



NEWS RELEASE

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FCSO Employees Honored at 2024 Second Quarter Awards Ceremony

BUNNELL, Fla. — Employees who protected the lives of their fellow employees, selflessly put themselves in harm’s way to save strangers, and apprehended fleeing criminals are among those who were honored during the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office’s 2024 Second Quarter Awards Ceremony held on October 15, 2024, at the Flagler County Sheriff’s Operations Center.

Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly awarded several Life Saving Awards to employees for their roles in saving the lives of others. Sheriff Staly also awarded the Medal of Valor, Medal of Merit, a Unit Citation, and Certificates of Commendation and Appreciation as part of the ceremony.

“All of our employees honored today went above and beyond the call of duty,” said Sheriff Staly. “I am truly honored to lead a team of amazing individuals who give their all each and every day to protect and serve Flagler County.”

Three employees received Employee of the Month recognition, while 22 others were recognized for reaching years of service milestones from five to 15 years.

Below is a summary of each award winner and why they received an award.

MEDAL OF VALOR AND COMBAT AWARD – Corporal Joseph Dailey/MEDAL OF MERIT – Corporal Brandon Fiveash

On December 15, 2012, Corporal Dailey, then-Deputy Fiveash, and others responded to a call for assistance from a concerned caller who advised a male known for abusing narcotics was walking

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around with a sword destroying things. Upon arrival, the caller directed deputies to the garage where they located the armed subject.

Deputy Fiveash attempted to de-escalate the subject by establishing a dialogue with him. The subject, despite Deputy Fiveash's efforts, began verbally threatening the deputies' lives and swinging the machete above his head. Deputies, now joined by Corporal Dailey, continued efforts to communicate with the dangerous subject while containing the threat from those in the home. The subject raised his weapon, threatened the lives of the deputies and advanced aggressively towards them with intent to harm them. Demonstrating restraint, Deputy Fiveash chose to deploy less-lethal means to subdue the violent subject. The effort had minimal effect and Deputy Fiveash moved in to secure the subject. The subject, who remained armed, gained his footing and rapidly moved towards the deputies in a threatening manner, endangering the safety of all involved.

Corporal Dailey reached to pull Deputy Fiveash to safety, but ultimately, the armed, violent subject's actions forced Corporal Dailey to use his firearm. Deputy Fiveash's actions to preserve life through an intense and dangerous situation, and Corporal Dailey's valiant actions to preserve life by protecting those in the home and the other deputies on scene, are both commended.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Communications Specialist Leah Russ

On March 14, 2024, Communications Specialist Leah Russ took a 9-1-1 call from a caller advising that her husband wasn't breathing and was turning blue. Russ started to gather all pertinent information to get emergency medical services dispatched and then instructed the caller that they needed to start CPR. Russ walked the caller through four rounds of compressions and did not stop until first responders arrived on scene and took them over. When they arrived, first responders documented that the patient was suffering cardiac arrest, and they were transported to the hospital with a slight pulse. Due to Russ's ability to recognize symptoms of cardiac arrest over the phone, CPR instructions were provided in a timely manner that ultimately saved the patient's life.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Deputy Christian Harrison

On May 20, 2024, Deputy Harrison responded to Walmart in Palm Coast in reference to a child trapped in a vehicle. Upon arrival, it was determined that a 1-year-old child was locked inside of a vehicle with the keys locked inside, the windows were up, and the vehicle was not running for approximately 10 minutes. Deputy Harrison observed the child was sweating profusely. To ensure the well-being of the child, Deputy Harrison utilized his Agency-issued Shatterballs to break the rear passenger's side window of the vehicle to gain access. Deputy Harrison was able to gain access to the child who was checked out by medical personnel and determined to be fine.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Deputy Ardit Coma

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On May 28, 2024, FCSO Communications received a 9-1-1 call in reference to a male that had been unresponsive in a vehicle in Bunnell for approximately 30 minutes. Deputy Coma was dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, he was able to quickly identify that the male was overdosing on an unknown narcotic. Deputy Coma quickly administered Narcan and monitored the male until Flagler County Fire Rescue arrived on scene. The male later made a full recovery on scene, and the ingested narcotic was later determined to be fentanyl. Due to Deputy Coma's quick thinking and immediate action, he was able to save a life.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Sergeant Troy Van Pelt

On May 29, 2024, Sergeant Van Pelt responded to a report of a naked male running into traffic and ramming cars with his head. Upon arrival, Sergeant Van Pelt observed the male with a cane yelling that someone was after him. Sergeant Van Pelt tried to calm the subject, but the male intentionally tried to run in front of oncoming traffic. Sergeant Van Pelt then put himself into harm's way, tackling the male to keep him out of the roadway. FCFR responded and transported the male to AdventHealth Palm Coast, and he was later placed into protective custody under a Baker Act.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Sergeant Daniel Parthemore

On June 13, 2024, Sergeant Parthemore responded to a report that an adult male was found unresponsive and not breathing in his pool by his brother-in-law. Upon arrival, Sergeant Parthemore made contact with the male's wife who stated that her husband was still in the pool, and they could not get him out. When Sergeant Parthemore entered the back patio, he observed the male in the shallow end of the pool and his brother-in-law was holding his head above the water. Sergeant Parthemore removed the male from the pool and observed that he was not breathing and had no pulse. He began CPR until EMS arrived and took over life-saving actions. The male was transported to AdventHealth Palm Coast, where he regained a pulse and was placed on a ventilator.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Detention Deputy Danielle Boyer

On June 28, 2024, Deputy Boyer was assigned to booking at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility when she heard gasping noises from a female inmate in a nearby booking cell. She looked up at the camera and observed the inmate moving in a choking manner. She quickly approached the cell and asked the inmate if she was choking, at which point the inmate pointed at her open mouth without speaking. As Deputy Boyer entered the cell and got the inmate into the Heimlich position, she called "code white" over the radio and immediately began the Heimlich maneuver until the inmate's airway was freed.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Corporal Jay Rodenborn/CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION – Deputy Anthony Marino

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On April 12, 2024, Corporal Rodenborn and Deputy Marino were serving as bailiffs for the conclusion of a jury trial. During this time, a female defendant was found guilty of felony battery and was ordered to be taken into custody by the judge. The defendant, who was not previously in custody, quickly reached into her purse and placed multiple unknown objects into her mouth. The deputies quickly engaged the defendant and gained control of her arms while ordering her to spit out the objects in her mouth. She refused the order and continued to tense and resist the deputies' efforts. Corporal Rodenborn was able to see her actively chewing the objects, which were later determined to be medication pills. The deputies were able to secure her on the table which allowed Corporal Rodenborn an opportunity to pinch her nose, causing her to spit out some of the pills. At the conclusion, EMS was called to have the defendant medically cleared. Corporal Rodenborn and Deputy Marino aided quickly and with their actions were able to save the female's life by not allowing her to swallow a large amount of medication pills.

LIFE SAVING AWARD – Commander Michael Lutz

On March 10, 2024, Commander Lutz was working at the Strawberry Festival in the area of Town Center in Palm Coast. Commander Lutz was approached by a citizen who exhibited symptoms of a stroke and took action which resulted in the saving of the citizen's life.

UNIT CITATION – Corporal Seth Green; Master Deputy Kyle Gaddie; Deputy First Class Brandon Hartley; Deputies Jonathan Schmidt, Nicholas Huzior, Jonathon Kusek

On May 6, 2024, deputies utilized investigative techniques, and static and rolling surveillance in the identification and capture of a known narcotics distributor in Bunnell. After identifying a vehicle that was suspected in the sale and distribution of illicit narcotics, Corporal Green was able to identify a suspect exiting the driver's side door of the car. Corporal Green gave the suspect lawful commands to stop, but he refused and began to flee on foot. While fleeing, the suspect started discarding objects he had in his possession, most notably a black waist purse which was found to contain fentanyl and other narcotics.

Corporal Green was able to clearly and calmly articulate the suspect's actions, direction of travel, and give guidance to responding deputies to assist them in the recovery of the evidence the suspect was attempting to conceal from law enforcement. After observing the suspect in the woodline, Deputy Schmidt located the subject and held him at gunpoint until he could be safely secured. Deputies Huzior and Kusek were able to secure and preserve the vehicle and evidence left behind by the suspect. Deputy First Class Gaddie was able to recover surveillance footage of the incident which was collected for future court presentation and evidence.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION – Deputies Maxwell Dorsey, Christian Harrison

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On April 26, 2024, Deputy Dorsey was conducting proactive patrol in a high crime area when he came upon a vehicle and detected the odor of burnt marijuana. Deputy Dorsey called for backup, and Deputy Harrison arrived.

During a probable cause search of the vehicle, deputies located a backpack with 82 grams of marijuana and a loaded firearm with an extended magazine. Upon attempting to securing the suspect, the suspect fled on foot. Shortly after, the suspect was located and proceeded to resist arrest. Deputy Harrison drew his taser, and the suspect attempted to grab the weapon. Counter moves were performed along with a successful deployment of the taser, which allowed deputies to gain compliance and secure the suspect without further incident. The suspect was placed under arrest for Resisting Arrest with Violence, Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, and Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Detective First Class Adam Gossett

On February 8, 2022, deputies were dispatched regarding a potential overdose death of a Palm Coast resident. Detective Adam Gossett was assigned as the lead detective in the investigation. During this investigation, most would have given up and moved on, especially with the seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The case was nearly placed inactive on at least four separate occasions, but Detective Gossett repeatedly requested that he be allowed to continue investigating. Detective Gossett's investigation resulted in dozens of interviews, countless hours reviewing forensic cellular downloads, several undercover overnight operations, and month after month of reviewing inmate phone calls to develop fresh leads. During the investigation, Detective Gossett was also able to walk through several related arrest warrants and locate a prisoner who had absconded. On June 14, 2024, the suspect was charged with First Degree Murder by Unlawful Distribution of a Controlled Substance. Detective Gossett's determination to not fail the mother of the decedent, and to provide a voice to the voiceless, is to be commended.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

April – Corporal Jay Rodenborn

May – Sergeant Troy Van Pelt

June – Detention Deputy Danielle Boyer

YEARS OF SERVICE

5 years – Deputies First Class Philip Kotowski, Jason Patel; Detective First Class John Hill; Deputies Aaron Clay, Sean Doggett; Detective Austin Dalrymple; Detention Deputy Caroline Arzon

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10 years – Sergeant Jacob West; Corporals Richard Petkovsek, Stephen Usina; Deputy Robin Towns; Detention Deputy Mark Remish

15 years – Sergeant Randy Vickers

SPECIALTY SERVICE AWARD

5 consecutive years of service in the Emergency Response Team – Commander Jonathan Dopp; Sergeant Paul Kandour; Master Deputies Bryan Jackson, Edward Faircloth, Mike Spinelli, Marcus Dawson; Detective First Class Adam Gossett; Deputies Blake Colson, Robin Towns

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