



Letter of Award Medal of Valor



To: Ofc. Craig Hamilton
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: September 20, 2017
Re: Medal of Valor Award

Ofc. Hamilton,

Major King 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 August 8th, 2015, at approximately 1027, the Spokane Police Department PACT observed a wanted suspect enter a residence on East Sanson Street. This male had a Federal Firearms warrant and also was reported to be armed. This subject was aware of the police presence and told the occupants of the house that it was going to be his "grand finale." The other occupants of the house were able to leave and relayed this information to the officers.

Police surrounded the house and made several announcements over the PA system for the subject to surrender peacefully, but there was no response. At approximately 1130, the front door of the residence opened up and multiple gunshots were heard coming from inside the house to directly outside where the officers were located.

Mere seconds later, with his hand gun raised and firing directly at officers, the subject exited the front door of the house at a full sprint running towards Officers Pavlischak and Hamilton. Officer McCollough moved into a position to return fire. Officer Pavlischak and Hamilton returned fire, as well as Officer Brownlee, Phillips, and Killian.

Officer Pavlischak and Officer Hamilton were faced with an armed assailant who was sprinting straight at them. The subject was targeting and firing directly at these two officers. In order to protect nearby citizens, fellow officers, and themselves, Officer Hamilton and Pavlischak heroically, and displaying extreme courage, voluntarily risked their own lives to stop the subject. It is my belief that their actions clearly meet those defined in the Medal of Valor.

Ofc. Hamilton, 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. Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police