



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Detective Anthony Lamanna
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 1, 2021
Re: Silver Star Award

Lt. Matt Cowles nominated you for the Silver Star Award. The Silver Star is awarded to employees who have displayed courageous actions above and beyond that normally expected. These acts of courage do not rise to the level of the voluntary risk of requirements for the Medal of Valor, but are displays of exemplary acts of bravery. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. The following was included in Lt. Cowles nomination:

"In the late evening of June 14, 2018, Officers Akin and Herzog responded to the scene of a report of a "Welfare Check" at an apartment on East 44th. When they arrived, the officers were contacted by two citizens who had been passing through the area and heard an enraged woman berating and assaulting who they believed was a child. The two had only heard the exchange and not seen it. What they described concerned the officers greatly. They attempted contact at the apartment but were greeted by cold silence. Officers were unable to establish exigency to force entry into the home. They were able to look past the drawn blinds and see a child and mother inside. There were no extreme signs of violence, instead, they saw an unkempt apartment with two people inside, acting as though no one was at the door. At best, quick glimpses of the occupants were all they had to base their observations on.

One of the previously interviewed witnesses returned to the officers with an audio recording of the incident. The recording had been made from a position outside of the apartment. What could be heard on the recording was an unrestrained litany of profanity and derogation towards a whimpering child. To their horror, the officers could hear the staccato of repeated slapping over the recording. It was clear to them that through the audio recording, they were able to hear a brutal assault of the child occurring. Using their observations, the statements of the witnesses, and the audio recording, the officers drafted a search warrant for the assault of the child.

In short order, the officers had a signed search warrant for entry into the location. Officers made entry into the apartment with a key to avoid placing more trauma on the child and causing as little damage as possible. The woman had slipped into the bathroom with the child and locked the door. Officers were very concerned about what the woman's intent was and forced entry into the bathroom, rescuing the boy.

Officers were only vaguely aware of the horrible conditions this 8-year-old had been subjected to. The boy was covered in bruises around his eyes, back, shoulders, arms, and legs; from their coloring they ranged from old to new. There were scratches and marks near his eyes, mouth, and wrists. The young boy was extremely emaciated. His skin was an unusual grey hue unlike anything these officers had seen before. Maybe most notable was the extreme thinning of his hair. At the time, this appeared to be either from someone pulling it out, or a result of his extreme malnutrition. He seemed to be walking in a dream, devoid of emotion and the inner light that children exude.

Officers escorted and joined the boy at the hospital. There they continued to collect evidence and try in some way to impart some hope and solace to their new acquaintance. In observing the officers, it was as though the officers who contacted him that night attempted in some way to take on some of his burden for themselves and in exchange, that the boy would take from them some of their hope and happiness. As a result, without exception, the officers who were there that night dulled in some way. And looking into their eyes, could see they carried the pain and burden of their experience.

Detective Lamanna took up the case working with CPS and 'Partners with Families and Children' to continue to provide care and healing for the child. Medical reports noted that the boy may "suffer from refeeding syndrome" and that his food and fluid intake needed to be monitored closely following "a period of possible starvation" which "can result in death." Medical records indicated he had been "starved for many months, possibly longer." His injuries, they noted, "were consistent with physical abuse and his hair had been traumatically removed." Detective Lamanna noted that in the 11 days following his admittance into foster care, the boy had added significant weight. He had been admitted into the hospital weighing 39 pounds. After just over a week in foster care, he had added over 6 pounds.

Detective Lamanna followed this case for over two years. He diligently navigated an occasionally disheartening legal system until the mother was finally convicted of a felony assault in the case. The best news of all is, of course, that the boy continues to thrive and live free of ongoing torment.

What began as just another call for service during a busy summer night, left a lasting impact on two civilians, an entire patrol team, chain of command, and the investigative detective. The final and undeniable result of the officers' intervention was that a child's life was redeemed, if not saved."

Detective Lamanna, I am very proud to present you with the Silver Star Medal. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Sergeant David Adams
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
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Sergeant Adams, I am very proud to present you with the Silver Star Medal. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Corporal Kevin Busch
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
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Corporal Busch, I am very proud to present you with the Silver Star Medal. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Corporal Keith Gonsalves
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 1, 2021
Re: Silver Star Award

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Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Officer Chad Herzog
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Re: Silver Star Award

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Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Officer Ryan Akins
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 1, 2021
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Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Officer Matt Stewart
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Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Officer Greg Thompson
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Date: February 1, 2021
Re: Silver Star Award

Lt. Matt Cowles nominated you for the Silver Star Award. The Silver Star is awarded to employees who have displayed courageous actions above and beyond that normally expected. These acts of courage do not rise to the level of the voluntary risk of requirements for the Medal of Valor, but are displays of exemplary acts of bravery. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this recognition. The following was included in Lt. Cowles nomination:

"In the late evening of June 14, 2018, Officers Akin and Herzog responded to the scene of a report of a "Welfare Check" at an apartment on East 44th. When they arrived, the officers were contacted by two citizens who had been passing through the area and heard an enraged woman berating and assaulting who they believed was a child. The two had only heard the exchange and not seen it. What they described concerned the officers greatly. They attempted contact at the apartment but were greeted by cold silence. Officers were unable to establish exigency to force entry into the home. They were able to look past the drawn blinds and see a child and mother inside. There were no extreme signs of violence, instead, they saw an unkempt apartment with two people inside, acting as though no one was at the door. At best, quick glimpses of the occupants were all they had to base their observations on.

One of the previously interviewed witnesses returned to the officers with an audio recording of the incident. The recording had been made from a position outside of the apartment. What could be heard on the recording was an unrestrained litany of profanity and derogation towards a whimpering child. To their horror, the officers could hear the staccato of repeated slapping over the recording. It was clear to them that through the audio recording, they were able to hear a brutal assault of the child occurring. Using their observations, the statements of the witnesses, and the audio recording, the officers drafted a search warrant for the assault of the child.

In short order, the officers had a signed search warrant for entry into the location. Officers made entry into the apartment with a key to avoid placing more trauma on the child and causing as little damage as possible. The woman had slipped into the bathroom with the child and locked the door. Officers were very concerned about what the woman's intent was and forced entry into the bathroom, rescuing the boy.

Officers were only vaguely aware of the horrible conditions this 8-year-old had been subjected to. The boy was covered in bruises around his eyes, back, shoulders, arms, and legs; from their coloring they ranged from old to new. There were scratches and marks near his eyes, mouth, and wrists. The young boy was extremely emaciated. His skin was an unusual grey hue unlike anything these officers had seen before. Maybe most notable was the extreme thinning of his hair. At the time, this appeared to be either from someone pulling it out, or a result of his extreme malnutrition. He seemed to be walking in a dream, devoid of emotion and the inner light that children exude.

Officers escorted and joined the boy at the hospital. There they continued to collect evidence and try in some way to impart some hope and solace to their new acquaintance. In observing the officers, it was as though the officers who contacted him that night attempted in some way to take on some of his burden for themselves and in exchange, that the boy would take from them some of their hope and happiness. As a result, without exception, the officers who were there that night dulled in some way. And looking into their eyes, could see they carried the pain and burden of their experience.

Detective Lamanna took up the case working with CPS and 'Partners with Families and Children' to continue to provide care and healing for the child. Medical reports noted that the boy may "suffer from refeeding syndrome" and that his food and fluid intake needed to be monitored closely following "a period of possible starvation" which "can result in death." Medical records indicated he had been "starved for many months, possibly longer." His injuries, they noted, "were consistent with physical abuse and his hair had been traumatically removed." Detective Lamanna noted that in the 11 days following his admittance into foster care, the boy had added significant weight. He had been admitted into the hospital weighing 39 pounds. After just over a week in foster care, he had added over 6 pounds.

Detective Lamanna followed this case for over two years. He diligently navigated an occasionally disheartening legal system until the mother was finally convicted of a felony assault in the case. The best news of all is, of course, that the boy continues to thrive and live free of ongoing torment.

What began as just another call for service during a busy summer night, left a lasting impact on two civilians, an entire patrol team, chain of command, and the investigative detective. The final and undeniable result of the officers' intervention was that a child's life was redeemed, if not saved."

Officer Thompson, I am very proud to present you with the Silver Star Medal. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police



Letter of Award Silver Star



To: Officer Rhian Wilkinson
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 1, 2021
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Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police