is directly responsible for saving a human life. a. A member is eligible to receive this award if his/her direct and immediate action(s) preserved the life of another human being who was in danger of dying; and said action(s) did prevent the loss of that human life.

Purple Valor/Star





The Purple Valor/Purple Star Award is presented to a member who, in the line of duty, sustains any serious bodily injury or permanent disfigurement or permanent or protracted impairment of the function of any body member or organ or permanent or protracted impairment of health. A "V" device will signify combat-related serious bodily injury.

Award Classifications

Chief's Superior Leadership



The Chief's Superior Leadership Award is presented to a member at the discretion of the Chief of Police for leadership excellence in the performance of duty and/or honorable conduct and professionalism in pursuit of the Department's mission.

Career Achievement

(Formerly known as the Distinguished Service Award)



The Career Achievement Award is presented to a member who has demonstrated sustained, exceptional performance over the course of their career and has consistently exemplified the highest standards of the Milwaukee Police Department. This award recognizes long-term dedication, professionalism, leadership, and impactful contributions that have positively shaped the department and the community.

Excellence in Police Service



The Excellence in Police Service Award is presented to a member who makes a significant contribution, above and beyond the call of duty, to the community-service component of the Department's mission. The award recognizes those instances over a period of time wherein the member's diligence, teamwork, perseverance and problem-solving ability exemplifies the highest standards of community policing.

Meritorious Service



The Meritorious Service Award is presented to a member who makes a significant contribution to the mission of the Milwaukee Police Department above and beyond the normal call of duty. It recognizes those instances wherein a member's courage, resourcefulness, tenacity, diligence and/or perseverance in the line of duty goes beyond that which is normally expected of members in the protection of life or property, the prevention of a major crime or the apprehension of an armed and/or dangerous criminal.

Unit Service



The Unit Service Award is presented to a Departmental Unit whose actions through a combination of teamwork, diligence and perseverance is performed in an exemplary manner.

Community Engagement Service Award



The Community Engagement Service Award is presented to a department member or unit whose actions in the areas of community engagement, collaboration and partnerships went above and beyond in helping build sustainable neighborhoods and fostering positive community relations. The award shall recognize a member (or unit) whose actions both on and off duty go beyond what is normally expected in the aforementioned areas and positively impacts both the community and the Department.

Award Recipients

MPD General

Ms. Jennifer L. Clark ..... Meritorious Conduct Award
Ms. Courtney D. Clark ..... Meritorious Conduct Award

District 1

Police Sergeant Martez L. Ball ..... Lifesaving Award
Mr. Yianni Glavas ..... Meritorious Conduct Award

District 2

Police Officer Frank J. Heeg Jr ..... Lifesaving Award

District 3

Police Officer Andrew J. Moews ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Juan J. Orozco ..... Lifesaving Award

District 4

Police Officer Nash H. Dathe ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Yousef S. Hamdan ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Paul A. Schmidt ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Anaka C. Schwulst ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Hunter J. Tuchel ..... Lifesaving Award

District 5

Police Officer Erik V. Maldonado .....Distinguished Service Award

District 6

Police Sergeant Kimberly N. Anderson ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Ahnoki J. Doxtator ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Aaron M. Miller ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Ana C. Romero-Perez ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Fabian Garcia ..... Community Engagement Service Award
Police Officer Michael S. Ward ..... Community Engagement Service Award
Mr. Terry King ..... Meritorious Conduct Award
Ms. Yeni Lopez ..... Meritorious Conduct Award
Ms. Edyta A. Williams ..... Meritorious Conduct Award
Mr. Elijah C. Doxtator ..... Certificate of Appreciation
Ms. Judith L. Schneider ..... Certificate of Appreciation

District 7

Police Officer Benjamin M. Haas ..... Medal of Valor Combat Award
Police Officer Jacob R. Blanco..... Medal of Valor Rescue Award
Police Officer Reginald O. Carthen..... Medal of Valor Rescue Award
Police Officer Blake J. Laufenberg ..... Medal of Valor Rescue Award
Police Officer Issac Loreto ..... Medal of Valor Rescue Award
Police Officer Jovan M. Petkovich..... Medal of Valor Rescue Award
Police Officer Brian J. Baker ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Aljaye J. Bicarie ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Officer Alexander S. Hahn ..... Lifesaving Award

Specialized Patrol Division

Police Officer Gregory T. Rupnick ..... Medal of Valor Combat Award
Police Officer Sisto Placencia ..... Lifesaving Award
Police Lieutenant Tanya M. Boll ..... Distinguished Service Award

School Resource Division

Ms. Mendkia E. Tate ..... Meritorious Conduct Award

Criminal Investigation Bureau - Forensics Division

Crime Scene Investigator II Molly Arndt ..... Lifesaving Award
Crime Scene Investigator I Meghan K. Todzy ..... Lifesaving Award

Criminal Investigation Bureau - Gun Violence Division

Detective Elgerrith Tucker ..... Distinguished Service Award
Detective Timothy Keller (retired) ..... Distinguished Service Award
Detective Cody J. Cottreau ..... Excellence in Police Service Award
Detective Charrita L. Townsend ..... Excellence in Police Service Award

Criminal Investigation Bureau - Sensitive Crimes Division

Detective Matthew J. Bughman ..... Distinguished Service Award
Police Officer Adam P. Robakowski ..... Excellence in Police Service Award

Criminal Investigation Bureau - Special Investigations Division
Medal of Valor Combat and Rescue Awards

Police Officer Theodore R. Chandler ..... Meritorious Service Award
Police Officer Chandler J. Gayan ..... Meritorious Service Award
Police Officer Steven J. Menge ..... Meritorious Service Award
Police Officer Jonathan C. Schroeder ..... Meritorious Service Award
Police Officer Tiara S. Sheets-Walker ..... Meritorious Service Award

Unit Service Award Recipients - Criminal Investigation Bureau

Special Investigations Division - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Police Lieutenant Julian G. Nunez
Police Sergeant Donald J. Gaglione Jr.
Police Sergeant Anthony J. Milone
Police Sergeant Jose G. Ramirez
Police Sergeant James P. Sommer
Detective Thomas J. Kotnik Jr.
Detective Paul D. Martinez
Police Officer Miguel A. Benitez
Police Officer Austin C. Domagalski
Police Officer Matthew K. Dresen
Police Officer Peter R. Hauser
Police Officer Blake J. Laufenberg
Police Officer Matthew D. Link
Police Officer Jonathon C. Newport
Police Officer Sean M. Patrick
Police Officer Christopher J. Randazzo
Police Officer Jazmine J. Rowe
Police Officer Brandon J. Rutherford
Police Officer Elizabeth V. Sauer
Police Officer Katherine M. Stewart
Police Officer Daniel J. Sutyak
Police Officer Toua Thao
Police Officer Alexander S. Verrault
Police Officer Tyler J. Zielinski

Executive Command Staff

Police Risk Manager James D. Lewis ..... Project/Initiative of the Year Award

Police Academy

Police Sergeant Anthony G. Schmitz ..... Career Achievement Award

Please join us in Room 182 for refreshments immediately following the program.

MPD General

Ms. Jennifer L. Clark
Ms. Courtney D. Clark — Meritorious Conduct Award

For more than eleven years, Jennifer Clark and Courtney Clark have gone far beyond operating Jen's Sweet Treats—they have become trusted friends, steadfast supporters, and compassionate leaders within the Milwaukee community. Through both their business and personal dedication, they have continually opened their hearts to others in ways that extend far beyond baking.

Together, they have stepped forward time and again to support individuals, families, and organizations during their most challenging moments. Their generosity and willingness to serve have made a meaningful and lasting impact. Over the years, they have organized numerous fundraisers honoring fallen police officers, firefighters, K 9 officers, public works employees, Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, and local youth sports teams.

Their efforts have not only provided critical financial support but have also united the community in compassion and remembrance. In July 2025, Jennifer and Courtney demonstrated extraordinary commitment by hosting fundraisers in honor of fallen Police Officer Kendall I. Corder and his partner, Officer Christopher E. McCray—donating 100% of the proceeds to support the families and causes involved. They also raised funds to help officers travel to Washington, D.C., to honor Officer Corder during National Police Week.

Their actions reflect genuine empathy and unwavering support for first responders and their families. Their true impact lies not just in the dollars raised but, in the comfort, encouragement, and sense of community they provide every day. Jennifer and Courtney have become symbols of compassion, service, and local pride.

For their selflessness, dedication, and remarkable service to the Milwaukee community, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Ms. Jennifer L. Clark and Courtney D. Clark with the Meritorious Conduct Award.

District One — Captain Robert Thiel
Police Sergeant Martez L. Ball — Lifesaving Award
Mr. Yianni Glavas — Meritorious Conduct Award

On Sunday, March 9, 2025, Police Sergeant Martez L. Ball and his friend, Mr. Yianni Glavas, were enjoying an evening at Birdie Boyz Indoor Golf in Waukesha WI when they observed the business owner suddenly going into cardiac arrest and become unresponsive. Acting without hesitation, Sergeant Ball and Mr. Glavas immediately began CPR, maintaining continuous lifesaving efforts until Emergency Medical Services arrived.

Upon EMS arrival, it was determined that the victim had no pulse. Working alongside responders, Sergeant Ball and Mr. Glavas assisted with the deployment of an on site Automated External Defibrillator (AED), administering multiple shocks that successfully restored the victim's heartbeat. The man was subsequently transported to a Waukesha-area hospital, where he received an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator.

Medical professionals and the victim himself credited Sergeant Ball and Mr. Glavas with saving his life through their decisive action, rapid response, and willingness to aid a stranger in need. Their support continued beyond the incident, as both men reached out the following morning to check on his condition—an act of care deeply appreciated by the victim's family.

The victim later expressed his profound gratitude publicly, acknowledging that the courage and selflessness shown by Sergeant Ball and Mr. Glavas made the difference for himself, his wife, and their two young children.

For their quick actions, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Sergeant Martez L. Ball is awarded the Lifesaving Award, and Mr. Yianni Glavas with the Meritorious Conduct Award.

District Two — Captain Erin Mejia
Police Officer Frank J. Heeg Jr. — Lifesaving Award

On November 7, 2025, at approximately 11:49 p.m., officers responded to 3900 block of South Clement Avenue for a report of a patron in a vehicle experiencing possible heart issues. Upon arrival, they found the man turning blue and not breathing. Officer Frank J. Heeg Jr. quickly assisted in removing him from the vehicle, when it was determined he had no pulse and was not breathing.

Officer Heeg immediately began chest compressions while his partners secured the scene and gathered critical information. After roughly 30 seconds of CPR, the man gasped for air. Officers placed him in the recovery position and monitored him until Milwaukee Fire Department personnel arrived and transported him to a local hospital for further care.

Officer Heeg's swift and decisive actions were instrumental in saving the man's life. For his exemplary performance, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Frank J. Heeg Jr. with the Lifesaving Award.

District Three — Captain Raymond Bratchett
Police Officer Andrew J. Moews
Police Officer Juan J. Orozco — Lifesaving Award

On March 4, 2026, at 5:48 a.m., Police Officers Andrew Moews and Juan Orozco responded to a report of a woman threatening to jump from the bridge near 1500 North 12th Street. The caller stated she had just been released from the Mental Health Emergency Center and intended to harm herself. When officers arrived, they found the woman perched on the fence separating the freeway from North 12th Street. As she swung her leg over the barrier and attempted to climb further, the officers kept verbal contact and tried to de-escalate the situation. When she again moved to hoist herself over the fence, Officers Moews and Orozco acted immediately, pulling her to safety and preventing her from jumping onto the freeway below.

The officers swift and decisive actions that day directly saved the life of a suicidal individual, preventing certain death or serious injury. For their dedication to preserving human life, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officers Andrew J. Moews and Juan J. Orozco with the Lifesaving Award.

District Four — Captain Theresa Janick

Police Officer Anaka C. Schwulst — Lifesaving Award

On April 6, 2025, at 3:04 a.m., Police Officer Anaka Schwulst responded to a stabbing in 9800 block of West Menomonee Park Court. She and her partner quickly assessed the victim, who had a severe arm wound that was bleeding heavily. Learning the victim was on blood thinners, Officer Schwulst applied a tourniquet to control the bleeding. Milwaukee Fire Department personnel transported him to Froedtert Hospital, where he underwent life saving surgery after it was determined an artery had been struck.

Officer Schwulst's rapid medical intervention was vital to the victim's survival. For her exemplary actions, the Milwaukee Police Department proudly presents Police Officer Anaka C. Schwulst with the Lifesaving Award.

Police Officer Hunter J. Tuchel
Police Officer Yousef S. Hamdan
Police Officer Nash H. Dathe
Police Officer Paul A. Schmidt — Lifesaving Award

On December 7, 2025, Police Officers Hunter Tuchel, Yousef Hamdan, Nash Dathe, and Paul Schmidt were in the 7200 block of North 76th Street monitoring closing time at a bar where a large crowd had gathered. At 1:52 a.m., officers observed a large fight break out among dozens of patrons, followed by a gunshot. Moving toward the chaos, they located an armed suspect standing over a victim who had been shot in the chest. Officers ordered the suspect to drop the weapon and took him into custody.

These four officers immediately began treating the victim, applying a chest seal and packing the exit wound. With additional fights continuing around them and medical crews delayed due to the crowded parking lot and unstable scene, the officers executed a four-man carry to move the victim to a safer area accessible to the Milwaukee Fire Department. The victim was then able to be treated by advanced medical personnel and survived their critical injuries.

For their courageous actions, unwavering composure, and lifesaving intervention under extreme chaos, these officers ensured a critically wounded victim survived. As such, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officers Hunter J. Tuchel, Yousef S. Hamdan, Nash H. Dathe and Paul A. Schmidt with the Lifesaving Award.

District Five — Captain Jeremiah Jacks

Police Officer Erik V. Maldonado — Distinguished Service Award

On July 10, 2025, Officer Erik Maldonado led the execution of a residential search warrant in the 4000 block of North 16th Street following a months long narcotics investigation. Upon arrival, he ensured the safety of a young child inside the home and, with assistance from the District Five Violent Crime Reduction Team, safely secured all occupants without incident.

A thorough search of the residence uncovered substantial evidence of narcotics trafficking and illegal firearm possession. Officer Maldonado directed and documented the recovery of a loaded .38 caliber revolver, ammunition, digital scales with suspected cocaine residue, packaging materials, latex gloves, 321 grams of cocaine, and approximately 19.61 pounds of marijuana.

Officer Maldonado's leadership, attention to detail, and commitment to public safety were exemplary throughout the operation. The Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Erik V. Maldonado with the Distinguished Service Award.

Police Officer Erik V. Maldonado — Distinguished Service Award

During November 2025, Officer Erik Maldonado led a complex investigation into narcotics trafficking and firearm related offenses. Through thorough surveillance and detailed investigative work, he identified an armed drug trafficker, developed probable cause, and secured a residential search warrant.

On November 21, 2025, Officer Maldonado coordinated the warrant execution with the District Five Violent Crime Reduction Team, ensuring the target was safely apprehended and the residence secured without injury to anyone involved. He then directed a systematic search of the home and vehicle, resulting in the recovery of six firearms, illegal drugs, and distribution materials tied to ongoing criminal activity.

Officer Maldonado's dedication, leadership, and investigative skill disrupted a violent drug trafficking operation, culminating in eight felony charges for the offender. His work reflects the highest standards of the Milwaukee Police Department which is proud to present Police Officer Erik V. Maldonado with the Distinguished Service Award.

District Six — Captain Timothy Leitzke

Ms. Yeni Lopez

Mr. Terry King — Meritorious Conduct Award

On January 27, 2026, Ms. Yeni Lopez and Mr. Terry King assisted Milwaukee Police locating a missing child in the 3600 block of South 76th Street. Ms. Lopez discovered a lost 6 year old autistic, non verbal child wandering outside in 9°F weather wearing only a T shirt and pajama pants. Ms. Lopez immediately brought the child into her vehicle to keep her safe and warm until Milwaukee Police officers arrived. Thanks to her care, the child was calm and protected when officers reached the scene.

Ms. Lopez guided officers to where she first found the child, allowing them to quickly locate the girl's father, who had been searching for her. Mr. King—an Academy of Accelerated Learning Paraprofessional—immediately identified the child as a student from his school and shared critical information about the child's Individualized Education Program and her specific needs, ensuring officers had essential context to safely manage the situation. He also coordinated with members of an after school program who were searching for the child, contributing to the quick and safe reunification of the family less than 30 minutes after she was first located.

Their initiative, compassion, and commitment to the vulnerable child's safety exemplifies true community partnership, care, and support. For their selflessness and commendable service, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Ms. Yeni Lopez and Mr. Terry King with the Meritorious Conduct Award.

District Six — Captain Timothy Leitzke
Ms. Edyta A. Williams — Meritorious Conduct Award

On February 13, 2026, social worker Edyta A. Williams played a critical role in uncovering a serious case of domestic violence and human trafficking after District Six officers responded to a local area hospital. The victim, who had initially been admitted for emergency surgery and struggled with addiction, was hesitant to disclose what had happened. Through Ms. Williams's patience, compassion, and professional care, the woman eventually revealed she had been violently assaulted, strangled, and was possibly a victim of human trafficking.

Ms. Williams immediately notified the Milwaukee Police Department and remained present as a female officer conducted a minimal facts interview, helping the victim identify a suspect. She then went further contacting The Tower, a specialized trauma and recovery program in Mississippi, and successfully securing placement for the victim, who had no family in Wisconsin. Ms. Williams also helped coordinate transportation and communication, ensuring the woman could safely enter long term care.

Her actions directly contributed to the suspect's arrest and charges for Aggravated Battery (Domestic Violence) and Human Trafficking, and they gave the victim a path to safety, stability, and recovery. Ms. Williams's persistence, empathy, and commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals exemplify exceptional service to the community. The Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Ms. Edyta A. Williams with the Meritorious Conduct Award.

Ms. Judith L. Schneider — Certificate of Appreciation

On January 5, 2025, District Six officers received multiple calls reporting suspicious individuals and vehicle break ins across several blocks on Milwaukee's south side. As officers searched the area, many residents—concerned for their families—began driving through the neighborhood to stay aware of the situation. Among them was Ms. Judith L. Schneider, who had been alerted by her daughter about the ongoing incidents.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., Ms. Schneider observed two suspects boarding the #51 Milwaukee County Transit System bus near South 77th Street and West Oklahoma Avenue. She immediately contacted District Six, providing an accurate description and continued to follow the bus so officers could intercept it. Her timely information allowed officers to stop the bus, take both suspects into custody, and identify a third individual connected to the crimes.

Ms. Schneider's vigilance, initiative, and willingness to get involved played a key role in preventing additional victimization within the community. Her actions reflect admirable courage and commitment to the safety of her neighborhood. In recognition of her efforts, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Ms. Judith L. Schneider with a Certificate of Appreciation.

District Six — Captain Timothy Leitzke

Police Officer Ahnoki J. Doxtator — Meritorious Service Award
Mr. Elijah C. Doxtator — Certificate of Appreciation

On August 13, 2024, off duty Police Officer Ahnoki J. Doxtator and his son Elijah C. Doxtator were sweeping their driveway when they heard the sound of breaking glass. Officer Doxatator observed an individual breaking into a vehicle a few houses away and without hesitation, retrieved his badge and off duty firearm, identified himself as "Milwaukee Police," and confronted the suspect.

Elijah Doxtator had followed his father outside at which time the suspect immediately fired shots toward Officer Doxtator, who remained composed and returned gunfire, preventing further threat to the community. Elijah immediately removed himself from harm and ran to safety.

Once safe, Elijah called 911 and provided calm, clear, and highly detailed information about the suspect and the incident. His composure and accurate recollection were instrumental in helping responding officers quickly locate the suspect vehicle.

Officer Doxtator's courage, professionalism, and willingness to act—even while off duty—demonstrate an exceptional commitment to public safety. Elijah's maturity, bravery, and willingness to help during an active threat exemplify admirable community responsibility. In recognition of his exceptional actions and meaningful contribution to public safety, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Ahnoki J. Doxtator with the Meritorious Service Award and Elijah C. Doxtator with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Police Sergeant Kimberly N. Anderson — Lifesaving Award

On January 27, 2025, at 1:59 a.m., Police Sergeant Kimberly N. Anderson responded to a serious motor vehicle crash at 2200 block of West Howard Avenue. The vehicle had struck a tree, was smoking heavily, and the driver was unconscious and trapped inside. Upon arrival, Sergeant Anderson saw smoke and fire coming from beneath the dashboard and attempted to rouse the driver, but he remained unresponsive.

Recognizing the imminent danger, Sergeant Anderson attempted to pull the man from the vehicle but was unable to move him on her own. She quickly enlisted the help of nearby citizens, and together they removed the driver and carried him to safety, away from the burning vehicle. Her decisive actions directly prevented the man from suffering fatal injuries.

Sergeant Anderson's courage, swift judgment, and determination were the difference between life and death. For her exceptional efforts, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Sergeant Kimberly N. Anderson with the Lifesaving Award.

District Six — Captain Timothy Leitzke

Police Officer Ana C. Romero-Perez — Lifesaving Award

On October 25, 2025, Police Officer Ana C. Romero Perez responded to a welfare check in the 3500 block of South 27th Street, where she found an unconscious man lying beside a dumpster. He was unresponsive, not breathing, purple in color, and surrounded by vomit. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Officer Romero Perez immediately administered Narcan. When the first dose had no effect, she performed a sternum rub and began CPR while her partner retrieved a second dose.

Officer Romero Perez delivered the additional Narcan and continued CPR until the man began gasping for air. Milwaukee Fire Department personnel soon arrived and observed the victim becoming responsive before transporting him to Saint Luke's Hospital for further treatment. Her rapid, skilled intervention directly prevented a likely fatal overdose.

For her swift, decisive, and lifesaving actions, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Ana C. Romero Perez with the Lifesaving Award.

Police Officer Aaron M. Miller — Lifesaving Award

On November 13, 2025, at 2:37 a.m., Police Officer Aaron M. Miller was on patrol in the 2900 block of South Kinnickinnic Avenue when he discovered an unconscious man on the steps of a closed business. The man had no pulse, was blue in the face, and showed signs of a possible opioid overdose. Officer Miller quickly retrieved Naloxone, moved the man to the ground with his partner, administered the medication, and began CPR. After about a minute, the man briefly responded and was placed in the recovery position.

When the man stopped breathing again, Officer Miller resumed CPR, and his partner administered a second dose of Naloxone. Officers continued lifesaving efforts for approximately eight minutes until the man regained responsiveness. He survived and was transported to a local hospital for further care.

Officer Miller's swift, persistent, and skilled actions were critical in preventing a fatal overdose. For his exemplary performance and lifesaving intervention, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Aaron M. Miller with the Lifesaving Award.

District Six
Police Officer Michael S. Ward
Police Officer Fabian Garcia

Captain Timothy Leitzke
Community Engagement
Service Award

Since becoming a Community Liaison Officers in July 2019, Police Officers Michael S. Ward and Fabian Garcia have fully immersed themselves in strengthening connections between District Six and the community it serves. Officers Ward and Garcia revitalized community engagement efforts, building relationships across schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and neighborhood events.

Their partnership with Zablocki School reflects their commitment to youth engagement. They established a student of the month program, volunteer weekly as tutors, and select students to participate in the annual Heroes and Helpers holiday shopping event. Both officers also organize District Six's National Night Out, which consistently draws one of the largest crowds in the city, as well as family focused events such as Easter Brunches, hunts, and various community contests. These programs continue to grow each year, expanding opportunities for positive officer community interaction.

Their service extends broadly throughout Milwaukee by supporting organizations including the Salvation Army—collecting food items, assisting with distributions, and participating in annual Red Kettle fundraising. The officers partner with Serving Older Adults at the Wilson Park Senior Center and collaborate with MADACC to promote dog adoption through engaging photos with district officers, a program recently highlighted by local media.

He meets monthly with refugee families in partnership with Lutheran Social Services, helping ensure newcomers have a positive first interaction with law enforcement. Officer Ward also supports Lighthouse Youth and Family Services, conducts welfare checks for unhoused individuals, assists with housing resources through Milwaukee County Housing, and aids warming centers during winter months.

In 2025, Officers Ward and Garcia were recognized nationally by Alto Security for their outstanding collaboration with Walgreens in reducing retail theft. Home Depot similarly honored the team for their exceptional partnership and support within District Six.

Both officers' dedication to service, relationship building, and community empowerment exemplifies the very best of problem-oriented community focused policing. The Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Michael S. Ward and Police Officer Fabian Garcia with the Community Engagement Service Award for their far reaching contributions.

District Seven — Captain David Anderson

Police Officer Benjamin M. Haas — Medal of Valor Combat Award
Police Officer Jacob R. Blanco
Police Officer Reginald O. Carthen
Police Officer Blake J. Laufenberg
Police Officer Issac Loreto
Police Officer Jovan M. Petkovich — Medal of Valor Rescue Award

On October 4, 2024, Police Officer Benjamin Haas responded to a report of an armed individual breaking into a residence in the 4100 block of North 68th Street. Witnesses informed Officer Haas the suspect had forced entry into the home. As they contained the residence and requested additional units, multiple gunshots were heard from inside. While Officer Haas maintained a position of cover with his patrol rifle as additional officers arrived on scene to assist. Officer Blake Laufenberg encountered two women stranded on an upper rear porch and assisted them in safely jumping to the ground and guided them to safety in the alley. Officers Jacob Blanco, Reginald Carthen, Issac Loreto, and Jovan Petkovich encountered a wounded citizen who had jumped from the upper rear porch while fleeing the gunman and assisted moving the injured man to safety behind a garage.

It was at that time that the armed suspect appeared on the upper rear porch, raising his firearm toward the officers positioned near the garage. Officer Haas acted instantly, firing his patrol rifle and striking the suspect, stopping the imminent threat to both officers and civilians.

These officers demonstrated exceptional courage, composure, and professionalism while confronting an armed assailant who had already shot a citizen and aimed his weapon at uniformed officers. For his bravery and decisive actions that protected lives during a dangerous and rapidly evolving incident, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Benjamin M. Haas with the Medal of Valor – Combat Award and Police Officers Jacob R. Blanco, Reginald O. Carthen, Blake J. Laufenberg, Issac Loreto, and Jovan M. Petkovich with the Medal of Valor – Rescue Award.

District Seven — Captain David Anderson

Police Officer Alexander S. Hahn — Lifesaving Award

On November 25, 2025, at 9:03 p.m., Police Officer Alexander S. Hahn responded to a call regarding a suicidal woman standing on a bridge near North Teutonia Avenue and West Villard Avenue. After locating her on the outside of the bridge railing, Officer Hahn and his partner approached cautiously, attempting to speak with her and guide her back to safety.

During their conversation, the woman suddenly stood up, turned away from the officers, and said, "Tell my kids I love them." Recognizing the imminent danger, Officer Hahn and his partner immediately closed the distance, took hold of her, and pulled her back over the railing to safety. Their decisive, compassionate actions prevented a tragic outcome.

Officer Hahn's calm presence, empathy, and swift response saved the life of a woman in crisis. For his exemplary performance and commitment to preserving life, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Alexander S. Hahn with the Lifesaving Award.

Police Officer Aljaye J. Bicarie — Lifesaving Award

On February 20, 2026, Police Officer Aljaye J. Bicarie responded to a shooting near North 40th Street and West Roosevelt Drive. Upon arrival, he located a silver vehicle on the lawn in the 4000 block of West Roosevelt Drive and found an unresponsive driver bleeding heavily from a gunshot wound to the back of the head. Officer Bicarie immediately pulled the victim from the vehicle and began CPR. After approximately 45 seconds, the victim regained responsiveness.

Other officers conducted a medical assessment and applied direct pressure with gauze to control the profuse bleeding until Milwaukee Fire Department personnel arrived. The victim was transported to a local area hospital, where they survived their injuries. Officer Bicarie's swift, decisive actions and lifesaving intervention were critical in preventing the victim's death.

For his exemplary response and dedication to preserving life, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Aljaye J. Bicarie with the Lifesaving Award.

On February 21, 2026, at 12:37 a.m., Police Officer Brian J. Baker responded to a shooting in the 4300 block of North 54th Street. Officers were informed that the suspect was hiding in the basement while the victim and caller had taken refuge in the attic. After containment was set and entry forced, Officer Baker made his way to the attic, where he found the victim and her mother.

The victim had sustained three gunshot wounds—one to her left upper leg, one to her upper back, and another to her upper shoulder. Officer Baker immediately applied a tourniquet above the leg wound to control heavy bleeding. He and another officer then evacuated the victim and her mother from the residence. As the victim began to lose consciousness and could no longer walk, Officer Baker carried her outside the perimeter and used a gloved hand to apply pressure to her upper-back wound, which had punctured her lung and resulted in a sucking chest injury.

Meanwhile, other officers secured the surrender of the suspect, who now faces Attempted Homicide–Domestic Violence charges. The victim was transported to a local area hospital, where she underwent emergency surgery. Officer Baker's swift, decisive, and courageous actions were critical in saving the life of a victim who was mere minutes from death. For his exemplary performance, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Brian J. Baker with the Lifesaving Award.

Specialized Patrol Division Captain William Wilson III

Police Officer Gregory T. Rupnick Medal of Valor - Combat Award

On May 5, 2023, during the Cinco de Mayo celebration on Cesar E. Chavez Drive, large crowds required District Two personnel to maintain order and conduct traffic control. As the night progressed and most attendees dispersed; however, a number of intoxicated individuals remained and created a chaotic and dangerous environment. Due to the size of the crowd and reports of gunfire, a citywide request for assistance was issued. Officer Gregory T. Rupnick, assigned to the Tactical Enforcement Unit, responded to support District Two officers.

At approximately 11:00 p.m., near West Washington Street and South 16th Street, Officer Rupnick observed a subject firing a gun and running into a nearby residential area where citizens were still gathered. Recognizing an imminent threat to public safety, Officer Rupnick pursued the armed subject. To stop the danger and protect surrounding civilians, he discharged his department-issued rifle, striking the individual and causing him to fall. Officer Rupnick immediately rendered aid and took the suspect into custody, and the suspect survived his injuries.

Officer Rupnick's bravery, quick judgment, and heroic actions protected numerous innocent people from ongoing gunfire. For his exemplary conduct in the face of imminent danger, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Gregory T. Rupnick with the Medal of Valor – Combat Award.

From May 2022 through June 2025, Police Lieutenant Tanya M. Boll served as a critical inter agency partner to the U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Lake Michigan—work formally recognized on June 20, 2025, when Rear Admiral J.P. Hickey awarded her a Public Service Commendation. Lieutenant Boll collaborated seamlessly with the Coast Guard on Search and Rescue operations, joint patrols, security zone enforcement, and responses to maritime threats. She was instrumental in helping implement the Force Alignment Initiative, one of the most significant policy changes in the Coast Guard's history, created in response to major workforce shortages. As Station Milwaukee's Area of Responsibility doubled, Lieutenant Boll provided rapid information sharing and operational support that contributed to 164 cases, assisting or saving 281 lives and preserving nearly $3 million in property.

Lieutenant Boll's collaborative expertise also played a pivotal role in the success of the 2024 Republican National Convention. As an integral member of the Maritime Security Sub committee, she strengthened regional security through resource coordination, intelligence sharing, and operational planning. Her efforts helped maintain a secure maritime perimeter and mitigate potential threats, protecting the Former President of the United States, 5,000 delegates, and more than 50,000 visitors.

Lieutenant Boll's unwavering professionalism, leadership, and dedication set a high standard for excellence in maritime safety, security, and law enforcement. For her exemplary service and lasting impact across multiple agencies, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Lieutenant Tanya M. Boll with the Distinguished Service Award.

Specialized Patrol Division — Captain William Wilson III

Police Officer Sisto Placencia — Lifesaving Award

On April 4, 2026, while on a family vacation in Long Beach, California, Police Officer Sisto Placencia was dining at Tequila Jack's Restaurant & Cantina when he noticed a woman at a nearby table showing clear signs of choking and signaling for help. An individual at her table attempted to assist but was unsuccessful. Recognizing the severity of the emergency, Officer Placencia immediately intervened.

He quickly and correctly administered the Heimlich maneuver, delivering two abdominal thrusts that dislodged the obstruction and restored the woman's ability to breathe—preventing what could have been a fatal outcome. Officer Placencia stayed with her afterward, providing reassurance and ensuring she was stable.

Officer Placencia's swift, decisive, and skillful response reflects the highest standards of professionalism and commitment to preserving life. For his exemplary actions, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Sisto Placencia with the Lifesaving Award.

School Resource Division — Captain Vynetta Norberg

Ms. Mendkia E. Tate — Meritorious Conduct Award

On June 5, 2025, Ms. Mendkia E. Tate took swift and decisive action after seeing a 9 year old child walking down the street with a gun tucked into his waistband. She immediately called 911, followed the child to monitor his movements, and provided continuous location updates to dispatch.

As the child continued toward Browning Street School, Ms. Tate flagged down a responding police sergeant and directed him to the boy, who had walked into a group of students and entered the school. Officers rushed inside, safely intercepted the child at the front office, and recovered a Glock 45 from his waistband. Though the child's intentions were unknown, Ms. Tate's vigilance prevented a potentially dangerous situation and protected the school community.

Ms. Tate's courage, awareness, and willingness to act exemplify true community responsibility. For her decisive efforts in safeguarding children and supporting public safety, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Ms. Mendkia E. Tate with the Meritorious Conduct Award.

CIB-Forensics Director Ryan Orlovsky

Crime Scene Investigator II Molly Arndt

Crime Scene Investigator I Meghan K. Todzy Lifesaving Award

On June 27, 2025, at 1:55 a.m., Crime Scene Investigator II Molly Arndt and Crime Scene Investigator I Meghan K. Todzy were returning from a call when she encountered what appeared to be a vehicle crash on eastbound I 94 near the North 35th Street exit. After advising dispatch, she approached the vehicle and found an unconscious man exhibiting agonal breathing and showing signs of intravenous drug use.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, CSI Arndt directed her partner, CSI Todzy—who was still in Field Training—to retrieve Narcan and activate emergency lights to alert oncoming traffic and responding units. She then administered Narcan and prepared to begin CPR. Thanks to her swift intervention, the subject regained alertness just as deputies and EMTs arrived on scene.

Despite being civilian members of the Milwaukee Police Department with limited time in service, CSI Molly Arndt and CSI Meghan K. Todzy demonstrated exceptional composure, skill, and readiness during critical medical emergencies. Their calm judgment, rapid intervention, and willingness to act decisively not only exemplified outstanding professionalism but directly contributed to saving lives. For their exemplary actions and commitment to the highest standards of service, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Crime Scene Investigator II Molly Arndt and Crime Scene Investigator I Meghan K. Todzy with the Lifesaving Award.

CIB-Gun Violence Division Captain Jasmine Arce
Detective Elgerrith Tucker
Detective Timothy Keller (retired) Distinguished Service Award

On January 2, 2024, Detectives Elgerrith Tucker and Timothy Keller responded to a volatile and dangerous situation at 1818 West Fairmount Avenue involving Battery, False Imprisonment, and Second Degree Sexual Assault–Domestic Violence. While officers were on scene, the suspect armed himself and fired 20 rounds at police, injuring one officer before barricading himself inside the residence with four children.

As members of the Crisis Negotiation Unit trained in establishing communication, Detectives Tucker and Keller initiated telephone contact with the suspect while other detectives gathered background information from family members. Through persistent negotiation and carefully developed rapport, Detectives Tucker and Keller successfully secured the release of all four children after approximately two hours, ensuring they were unharmed. Shortly thereafter, they influenced a behavioral shift in the suspect, leading him to peacefully exit the residence and surrender without further incident.

Detectives Tucker and Keller rapid response, perseverance, and skilled crisis negotiation efforts were instrumental in protecting innocent lives and resolving an extremely dangerous situation safely. For his exemplary performance and steadfast commitment to public safety, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Detectives Elgerrith Tucker and Timothy Keller (retired) with the Distinguished Service Award.

CIB-Gun Violence Division Captain Jasmine Arce
Detective Charrita L. Townsend
Detective Cody J. Cottreau Excellence in Police Service Award

On August 3, 2024, five people were shot outside a tavern on North Richards Street. Despite victims and witnesses providing little information, both detectives conducted extensive interviews, reviewed surveillance footage, and completed detailed follow-up work. Four months later, on December 21, 2024, three additional victims were shot at an after-set party on North Holton Street, again with minimal cooperation from those involved. While continuing the Holton Street investigation, the detectives responded to a December 25, 2024, shooting in which gunfire struck an apartment building and injured a six-year-old child on Christmas morning. Their efforts led to a juvenile being charged for this incident.

During the Holton Street investigation, Detective Townsend and Detective Cottreau identified six suspects who were ultimately arrested and charged. They also recognized that one of these suspects might have been involved in the earlier Richards Street shooting. A ballistic match from the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network confirmed the connection. The detectives continued their work, ultimately identifying eight additional suspects involved in the Richards Street case, all of whom were referred to the District Attorney's Office for charges. Through persistence, collaboration, and skilled investigative work—sometimes independently, sometimes jointly—they successfully identified fourteen suspects responsible for three violent crimes.

For their exceptional investigative skill, determination, and commitment to reducing gun violence in the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Detective Charrita L. Townsend and Detective Cody J. Cottreau with the Excellence in Police Service Award.

Detective Matthew J. Bughman of the Sensitive Crimes Division has played a critical role in resolving long standing John Doe warrant cases in partnership with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. These cases—many of which date back 20 to 30 years—involve deeply traumatic sexual assaults from the early to mid 1990s, including one in which the victim was pregnant at the time. Identifying, locating, and re engaging victims after decades required exceptional care, professionalism, and compassion.

In late 2024, a DNA match tied a defendant—recently required to submit a DNA sample following a conviction—to multiple sexual assault kits connected to these historic cases. Detective Bughman conducted follow up interviews with each of the victims, and one victim was able to identify the defendant in a photo array. Although one 1993 assault could not be charged due to statute of limitations restrictions, the District Attorney's Office pursued a child enticement charge. After months of court proceedings, the defendant ultimately pled guilty to three counts and received a 13 year prison sentence.

Throughout these investigations, Detective Bughman demonstrated unwavering dedication—balancing the pursuit of justice with deep respect for the emotional well being of victims confronting long buried trauma. His persistence, empathy, and commitment to accountability exemplify the highest standards of investigative excellence. For his exemplary service, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Detective Matthew J. Bughman with the Distinguished Service Award.

CIB-Sensitive Crimes Division Captain Erwin Estacio

Police Officer

Adam P. Robakowski Excellence in Police Service Award

Police Officer Adam P. Robakowski of the Sensitive Crimes Division's Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) is recognized for his outstanding investigative work and unwavering dedication to protecting victims of domestic violence. As a core member of this multidisciplinary team—which includes partners from Sojourner, the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Corrections, and the ALMA Center—Officer Robakowski consistently demonstrates exceptional performance, initiative, and keen observational skill.

His DVHRT responsibilities span stalking investigations, jail call monitoring, intimidation casework, search warrants, victim outreach, and felony domestic violence custodial interviews. On March 10, 2025, while reviewing jail calls from a prolific domestic abuse offender, Officer Robakowski identified multiple acts of intimidation and discovered that the suspect had violated seven separate 72 hour no contact orders issued between November 2024 and March 2025. Through his attention to detail and commitment to victim safety, Officer Robakowski uncovered additional criminal activity, ensuring the offender remained in custody and shielding victims from further harm.

For his exemplary investigative skill, dedication to justice, and steadfast advocacy for victims, the Milwaukee Police Department proudly presents Police Officer Adam P. Robakowski with the Excellence in Police Service Award.

CIB-Special Investigations Division — Captain Gregory Borst
Police Officer Samuel R. Schwabenlander — Medal of Valor
Combat and Rescue Awards

District Seven — Captain David Anderson
Police Officer Steven J. Menge
Police Officer Theodore R. Chandler
Police Officer Jonathan C. Schroeder
Police Officer Chandler J. Gayan
Police Officer Tiara S. Sheets-Walker — Meritorious Service Award

On June 12, 2025, Division Seven officers responded to a rapidly unfolding and highly dangerous armed suspect incident near the 4600 block of West Hampton Avenue. At approximately 6:46 p.m., officers observed two masked individuals clutching near their waistbands—behavior strongly indicative of armed subjects, particularly given a shooting at the same location two days prior. Moments later, a citizen reported that the same individuals had been seen displaying firearms. Officers located the pair in a nearby alley and attempted a Field Interview when both suspects fled on foot.

As officers pursued, one suspect opened fire, striking an officer in the calf. Multiple officers took immediate and decisive action under extreme pressure. Officer Samuel R. Schwabenlander chased one suspect into an alley, issuing commands to drop the firearm. When the suspect fired at him, Officer Schwabenlander returned fire despite being shot in the leg, ultimately stopping the threat and enabling his partner to take the suspect into custody.

Simultaneously, Officer Steven J. Menge worked to safely intercept the fleeing suspects. Amid gunfire and an active secondary threat, he remained composed, took the shooter into custody, provided essential medical aid to his wounded partner, and ensured rapid transport to the hospital.

Officer Theodore R. Chandler, responding to the same armed confrontation, provided critical hands on medical assistance. He supported the wounded officer physically, moved him to a patrol car, and applied dressings to both the entrance and exit wounds before assisting with rapid hospital transport.

Additional Division Seven officers—Jonathan C. Schroeder, Chandler J. Gayan, and Tiara S. Sheets Walker—also played essential roles in stabilizing and transporting the injured officer. Officer Gayan applied a tourniquet and supported the wounded officer into a squad car; Officer Schroeder helped move the officer to safety and escorted the squad to the hospital; and Officer Sheets

Walker helped ensure his safe and immediate conveyance to Froedtert Hospital. Their coordination, calm judgment, and swift lifesaving actions occurred while an armed suspect remained at large and officers continued navigating an active threat environment.

Collectively, these six officers exhibited exceptional bravery, composure, and teamwork during a violent, unpredictable encounter. Their actions offenders and another, ensured the swift apprehension of both armed offenders, and provided critical lifesaving care under fire—demonstrating the highest ideals of the Milwaukee Police Department.

For their exemplary performance, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Officer Samuel R. Schwabenlander with the Medal of Valor – Combat and Rescue Awards and Police Officers Steven J. Menge, Theodore R. Chandler, Jonathan C. Schroeder, Chandler J. Gayan, and Tiara S. Sheets Walker with the Meritorious Service Award.

CIB-Special Investigations Division - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area — Captain Gregory Borst

Unit Service Awards

Police Lieutenant Julian G. Nunez
Police Sergeant Anthony J. Milone
Police Sergeant Donald J. Gaglione Jr.
Police Sergeant Jose G. Ramirez
Police Sergeant James P. Sommer
Detective Thomas J. Kotnik Jr.
Detective Paul D. Martinez
Police Officer Daniel J. Sutyak
Police Officer Katherine M. Stewart
Police Officer Austin C. Domagalski
Police Officer Miguel A. Benitez
Police Officer Jazmine J. Rowe
Police Officer Blake J. Laufenberg
Police Officer Peter R. Hauser
Police Officer Tyler J. Zielinski
Police Officer Elizabeth V. Sauer
Police Officer Matthew D. Link
Police Officer Alexander S. Verrault
Police Officer Matthew K. Dresen
Police Officer Brandon J. Rutherford
Police Officer Jonathon C. Newport
Police Officer Toua Thao
Police Officer Sean M. Patrick
Police Officer Christopher J. Randazzo

On June 26, 2025, at 9:38 p.m., Police Officers Kendall Corder and Christopher McCray responded to a shots-fired incident in the 2400 block of West Garfield Avenue. As they arrived, a suspect armed with a rifle opened fire, ambushing the officers fatally wounding Officer Corder and critically injuring Officer McCray. The tragic news spread quickly throughout the Milwaukee Police Department.

In response, multiple off-duty members of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and Special Investigations Division (SID) immediately mobilized and returned to duty. Working collaboratively with law enforcement partners, they used specialized investigative tools and intelligence resources to identify a suspect location in the 5200 block of North 37th Street. In the early morning hours of June 27, 2025, at 2:15 a.m., HIDTA and SID personnel executed a coordinated operation, safely taking the suspect into custody without further incident.

Their unwavering resolve, professionalism, and leadership during one of the most difficult moments in recent Department history exemplify the highest standards of investigative excellence. Their dedication contributed directly to the swift apprehension of a dangerous suspect and helped bring a measure of justice to a grieving law enforcement family. In recognition of their exceptional service, steadfast commitment, and coordinated teamwork in this critical operation, the Milwaukee Police Department is pleased to present these individuals with the Unit Service Award.

Executive Command Staff — Chief of Staff Heather Hough

Police Risk Manager
James D. Lewis — Project/Initiative of the Year Award

Office of Management Analysis and Planning (OMAP)

Crime and Intelligence Manager
Kendra J. Christensen — Project/Initiative of the Year Award

In 2026, Police Risk Manager James D. Lewis and OMAP Crime and Intelligence Manager Kendra J. Christenson designed and launched a comprehensive audit tool to detect and prevent misuse of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology. This innovative, data driven system enhances oversight, strengthens accountability, and addresses long standing community concerns surrounding surveillance practices. By improving transparency and operational efficiency, the initiative directly supports the Milwaukee Police Department's mission and values.

The ALPR Audit now provides the Compliance Management Section and supervisors with clear, measurable insights into ALPR usage, enabling the Department to quickly identify irregularities and ensure compliance. As a result, the tool has already contributed to improved accountability, increased transparency, strengthened community trust, and greater administrative efficiency—promoting responsible and lawful use of a critical crime fighting resource.

Risk Manager Lewis CIM Christensen led the project from concept to implementation, assessing organizational needs, identifying oversight gaps, and developing an auditing framework capable of sustaining long term monitoring. The coordinated refinement efforts, incorporated user feedback, and supported training to ensure Department wide adoption. Their commitment to professionalism, innovation, and collaboration has significantly advanced both internal operations, community engagement exemplifying forward thinking leadership.

Their efforts strengthen internal accountability, enhance public trust, and ensure the Department remains a responsible steward of emerging technologies. For these outstanding contributions, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Risk Manager James D. Lewis and Crime and Intelligence Manager Kendra J. Christensen with the Project / Initiative of the Year Award.

Police Academy — Captain Timothy Gauerke

Police Sergeant Anthony G. Schmitz — Career Achievement Award

For eight years, Police Sergeant Anthony G. Schmitz has served as the Recruit Training Sergeant, shaping hundreds of future Milwaukee Police Department officers, supervisors, and detectives. His influence has extended far beyond classroom instruction—he has been a mentor, coach, and steady source of support for recruits facing professional challenges, personal hardships, and the uncertainty that comes with entering law enforcement.

The role demands exceptional endurance, commitment, and patience. Sergeant Schmitz has met those demands with professionalism, humility, and unwavering dedication, consistently investing his time, energy, and guidance in those who will go on to serve the community. His support has been instrumental in the development of 745 officers—nearly half of the department—making him one of the most influential leaders in the Training Division.

Sergeant Schmitz's unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and profound influence on generations of recruits have helped shape the future of the Milwaukee Police Department. His commitment to guiding, supporting, and developing nearly half of the officers serving today has left an enduring legacy of professionalism, integrity, and excellence.

For his extraordinary contributions, the Milwaukee Police Department is proud to present Police Sergeant Anthony G. Schmitz with the Career Achievement Award, recognizing a career defined by service, mentorship, and lasting impact.

OATH OF HONOR

"On my honor,
I will never betray my badge,
my integrity, my character,
or the public trust.

I will always have the courage
to hold myself and others
accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the Constitution,
protect my community,
and accomplish the mission
of the Milwaukee Police Department.

I will demonstrate competence,
have courage, be a person of
integrity, exhibit leadership,
show respect, and act with restraint.
This is my solemn vow."

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against violence or disorder, and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger; scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession....
law enforcement.

In Memory of those who gave their lives in the line of duty



Frank Piszczek	6/22/1884	James J. Rivers	3/21/1966
John Kossow	9/30/1899	Ronald T. Hogan	5/2/1967
Ernest Johnson	9/15/1904	Bryan Moschea	7/31/1967
Otto H. Flieth	12/17/1908	George Fish	9/23/1970
Peter Gauer	7/3/1909	Alan Sroczynski	11/8/1970
Charles W. Gudgell	8/22/1916	Paul DuPlanty	11/9/1971
Frank Caswin	11/24/1917	Gerald Hempe	1/31/1973
Henry Deckert	11/24/1917	Charles T. Smith	1/31/1973
Frederick Kaiser	11/24/1917	Ronald Reagan	12/13/1973
David O'Brien	11/24/1917	Thomas G. Matulis	7/10/1974
Charles Seehawer	11/24/1917	Robert D. Riley	7/10/1974
Edward Spindler	11/24/1917	Michael Draeger	12/28/1974
Stephen Stecker	11/24/1917	Dennis Obradovich	8/17/1975
Albert Templin	11/24/1917	Albert Kohn	10/29/1975
Paul Weiler	11/24/1917	Thomas Kiefer	11/25/1977
William Kaemmerling	1/26/1922	John Machajewski	12/23/1981
Joseph Kubacki	5/24/1924	Charles S. Mehlberg	12/23/1981
Walter Luedtke	12/18/1924	Sydney C. Snow	1/20/1982
Harold W. Schmidt	4/4/1925	Rosario J. Collura	3/19/1985
Hilbert Thurow	8/22/1930	Leonard R. Lesnieski	3/19/1985
Robert Bahlke	2/23/1932	Dennis J. Gorlewski	2/25/1987
Richard R. Zingler	2/8/1933	Roger A. Sterling	5/11/1987
Harry Pieske	6/27/1935	Steve J. Hasenstab	8/19/1989
Charles George	6/8/1936	Richard E. Wagner	10/25/1990
Nelson Goodman	8/10/1937	Michael R. Tourmo	11/18/1990
George Raabe	11/2/1937	William A. Robertson	9/7/1994
Albert C. Grosskopt	2/13/1943	Michael A. Niehoff	12/1/1994
Joseph Lecher	3/21/1943	Wendolyn O. Tanner	9/7/1996
Arnold Werner	7/10/1943	Charles G. Irvine, Jr.	6/7/2018
Valentine Adam	3/6/1948	Michael J. Michalski	7/25/2018
Elmer W. Bates	8/23/1948	Matthew J. Rittner	2/6/2019
Vernon White	11/10/1951	Mark S. Lentz	9/18/2019
Raymond A. Nencki	10/05/1959	Peter E.C. Jerving	2/7/2023
Robert Kraemer	2/7/1963	Kendall I. Corder	6/29/2025

Be sure to visit the Fallen Officers' Memorial Wall located just outside the Main Office

When you do nothing
you become powerless.
But when you get involved,
you feel the sense of hope
and accomplishment
that comes from knowing
you are working
to make things better for everyone.

–Author Unknown



Special thanks to the City of Milwaukee residents
for their continued support and cooperation
in helping to keep our city safe.