



## Letter of Award Medal of Valor



To: Officer Christopher Johnson  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: September 20, 2017  
Re: Medal of Valor Award

Officer Johnson,

Lt. Matt Cowles recently nominated you for the Medal of Valor Award. The Medal of Valor is the highest recognition of achievement presented by the Spokane Police Department. It is awarded to department employees who distinguish themselves with extraordinary acts of bravery or heroism above and beyond that normally expected in the line of duty. Employees must have displayed extreme courage by placing their own safety in immediate peril in the pursuit of their duties. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

On 05-21-17 Officer Johnson was one of several officers dispatched to the Daniel Apartments on report of an assault that involved a male with a weapon; that weapon was identified by complainants as both a knife and a gun. Officer Johnson was the first officer on-scene. Ofc. Johnson was forced to rapidly process a number of threats, including being unable to locate all the persons involved, the dark, and for those who know the Daniel Apartments, a number of hiding places and ambush points. As he approached, he located a male standing on the West entrance to the building. Officer Johnson tried to talk with the man; the man was not responsive and began frantically trying to get into the building by pulling on the locked door, and finally kicking out the window and plunging out of view into the apartment.

This incident unfolded so quickly, Officer Johnson did not have time to coordinate with other units or formulate a superior tactical plan. He was alone, faced with a felony assault suspect fleeing from the assault armed with a handgun, running into an apartment building that was occupied by numerous innocent citizens. He jumped into action in accordance with the priorities of life, and pursued the suspect into the building. The suspect had every advantage in this pursuit and at one point set up an ambush. Officer Johnson continued in his pursuit, made a split second evaluation of the situation, transitioned to a Taser, and successfully overcame the suspect's resistance. His actions were above and beyond the call of duty and may have prevented a loss of innocent life. In taking that action, he put himself in great risk in order to protect the innocent. His ability to overcome the suspect's resistance was impressive, professional and heroic.

Officer Johnson, I am proud to present you with the Medal of Valor Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Valor during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2018 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C N Meidl".

Craig Meidl  
Chief of Police