



Letter of Award Lifesaving Medal



To: Officer Jennifer Kerns
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: May 9, 2018
Re: Lifesaving Award

Sgt. Ronald Tilley 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.

On January 4th, 2018, at approximately 1351 hours, Officers Roy and Kerns were first to arrive to a stabbing call. They saw the male victim squatting in the middle of Sprague Way. The road was covered with snow and ice, yet he was dressed only in shorts - no shirt, socks or shoes. There was dirt and blood covering his body. The victim was having difficulty breathing and speaking. They located an approximately 2 inch stab wound in the mid-section of the left side of his back. The wound was open and blood was pouring out at a steady pace. Ofc. Kerns attempted to apply pressure with her gloved hand over the wound with little success. She then grabbed an extra latex glove that she had and stuffed it into the wound to try to create a makeshift seal. When there was still blood coming out of the wound, she put her finger in the wound in order to stop the bleeding. She discovered the wound was deeper than her finger was long. She put her other hand over her finger in an attempt to apply pressure. Ofc. Roy got a package of QuikClot Z fold dressing out of his uniform. Ofc. Kerns removed her finger and the extra latex glove. Ofc. Roy used the QuikClot dressing on the wound. After he applied the dressing, the bleeding had slowed tremendously. He then used his hand to cover the wound and apply pressure.

Ofc. Kerns could see that the victim was having trouble breathing and was in extreme pain. She continued to talk to the victim in an attempt to remove his mind from the pain until Medics arrived. They then assisted in loading the victim onto the AMR stretcher and Ofc. Roy advised the Medics of the first aid that he had provided.

Dr. Joel Edminster is an Emergency Room Doctor and is the Medical Director for the Spokane Fire Dept. On this day, he was riding with the Fire Engine that responded. He told Ofc. Kaurin that the actions taken by Officers Roy and Kerns had done a fantastic job and likely saved the victims life.

Ofc. Kaurin followed the ambulance to Sacred Heart. Once there, the Emergency Room Doctor, Dan Haggerty, also told Ofc. Kaurin that the actions taken by Officers Roy and Kerns saved the life of the victim and that one of the victim's lungs had been punctured by the knife.

Due to Ofc. Roy's and Ofc. Kerns' immediate actions and intervention during a life-threatening medical emergency, the life of this man was returned to him, a life which would have been otherwise lost.

Officer Kerns, the Lifesaving Medal is being awarded to you for your quick professional response and performance of direct medical aid in the incident outlined above. 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.

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

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police