



## Letter of Award Lifesaving Medal



To: Officer Christopher Benesch  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: November 30, 2018  
Re: Lifesaving Award

Officer Benesch,

Corporal Greg Rogan recently nominated you for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Award. The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed your nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. In his nomination, Cpl. Rogan stated:

*"On July 13, 2018 at approx. 2324 hours, officers were dispatched for a burglary in progress. Officers were advised a male was attempting to get inside their home. The suspect was kicking and punching the front door of the residence. Officers arrived at the address to find a large amount of blood on the front porch. Victims told officers that the suspect put his fist through the window in the front door. It was discovered that the suspect was the son of the homeowner.*

*Ofc. Benesch went to the address of the suspect and found him bleeding from the arm. He quickly assessed that the suspect had suffered an arterial bleed and had attempted to put a rag on the wound but he was still bleeding out. Ofc. Benesch applied one of his department issued tourniquets to stop the bleeding. He also applied an Israeli bandage directly to the wound to get the bleeding to stop.*

*Once Fire and AMR arrived, they did not have to apply any other medical supplies and quickly got the suspect to the hospital. When I arrived on scene I heard AMR Paramedic Brian Avis-Bowing ask who applied the tourniquet. He was advised it was applied by Ofc. Benesch. Avis-Bowing advised the tourniquet saved his life.*

*I went to Sacred Heart hospital to take pictures of the suspect's injuries. While I was in the operating room, Dr. Ryan MacDonald came in to assess the injuries and saw the tourniquet. He was advised by Avis-Bowing that the Police department had applied the tourniquet. Dr. MacDonald made the statement, "Well, it saved his life." I spoke to Avis-Bowing about the use of the tourniquet. He said the suspect had lost about 2 quarts or more of blood at the scene. If Ofc. Benesch had not applied the tourniquet and the Israeli bandage, the suspect would have passed out in 30 seconds or bled to death in about 2 minutes. Avis-Bowing told me that, in his opinion, Ofc. Benesch had saved the man's life.*

*I then spoke to Dr. MacDonald about the injuries. He told me the man's laceration was down to the bone and had cut the artery in his arm. Dr. MacDonald told me that without the tourniquet the man would have bled to death on scene. He told me that, in his opinion, Ofc. Benesch saved the man's life with his quick actions by applying the tourniquet."*

Officer Benesch, the Lifesaving Medal is being awarded to you for your actions in the incident outlined above which saved a man's life. You will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the 2018 Annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2019 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Handwritten signature of Craig N. Meidl in black ink.

Craig Meidl, Chief of Police