

DETECTIVE J.C. COLLINS



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

Several years ago, the SWAT team undertook training some of its members as EMT's in the anticipation that someday a situation might occur that required immediate medical help. Detective J.C. Collins was one of those to receive EMT training.

On the morning of September 22, 2003, a student entered Lewis & Clark High School and fired a shot. Numerous officers responded; where they began negotiations with the subject and were forced to fire when the subject pointed his weapon at the officers. Det. Collins was present as a member of our SWAT team. Immediately, before the classroom was even pronounced "clear," Det. Collins hurried to the subject to render medical aid. With his fingers, Det. Collins reached down into his throat to remove tissue that was blocking his airway and rolled him onto his stomach to allow blood to drain out of his mouth. Det. Collins then inserted an airway and maintained that airway while the subject continued to fight and thrash around.

The Fire Department paramedics had been staged two blocks away, so it took several minutes for them to arrive. Even after they arrived, Det. Collins continued to be the primary medical aid provider. He obtained better airway equipment from the medics and inserted it further into the subject's throat to keep his airway open. Det. Collins then rode in the ambulance to assist the medics as they were en route to the hospital.

Detective Collins' quick, decisive action is a tribute to him and a positive reflection on his training and this department. It is clear that this young man would have died if not for Det. Collins' actions.

Along with this document, Detective Collins was issued the Lifesaving bar, to be worn on his uniform. He was awarded the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, on February 11, 2004.

