

April 22, 2015 the Joplin Police Department held our Annual Awards Banquet. Joplin Police Officers and their families attended. Mayor Siebert and City Manager Sam Anselm also attended the event. The Elks Lodge hosted the event and Mythos provided the dining. They both are appreciated for their support.

A "Table of Honor" was reserved for those Joplin Officers who have lost their lives in service to our community. Inserted below is the "Table of Honor" recitation.

Many officers and civilian employees were awarded recognition. The following people were among the many that received awards; (Below is more information as to their specific conduct that merited recognition.)

Dispatcher Julie Gooch-Life Saving Award

Sgt. Brian Henderson-Letter of Commendation

Officer Caleb Johnson-Life Saving Award

Officer Damon Farrow-Meritorious Service Award

Beth Jeffers received the Civilian of the Year-Award

The following officers received Letters of Excellence; Detective Amanda Schippers, Bryan Rogers, Brett Davis, Captain Darren Gallup, Damon Farrow, Daniel Rogers, Juan Rojo, Cpl. Josh Hanes, and Lacey Baxter.

TABLE OF HONOR

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The **Table**, with its **place setting**, is a way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession are missing from this event.

The table is **set for one**, though the number is many.

The **Chair** is empty. They can no longer join us.

The **Tablecloth** is white - symbolizing the purity of their intentions to serve their communities.

The **Candle** is lit - symbolizing their spirit to serve.

The **Glass** is inverted - they cannot drink nor toast with us this day.

A slice of **Lemon** is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.

The single **Red Rose** displayed in the vase is to remind us of their families and loved ones.

The **Salt** upon the plate is symbolic of their tears.

The **Blue Ribbon** tied so prominently on the vase reminds us of the "**Thin Blue Line**" which stands strong before those who would destroy law and order in our great nation.

Many of us served with these peace officers and called them "partner". We relied upon them; depended upon their might, and their aid.

We called them "**Brothers.**" We called them "**Sisters.**"

They watch over us still ~~ and we **Honor** them today.

Dispatcher Julie Gooch-Life Saving Award

On July 9, 2014 at 1255 hours, Julie took a 911 call from an 8 year old girl, Sidney. Sidney was in her car with her father, who was having some kind of seizure. Julie was able to keep Sidney calm, while asking all of the pertinent questions needed to determine what was happening with her dad. Julie found out their location and was able to have Sidney relay to her father to pull the car over and park on a church parking lot. Julie then began Fire and EMS to their location. Dispatcher Gooch obtained the color and description of their car and remained on the line with Sidney until first responders arrived. Julie's caring demeanor worked to keep Sidney calm during a rather frightening situation. Had it not been for the man's 8 year old daughter in the car with him, her knowing to call 911 for help and receiving the assistance from an attentive and compassionate dispatcher; this situation could have ended as a fatal one. These are the types of calls that make us feel a sense of pride for what we do!

Cpl. Brian Henderson Letter of Commendation

*(Cpl. Henderson has been promoted to Sgt. Henderson)

During the past year Cpl. Brian Henderson has excelled in his position as a supervisor on the SWAT Team and as a senior range officer. He has been promoted from senior team leader to tactical supervisor. In this position he has been instrumental in streamlining and modernizing the training platform and schedules for the team. His guidance and planning has led to a more cohesive and professional tactical organization.

Cpl. Henderson played a key part organizing and structuring the first Joplin Police Department SWAT School taught to outside agencies. He was able to obtain POST certification for the course which has become a standard for area agencies. Due to the success of the first class a second has been planned for 2015 which was filled by area officers in the first two weeks it was advertised.

Cpl. Henderson has taken the lead on several projects to improve the police department range and firearms program. Through his leadership numerous deficiencies have been identified, fixed, or replaced.

Cpl. Henderson's continued outstanding performance is in keeping with the highest tradition of excellence that has become the hallmark of the Joplin Police Department.

Officer Caleb Johnson-Life Saving Award 2014

On December 23, 2014, Officer Caleb Johnson was dispatched to an Officer-Needs-To-Call in reference to a check on well-being. The caller was across the state and concerned about her mother who was in a volatile relationship and made some concerning statements about taking medications. The caller gave Officer Johnson vehicle information for her mother. Officer Johnson checked the hotel district for the vehicle and eventually located it at the Baymont Inn. Officer Johnson contacted staff who directed him to the room in question. When at the room, Officer Johnson could hear what sounded like the person inside having breathing problems. He gained access to the room and found the person in question in respiratory distress. He also located a bottle of pills that were empty with several missing. It appeared as if the victim had taken a large amount of prescription pills with alcohol. The victim was aspirating on herself and Officer Johnson maintained an open airway until METS arrived and transported her. METS found her with an oxygen saturation lower than required to maintain life. Her heart rate had also went into bradycardia and was assisted to normal rhythm at the scene by EMS.

The hotel district was very busy with guests, and there were lots of vehicles in the area, making it more difficult to find one vehicle in the area. Officer Johnson went above and beyond to locate the vehicle and the victim. If not for his due diligence in this situation the female would have perished.

Officer Adam Brannin, his wife Heather along with Officer Brian Rogers and his wife Julia-Meritorious Service Award

On November 15, 2014 Officer Adam Brannin, his wife Heather along with Officer Brian Rogers and his wife Julia were attending a baby shower at the Mason's lodge in Galena KS. While there Adam observed an elderly female start to choke. He immediately told his wife Heather, who is an RN at Freeman Hospital. She got up and approached the elderly female. Brian stood up and approached as well. Brian saw the female's face turn blue and it was obvious she was not breathing. Heather told Adam to call 911. Heather attempted the Heimlich maneuver, but due to the patient's size was having difficulty. At that time Officer Rogers began attempting the Heimlich maneuver, but the patient became unresponsive and was laid out on the floor.

Heather checked for a pulse, could not find one and immediately began chest compressions. As a Galena Officer arrived CPR was continued, between the Galena Officer and Heather. Officer Brannin, using the Galena Officer's flashlight, began checking the patient's airway for obstructions. At one point a brief pulse was located that the patient attempted to gasp for a breath. Attempted delivery of breaths failed to yield any productive rise and fall of the patient's chest, indicated the airway was still obstructed.

As the ambulance approached, they were met by Officer Rogers and briefed on the situation. The patient was transported to Freeman, alive, where she stayed in ICU for three days. The family had a Do Not Resuscitate order in place and the patient died three days later on November 18th.

The immediate actions of those on scene and the direction of Heather, provided an exemplary example of the public service professions and demonstrated the need for a common goal. Those actions allowed the family of Mrs. Rosenberg to have a few more days with her.

Officer Damon Farrow-Meritorious Service Award

The Awards Committee has selected you to receive a Meritorious Award for 2014.

On August 15, 2014 Officer Farrow was gathering information in reference to a shoplifting incident at Wal-Mart located at 2623 W. 7th St. While speaking with loss prevention he was advised there was another larceny in-progress and was told the suspect was in the bathroom concealing items. Officer Farrow located the subject and made contact as he was exiting the store. The suspect pulled a machete from his shorts and held it in a threatening manner. Officer Farrow drew his firearm and gave the suspect several commands to drop the weapon, but he would not comply. Officer Farrow remained in control and transmitted the situation over the radio. The parking lot and store was very busy and Farrow recognized that several people were in the background. Officer Farrow also had his movement limited by cars driving directly beside him, and subjects walking all around him. The suspect finally dropped the machete and followed commands to lay on the ground. Responding officers arrived and took the suspect into custody. After further investigation it was discovered the machete had been stolen.

Officer Farrow remained calm and evaluated several tactical options very quickly. His performance of the situation resulted in a deadly situation being resolved without injuries to the suspect or innocent bystanders.

