



The South Carolina Sheriff

SPECIAL EDITION

Winter 2020

Medal of Valor Issue

from your South Carolina Sheriffs' Association

SCSA 2020 Medal of Valor Recipients

Beaufort County

Corporal Kerry Johnson

Berkeley County

Deputy Dustin Morris
Deputy William Kimbro

Chesterfield County

First Sergeant Charles Mixon

Florence County

Investigator Farrah Turner
Sergeant Terrance Carraway
Investigator Sarah Miller
Deputy Arie Davis
Sergeant Scott Miller
Investigator Ben Price
Corporal Chase McDaniel
Sergeant Brian Hart
L/Cpl Travis Scott

Horry County

Deputy FC Jack Lee

Marlboro County

Sergeant Warren McColl
Deputy Antonio Alford
Deputy Victoria Cheek
Chief Chad Cheras

Richland County

Sr. K9 Specialist Richard Hazel
Captain Christopher Duke
Master Deputy Ryan MacAdams

Saluda County

Chief Toby Horne
Lt. Donovan Shealy
Special Agent Russ Padgett



Executive Director's Perspective: 24/7/365

**Jarrod M. Bruder, Executive Director
South Carolina Sheriffs' Association**

Welcome to our **2020 Medal of Valor Issue** of *The South Carolina Sheriff*. Each year, this is both my favorite and the most difficult of the newsletters to put together—favorite because the men and women we honor here are among the very best and brightest of our states law enforcement officers and first responders; difficult because it offers us a glimpse into the very real and terrifying risks they encounter every day while serving us and keeping us safe.

Even the routine is not routine: A traffic stop can turn into a life-and-death struggle; a domestic call can turn into a hostage situation; a scheduled interview can turn into an hours-long, deadly standoff—you can never know what to expect when you put on your shield and start your shift.

It is thanks to the great response and continued support of Honorary Members like you that SCSA is able to provide the latest in education, state-of-the-art training, and critical support to the men and women of South Carolina's Sheriff's Offices. As you read this issue, I hope you'll consider making a generous donation in honor of those who serve us so diligently and so well.

In these stories, you'll read about two officers we lost in the line of duty in the past year. One of the ways your generosity has been most impactful is in increasing the death benefit paid to the family of fallen deputies, from \$10,000 up to \$150,000

for both active sworn and non-sworn personnel. While money cannot take away the pain of such devastating loss, your support of a fallen deputy's family does offer relief for immediate financial concerns at such a difficult time. To learn more about our Fallen Heroes Partner Program, please visit our website.

Although he is not mentioned in this issue, we lost a dear friend and dedicated servant this past September. Sheriff A. Lane Cribb of Georgetown County passed away as the result of an illness. In his 46-year law enforcement career, the last 26 as sheriff, Sheriff Cribb was known for his remarkable ability to comfort those in need, and to generate smiles all around—he personified the term peacemaker.

In memory of our friend, colleague, and mentor Sheriff Cribb, we've named our first SCSA Comfort K9 stuffed animal in his memory. Meet K9 Lane!

SCSA members can purchase a K9 Lane of your very own. You can also purchase K9s to donate to your local sheriff's office, to be given to children in situations where the comfort

of a little furry friend is most welcome. Proceeds from the sales of K9 Lane go toward the SCSA Benevolent Fund. Learn more on the reply slip enclosed in this mailing, or by visiting our website.

Enjoy this special Medal of Valor issue, and join me in honoring the valiant men and women who serve and protect the communities and the people we love, putting their lives on the line 24/7/365.



Meet K9 Lane!

2020 SCSA Medal of Valor Recipients

Exemplary Courage and Decisiveness Under Fire

Corporal Kerry Johnson, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office



Corporal Kerry Johnson, receiving the Medal of Valor award from Sheriff P.J. Tanner.

On the evening of July 26, 2019, the Beaufort County Communications Center received multiple calls from residents of Twinkling Court, a subdivision of Sun City Hilton Head. Callers reported a man walking in the roadway, shouting threats to neighbors, and discharging a firearm throughout the neighborhood.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Corporal Kerry Johnson responded and tactfully approached the area. Discovering the suspect hiding behind an automobile, Johnson illuminated him with a flashlight and commanded, "Stop right there!" The suspect shouted back, raising his weapon and firing at Corporal Johnson. Corporal Johnson returned fire, striking the suspect. Although the suspect fell to the ground, he continued to hold his weapon as if to fire again. Corporal Johnson fired his service revolver a second time, neutralizing the threat.

"Corporal Kerry Johnson displayed exceptional courage and professionalism in protecting the citizens of Beaufort County and it is with great pleasure that I nominate him for the 2019 Medal of Valor Award."

*~P.J. Tanner,
Beaufort County Sheriff*

Willingly Putting Their Lives on the Line

Chief Toby Horne, Saluda County Sheriff's Office

Lt. Donovan Shealy, Saluda County Sheriff's Office

Special Agent Russ Padgett, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

Officers with the Saluda County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a residential fire in April, with reports of several people still in the house. Lt. Donovan Shealy was first on the scene. He attempted to enter the residence—the front door was locked and the back door was engulfed in flames. Lt. Shealy attempted to

communicate with trapped occupants to lead them to the front of the house. Communication with the occupants stopped as Chief Horne and Special Agent Padgett arrived on scene.

Without regard for his own safety, and without any personal protective gear, Agent Padgett entered the burning residence, rescuing an occupant.

Chief Horne also fearlessly entered the residence, locating and rescuing an infant from an upstairs bedroom that had been consumed by heavy smoke. Lt. Shealy, without fear for his own safety, assisted in getting occupants out of the dwelling, and ensured the safety of a 4-year-old child who was trying to re-enter the home.



Saluda County Medal of Valor winners, Lt. Donovan Shealy, Chief Toby Horn and Special Agent Russ Padgett, with Sheriff John Perry and family members.

"These three men demonstrated exemplary valor in performing above and beyond the call of duty, risking their own lives to save others. Saluda County is extremely grateful for them."

*~John C. Perry,
Saluda County Sheriff*



Answering A Life-Threatening Call

Sr. K9 Specialist Richard Hazel, Richland County Sheriff's Office

In the early morning hours of April 3, 2019, K9 Deputy Richard Hazel faced a life-threatening call for service. RCSD had been notified that the Town of Lexington Police Department had attempted to stop a vehicle; the driver refused to stop, and a chase had ensued. S.C. Highway Patrol had joined the chase, and the suspect vehicle was approaching Broad River Road in Richland County. Troopers requested assistance, which is when patrol deputies and K9 Specialist Hazel got involved.

"The actions of K9 Specialist Hazel helped bring this incident to an end without further harm to the community. His courage and dedication to his community was evident as he faced the very real potential of losing his life."

*~Leon Lott,
Richland County Sheriff*

The chase continued through Richland County and back into Lexington County—in all, lasting nearly a half hour before the suspect driver lost control of the vehicle. Attempting to apprehend the suspect, Deputy Hazel gave verbal commands, at which point the suspect pointed a gun at him. Deputy Hazel fired his service weapon. After the shooting, Deputy Hazel maintained a clear and professional demeanor until other officers arrived to help clear the vehicle and secure the scene.



Sr. K9 Specialist Richard Hazel receives the Medal of Valor award from Sheriff Leon Lott.

Extraordinary Bravery, Determination & Teamwork

Captain Chris Duke, Richland County Sheriff's Office

Master Deputy Ryan MacAdams, Richland County Sheriff's Office

Just after 11:00AM on August 15, 2019, three armed male suspects entered All South Federal Credit Union in northeast Richland County. The suspects aggressively threatened and pointed guns at tellers, and fled the scene with an undetermined amount of cash.

Within minutes of circulating the area, Captain Chris Duke and Master Deputy Ryan MacAdams observed the suspect's vehicle. An attempt to stop the suspects led to a car chase, at times reaching speeds in excess of 120mph. Knowing the suspects were armed and determined to get away, Duke and MacAdams continued the pursuit out of concern for the safety of Richland County citizens.

Turning into a subdivision and reaching a dead-end, all three suspects exited their vehicle and began firing at Duke and MacAdams. Rounds struck both patrol cars, narrowly missing the officers. Captain Duke fired back, striking one suspect twice in the lower body. Fleeing the scene in another vehicle, Duke and MacAdams relayed suspect information, vehicle description, and direction of travel to deputies on the perimeter.

A second chase ensued. Lasting more than 30 minutes and traveling throughout the county, the suspects drove recklessly and without regard for anyone else on the road. After several near collisions, a deputy performed the pit maneuver, effectively disabling the suspect's vehicle, bringing the treacherous chase to an end.

Refusing to give up, the suspects fled on foot and were immediately captured by multiple deputies from the Uniform Patrol Division, Special Response Team, K9 Unit, and Criminal Investigation Division.

The heroic actions of Master Deputy MacAdams and Captain Duke on this August morning helped bring this incident to an end without further harm to the community.

"Their own lives in jeopardy, the bravery, determination, and teamwork of Captain Chris Duke and Master Deputy Ryan MacAdams of the Richland County Sheriff's Office may have saved and certainly protected many innocent lives."



Master Deputy Ryan MacAdams, left, and Captain Chris Duke, center, were awarded the Medal of Valor by Sheriff Leon Lott.

2020 SCSA Medal of Valor Recipients

Heroism in the Face of Danger

Deputy First Class Jack Lee, Horry County Sheriff's Office

In the early morning hours of March 25, 2019, a suspect broke into his brother's home and stole a high-powered rifle. At 5:29AM, a Creek Landing Road resident called 9-1-1 for help, telling the dispatcher the suspect shot out two windows of his truck and shot at his house. The caller said the suspect was "running around and shooting" and worried "he's going to kill someone." The dispatcher could hear shots ringing in the background during the call.

"It is my honor to nominate Deputy First Class Jack Lee for the prestigious Medal of Valor awarded by the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association. His actions prevented the loss of life and/or serious injury to other law enforcement officers and community residents."

*~Phillip E. Johnson,
Horry County Sheriff*

Responding officers located the suspect armed with the rifle on Creek Landing Road. Seeing him run into a wooded area, they set up a perimeter, awaiting the arrival of the Horry County Bloodhound Unit and SWAT Team.

When the bloodhound unit entered the area to track the suspect, he fired multiple shots at deputies. The suspect ran back onto the road where he encountered SWAT team officers, one of whom was Deputy Lee. The suspect was given verbal commands to put down his weapon. The suspect ran back into the wooded area, this time with tactical officers in pursuit.

When officers caught up to the suspect, he was again ordered to put down his weapon. At this point, he raised the rifle and fired at them. Deputy Lee fired his department-issued service rifle, striking the suspect and ending any further threat.

"Deputy Lee found himself in a situation that officers train for every day, and pray never happens," said Horry County Sheriff Phillip Johnson. "However, on this day a suspect's reckless disregard for human life placed this small, predominantly family community and its law enforcement officers in grave danger. Deputy Lee's heroism in the face of danger and willingness to put himself in harm's way to protect others, saved lives."



Sheriff Phillip Thompson presents the Medal of Valor to Deputy Jack Lee.

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Life-Saving Calm While Under Life-Threatening Attack

Deputy Dustin Morris, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office



Deputy Dustin Morris, right, receiving the Medal of Valor award from Sheriff Duane Lewis.

On February 26, 2019, Deputy Dustin Morris responded to a call for service complaint regarding speeding in Huger, a rural area of Berkeley County. Arriving to the area, Deputy Morris observed the speeding vehicle and stopped it.

The suspect pulled a gun and began shooting. Deputy Morris took cover behind his vehicle. The suspect took cover some 50 feet away, using different caliber firearms, including a high-powered rifle and handguns, to fire multiple rounds at Morris.

His life in grave danger, Deputy Morris demonstrated exceptional courage, keeping his calm and negotiating with the shooter while other deputies raced to the scene from a distance. While occupying the shooter's attention, Morris was also able to communicate with neighbors, keeping

them out of harm's way until the situation could be resolved—all in all, the gunfight lasted nearly 30 minutes!

The valor displayed by Deputy Morris that February afternoon saved and protected lives—no deputies or civilians were harmed in the incident.

"It gives me great pleasure to nominate Deputy Dustin Morris for the Medal of Valor in recognition of his steadfast, professional and heroic response under extreme circumstances."

~S. Duane Lewis,
Berkeley County Sheriff

Right Place. Right Time. Right Deputy.

Deputy William Kimbro, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office

Deputy William Kimbro was on routine patrol in Summerville when he pulled over a vehicle for speeding. The driver jumped out of the car, alerting Kimbro that his baby had stopped breathing after drinking a bottle.

Body camera video captured the tense moments, as Deputy Kimbro performed life-saving first aid on the 12-day-old infant. For his swiftness to act in saving the child's life, Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis awarded Kimbro a Life Saving Medal, and nominated him for the SCSA Medal of Valor.

"I put my hand on her chest area and felt that heartbeat racing, and man, that's the sign I was looking for!"

~Deputy Kimbro
Berkeley County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Kimbro insists he's not a hero. "I'm not special. The situation was special because God put me in the right place at the right time. That's all."

His body camera video tells a different story. Faced with a life-and-death struggle to get the child breathing again, Deputy Kimbro remained calm, having the presence of mind to both help the child and calm her parents until emergency personnel arrived on the scene.



Sheriff Duane Lewis, left, presenting the Medal of Valor award to Deputy William Kimbro, right.

2020 SCSA Medal of Valor Recipients

An Early Morning, A Riding Lawnmower, and Shots Fired

Sgt. Warren R. McColl, Marlboro County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Antonio Alford, Marlboro County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Victoria Cheek, Marlboro County Sheriff's Office

Chief Chad Cheras, Clio Police Department

In the early morning hours of September 3, 2019, four officers responded to an alarm call at the Tiger Mart in Clio. While investigating the alarm, a suspect approached them—on a riding lawnmower—and opened fire. The suspect's shots missed the officers, striking the driver's side of Sgt. McColl's vehicle.

Clio Police Department's Chief Chad Cheras returned fire, striking the suspect and causing him to surrender. The suspect was transported to a hospital, treated for non-life-threatening injuries, and then taken into custody.

"All of these officers showed great bravery by going to the gunfire and keeping each other safe until the incident was under control and secure."

*~Charles B. Lemon,
Marlboro County Sheriff*



Sgt. Warren R. McColl, Deputy Antonio Alford, Chief Chad Cheras, and Deputy Victoria Cheek were honored as recipients of the Medal of Valor award.

De-escalating a Deadly Situation

F/Sgt. Chuck Mixon, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office



Chief Deputy Page, left, presented the Medal of Valor award to F/Sgt. Chuck Mixon, right.

First Sargent Chuck Mixon was first on the scene of a domestic call in the Pageland area of Chesterfield County in July. Dispatch received a 9-1-1 call—a suspect assaulted two residents of a home, stabbing one of them, and was holding a 5-year-old child at knife point.

Upon arrival, Mixon heard a child crying in distress inside the residence. Entering through a window, seeing broken glass, blood, and overturned furniture, he made his way deeper into the residence. He encountered the suspect holding the small child in his arms, with a large butcher knife pressed to her throat.

F/Sgt. Mixon demonstrated extreme bravery and level-headed decision making to de-escalate the situation. Speaking calmly with the

"F/Sgt. Chuck Mixon took the extra steps and extra time necessary to peacefully resolve a situation that definitely would have justified the use of deadly force."

*~James (J.D.) Dixon, Chesterfield
County Sheriff*

Continued on Page 8



Serving A Warrant: Two Officers Killed, Five More Injured, When Suspect Opens Fire

Investigator Farrah Turner, Florence County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Terrance Carraway, City of Florence Police Department

Investigator Sarah Miller, Florence County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Arie Davis, Florence County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Scott Williamson, City of Florence Police Department

Investigator Ben Price, Florence County Sheriff's Office

Corporal Chase McDaniel, Florence County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Brian Hart, City of Florence Police Department

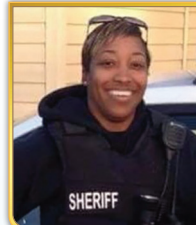
L/Cpl Travis Scott, City of Florence Police Department

Seven officers were shot while attempting to interview a suspect about an alleged sexual assault in Florence. 30-year Florence Police Department veteran, Sgt. Terrance Carraway, died on the way to the hospital. Investigator Farrah Turner of the Florence County Sheriff's Office died several days later.

The incident began as officers arrived for a pre-arranged interview with a 28-year-old resident in the home. Before officers even reached the front door, the suspect's father opened fire on them, ambush style.

Officers arriving to assist were also met with fire, as the suspect used a stockpile of guns to pin down the officers, even firing on those who tried to aid fallen officers. An armored vehicle was needed to get the wounded officers to safety.

In all, three officers in the Florence Police Department and four deputies with the Florence Sheriff's Department were shot during the incident. The suspect barricaded himself in the house, exchanging gunfire for hours before he was finally arrested. For the valor embodied by these nine officers, each putting their lives on the line to help their fellow officers and to protect the public, we recognize and give thanks for their heroism.



Investigator Farrah Turner

End of Watch: Oct. 22, 2018

"Farrah was the ultimate professional, excelling at everything she did. She dedicated her life to serving the victims of the worst crimes imaginable."

*– William Barnes,
Florence County Sheriff*



Sgt. Terrance Carraway

End of Watch: Oct. 3, 2018

"Carraway had a passion to see kids in impoverished areas have the opportunity to do the things they might not otherwise get to do. He was a giant of a man, but he was the proverbial gentle giant, and I loved him."

*– Allen Heidler,
Florence Chief of Police*

"This was one of the worst crime scenes I've ever seen. It's something I never want to see again."

*~Leon Lott,
Richland County Sheriff*



*Medal of Valor recipients
Investigator Sarah Miller, left,
and Deputy Arie Davis, right.*



Chief of Police Allen Heidler with Medal of Valor recipients from City of Florence Police Department. Sgt Scott Williamson, Allison Carraway (spouse of Sgt. Terrance Carraway), Sgt. Brian Hart, and L/Cpl Travis Scott.



Katie Godwin, mother of Investigator Farrah Turner and Allison Carraway, spouse of Sgt. Terrance Carraway accept the Medal of Valor.



Medal of Valor recipients. Corporal Chase McDaniel, left, with his son and Investigator Ben Price, right.

De-escalating a Deadly Situation

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suspect, Mixon helped him to realize he didn't want to hurt the child. After several moments, the suspect released the child and put the knife to his own throat.

The child safe, Mixon sat down in a chair and continued dialoguing with the suspect. He eventually convinced the man to put down the knife and surrender to authorities.

First Sargent Chuck Mixon is being recognized for performing above and beyond the call of duty, and for his professionalism in defusing a potentially life-threatening situation, resulting in no further injury to anyone involved.

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