



Letter of Award Lifesaving



To: Officer Paul Mead
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: April 29, 2019
Re: Lifesaving Award

Recently, Sgt. S. Arredondo nominated Officer Mead and Corporal Busch for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Medal. The Spokane Police Department 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.

On March 27, 2019, a woman called 911 stating that her friend had assaulted her and he was armed with a machete. She stated that the suspect was currently outside however, he had just walked inside still armed.

Officers Mead, Donaldson and Corporal Busch were the first units to arrive. As they were preparing to enter, the suspect started to come down the stairs. Corporal Busch immediately started giving him verbal commands to lay down on the floor; the suspect complied and laid down in a prone position. Based on information provided by dispatch and 911 of the urgency of the call, it was determined entry onto the second floor was needed as soon as possible. Before the suspect was taken into custody, Corporal Busch along with Officers Mead and Donaldson moved forward up the stairs to see if there were any injured subjects and then the suspect was taken into custody, without incident.

Officers quickly made entry into the apartment where they located two females in the back room who were covered in blood. One of the females was located in a closet. She had a blood soaked towel wrapped around her right hand. Officer Mead knelt down beside her as she was pleading with him to not let her die. As he was removing the towel to assess her wound, she told him that the suspect cut off her hand. Once the towel was removed, Ofc. Mead discovered that the victim's right hand was almost severed at the wrist. He immediately determined a tourniquet was needed to stop the bleeding. He applied the tourniquet and was able to stop the bleeding. As the victim was starting to go into shock, Ofc. Mead asked her what happened. She stated that the suspect attacked her when they were arguing; he told her he was going to get a knife and returned with a machete. As she was talking, she kept pleading with Officer Mead to please not let her die. Fire personnel arrived and took over the care of the victim.

AMR medics advised that the on-scene officers who applied a tourniquet to the victim saved her life as her hand had been cut off; the officers applied the tourniquet correctly and stopped the bleeding. At SHER, Dr. Harris was evaluating the victim's hand injury and was impressed on how fast the tourniquet was applied. From the initial call to the time the tourniquet was applied was approximately 11 minutes. Further, the damage to the severed limb was minimized allowing the doctor to consult a vascular surgeon in order to re-attach the limb.

Due to the immediate actions and tactical planning by Corporal Busch and the quick assessment and treatment by Officer Mead during a rapidly evolving, unprovoked and brutal attack, the life of a 47 year old female was saved.

Officer Mead, you will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in March 2020 and a copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

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

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police