The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances.

In the early morning hours of January 30, 2001, Officers Haugen, T. Meyer, and Mike Carr responded to a burglary in progress at 4734 N. Freya, the home of Andrew Petrone. Upon arrival they contacted Mr. Petrone. A quick assessment by the officers indicated that Mr. Petrone was suffering from a mental disorder of some type. They had decided to have Mr. Petrone taken to Sacred Heart for an evaluation.

While Mr. Petrone was getting dressed, he fell over for unknown reasons. Officer Carr took immediate action by making a quick assessment and asked Officer Haugen to get something to open Mr. Petrone’s mouth. Officer Meyer returned from interviewing a witness and quickly dispatched himself to the car to get the first aid kit.

Officer Carr did not wait for the return of the kit, but started heart compressions and continued to assess Mr. Petrone’s condition, while Officer Haugen assisted with positioning him for effective application of the technique. When Officer Meyer returned with the first aid kit, Officer Carr obtained the compression bag and began full CPR and continued until the arrival of paramedics.

Fire Department paramedics were able to stabilize Mr. Petrone and transport him to Holy Family for treatment. Mr. Petrone is alive due to Officer Carr’s quick actions and the teamwork of all three officers at the scene. We are presenting the lifesaving award to Officer Carr for his leadership and diligence in the lifesaving effort of Mr. Petrone.
Further, Sergeant Nemec noted the following:

It is clear from the information that Mr. Petrone would not have survived had it not been for the efforts of Officer Carr. However, the saving of Mr. Petrone’s life was more than just an officer “happening to be there” and doing his job. I would like to make it clear that Officer Carr, by virtue of his profound sense of duty, places himself in the right place at the right time on a daily basis. He performs his duties with a high degree of skill and professionalism and can be counted on by his fellow officers and the citizens of this community to “be there” when they need help. Officer Carr was in fact told he could “disregard” this call by dispatch while he was en route. Officer Carr, though, as he so often does, continued to the location to see if he could be of any further assistance, thankfully, for Mr. Petrone.

Dr. Scott Edminster, Physician Advisor, Spokane Fire Department, wrote the following:

I am writing to commend Spokane Police Department Officer Mike Carr for his involvement in the early resuscitation of Spokane citizen Andrew Petrone. Mr. Petrone suffered a cardiac arrest on January 30. Officer Carr, who was present at the time of the incident, immediately started CPR and apparently maintained an effective effort for eight minutes until paramedics arrived. In reviewing the record it is clear to me that resuscitation would have been impossible without the early efforts of Officer Carr.

The paramedics identified pulseless electrical activity of Mr. Petrone’s heart and proceeded with a successful resuscitation of his cardiac and circulatory function. This is an exceedingly rare occurrence given the initial cardiac rhythm and no doubt he would have been dead upon their arrival had the officer not intervened. As it turned out, Mr. Petrone died two days later in the hospital, but Officer Carr provided him with his only chance for survival. Officer Carr’s quick thinking and intervention should be held out as an example to other officers.