



2024 Letter of Award Lifesaving



To: Officer Mike Thomas
From: Kevin Hall, Chief of Police
Date: January 28, 2025
Re: Lifesaving Award

Sgt. Teresa Fuller recently nominated you for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Medal Award. 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. Excerpts from Sgt. Fuller's nomination included:

"On December 5th, 2023, Ofc. Thomas responded to a home in northwest Spokane where a female called stating her husband had collapsed. Ofc. Thomas was on scene less than three minutes after being dispatched.

Unbeknownst to him, the fire apparatus that would normally be dispatched was unavailable which added time to the response. Captain Paul Gortler from Fire Station 16 stated, *"On our arrival, Ofc. Thomas was performing CPR on the patient with a proficiency that allowed us time to set up our equipment faster, with limited resources. After we had taken over patient care, Ofc. Thomas stayed on scene and rotated through as a compressor until other fire units arrived. It is my belief that your officer's early arrival time and skill with CPR greatly contributed to the positive outcome of this patient. I spoke with Ofc. Thomas after the call to ask whether he had been an EMT in a past career and he provided that he hadn't, but had been, I believe, a deputy, in a rural area with volunteer firefighters and that he would regularly arrive first to aid calls. His experience definitely showed."*

The patient also emailed us on April 26th, 2024 and said, *"On December 5th, I collapsed with sudden Cardiac Arrest in my garage. My wife was present but could not turn me over. A neighbor was also present, turned me over and started CPR. Officer Thomas was in the area and heard the 911 call. We have a fire station within 5 blocks but Officer Thomas decided to respond to the call and I am so glad he did. The person that started CPR was not an expert and that fire station that was so close was on another call. Mike Thomas started and continued CPR until another station arrived to help. They worked together along with AMR in a team effort to save my life. I am so grateful that Officer Thomas responded to this call, his expertise and skill in CPR saved my life and I will ever be grateful. I quickly recovered and did not suffer any lasting side effects thanks to the speedy action that was taken."*

Officer Thomas, I am proud to present you with the Lifesaving Award. You will receive the Lifesaving Medal during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony on March 19, 2025. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Chief of Police



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

JUSTIN C. LUNDGREN

Life-Saving Award Nomination Ofc. Michael Thomas

To my chain of command and the awards committee:

Recently, Sgt. Jamieson approached me and asked if I was aware Ofc. Mike Thomas had saved the life of a gentleman by performing CPR last December. I was not aware of the incident, but quickly found it on a search of medics calls.

On December 5th, 2023 at 1335hrs, Ofc. Thomas responded to a home in northwest Spokane where a female called in stating her husband had collapsed. Ofc. Thomas was on scene less than three minutes after being dispatched.

Unbeknownst to him, the fire apparatus that would normally be dispatched was unavailable which added time to the response. This is what Captain Paul Gortler from Fire Station 16 had to say: "On our arrival, Ofc. Thomas was performing CPR on the patient, with a proficiency that allowed us time to set up our equipment faster, with limited resources. After we had taken over patient care, Ofc. Thomas stayed on scene and rotated through as a compressor until other fire units arrived. It is my belief that your officer's early arrival time and skill with CPR greatly contributed to the positive outcome of this patient.

I spoke with Ofc. Thomas after the call to ask whether he had been an EMT in a past career and he provided that he hadn't, but had been, I believe, a deputy, in a rural area with volunteer firefighters and that he would regularly arrive first to aid calls. His experience definitely showed."

The patient also emailed in to us on April 26th, 2024 and had this to say: "On December 5th, I collapsed with sudden Cardiac Arrest in my garage. My wife was present but could not turn me over. A neighbor was also present, turned me over and started CPR. Officer Thomas was in the area and heard the 911 call. We have a fire station within 5 blocks but Officer Thomas decided to respond to the call and I am so glad he did. The person that started CPR was not an expert and that fire station that was so close was on another call. Mike Thomas started and continued CPR until another station arrived to help. They worked together along with AMR in a team effort to save my life. I am so grateful that Officer Thomas responded to this call, his expertise and skill in CPR saved my life and I will ever be grateful. I quickly recovered and did not suffer any lasting side effects thanks to the speedy action that was taken."

The Lifesaving Medal shall be awarded to department employees who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. The action must have been personally performed by the employee. The life-sustaining action must be confirmed by a competent authority.

Based on the above information, I whole heartedly nominate Ofc. Thomas to receive the Lifesaving Medal.

Sgt. Teresa Fuller

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