



## Letter of Award Medal of Merit



To: Officer Paul Buchmann  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: February 22, 2019  
Re: Medal of Merit Award

The Medal of Merit is awarded to members of the Spokane Police Department who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or meritorious service. The meritorious actions must clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected. This service or achievement need not be unique but must be exceptional and superior. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition.

Officers Buchmann, McVay, Stone and Sergeant Kernkamp have spent years developing training criteria, educating thousands of people in and out of law enforcement on the importance of First Aid, Casualty Care, and wound treatment. Frequently, these officers will spend their own time to develop courses, teach outside agencies and civilian organizations. In addition, they are routinely tasked with providing demonstrations on our medical response capabilities during public education opportunities which has contributed to improved public trust and relations.

Their training and guidance with our first responders has been instrumental in a culture shift in law enforcement. Due to their contributions, our officers routinely give appropriate aid to those in need which has saved lives in our community.

Over a 6 year period, these officers have invested countless hours in the development of this program. The success of this unit has brought national attention to the Department, and the City of Spokane. This program has been featured in several magazines, articles, research papers and was recognized as a great benefit to the community of Spokane by the Department of Justice.

These officers continue to stay on the cutting edge of technology, tactics, and police response to critical situations. They have been key components to our department's deployment of the Naloxone (Narcan) program. The entire department received training and development on officer response to combat the Opioid overdose epidemic.

They are also a critical piece in the training and development of the Rescue Task Force (RTF). The RTF program utilizes members of the Spokane Fire Department who are trained to operate in a law enforcement environment. These specially trained fire personnel assist in treating and evacuating wounded persons in an unsecure or potentially threatening environment.

Officer Buchmann, you have certainly distinguished yourself in the area of meritorious achievement and I am proud to recognize you with the Medal of Merit Award. You will be awarded the Medal of Merit during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2019 and a copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

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

Craig Meidl  
Chief of Police