



## Letter of Award Distinguished Service Medal



To: Detective Brian Cestnik  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: January 22, 2020  
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Kevin Keller recently nominated you for the Employee of the Quarter Award. However, when the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nomination, it was clear that you are more deserving of the Distinguished Service Medal. The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to employees who have demonstrated outstanding sustained and exemplary performance along with diligence and devotion to duty. The performance should exceed normal demands required or expected over an extended period of time. Sgt. Keller wrote:

"Det. Cestnik has been a member of this department for approximately 22 years. During that time he has worked with our volunteer unit, he has been an F.T.O., and for the last 11 years he has been a detective. He is currently one of the senior members of an extremely talented group of detectives that make up the Major Crimes Unit.

As a member of the Major Crimes Unit, Brian is tasked with some of the most difficult cases in our community. Serious felony assaults, robberies, homicides, and gruesome death investigations are the type of cases he confronts on a routine basis. These cases are full of stress and emotion for those involved. Brian has the ability to soothe those in grief while gleaning the necessary details for the case at hand. He also has the unique ability to elicit confessions from those criminals that are hell bent on providing a false narrative. His attention to detail at crime scenes and his thorough documentation skills are exceptional. Most importantly, he has the intestinal fortitude to relay the facts of the case in a professional manner despite those who regularly attack this type of work.

Brian is a team player at work and in our community. As a member of the Major Crimes Unit he and his co-workers are placed in an on-call status on a regular basis. As such, they respond to calls at all hours of the night and day. He is one of the members of this unit who routinely responds to calls for assistance even when he is not in an on-call status. He also steps up to cover on-call shifts for members of his team when they need a break.

Despite the immense amount of time Brian dedicates to his job, he still finds time to raise a young family and make a difference in our community. From volunteering to deliver presentations on his profession to his Alma matter, Gonzaga, to coaching a local youth baseball team, Brian goes above and beyond to make our community a better place.

Brian took on a case of the death of a two week old child that was recently resolved through the court process. As always, he methodically gathered the facts of the case as it progressed. He remained professional throughout interviews with the killer and the mother of the child as he learned of the abuse that led to the child's death. His professional demeanor and ability to remain calm while gathering this information assisted him in solidifying a difficult case. Due in large part to Brian's excellent work on this case, the father was sentenced to a lengthy prison sentence for this heinous crime.

Brian is truly unselfish, modest, and the definition of a team player. No task is too big or small and Brian never concerns himself with who receives the glory from any particular case. He works hard to assist anyone in our unit at any time in order to successfully resolve cases. He does all of this while maintaining a great attitude throughout the most stressful situations. Brian truly is a pleasure to work with and is one of the best on a great team at the Spokane Police Department."

Detective Cestnik, I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file and you will be recognized at the 2019 Annual Employee Award Ceremony on March 12, 2020.

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

Craig Meidl  
Chief of Police