

OFFICER FRANK ERHART



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



On the morning of Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 1:44 a.m., officers were waved down on the Monroe Street Bridge by a distraught woman who said that a man had jumped off the bridge. Officers immediately broadcast the report, which included the victim's description and the fact that he intentionally jumped off the bridge.

With regard to the actual locating of the victim and his extraction from the water, Officers Ennis, Erhart and Pavlischak were directly involved. Officers Erhart and Ennis were located on the east bank and could hear the victim who's cries were faint and trailing off. The officers on the bank were able to direct Officer Pavlischak, who had quickly responded to the opposite bank, to the victim's approximate location. Visibility was very restricted, however, Officer Pavlischak was able to locate the victim and pull him from the water. It should be noted that Officer Pavlischak responded on foot, running down a narrow trail approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the victim's location. Should he have fallen, he could easily have ended up in the water himself. The conditions surrounding this rescue were horrific. Visibility was about 20 yards due to dense fog. The river was over its banks and the current was extremely fast. In fact, conditions were so poor that the fire department rescue team was ordered not to launch their boat by their commanding officer!

Based the extraordinary efforts of Officer Ennis, Officer Erhart and Officer Pavlischak, the subject is alive and well. If it had not been for their quick and decisive actions, the subject would have perished in the icy water. This heroic team effort under extraordinarily dangerous and adverse conditions was nothing less than amazing.

Along with this document, Officer Erhart was issued the Lifesaving Bar, to be worn on his uniform. He was also awarded the Lifesaving Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, in February 2007.

