



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE
FRANK STRAUB, Ph.D.

LETTER OF AWARD

To: Officer Shane Phillips
From: Frank G. Straub, Jr., Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2015
Re: Lifesaving Award

Officer Jay Kernkamp recently nominated you for the Spokane Police Department's Lifesaving Award. The 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.

In his nomination, Officer Kernkamp wrote:

"On 10/5/14 at 1446 hours, north side patrol officers were dispatched to 1711 E. Vanetta reference a 15 year old male shot in the chest. Radio was unable to obtain any further information before officers arrived on scene, other than one dispatcher who was working that day, described the transfer as very chaotic and it appeared the 911 caller was not being forthcoming with information.

Officers arrived on scene within minutes of being dispatched to a very tense and uncertain scene. At this point it was unknown if the armed suspect with the gun was still inside the residence or if there was an armed gunman in the normally quiet neighborhood. As officers pulled up and exited their cars, a group of young teen males exited the house, appearing to be friends of the victim. This created great confusion for responding officers trying to sort out any possible suspects. The teens indicated that the 15 year old victim who had been shot in the chest was inside and needed medical attention.

Officers started interviewing a couple of the male teens that were still inside the residence with the victim. Officer Phillips immediately identified the victim laying on the couch being in respiratory distress. While Officers Michele Kernkamp and Aaron Childress were attempting to interview the victim to obtain suspect information, Officer Shane Phillips immediately used his shears to remove the victim's T-shirt and start assessing his wounds. Officer Phillips described the victim as being in and out of consciousness, and struggling to breath. Officers quickly determined the friends had cleaned the victim up, wiping the blood off his chest. Officer Phillips immediately recognized that the victim was suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. Regardless of the caliber used, the sheer location of the wound in itself, if untreated, would have resulted in the victim passing away. After applying the chest seal, Officer Phillips indicated the victim's level of consciousness became more alert and his breathing became less labored. The color of his skin went from a pale tone to having more color in it.

Officer Phillips quickly reacted to training he received within the department, prior experience, and using the proper equipment issued to him. He removed the clothing of the victim and located a single entrance wound from a gunshot directly in the sternum. Immediately recognizing the hazards of this wound, Officer Phillips applied a Halo Chest Seal to the victim's chest, sealing the wound and preventing any air from entering the chest wall. Officer Phillips continued to talk to the victim along with the other Officers and determined there were no outstanding suspects, and the group of males had taken the time to make a story up before the police arrived.

Within minutes, SFD Engine #15 and AMR responded and determined the victim's wound was life threatening requiring rapid transport. All treating medics were extremely impressed with Officer Phillips' lifesaving measures, indicating they would have applied the same seal in an attempt to save the victim's life. Medics stated that with Officer Phillips' immediate and proper use of equipment, he was able to save the victim from a potentially life threatening injury. Dr. Edminster, an ER Doctor at Sacred Heart Medical Center, was extremely impressed with the application and stated Officer Phillips' quick assessment and application of the chest seal saved the victim's life.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Officer Shane Phillips for his dedication to training, dedication to the community, and for reacting quickly in a very dynamic scene. Officer Phillips' actions saved the life of a young adult male. At this time, I would like to nominate Officer Phillips for the Life Saving Award. His actions were truly a key factor in keeping this young male alive."

Officer Phillips, the Lifesaving Medal is being awarded to you for your heroic actions in the incident outlined above. You will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal during the Annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

Frank G. Straub, Jr. Ph.D.
Chief of Police

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